

PONCA CITY NEWS
SEPT. 13, 1961



RIVERSIDE STREET in Bois d'Arc Addition lived up to its name this morning as heavy rains from the fringes of Hurricane Carla sent the creek over its banks in a flash rise. Residents said the stream

rose so swiftly they were unable to move their cars, trucks, tractors and livestock.

Fast-Rising Flood Waters Force Some Residents From Homes in Bois d'Arc

Heavy rains falling in North Central Oklahoma overnight dumped 5.21 inches at Ponca City Airport and flooding caused the closing of several highways in the area this morning.

High winds accompanying the storm reached a velocity of 46 mph at 4 a.m., according to a report from the FAA Flight Service Station at the airport.

A few residents were forced to flee their homes in the Bois d'Arc Creek region of Ponca City early this morning.

The Arkansas River at Ponca City was rising steadily, and had reached flood stage by 9:30 a.m. The flood stage is 911.6 feet, and at 11 a.m. the river's elevation was past 914. The highest flood ever recorded was 920.45 feet.

This morning the Arkansas River was rising at the rate of a foot an hour.

Highways closed at mid-morning were S.H. 11 east of Blackwell; U.S.

177, both north and south of Blackwell; U.S. 177 south of Tonkawa; U.S. 60 west of Ponca City, and U.S. 77 north of Perry.

Flooding also caused other highways to be closed including U.S. 77, south of Ponca City to the 101 Ranch; U.S. 77 north of Newkirk, and the short cut between Ponca City and Blackwell.

Stranded Men Rescued

Ponca City firemen rescued by boat two men who had gone to a Bois d'Arc pasture to rescue five head of cattle. They were Cecil Keen, Route 2, Newkirk, and his son Don. The cattle were believed to have been swept downstream into the Salt Fork River.

Bois d'Arc came up fast. Avery Harrel, who has lived near the creek on U.S. 60-77 for 35 years, said he awoke at 6 a.m. to see his horses knee-deep in water. Before he could dress, the horses were almost swimming. His yard was flooded, and his basement filled by water for the first time in 35 years.

The Bill Mitchell farmhouse, on the west bank of the creek, had water nearly halfway up the windows. The W. H. Gunn farmhouse had water to the windowsills.

In all, half a dozen houses were invaded by high water from the flash flooding in the Bois d'Arc community. The fire department reported that four families were forced from their homes.

Cattle Stranded

Several automobiles, horses and cattle were stranded in the flooded area.

Boats were being used by the Ponca City Fire Department to help with the stranded stock.

Waves on Lake Ponca were reported at 2½ to three feet this morning, and water was gushing over the spillway at a height of 18 inches.

Several boat docks have been ripped up, and the gate to the spillway was closed as a precaution.

At Lake Ponca Park picnic area, wooden picnic tables were washed down the creek. It was reported that water in the park had almost reached the shelterhouse.

The last report from Lake Ponca

officials stated that the lake waters were slowly falling.

The Chikaskia River at Blackwell had been rising steadily at the rate of a foot an hour. According to a report by Warren Bickford, editor of the Blackwell Journal-Tribune, the river stage is expected to reach 26 to 28 feet by Thursday, which is over flood stage.

The Chikaskia at 6:30 this morning was measured at 22.75.

Water at Fairgrounds

The folks at the Kay County Fair were having a difficult time. Water overflowed in a drainage ditch early this morning and flooded the livestock pens. A cleanup program was underway to clean the pens.

In some areas of North Central Oklahoma, the heavy rains forced schools to be closed. Among these were Kaw City, Red Rock and Braden.

FILE FLOOD INFO
KAY Co.

SEE SNO 2323(1)
FOR ELEV.

GLEN'S TEXACO
SERVICE

Carla Makes Appearance In Oklahoma; Heavy Rain Causes Streams To Flood

FILE FLOOD INFO -
KAY Co.
SEE SWO 2323 (1)
FOR ELEV.

