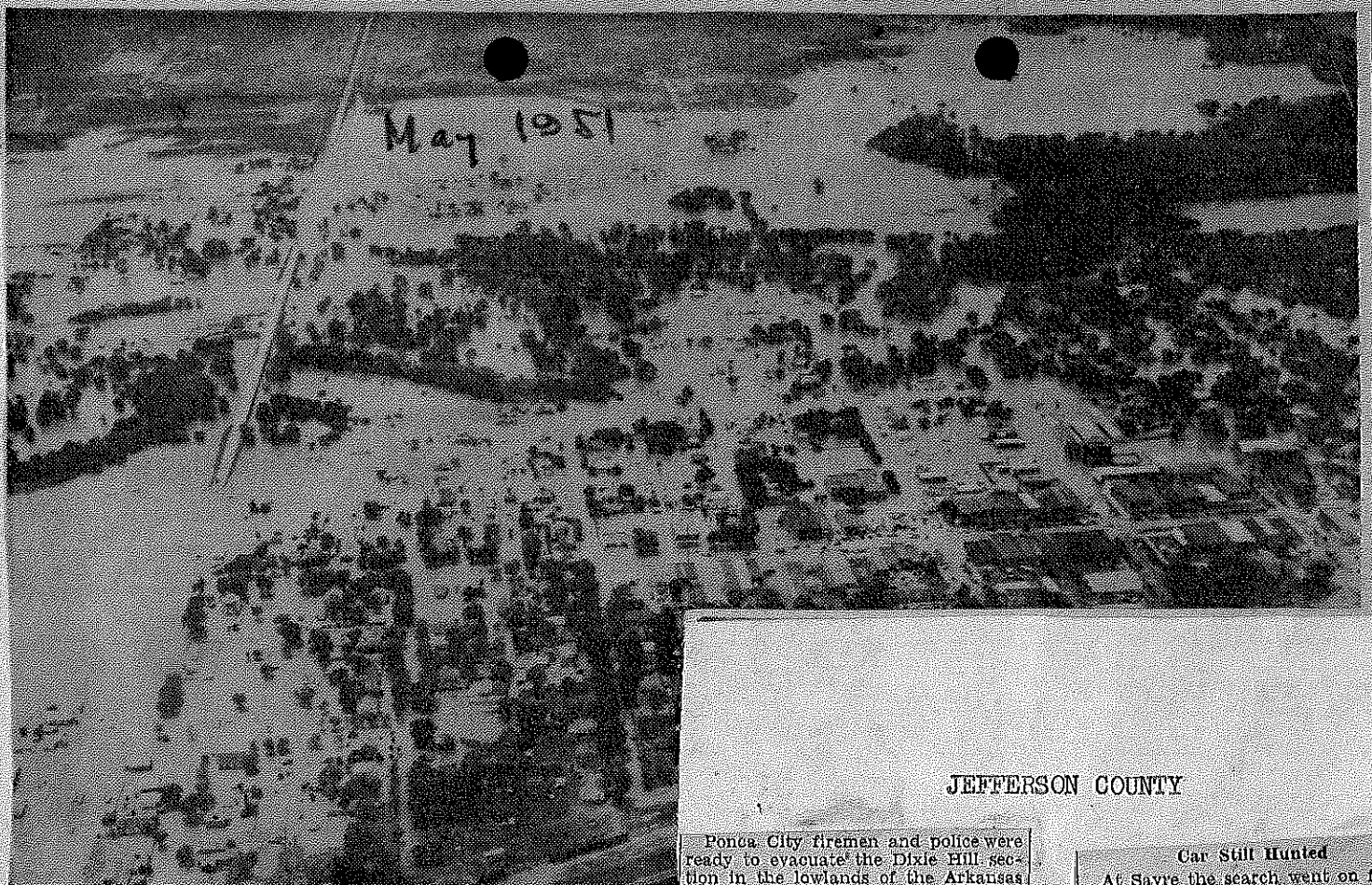


May 1951



-Times Staff Photo by Tom Killian.

Waurika Battles Floodwaters . . .

Water was starting to ebb away from Waurika Saturday morning, but some two-thirds of the Jefferson county seat was still under flood conditions. Beaver creek was still pouring muddy water into the area as the highway patrol reported the situation easing. Above is a picture of the flooded city.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Ponca City firemen and police were ready to evacuate the Dixie Hill section in the lowlands of the Arkansas on the southeast corner of the city. The "big Ark" was rising and Arkansas City, Kan., reported lowlands evacuated. The river was expected to crest at 24 feet.

