

# Floods Plague More and More of State; 2,000 Homeless in Okmulgee. Torrent; Hydro 'Horror-Night' Toll Now Eleven



## Bus Bobs Like Cork in 10-Foot Wall of Water

### Driver Swims 43 Of His Passengers To Higher Ground

By HAY PARR  
(Daily Oklahoman Staff Writer)

HYDRO, June 22—Eleven persons were believed drowned Tuesday night when a flash flood sent a 10-foot wall of water roaring over US 66 one mile east of here.

Nine bodies had been recovered Wednesday night, and two other persons, including a 1-year-old child, were still missing.

Only two bodies had been positively identified. Tentative list of the dead, including these two:

WILSON FRIESEN, 42, of Corn.  
MRS. HARVEY FRIESEN, 39, Corn, and her two children, CAROL, 10, and Jimmie, 5.

MRS. E. J. ROGALSKY, 22, of 5813 N Military, Oklahoma City; and her son, LOWELL DEAN, 3.

MRS. ETHEL B. SCARLETT, 24

## Road, Rail Travel Snarled; Clearing Skies Are Forecast

Nine persons were dead, two still missing, and hundreds of families homeless in Oklahoma Wednesday after a series of sharp floods which followed torrential rains in many sections.

All the dead and missing were swept from US 66 just east of Hydro in a flash flood on Little Deer creek, turned into a raging torrent by an unofficial 19 inches of rain at Hydro.

About 2,000 persons were evacuated from their homes in Okmulgee Wednesday after the swollen Okmulgee creek spread into 500 homes. The creek has flooded an area about one-half mile wide and four miles long through the residential district. But the peak of the crisis appeared past Wednesday night as rain stopped and water began to recede at Okmulgee.

Kingfisher counted 225 families homeless after the Kingfisher and Johns creeks boiled out of their banks Tuesday night following a seven-inch rain.

Hundreds of telephone lines in the state were out of service; major highways were blocked, bridges washed out in many counties, and crop damage estimated in the hundreds of thousands of dollars from the widespread rains.

Relief from the torrential rains which have plagued scattered areas of Oklahoma this week was forecast for most of the state Thursday. The official U. S. weather bureau forecast for Okla-



This was the scene in the business district at Kingfisher Wednesday. (More flood pictures, Page 17.)

## Most of Crops Are Still Safe

Blinding rains which have lashed much of Oklahoma for the past three days will not cause excessive crop damage except in scattered areas, federal agricultural observers said Wednesday.

That was the brightest spot in Wednesday's flood picture. It was mixed with reports of highway and rail washouts, and disrupted communications.

Over the state as a whole crops have been in need of rain. The state in general will benefit from the rains other than in areas where fields were badly washed.

### Most Wheat Harvested

F. S. McCauley, crop statistician with the department of agriculture, said wheat harvesting in Blaine, Kingfisher and Canadian counties, where the heaviest rains fell, is all but finished.

Elsewhere in the northwest, according to the farm labor report of the Oklahoma state employment service, harvest operations have been stopped by the continuing rains.

Little activity is reported around Enid in Garfield county, pretty well past the harvest peak.

Woodward reported harvest 15 percent completed, with plenty of machines on hand. Cimarron county reported harvest 12 percent complete; Texas county, 23 percent; Beaver county, 20 percent; Ellis county, 20 percent, and Harper county, 20 percent.

Observers at Canton, just on the edge of the torrential rain which lashed Blaine, Kingfisher and Canadian counties, reported 1.04 inches of rain in the past two days.

Combines were not halted by the rain.

### Crack Trains Detouring

No crop damage was reported except in the Carlton area, southeast of Canton, where there was some hail.

Railroads operating through Oklahoma City were unanimous in reporting disrupted schedules due to the high rains which covered tracks.

Santa Fe lines reported the Texas Chief, which arrived late Wednesday morning, was detoured near Valley Center in Kansas because of high water near Windsor and Wichita, Kan. Due at 9 a. m. the Chief arrived at 12:40 p. m. A later afternoon train



—Daily Oklahoman Staff Photo

J. W. Jones

His swimming saved 43

# Water 'Explodes' Okmulgee Homes

OKMULGEE, June 23—(Special)—Oklahoma's statewide disaster relief plan swung into action here Wednesday night after 2,000 Okmulgee residents were driven from their homes by flood waters.

Okmulgee creek, which winds through the town, flooded sections of the city a half mile wide and four miles long. It sent water coursing over main avenues of the city on the east and south virtually isolating the business district.

