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## Flooding Poteau River at Highest Level Since 1935

File - LeFlore Co. Flood File

By Jeanie Burgess  
Of the State Staff

**POTEAU** — The second greatest flood in the history of the middle and lower portions of the Poteau River basin is raging through a wide section of eastern Oklahoma.

While high waters were receding Tuesday night at Wister, upstream from Poteau, the river is expected to crest early Wednesday at Panama, 14 miles downstream from Poteau, at 18 feet above flood stage.

The crest at Panama is expected to be 42

feet. Flood stage there is 24 feet, a spokesman for the River Forecast Center in Tulsa said. The highest known previous stage in history at Panama was 44.6 feet in June, 1935, as determined by high water marks.

Most of the flooding at Panama Tuesday night was over crop land and pasture land. Only a few small buildings had been damaged. Livestock has been evacuated to higher ground. Townspeople are not leaving.

Despite the forecast of water rising 18 feet above flood stage early Wednesday,

Panama may escape serious damage. The river is a considerable distance from the town.

Extent of damage may depend on the weather. Skies were somewhat ominous Tuesday night. More rain could send the flood stage higher than expected.

Monday and Tuesday's flood in Wister raged through 81 homes, and damaged nearly all of the business firms in the town of about 1,200 persons.

Townspeople, national guardsmen, Red Cross workers and volunteers from other

towns in the area worked Tuesday to clean up.

Two representatives of the U. S. Small Business Administration in Oklahoma City visited Wister Tuesday afternoon with Jay Daley, manager of the Poteau Chamber of Commerce and a member of a state citizens' advisory board to the SBA.

A representative of the SBA, who said he has appraised flood damage in many areas, estimated the damage to Wister at \$500,000.

Daley said he is to meet Wednesday in

Oklahoma City with SBA officials to discuss the possibility of relocating Wister and a portion of US-271 in the Wister area to higher ground.

Daley said federal and state highway officials have talked about plans to move the highway to keep it out of the path of flood waters.

"We want to see if they can do it immediately, in this area," Daley said.

US-271 between Poteau and Wister was

(Continued on Page 2, Column 5)



## Kennedy Scores Smashing Victory Over McCarthy In Nebraska; Nixon Sails

WV 5-15-68  
WNM 5-15-68  
GWP 5-15-68  
RCC 5-15-68  
RDA  
HFJ

### Green Berets Lose Another Camp to Foe

**Viet Cong Forces Crash Perimeter, Destroy Buildings**

SAIGON (AP) — Attacking Viet Cong overran and destroyed sections of the Nui Ba Den Special Forces camp near the Cambodian border northwest of Saigon, the U. S. Command said Wednesday.

### 'We're In to Stay'

New York Times Service

LINCOLN, Neb. — Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy said Tuesday night that despite his defeat here by Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, "We'll go on to Oregon and also to California."

"We're in it all the way," he said.

In an interview, McCarthy did not absolutely foreclose the possibility of responding to Kennedy's expressed hope that the two candidates could "join together" and "work together."

He simply said that he did not know what Kennedy "has in mind."

Later, McCarthy said he thought he had demonstrated in the primaries thus far that he could get votes "that

no other candidate could get."

Since there now appears little prospect that he can get the nomination without a solid victory in both Oregon on May 28 and California on June 4, this statement seemed to some observers to indicate his availability for second place on the ticket.

When McCarthy appeared before 200 cheering youthful volunteers, he made a brave show of appearing not to be downhearted.

Nevertheless, during two television interviews his disappointment was plainly manifested.

He said that Kennedy had won "a

(Continued on Page 2, Column 4)

### Bobby's Offer To Democrat Rival Spurned

**Minnesotan Plans To Try in Later Primary Ballots**

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Sen. Robert F. Kennedy rolled to a smashing victory in Nebraska's Democratic presidential primary Tuesday. But defeated Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy spurned the New Yorker's immediate

# Storms Fatal To 2 Women

The deaths of two state women were attributed Tuesday to Monday's heavy rain storms. One of the victims was struck by lightning and the other died in a car wreck during the storm.

Mrs. E. O. Claxton, a resident of Bixby for 11 years, was killed Monday when she was struck by lightning. The 47-year-old woman was working in a garden at her home when she was struck. She was dead on arrival at a Tulsa hospital.

A 42-year-old Marietta woman, Mrs. Marshall Vinson, died Monday night during a heavy thunderstorm when she apparently lost control of her car. The vehicle veered 140 feet off the road and crashed down a 10-foot embankment into a creek.

Dr. Vergil Smith, Love County medical examiner, ruled Tuesday Mrs. Vinson died of a broken neck.

Mrs. Vinson's body was found in her car, upside down in about six feet of water when a wrecker dragged the car from the creek.

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Soaked store fixtures line the streets and sidewalks of Wister Tuesday as clean-up workers relax momentarily from mop, shovel and bucket duty.

