

# HIGH WATER OUSTS THOUSANDS

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Lively Debate

By Alan Bromley

Inhofe, Republican  
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This flooded business district along Noble Street on the west edge of downtown Guthrie remained inundated Sunday as continued rains

threatened a possible resurgence of rampaging Cottonwood Creek (Staff Photo by Dave Seldon)

## 10,000 Reported Out of Homes; Loss in Millions

By Cathy Hobbs

Rampaging streams forced hundreds of families to leave their homes in north central and northeastern Oklahoma towns Sunday as new rains brought additional flooding to the state.

A state Civil Defense official said flooding in Oklaho-

State highway patrol reports road closings. —Page 22.

Several families north of Sperry evacuated. —Page 22.

Weather service issues flood crest warnings. —Page 21.

Picture of city flood damage. —Page 21.

Guthrie residents know floods. Story, photo. —Page 22.

ma has taken two lives since last week, left 10,000 persons homeless and caused a roughly estimated \$10 million in damage.

Towns hardest hit by flooding Sunday included Avant, Skiatook, Sperry and Owasso, all along Bird Creek north of Tulsa, as the creek rose to over 10 feet above flood stage in some areas.

### 150 Families Flee at Guthrie

Cottonwood Creek in Guthrie flooded about 100 homes and a dozen small businesses, causing the evacuation of about 150 families, police said.

The creek was down Sunday evening, but was expected to rise again. Two emergency shelters were opened for the homeless families.

The area flooded severely last June and some of the same families were forced out of their homes.

More than 100 Oklahoma Army National guardsmen have been on duty the past two days, helping evacuate families from flooded areas and providing equipment, Maj. Gen. David C. Matthews, state adjutant general, said.

Guardsmen were still at work in Sperry, Oklahoma City and Yukon Sunday.

Residents of Kingfisher, Dover, Blackwell and Tonkawa were also reported leaving their homes as evacuations were completed in Tulsa, Yukon, Edmond and Bartlesville.

## Four Stores At Krebs Hit By Tornado

## Nixon Off Critical List

## Raging Waters Leave Pains Mere Dollars Cannot Erase

By Mike Burger

To the people through whose lives the Deep Fork flows, flood damage is not something you measure in anything as impersonal as dollars.

It is measured in the pain of having to drag a garden hose into your living room to wash a quarter inch of mud off the new shag carpet that was a present from your husband or seeing the floodwaters top the keys on your electronic organ.

In one neighborhood

said.

Rev. Perryman moved in three months ago after transferring to Oklahoma City from Enid not long after the Enid flood, but he had already heard of the Deep Fork.

When he noticed the water coming up at 9 a.m., he told all the members of his family to pack a suitcase like they were getting ready to go on a long trip. The suitcases were then put into the attic along with some canned food and tools.

ter Angela, 10, slipped. Without the rope she would have been carried away in the flood, he said.

On the corner at 3100 NW 35, Mrs. R. T. Nelson said her family noticed the rising waters before 9 a.m., but were not too alarmed at first.

She said they had lived in the house 15 years and seen the water rise before. In fact it came within 18 inches of coming in the house just last Wednesday, she said.

This time the water kept

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cept' Labeled False ofe, however, said aw mandates voting the candidates, but not include support, ointed to Boren's desing Democrat Sen. ge McGovern's presi- al bid as an example. Issue is Boren's "old l clean sweep," which e says is non-existent ig as Boren refuses to i aside Democratic candidates Wilbur oned on Page 2, Col. 1

A tornado swept through Krebs Sunday night damaging two small grocery stores, a neighboring dry goods store and an auto repair shop, the Pittsburg County sheriff's office reported.

The town was still without lights or water late Sunday night, but the sheriff's office found no injuries after canvassing the community.

The highway patrol said what appeared to be a "small tornado" blew out windows in the McAlester Highway Patrol headquarters and damaged two barns at the McAlester sale barn east of the patrol station.

At the same time, a semi-trailer truck was blown off the highway near the station, but no one was injured, the sheriff's office said. Continued on Page 2, Col. 4

LONG BEACH, Calif., (AP) — Former President Richard M. Nixon was taken off the critical list Sunday for the first time in six days. He continued to show increased strength since a brush with death brought on by post-operative complications.

"It's his best morning since hospitalization began," Nixon's physician, Dr. John C. Lungren, said.

Lungren said through hospital spokesman Norman Nager that the 61-year-old former chief executive began a soft food diet, including custard and vegetables, and would sit up later Sunday for the first time since entering the hospital for treatment of phlebitis Oct. 23.

Nixon had been fed intravenously during the critical period, until Saturday when he was first allowed to take consommé.

Lungren said Nixon was now in "sub-intensive care," which he described as "a step down from critical care."

Lungren said the blood clot in Nixon's left leg, which forced urgent surgery last Tuesday morning, had not enlarged. The doctor said Saturday that internal bleeding near Nixon's abdomen had been stopped and the former president had received no blood transfusions since Thursday.

near NW 35 and Drexel, the waters Saturday came up faster and higher than they ever had before in the 15 years since the neighborhood became densely settled.

Rev. Jerry Perryman, who moved into the parsonage of the Epworth United Methodist Church at 3116 NW 35 three months ago, said he asked the minister who was moving out the name of the creek in the back yard.