Ponca City Area Surrounded By High Water; River Rising

By The Associated Press

Heavy rains spawned as dying Hurricane Carla moved through Oklahoma caused flooding and some evacuations in scattered sections of the state today.

About 300 persons were forced to evacuate their homes at Kingfisher by floodwaters from the rampaging Kingfisher and Uncle John's creeks.

V. C. Tilbury, chief of police at Kingfisher, said several women and children were awaiting rescue in the northwest section of the city. He said there were not enough boats to carry out rescue operations.

The only highway open out of the city was U.S. 81 south to Oklahoma City.

Families were given refuge in the courthouse, city hall, city and county jails and various churches.

For flood report for Ponca City and vicinity, see story and pictures on pages 7 and 13.

About 150 blocks were covered by water and the overflow lapped over two blocks at the north end of Main Street.

At mid-morning the two creeks continued to rise and city officials said they didn't expect the situation to change quickly.

"Most of the people who live here and own boats have them on lakes," said newsman Toby Cleaver. "We just don't have enough boats to meet the emergency."

All highways leading into Ponca City were covered by water and Lake Ponca northeast of the city was running a foot and a half over the spillway. The Arkansas River near Ponca City was rising a foot an hour, officials estimated.

Two schools were closed in Kay County and one in Noble County because of impassable roads. The Kaw City and Braden schools were closed in Kay County and Red Rock school was closed in Noble County. Ponca City schools remained open.

Carla was centered about 40 miles north of McAlester at midmorning and was expected to make its exit from the state in the extreme northeast corner later in the day.

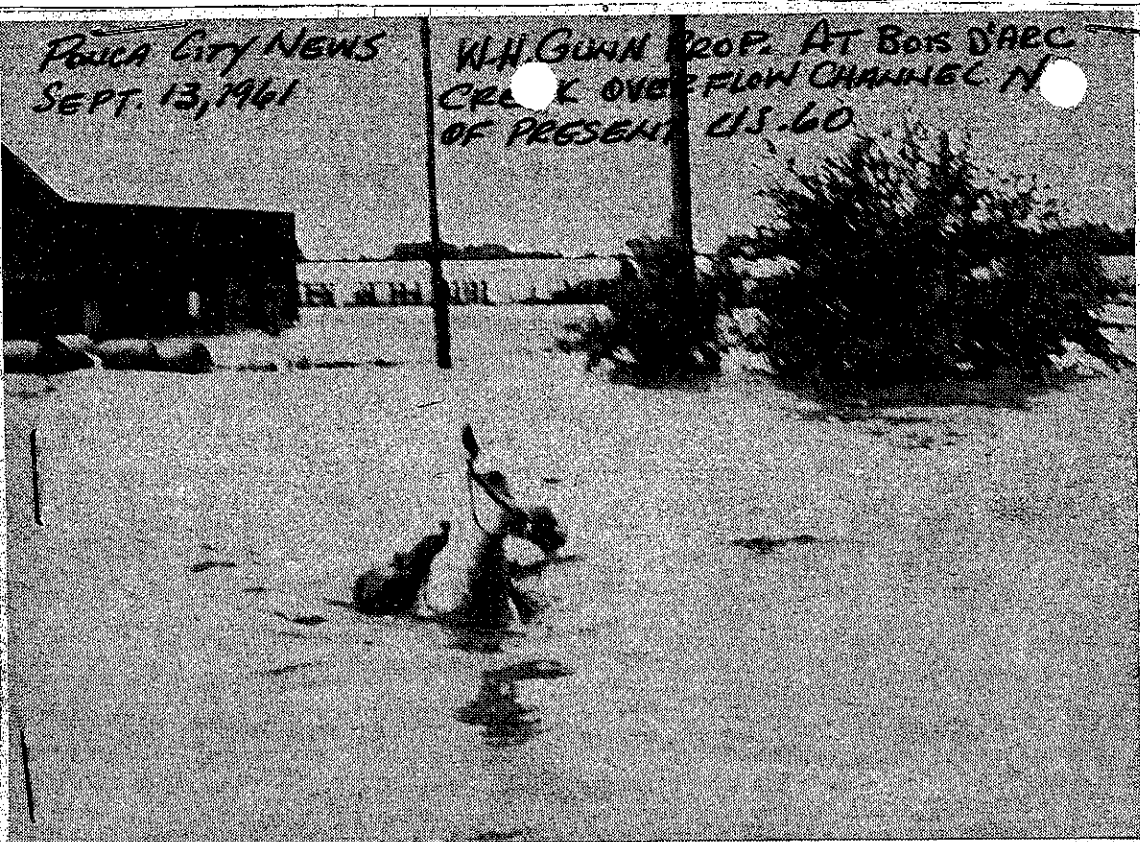
It stirred up strong winds in most sections of the state during the night and early morning but there were no reports of heavy damage or injuries. Guests up to 75 miles per hour were recorded at Oklahoma City's Will Rogers Field. The same velocity was clocked in eastern sections as the storm moved gradually to the northeast.

