

50 Blackwell Blocks Under Water With More Rain Falling

Details, Page 9

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Forecast Sees Record Crest On Chikaskia

More Than 200 Evacuate Homes As River Rises

By Shorty Shelburne
Of the State Staff

Evacuation operations with boats and trucks were stepped up early Tuesday in flooded Blackwell to move more families to safety as rain continued to fall, sending the rampaging Chikaskia River toward a predicted record flood crest of more than 34 feet.

Red Cross officials said shortly after midnight that five boats and several trucks were in service evacuating persons who had refused to leave flood areas earlier. They estimated more than 50 blocks of Blackwell were under water and the river was still rising at five inches an hour. More than 200 already had been forced to flee from the estimated 150 to 200 homes threatened.

Record Crest Due

Floyd Montgomery, official river forecaster, said his 10 p.m. reading showed the river at 32.3 feet and he predicted the eventual crest would go well above a previously predicted 34 feet. The highest flood crest ever reported for the Chikaskia at Blackwell was an even 34 feet during the damaging flood of June 1923. Flood stage is 26 feet.

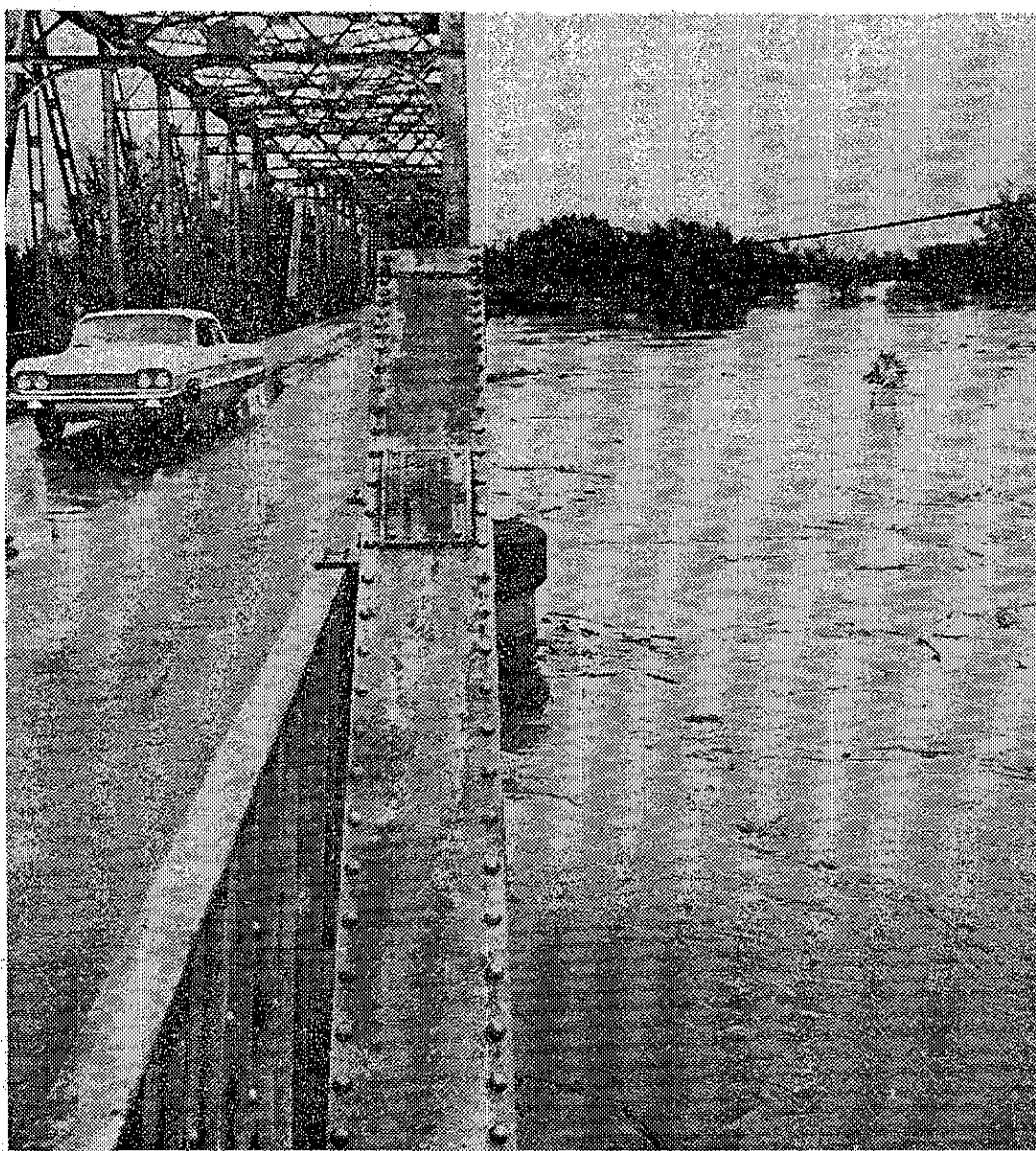
The Oklahoma Panhandle lay blanketed in a coating of ice Monday night as winter sent a breath of frigid air across the state along with the rains that fell in most areas. The highway patrol said U. S. 54 was iced over near Guymon and bridges were glazed.