"When he answered Deep Fork, I got scared. It meant flood to me," he

Even though he was not in the Enid flood, Rev. Perryman said he had learned what needed to be done.

By 10:30 a.m., the water was coming into the house and was rising to nearly knee-deep, he said.

He got some rope and tied the members of his family and himself together. Mr. Perryman said he did not feel the least silly roping himself to his wife and two children.

On the way through the waist-deep water outside to high ground his daughter

coming and when it was obvious the rain would not stop, she said they piled everything they could on top of beds and furniture. In back, the small wall of the patio was reinforced with a few sand bags, but that barrier was soon overflowing and the water began to rise on the glass of the patio doors.

When the patio doors burst, letting the water inside, the level quickly rose in the house. When they were forced out, the water was up to three feet deep

Continued on Page 2, Col. 5

### Snow Makes Brief Appearance

Following flooding, reports of hail and several sightings of tornadoes, the possibility of frost and snow in the Panhandle was predicted by the U. S. Weather Service.

Rain mixed with snow was reported at Boise City for a short time, but all precipitation there stopped by late Sunday.

The weather service said Sunday night the chance of more heavy rain in Tulsa and the surrounding northeast Oklahoma area was decreasing, although flash flood watches remained in effect.

Officials said two Sulphur residents who drowned Wednesday when their van was swept into rain-swollen Rock Creek in Platt National Park were counted in disaster figures.

Over an inch of rain was reported at many reporting stations Sunday, with some areas receiving five inches or more.

Fairview reported 8.5 inches unofficially from noon Saturday through noon Sunday.

Several rivers already were past flood stage and crests well above flood stage were anticipated as late as Tuesday by the U.S.

Continued on Page 2, Col. 2

### Local

ACCO-CHEWING cowboy may be unlikely candidate, but he rides English jumper. —Page 21

### State

SE, LITTLE GIRL grow up making magic in Ap



Floodwaters left many homes in the same shape as the R. T. Nelson residence at 3100 NW 35. Mrs. Nelson, like hundreds of other flood victims in the Okla-

homa City area, was faced Sunday with the job of salvaging water-soaked and muddied belongings and cleaning homes and yards. (Photo by Cliff Traverso)

# Mere Dollars Can't Erase Flood Pains

Continued From Page One inside, she said.

A total of eight people and three dogs ended up on her roof, Mrs. Nelson said. As the waters continued to rise, she said they decided to move to safety.

When they got off the roof the water was close to shoulder high and the group held hands and grabbed onto shrubs in front of the houses for support working their way west to higher ground.

This is their fourth flood and the worst, she said. The house had just been redecorated and new furniture purchased as the Nelsons began to recover from a flood on Labor Day last year.

This time marked the end, she said. Soon they would look for an apartment and put what furniture, much of it brand new, which could be salvaged into storage.

All around the area, residents were scooping out water and mud. In homes the water had signed its name with a thin gray line of dead grass on the wallpaper. Outside debris was caught in the trees about shoulder level.

Heavy fences that got in the way of the water were flattened and some garage doors were caved in where the force of the water buckled them.

West on NW 35 and a little higher, Mrs. R. J. Miley said the water only came into her home at 3120 NW 35 to about one to two inches deep. It was enough to ruin all the carpets.

She said they saw the water coming and were able to hoist most of the furniture without legs onto the pool table, beds and other tables in the house. There it stayed dry.

Mrs. Miley said her

mother's home next door west was not as heavily damaged. Mrs. Miley said they stayed the night in the family's motor home on their drive. From there they could keep an eye on the neighborhood, especially the houses just east which had been evacuated by their residents.

Across the street, it was the first time in 15 years that the water had risen high enough to flood the homes. William E. Biggs, 3105 NW 35 on the north side of the street, said they had some trouble with the sewer backing up and had cut the line off early Saturday.

Shortly after 9 a.m. he said they noticed water standing a foot deep on their glass front storm door.

It rose very fast after that and soon they fled through the back door, he said. When he opened the back door the water rushed in and he was not able to close the door again.

When the flood waters began to go down the out-rush of water slammed the door and when he returned, Biggs said there was water trapped inside

the house.

Inside the high water line measured 22 inches above the floor and many of the pieces of furniture which had been placed on the tables had been floated off onto the floor again.

In his garage, Biggs said his two cars had been covered in water deep enough to submerge the seats.

Ruth Wasson of 3500 Garden said it was the first time in 15 years her house had been flooded. Her back yard was often a flood casualty with a mess remaining when the waters went down.

Sunday the mess was in her dining room.

She said the house had just been redecorated and she did not leave because she did not think the waters would come up as fast as they did or nearly as high.

She was rescued along with her cat by boat as workers came into the area when the rains began to end.

Around the neighborhood there were piles of soggy carpet and large bags of trash where cleanup efforts had been started.

Fans were set up to blow under the houses and

where the furnaces were high enough to escape damage, the ducts were flushed of mud with garden hoses and then the furnaces were turned on to circulate drying air in the house.

In most of the houses the carpets had been stripped up and friends of Mrs. Nelson carried out many armloads of dripping brown clothes to be washed in commercial laundry machines.

## Tax Take Up

TAIPEI — Taiwan collected taxes totaling \$2.33 billion in fiscal 1974, a 43.6 increase over the previous year.

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