Rainfall amounts ranged from .80 of an inch at Gage to as much as 7.08 inches at El Reno in central Oklahoma. Other rainfall totals included Geary 6.98, Tinker Air Force Base at Oklahoma City 5.62, Carnegie 5.85, Norman 4.35, Ponca City 5.21, Tulsa 2.81, Ardmore 2.46, McAlester 4.28, Altus .95, Ft. Sill 4.19, Eufaula 2.28, Kingston 2.98, Merlow 3.28, Okemah 2.67, Purcell 3.61, Chickasha 4.04, Lindsay 3.84, Lookeba 5.08, Shawnee 3.81, Prague 3.35, Seminole 3.13, Clinton 1.38 and Okmulgee 1.92.

Forecasters said a clearing trend had developed in the west and would spread over the state today, bringing clear to partly cloudy skies to all of the state Thursday.

Temperatures were to remain cool today but with the return of sunshine Thursday milder weather was predicted. Highs today should be in the 70s with lows tonight in the 50s. Highs Thursday probably will range from 75 to 80.

The high reading Tuesday was 84 at Guymon and the overnight low was 45 at Guymon.



DEEP IN TROUBLE, but rescued later, this horse was being used by Cecil Keen and his son, Don, in an effort to save five head of cattle from rampaging Bois d'Arc Creek. The water was so

swift and deep the Keens took refuge on a fence and were rescued by firemen. The horse is shown saving himself. (For other flood pictures and story, see pages 7 and 13.)

Carla Makes Appearance In Oklahoma; Heavy Rain Causes Streams To

FILE FLOOD INFO -
KAY Co.
SEE SWO 2323 (1)
FOR ELEV.

