

FILE FLOODS  
OKLAHOMA  
JACKSON

DAILY OKLAHOMAN  
9/20/65



Pickup truck moves slowly through flooded area of U. S. 283 south of Altus after more than seven inches of rain in the area.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS  
SURVEY DIVISION

## Rains of Up to 9 Inches Soak State, Close Roads; 2 Twisters Clip City Area

### Funnels Rip Autos, Stores Near Police Station, Down Trees, Lines in Del City

By Bill Leitner

Oklahoma was subjected to nearly every variety of bad weather Sunday as high winds, tornadoes and unusually heavy rains battered the state, hobbling both highway and air traffic and leaving a wake of damage.

More than 9 inches of rain fell Saturday and Sunday at Granite in the western part of the state, where flooding was the heaviest, and two early-morning tornadoes skipped across downtown Oklahoma City and Del City, causing minor damage.

Over 2 inches of rain fell on Oklahoma City after 6 p.m. Sunday, causing heavy street flooding. At one point flooding of city streets was so bad that all available street equipment was put into use.

The funnels struck about the same time, 7:45 a.m. and were seen by police officers in both Del City and Oklahoma City. No injuries were reported.

The Oklahoma City storm whipped through the employe parking lot at the police department, breaking windows in 15 autos and moving at least four of the cars from their parking spaces.

The parking lot was sprinkled with bits of glass from the car windows which appeared to have been sucked out by the tornadic winds.

A small foreign car was moved 12 feet by the twister. Two station wagons and a car were moved four feet.

The windows facing the east on officer Charles Brown's car were shattered and that entire side pitted with gravel marks.

The car belonging to his partner, D. N. Bliss, was parked about 20 feet west of Brown's car and was not damaged.

The twister then apparently took to the clouds and dipped down again at NW 5 and Hudson where it damaged windows and signs at several businesses and ripped a hole in the roof of the Firestone Store, 520 N Hudson.

The first swoop taken by the tornado was at the Public Market, W Reno and Klein, where it turned up tin roofs on produce stalls which had been struck by fire last week.

Officer D. J. Whitfill said he had just left the police station and was at NW 5 and Hudson when the twister hit.

Whitfill said there was a loud swish of wind and debris swirled 100 feet into the air. He said a four-by-eight-foot sign hanging in front of an employment service office was lifted straight up, higher than the rooftop, and then dropped into the middle of the street.

Awnings were ripped from store fronts, roofing torn from the Firestone Store and trash from all over littered the street, Whitfill said.

The Del City twister dipped out of the clouds at SE

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# Two Twisters Nip City Area

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20 and Bryant and traveled at tree-top level in a north-easterly path until disappearing at about SE 15.

Most of the damage was to trees and electric lines. Some roofs received slight damage and a patio roof at one home was torn loose.

One Del City family, the Jess Redmans, 1829 Mansfield, returned home from a fishing trip when they heard of the tornado. A large tree in the front yard had been blown down but the family home was not damaged.

Redman said they first got word of the storm when they stopped at a store owned by relatives near Ada. The relatives said some residents of Del City had been into the store earlier and told them of the twister.

Redman said another storm a year ago had downed a tree at the family home, again while the family was away on a fishing trip.

In Oklahoma City Sunday night there were more calls than traffic and scoutcar officers could answer. Wringing their telephone wires, police dispatchers were taking calls from water-logged residents almost as quickly as they could answer them.

At one point, five cars were reported stalled by flooding at SE 59 and I. H. 35; at another, a number of motorists sat swishing beneath a bridge over Exchange Ave.

Automobile accidents were relatively few during the downpour, because, as one officer put it, "It's raining too hard to drive."

Dispatcher D. C. Bowen said he sent out at least 50 messages to cruisers to rescue stranded drivers.

Finally, barricades were set up at some intersections to keep motorists from helplessly sinking into small lakes which sprang up almost anywhere there was a dip in the street or hole in the asphalt.

From 5 p.m. Sunday to 11:30 p.m. Sunday, Lake Hefner recorded 5.01 inches of rain. Other city reporting stations recorded: W.H. Rogers World Airport 1.39; Northside Sewage Plant 1.87; Southside Sewage Plant 2 inches; Lake Hefner 2 inches; Lake Overholser .95 and Penn Avenue Station .25. All stations reported light rain at midnight.

The western part of the state was drenched by extremely heavy rains. Saturday and Sunday Jackson County reported 7.9 inches, Prairie Hill 7.9, Altus 7.2, Blair 6.1 and Mangum 7.5. Hobart recorded 7½ inches from midnight to 10 p.m. Sunday.

Four persons were trapped for a time when a creek overflowed south of Lone Wolf on S. H. 44 and washed their car into a ditch. They climbed onto the roof of the vehicle and were rescued after an hour and 45 minutes atop the car.

Hobart fireman Howard Kaufman said only about six inches of the car remained above water.

The highway patrol reported at midnight Sunday the following highways were closed due to flooding:

U. S. 62 west of Altus; U. S. 9 two miles east of Go-tebo; and S. H. 5 closed in three places between Eldorado and U. S. 283.

The pilot of a private plane was forced to make an emergency landing Sunday afternoon on I. H. 40 18 miles west of El Reno when he ran into a heavy rainstorm.

Sam Fullerton jr., of Miami, Okla., pilot of the plane, and a passenger, were uninjured.

Heavy flooding was reported on most lowland highways in the western part of the state, and the highway patrol warned motorists to watch for flooding conditions. Some roads were opened, then closed again later.