It was water with enough force to "explode" the homes in its path.

Rescue units composed of police, firemen and volunteers worked from early morning until late Wednesday night evacuating families from three major areas of the city.

Most of those left homeless were Negroes from the north and northeast sections of the town in areas that border the rampaging creek. An estimate of those being cared for by the Red Cross in the national guard armory topped 2,000 persons. About 100 of those were white persons.

Both Ellis Holly, chief of police, and Jimmy James, fire chief, said at 10 p. m. that the emergency had apparently passed "if we have no more rain." The rain had stopped at that time, but it was still cloudy and foreboding.

The creek was sent on the rampage by 14 inches of rain which fell on Okmulgee between Sunday

and 4 p. m. Wednesday. The flood waters covered an estimated 150 blocks of the town.

Holly said many of those evacuated from the danger were taken out by force after they refused to leave their homes in spite of the rising waters. Police, firemen and volunteers from the populace and the branch college of Oklahoma A&M formed the rescue squads using privately owned boats.

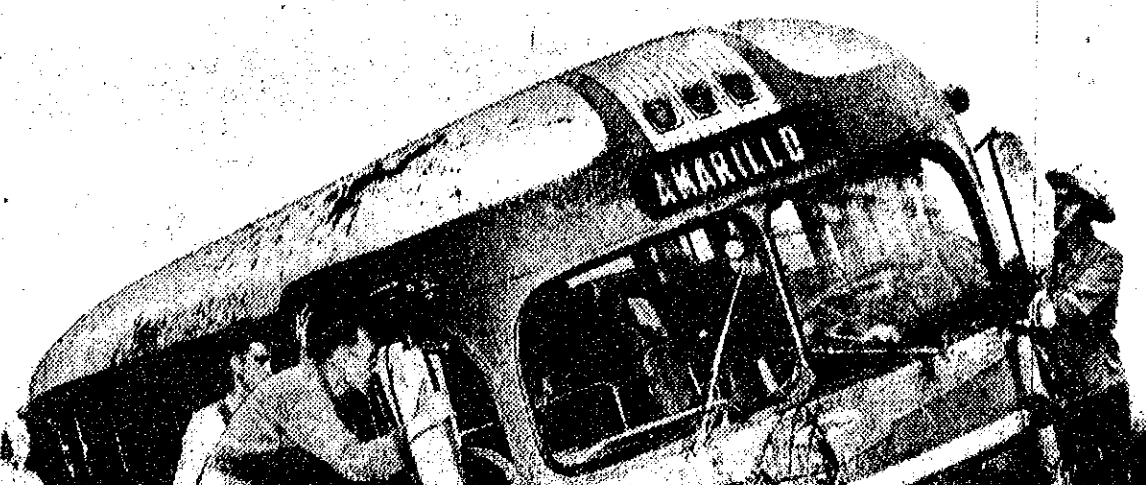
James told of seeing one two-story home just a few blocks from downtown Okmulgee "explode" before the eyes of rescuers minutes after five people had been removed from the structure.

"Did you ever see a house explode before your eyes?" he asked. "Planks and loose boards flew in every direction from the force of that water."

The fire chief said a small boy and girl clinging to the branches of a tree nearby were rescued moments later.

Holly said his crews of workers had taken people from tree-tops, the tops of homes and "any place else

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1)



N. Military, Oklahoma City; and her son, LOWELL DEAN, 3.

MRS. ETHEL B. SCARLETT, 24, Amarillo.

ELLIS B. KIRKS, 46, Henryetta.

JAMES DUNN, Amarillo, Negro passenger on a bus.

Missing were D. C. Bates, 2338 NE 23, driver of a Yellow Transit truck, and Gary Friesen, 1, son of Mrs. Friesen.

### Six Bodies From One Car

Six bodies were removed from the Friesen car, in which Mrs. Rogalsky was riding.

The body of Kirks was recovered late Wednesday and was taken to the Benson funeral home, El Reno, where it was definitely identified by his wife Wednesday night. The body was removed to the Sheridan funeral home in Henryetta.

The body of Mrs. Scarlett was found a short time later and was also taken to the Benson funeral home. It was positively identified by her husband.

Harvey Friesen, who was rescued in an injured condition Wednesday morning, was taken to a Weatherford hospital.

### Score Cling to Trees All Night

The flood waters came from Little Deer creek which crosses the highway four times in a small valley between rolling hills.

Fifty automobiles, a Greyhound bus and two large trucks were trapped and marooned for the night.

Nearly a score of persons survived the night of terror by clinging in trees.