Ponca City Area By High Water

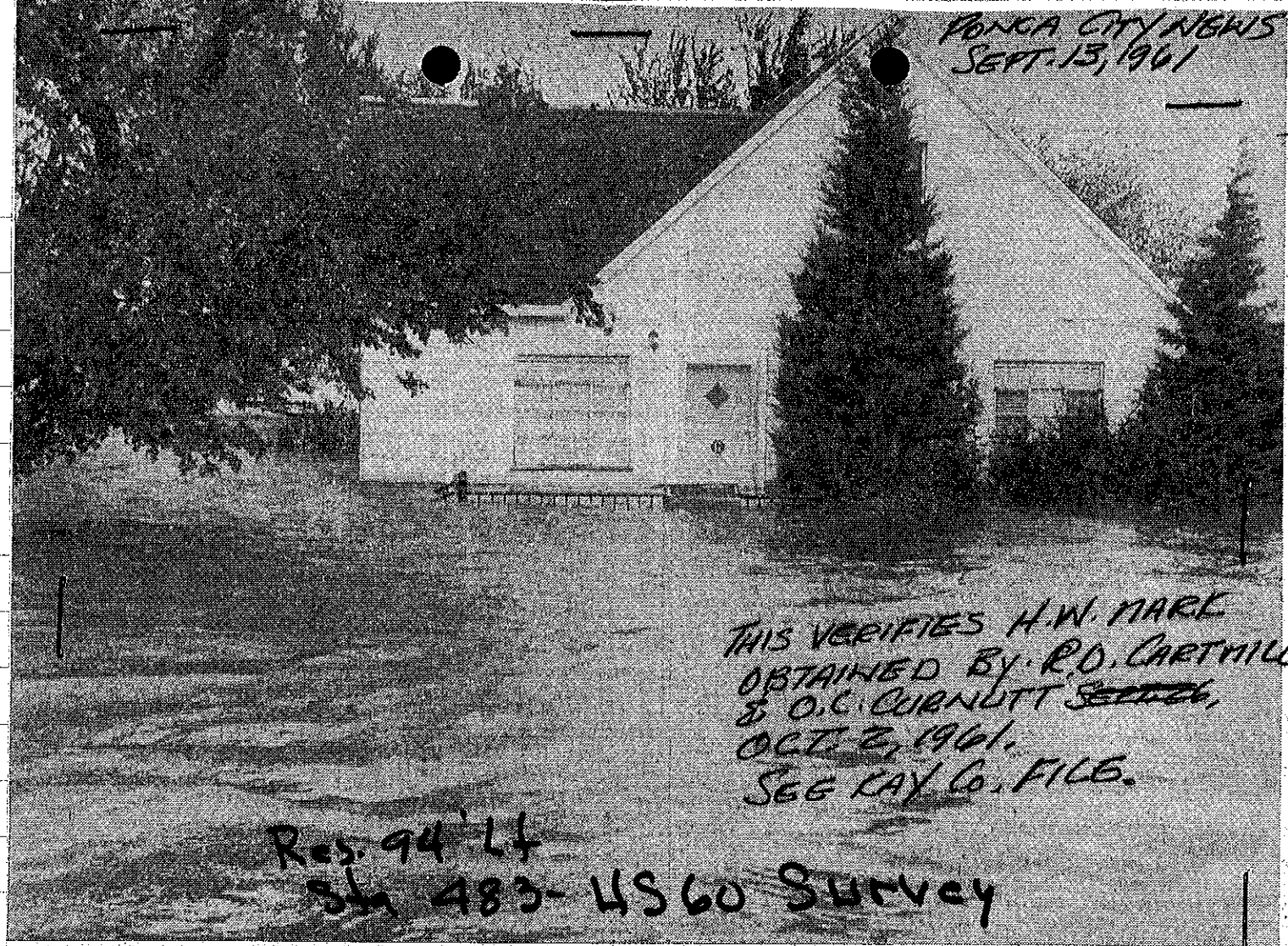
By The A

Heavy rains spawned as dying Hurricane Carla moved through Oklahoma caused flooding and some evacuations in scattered sections of the state today.

About 300 persons were forced to evacuate their homes at Kingfisher by floodwaters from the rampaging Kingfisher and Uncle John's creeks.

V. C. Tilbury, chief of police at Kingfisher, said several women and children were awaiting rescue in the northwest section of the city. He said there were not enough boats to carry out rescue operations.

PONCA CITY NEWS
SEPT. 13, 1961



THIS VERIFIES H.W. MARK
OBTAINED BY R.O. CARTMILL
& O.C. CURNUTT ~~SEPT. 26,~~
OCT. 3, 1961.
SEE KAY CO. FILE.

Res. 94' Lt
Sta 483- US 60 Survey

WATER ROSE to the windowsills of the W. H. Gunn farmhouse near Bois d'Arc Creek early this morning in the flash flooding along

U.S. 60-77, but was receding by 10 a.m. when this picture was taken.



W.H. GUNN PROP AT BOIS D'ARC CREEK
OVER FLOW CHANNEL

FILE: FLOOD
INFO: KAY CO.

FOR ELEV.

SEE SWO. 23230

MORE THAN A MILE WIDE and many feet ing on a fence among the floating barrels caught by