



**HAPPENED SUDDENLY**—Workers install storm drain in huge hole in Chevy Chase Drive that appeared during the recent rains. The hole is 25 feet deep. Times photo

## Contractor Uses Collapsed Street in Glendale to Install Storm Drain

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GLENDAL — A construction crew is installing a storm drain in a hole 40 by 100 foot wide in Chevy Chase Drive in Chevy Chase Canyon.

The hole, 25 feet deep, appeared suddenly during heavy rain the night of Feb. 28 as a 100-foot length of the nearby curb-to-curb street suddenly caved in with a roar.

Several drivers narrowly missed running into the pit but were alerted to halt by residents waving flashlights.

### \$3 Million Project

The cave-in is another chapter of winter havoc along the storm-torn street, which is undergoing a \$3 million two-year storm drain project.

The project calls for installation of huge concrete block drains along two miles on the main canyon thoroughfare from Glenoaks Blvd. north to Linda Vista Road.

Approximately half the drain was installed from the Glenoaks intersection to 243 feet north of the Cascadia Drive juncture. At that point last October, the drain aperture was sealed off, the street section covered and smoothed for limited use and the project halted in advance of the rain season.

### Subground Springs

The cave-in occurred immediately north of where the installed drain was sealed.

"Apparently," said William L. O. Martini, public works director, "the street, undermined by subground springs over a

long, hard wet spell, finally gave way, broke the seal and washed away down the new storm drain below."

Water from the last rain coming down Chevy Chase has diverted by use of sand bags and piping so not to interfere with the current installation work.

Martini said utility lines along or in the street escaped serious damage.

North Plunkett, construction contractor, decided to resume the installation now rather than attempt to refill the hole

with rock and dirt and await the originally planned date April 15, for resumption of the project.

He estimated the street might be opened in several weeks "but we would need to have favorable weather to accomplish the work in that time."

A drain has long been wanted by San Rafael Hills residents in Chevy Chase Drive, which, with its high curbs, has served as a natural wash for canyon storm waters.

The project is expected to be finished this fall.