One of the bodies was erroneously identified Wednesday morning as that of P. E. Friesen of Corn, and another as that of his wife. However, he reached the scene of the accident late Wednesday and said he was the father of Wilson Friesen, Harvey Friesen and Mrs. Rogalsky.

Identification of the bodies removed from the Friesen car was made from a list of passengers furnished by the father.

### Trousers Hanging on Tree

The automobile of Kirks was found at the flood scene and his trousers, containing a billfold with identification papers, were found hanging in a nearby tree.

Highway patrolmen believed he had climbed the tree and then attempted to swim to safety as waters continued to rise.

The Yellow Transit truck, which Bates had driven from Oklahoma City at 4 p. m. Tuesday, also was found washed off the highway.

Mrs. Scarlett was a passenger in an automobile driven by Don L. Walters of Amarillo. He said that when their car became stranded, the two climbed to the top of a bridge railing, but both were swept off by the surging waters. He said he grabbed a telephone pole and held on all night, but did not see Mrs. Scarlett after the two were swept off the bridge.

### 19 Inches in Rain Gauge

Little Deer creek burst from its banks after a heavy cloudburst. The downpour began at 4 p. m. and continued until midnight. Albert Klimbro, Hydro, said he recorded 19 inches of rain in a home-made gauge he had constructed.

Search for the bodies was hindered by piled up mud, heavy debris and broken trees in the creek bottoms.

from the central rains which have plagued scattered areas of Oklahoma this week was forecast for most of the state Thursday. The official U. S. weather bureau forecast for Oklahoma late Wednesday night was for partly cloudy with showers in the south. Highs are expected to range from 80 to 87.

A real break in the weather is predicted in the statewide Friday forecast, which calls for generally fair throughout Oklahoma.

## Rain Predicted Over in City Area

No further showers are predicted for Oklahoma City, which received 1.52 inches at the Classen station Wednesday to swell to 6.31 inches the total received since Sunday.

At least 50 cars and a Greyhound bus were caught in the sudden flood on US 66 near Hydro where the Little Deer creek winds across the road four times.

Lights, water and communications were out in Hydro. Only reports from the area came from two radio-equipped trucks owned by the Caddo County Electric co-operative.

Kingfisher was also without lights and water Wednesday. Two truckloads of bottled water were ordered for Kingfisher from Oklahoma City.

Alert action by Kingfisher city officials, who began phoning residents in low-lying areas and then sounding the city's fire siren, Tuesday night prevented loss of life.

The flood level of water in Kingfisher's main street, had dropped three feet from highest flood stage Wednesday night.

All growing crops in the vicinity of Weatherford to Geary, as well as an area extending five miles south of Weatherford, were damaged in Tuesday's tremendous rains. Transportation east and north of Hydro was limited to foot travel after the rains.

Officials reported a house trailer was found 2½ miles east of Weatherford in a shelterbelt grove, but searching parties have found no bodies.

Miss Bess Means, and Bill Riggs, who spent hours in trees in the flooded area, were being treated for shock and exposure. Miss Means was trapped in a tree by the flood waters for 13 hours.

Families at Wewoka, Henryetta, Weleetka, were evacuated from their homes in face of rising water in those cities. Officials removed 15 families from the north side of Wewoka after floodwaters overran their homes early Wednesday. Another four foot rise is expected on Wewoka Creek from Seminole.

At Weleetka 20 families were driven from their homes and residents in low lying areas around Henryetta were also being taken to places of safety, US 75 to the north of town was just one foot above water and may close Wednesday night. Flood waters are threatening the KO&G railroad trestle at the north fork of the Canadian south of Henryetta. Coal creek, spilling out of its banks in Henryetta, flooded a number of homes.

## Geary Has 11-Inch Rainfall

In the southwest, Altus was hard hit by an early morning wind-storm Wednesday which caused an estimated \$50,000 damage. Business firms, a Baptist chapel, and residences bore the brunt of the damage. At least 500 telephones were out of order with communications in all directions snarled.

Also in the southwestern part of the state, Binger reported some roads and highways under water but most hard surfaced roads were still passable.

Tillman county reported some crop damage, cotton blown down, but said the brisk rain received was beneficial to most crops. Some cut alfalfa was damaged.

Although flood warnings were posted on streams in the central and northeastern part of the state, the heaviest rainfall centered in Blaine, Kingfisher and Canadian counties Tuesday.

Geary in Blaine county, recorded an official fall of 11.25 inches. Greenfield, seven miles north, missed its official reading when the gauge ran over at 10.5 inches.