# Admiral Kimmel Dies at Age 86

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duty." As a result of this finding, trial of the two officers by court martial was ordered on Feb. 28, 1942. The order specified, however, that the trial would be deferred "until such time as the public interest and safety would permit." In practice, neither was ever tried. Both retired from the armed forces in 1942. Short died in Dallas in 1949. For security reasons, congress did not get around to a full-dress hearing on Pearl Harbor until 1946, after the war had ended. Kimmel told the committee that Washington naval officials had withheld information which might have enabled him to turn the sneak attack into an ambush. Kimmel declared that data available to Washington from intercepted messages told "when and where Japan would strike," but that his superiors never passed the information along. The congressional investigation disclosed that the United States had broken Japanese codes long before the attack, thus learning in detail many of the diplomatic and naval orders trans-

mitted from Tokyo. The committee said the code-breaking success was unknown to either Kimmel or Short. The congressional investigators concluded that neither Kimmel nor Short had measured up to his responsibilities, but said "the errors made by the Hawaiian commands were errors in judgment and not derelictions in duty." This was a much softer finding than that of the Roberts commission. Nevertheless, an eight-member majority of the 10-man senate-house committee laid the blame for Pearl Harbor on the military, specifically absolving President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his top advisers. In a minority report, two Republican senators said Roosevelt and several others in high civil and military authority had failed "to perform the responsibilities essential to the defense of Pearl Harbor." Kimmel's blue four-starred admiral's flag was hoisted over the battleship Pennsylvania in Pearl Harbor on Feb. 1, 1941. At 59, he was one of the youngest fleet commanders in modern history. Upon his retirement in 1942, Kimmel had reverted to his permanent rank of rear admiral. Kimmel is survived by his widow, Dorothy Kinkaid Kimmel of Groton, and two sons, Navy Capt. Thomas K. Kimmel and Edward Kimmel.

# OSU Suspends 3 Wrestlers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE.

clothing firm near the University of Oklahoma campus, sophomore Dwayne Keller is the best known. He won a national title in the first varsity year as a member of coach Myron Roderick's Cowboy mat team and was voted the outstanding NCAA wrestler this year. The other two athletes were completing eligibility requirements as transfer students. It was coach Roderick who posted bond for the three OSU students, surprised by a Norman policeman at the

# Robber Handed 20-Year Term

An Oklahoma City man was sentenced Tuesday to 20 years for robbing a Safeway store of more than \$200 last February. Robert Murphy jr., 24, of Oklahoma City, was convicted by a jury in District Judge Clarence Mills' court of robbing a Safeway store at 2600 SW 29 on February

# McCarthy Not Ready For Merger

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

significant victory." He said, in response to questions, that his showing in Nebraska might have some effect on the races in Oregon and California. Nevertheless, he said, he saw Oregon now as "an almost even race," and "I think there is a fair chance I can win in California." The tone and substance of his remarks suggested that while he had accomplished his original purpose of effecting a change in Vietnam policy, he had begun to relinquish his hopes of actually getting the nomination.

# Woman Guilty In Gun Death

A district court jury deliberated more than two hours Tuesday before convicting Maxine Walsion Cooper of first degree manslaughter in the shooting death of her husband. The jury sentenced Mrs. Cooper to serve four years in prison. District Judge William S. Myers jr. set formal sentencing for 1:30 p.m. May 24, in his court. Mrs. Cooper had been charged with murder. Her husband, Alva Vernon Cooper, 36, was shot outside a restaurant at 300 NE 2 last December 9.

# Hussien in Paris

PARIS (AP) — King Hussein of Jordan arrived in Paris Tuesday from London for a 10-day private visit.

# Flood Aid Rushed To Wister Area

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

closed a considerable time Monday night. S-59 was closed Monday night and Tuesday. Daley said there is a possibility Wister residents can get federal loans so they can relocate their homes and businesses east of the present townsite. Wister was swept by a similar flood seven years ago. In addition to closing the highways, the flood tore down electric power lines and demolished a service station south of town and moved a five-room frame house two blocks from its foundation. Buildings directly in the path of the flood registered high water marks of eight to nine feet. Electricity, gas and telephone services were off Tuesday and a chicken supper was held Tuesday night in a school building, with the food furnished by the Red Cross. In Main Street buildings, people swept and hosed muddy water from their businesses. In residential areas farther from the flood, home owners set furniture, bedding and mattresses in the sun to dry while using hoses, shovels and brooms to clear water from their homes. After traffic was prohibited from the main street, furnishings from an automobile supply center, a dry goods,

grocery and drug stores were moved into the street so muddy water could be hosed off them. Chairs and hair dryers from a beauty shop sat on the sidewalk in front of the business. Furnishings from the Wister First State Bank were moved into the second story of the bank building and into a home, said Mrs. H. T. Harris, president. "I don't look like a bank president today," she said, pointing to the knee-length slacks, flowered blouse and large straw hat she was wearing. Everybody in town was in work clothes. Everybody had wet, muddy feet and most had wet, muddy clothes. Mrs. Harris and a friend were talking about the town's condition and the friend started to cry. "Don't cry now," Mrs. Harris said, "it could be worse."

# Caesar Joins Cleopatra

PLYMOUTH, England (AP) — Lt. Ben Caesar has been assigned to a new Royal Navy frigate — named Cleopatra.

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