Ted by the flood waters of the Chickaskia and by local rains below the Salt Plains dam, the Salt Fork poured out of its banks south of Ponca City. U. S. 77 was closed as the old 101 ranch area was covered with water.

Woodward Problem Lingers

At Woodward the North Canadian was three feet above flood stage and the Eighth street bridge was closed. The bridge carried the main water lines from north of the river to the city. Some fear was expressed the lines and the bridge may fall.

The pilings were out under one span of the Woodward bridge and a big tree was hung on the water main.

Workmen were unable to reach the tree from the south bank. Biggest danger was from a wooden bridge span washed down from near Fort Supply.

The bridge span was lodged on a sandbar. If the river gets another rise, Woodward observers fear it will wash the span into the bridge and water line.

Tornado Hits Near Lawton

The line carries Woodward's water supply from wells on the north side of the North Canadian. The city has from three to five days' supply in storage.

Friday night a tornado hit Porter Hill north of Lawton and Elgin, four miles west. Several houses were damaged, but no one was injured. Apparently the twister was the only one in the state.

Meanwhile, the Cimarron was falling at Dover, north of Kingfisher, and observers at Guthrie said the river would stay within its banks there and on east at Coyle.

Kingfisher blew its flood warning Friday night, but the water from Uncle John's creek and Kingfisher creek barely rose to the highway on U. S. 81 before starting to fall. All danger was thought past.

Car Still Hunted

At Sayre the search went on for an automobile that ran a barricade at the washed-out bridge over the North Fork of the Red river on U. S. 66 and plunged into the water. No trace had been found of the car or its occupants Saturday morning.

Trooper Art Hamilton of the highway patrol was flying up and down the North Fork of the Red river attempting to spot the car of the victims.

Trouble was expected along the Red river between Oklahoma and Texas south of Lawton as logs and debris pounded the U. S. 277 bridge north-east of Wichita Falls. Other bridges in the area also were threatened.

At Waurika the Rock Island railway is out of service for at least another 24 hours. The Red Cross and Salvation Army are caring for the homeless as they started back to their flooded houses. Main street was still wet, but no damage to stores was reported.

Ranchers Feed Cattle

Ranchers in the Woodward area were using light aircraft to feed cattle marooned by the Beaver and North Canadian rivers. Some cattle were lost, but most were reported on high ground.

Rain in the past 24 hours was light in state areas compared with the deluges earlier this week. Carnegie reported .05; Chickasha .04; Waynoka .04; Boise City .10; Enid .11; Guthrie .04; Geary .10; Durant .53 and Salliswater .11.

The highway patrol and the highway department reported clear skies in the western part of the state overnight with overcast in the east. Rains were expected in the east Saturday and extreme east Saturday night, the weatherman said.

High in 80s Forecast

High in Oklahoma City Saturday will be near 84 with fresh to strong southerly winds continuing through Saturday night. The low tonight will be near 62. Over the state the temperature will range 70 to 80 Saturday and from 55 to 65 overnight.

State Flood Peril Shifts to North

Ponca City Braces for Onslaught as Waurika Threats Ease; Crisis Along Washita Seems Over

By Mark Sarchet

Northern Oklahoma was getting braced for flood waters of the Arkansas and the Salt Fork of the Arkansas as the western and southern area started to dry out Saturday. The worse was apparently over at Waurika and along the Washita.

The weatherman predicted partly cloudy skies for the state Saturday with the eastern half getting showers and thunderstorms. Oklahoma City will be partly cloudy as will Sunday.

Danger spots Saturday morning appeared to be at Ponca City where the Arkansas was lapping at the Dixie Hill Negro section and at Woodward where the North Canadian was buffeting a bridge and endangering the water supply.

During the night Kingfisher, Anadarko and Chickasha saw the flood menace ride by without much trouble. Guthrie watched as Cottonwood creek came up to the edge of the Negro residential area and then stopped.

Waurika Water Recedes

At Waurika the water was receding, but a third of the city was still wet with some 409 homes still surrounded. Blackwell was drying slowly with some of 100 families returning to their houses in the east section.



Broadway Looking West





D Ave. Looking West



ed Main looking west



South Main and F st.



th Main Street - May 1, 1951