On US 66 west of Hydro, about 100 feet of the concrete slab and roadbed were swept away, a cut 25 to 35 feet made by the flash flood. Since other roads in the area are impassable because of heavy rains, the department is rushing repairs on US 66 rather than attempt to establish detour routes. Officials estimated it will be a week before the road will be open.

Shoulders on US 66 from Bridgeport to Hydro are badly damaged and said great stretches of road are buried under silt and mud. The Cimarron river, catching overflow from the Kingfisher flood, was rising rapidly Wednesday night with the Euchee creek already over its banks near Cushing. SH 33 was under four feet of water five miles east of town.

Officials expected Big Creek to overflow on SH 33 if rains continue. The city lake went to highest level in five years, flooding the water plant. Around \$50,000 property damage was reported in the Cushing area from violent winds. Crop damage was estimated between \$50,000 and \$60,000. Four inches of rain fell at Cushing in the last 24 hours, sending the total to 11.90 inches since Sunday and putting the Euchee creek to the highest stage in 30 years.

Water level at Grand River Dam climbed 5.06 feet since Monday after a 7.52 inch rainfall. Big Cabin creek covered US 66 southwest of Vinita.

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Frisco and Rock Island lines reported all east bound trains not operating. Rock Island officials at El Reno said their trains from Clinton to Enid are being routed over Frisco lines, the Rock Island train from Clinton to Oklahoma City being sent in on Santa Fe tracks. Water on Rock Island lines was reported going down some at Weatherford but officials predicted it will be two or three days before trains are run over the tracks.

West, north and southbound Rock Island and Frisco trains were reported operating—but the Frisco's flashy Meteor had to send its passengers into Oklahoma City by bus.

Enroute to Oklahoma City, the train at Sapulpa found a washout at

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—Daily Oklahoman Staff Photo by A. Y. Owen

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Heroic rescue work by J. W. Jones, Amarillo, driver of the Greyhound bus, was credited with saving lives of 43 of the passengers, including eight of ten children.

The wall of water lifted the bus completely off the pavement.

**Bus Bobs Like a Cork**

"It turned us nearly completely around," Jones said.

"The bus bobbed around like a cork until it finally settled."

Water quickly reached the top of the bus windows.

Jones began swimming his passengers to safety. He had no idea how many trips he made, but passengers said he kept making round trips until everybody was out of the bus.

Many passengers jumped out windows. One woman jumped out on the

(Continued on Page 2, Column 2)

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Water level at Grand River Dam climbed 5.06 feet since Monday after a 7.52 inch rainfall. Big Cabin creek covered US 66 southwest of Vinita.

Army engineers at Tulsa ordered two of three large floodgates at the dam closed because of flood conditions in the Arkansas river basin.

**Arkansas Rising Swiftly at Muskogee**

Swelled by water from the Verdigris as well as the Grand river, the Arkansas was rising at the rate of one foot an hour at Muskogee Wednesday. At 3 p. m. it stood nine feet below floodstage but expected to crest there overnight. Highways west and north of Muskogee were flooded.

Nowata observers said the Verdigris was 38 feet at 5 a. m. at Coody's Bluff, two and three feet deep over US 60. From the 5 a. m. crest the river dropped sharply but began another rise at noon. Rainfall in the area since Sunday has been 7.38 inches.

W. E. Maughan Oklahoma City weather observer, issued a revised flood warning Wednesday afternoon because of continuing rains in the Canadian watershed.

He said the S Canadian river in the Whitefield area is expected to crest at 18 feet Thursday or Friday morning.

At Wetumka at 4 p. m. the river was 18.6 feet, rising rapidly. Flood stage at 14 feet was topped with the aid of a 4.70 inch rainfall since 6 a. m.

Late afternoon reports from Dewar, Maughan reported, quoted 4.27 inches of rain since 6 a. m. The Deep Fork was at 20.2 feet and still rising.

Highway patrol Wednesday night reported evacuation of about 50 families from flooded Deep Fork bottomlands at Dewar. The water supply at

Three blocks away, where a gasoline transport and a bakery truck were standing in four feet of water, the water running at cab window levels, a lone swimmer splashed along.

# Creek Floods Into Okmulgee; 2,000 Routed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

they could get away from the water." He added, however, that many in the Negro sections had refused to leave their modest homes and were still in the flooded areas late Wednesday night.