Schools Take Holiday

Okeene reported another 1½ inches of hard rain late Monday night to bring the two-day total in that area to 5½ inches. All creeks and farm ponds in that area were overflowing and fields were flooded.

Schools were dismissed at Okeene Monday due to high water while at Blackwell rural students were sent home

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Rampaging Chikaskia River boils with trees and other debris as it rises toward record

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
SURVEY DIVISION
NOVEMBER 17, 1964

FILE: KAY COUNTY - FLOOD FILE

THE DAILY-OKLAHOMAN
2 Tuesday, Nov. 17, 1964

50 Blackwell Blocks Under Layer of Water

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early as flood conditions worsened.

The forecast for Tuesday across the state promised little hope for a let-up in moisture. Rain and drizzle to be accompanied by colder temperatures of 30 to 48 overnight was the forecast with highs of 35 northwest to 70 southeast due Tuesday.

Six Oklahoma City stations reported fairly-consistent rainfall amounts late Monday night. Tinker Air Force Base showed .53 of an inch, North Sewage Plant .42, Will Rogers World Airport .41, Lake Hefner .40, South Sewage Plant .35, and Lake Overholser .29.

More Rain Due

Cloudy skies and more rain and thundershowers are forecast for Oklahoma City through Tuesday night. Predicted overnight low Monday was 42, with a high Tuesday of 48, and a Tuesday night drop to 37.

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At Blackwell where more than an inch of rain had fallen by midnight, the precipitation had lightened some but was still coming down. The additional rain caused Montgomery to revise the predicted time of the Chikaskia crest to about noon Tuesday instead of early Tuesday morning as had been expected.

Legion Houses 30

A Red Cross spokesman said members of seven families, totaling about 30 persons, were being sheltered in the Blackwell American Legion Building. They were fed supper Monday night and provided beds. The official said preparations had been made for many more flood victims but that most of those being forced from their homes were going to stay with relatives and friends.

Many residents of the threatened area were still refusing to leave their homes early Tuesday even though water was within inches of flooding the dwellings. Rescue workers were to stay on the job through the night and the Red Cross flood disaster center was to remain in operation.

Boats in Operation

Two engineers from the U. S. Corps of Engineers unit at Jet were in Blackwell with a boat and other equipment to aid rescue operations. Volunteers also were manning boats and trucks in the flooded areas along with police and others.

Bitter and Lost Creeks were raging out of their banks along with the swirling, debris-laden Chikaskia River in Blackwell, adding to the expanding flood area.

The Salt Fork was at flood stage of 17 feet at Tonkawa late Monday and was forecast to crest at 18 to 20 feet Tuesday morning. No evacuation of homes was expected to be necessary, a civil defense official said.

Highway Closed

Highways and roads were flooded in several areas of the state and at least five were closed completely. U. S. 177 was closed north of Blackwell, U. S. 60 to the south and S. H. 11 to the east.

The highway patrol said entrance and exit roads to I. H. 35 one mile south of the intersection with U. S. 177 north of Braman in Kay County were under water and it would take only about two more feet for water to get over the interstate highway.

U. S. 77 north of Newkirk and S. H. 119 north of Kaw City also were closed by flood waters. County roads throughout Kay County and in other areas were cut off by high water.

Lowland flooding was forecast along the Arkansas River in northern Oklahoma and on the Verdigris and Neosho Rivers in southeastern Kansas.

The Walnut River was pouring flood waters into the Arkansas two miles southeast of Arkansas City and Ponca City residents were warned that the Arkansas would crest three feet above flood stage. The River Forecast Center said the crest would hit 17.5 feet and would hold through most of Wednesday.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
SURVEY DIVISION

**Forecast Sees
Record Crest
On Chikaskia**

Nov 17-64
More Than 200

Evacuate Homes
As River Rises

Daily Okla.
By Shorty Shelburne
Of the State Staff

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U.S.G.S GAGE ON SL-SF RR LOCATED IN N.E. SECTION OF BLACKWELL, APPROXIMATELY 1200' DOWNSTREAM CENTER LINE OF SWO 2299(1) - NOW DOOLIN AVENUE.

DAILY OKLAHOMAN - NOVEMBER 17, 1964

ELEV. OF GAUGE = 967.41

<u>DATE</u>	<u>STAGE-FEET</u>	<u>ELEVATION</u>
JUNE 1923	34.0	1001.41
Nov. 17, 1964	33.08	1000.49
MAY 18, 1957	32.56	999.97
JUNE 1957	30.20	997.61
FLOOD STAGE	26.00	993.41

FILE: SWO 2299(1)
BLACKWELL - KAY COUNTY

CC Bridge 12-2-64

Location No. 12