Rainfall was slightly less in the southwestern part of the state. Hobart, Mountain View, Colony, Sedan and Clinton and Anadarko reported amounts ranging from 2 to 4 inches.

Extremely heavy flooding was reported in Hobart, where water ran over the curb and submerged at least one car. A farmer north of Hobart said the rains were the heaviest he had seen in the 30 years he had lived in the area. His rain gauge recorded 10 inches.

Lone Wolf fire department reported 10 homes were flooded and Mangum Police Chief Roy Ball said minor damage was done by high water to several homes there.

At Grandle water seeped into the Farmers Cooperative elevator and a cafe was closed because of rising water.

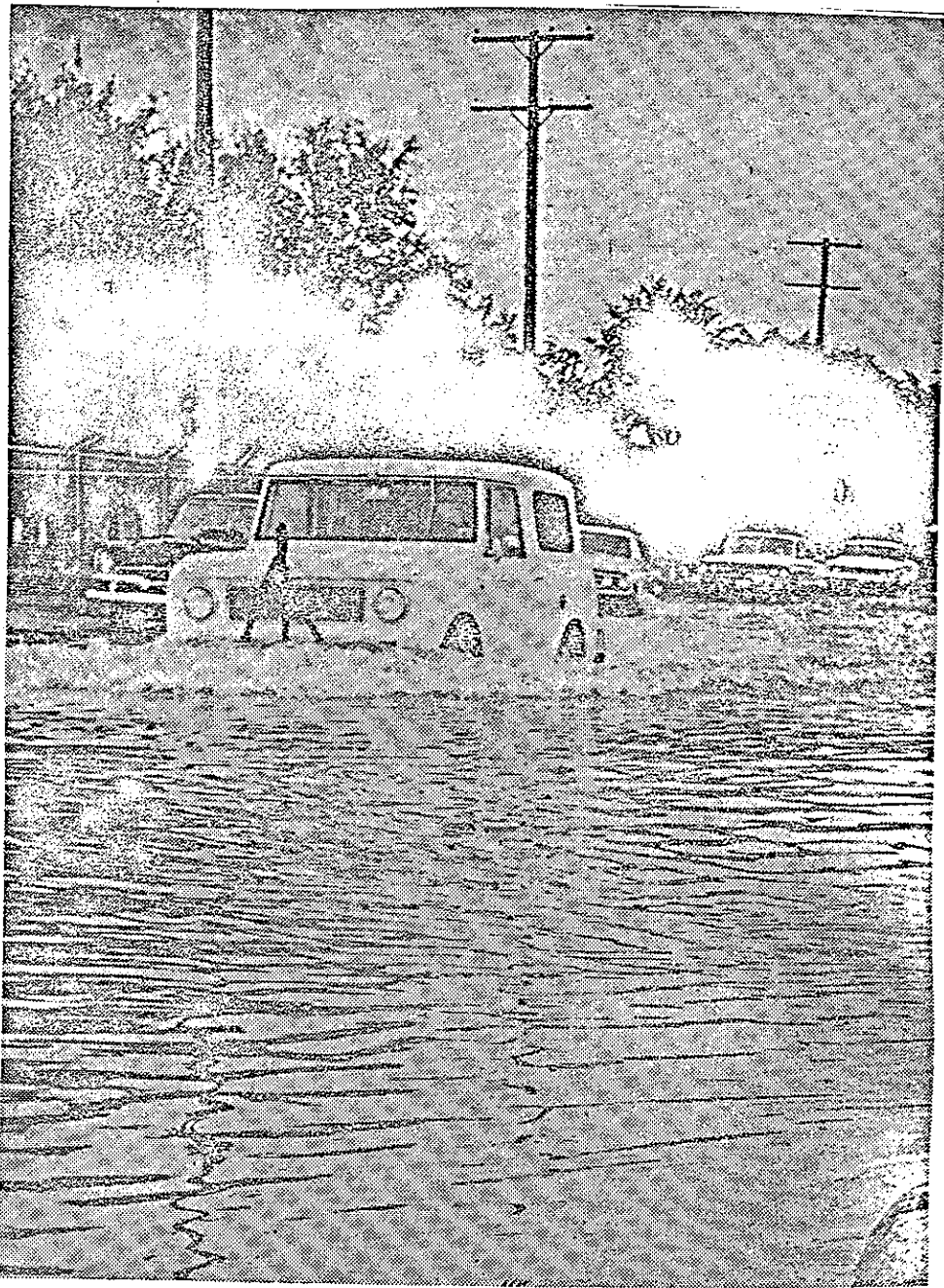
Blair officials reported heavy flooding in the low areas of town. The city park was under a foot of water and six homes were flooded.

A Mangum police dispatcher aptly summed up the flooding: "We have more rain than we know what to do with."

The storms moved into the state from the south and at midnight were dumping rain at Pawhuska and into Kansas.

Thundershowers will continue throughout the state until Monday afternoon, the weather bureau said. State highs will range from 60 northwest to 90 southeast.

Oklahoma City had a high of 85 Sunday and a high of 80 is predicted Monday, after an overnight low of 63. Rains will continue through late afternoon.



Cars tread water fender high on U. S. 62 a mile east of Altus.



Removing debris left by tornado at Del City Sunday. Steve Ward is  
clearing a way at a tree downed by the winds at 1829 Mansfield. Another photo  
on page 16. (Staff Photo by Russ Crowder)

FILE FLOOD:  
OKLAHOMA CO.