The state's disaster plan went into effect Wednesday night after the police chief asked for the aid of national guardsmen to do guard duty in the evacuated areas to prevent looting. Gov. Turner ordered the general plan into effect and placed all facilities of the state at the disposal of the stricken city.

## Homeless Families Housed

Highway patrol officials said Wednesday night Holly had informed him the guardsmen will furnish all the aid needed for the night. Paul Reed, state safety commissioner, is expected to go to Okmulgee Thursday.

Homeless families were being housed for the night in the homes of friends who live outside the danger areas or in the armory. Red Cross workers, under the direction of Ray Barrett, Okmulgee chairman, took charge of the relief work.

The Phillips Petroleum refinery suspended operations after water from the nearby creek rose to three feet in the refinery buildings and in the yard. The plant's electric system was out of order Wednesday night, but Roy McCullough, superintendent, said damage to the installations would not be great.

## Homes Washed Away

Holly estimated that "30 or 40" small houses in the northeastern section of Okmulgee were washed from their foundations by the rushing waters that covered the city's main street four blocks from the center of the town.

The police chief said only minor injuries have been reported by the flood victims and there have been no known deaths from the water.

South Muskogee avenue, which also is U. S. 62 and U. S. 75 through that portion of the town, is completely impassable. Two feet of water course over the street in a stretch at least two blocks wide. Grand avenue also in the southern section of the town was underwater as was Eighth street for two blocks on the east side.

Radio station KHBG, Okmulgee, went off the air at 10:04 a. m. when rising water flooded the station's transmitter unit south of the city. The station will not go back on the air until the water recedes.

The water in Okmulgee creek had stopped its rise by 11 p. m. Wednesday but the worst of the crest on Deep Fork, a branch of the Canadian river, on the west and south of the city was not expected until sometime Thursday.

## Warning System Shaped

Jim Kirby, Okmulgee county sheriff, said he will send a plane aloft Thursday equipped with a loudspeaker system to warn residents of the bottomlands to leave their homes before the danger arises.

Holly said Wednesday night that his request for the national guardsmen had been answered by the governor and that 58 men, most of them from the local national guard unit, had been placed at his disposal.

In spite of the fact that all officials believed the worst had passed, calls for assistance were still coming in periodically at the fire department headquarters at 11 p. m. James said most were from residents who had decided their earlier decision to stay in flooded homes was not such a good idea.

## New Floods Hit China

SHANGHAI, June 24, Thursday—New floods bore down Wednesday on the stricken southeast China coast, where meager dispatches said at least 30 cities and towns already were inundated.

Some voiced fears for safety of the swimmer. He was dangerously near to Kingfisher creek, one of two streams spilling over lowlands in the town.

The lone swimmer splashed on. He swam past the gasoline transport and to the bakery truck. Chuckles ran through the crowd as he climbed up on a fender and showed himself to be a young boy.

## The Cake's The Thing

Chuckles turned to laughs as the youth climbed aboard the top of the truck and rumaged under the tarpaulin covering the pastries carried there.

Grabbing a box of cupcakes in one hand the youth climbed down to the fender, carefully eased himself in the water and held the box high overhead. Then with awkward motions he paddled back to a nearby grocery and stood upright in the door way, waist deep in water, and began to eat the cakes.

"That's the way, boy," laughed a bystander, unheard over the rushing water, "eat cake today, bread may be hard to find later on."

Flood waters which covered three blocks of the north end of Main street of Kingfisher, closed U. S. 81 north to Enid. Johns creek, along the east side of town, joining with Kingfisher creek northeast of town, also was at flood stage. State highway 33 east and west from Guthrie to Watonga was also closed.

## 225 Families Flee

Water backed up from a 7-inch rain Tuesday afternoon spilled into the town from the east side, the north side, and the west edge of the residential and business district.

About 225 families were forced to flee their homes, alerted by repeated sounding of the fire siren at midnight.

An exhaustive search late Wednesday showed no fatalities. Plans were being made to provide sleeping quarters for all persons.

White and Indian refugees were fed eggs, bacon and coffee at the city hall and Baptist church by the American Legion auxiliary and Baptist circle workers. Colored families were being fed and sheltered in a Negro school by volunteer Negro families.

## Cots, Blankets on Way

Kingfisher Red Cross workers said assurances had been sent from Oklahoma City and St. Louis that adequate cots, blankets and food will be sent later.

Principal threat to Kingfisher centered on whether or not immediate repairs can be made to the municipal power plant.

All water service failed Wednesday afternoon. Transformers and circuits on the power plant burned out Tuesday afternoon, leaving the city without lights and cutting power to the city's wells, six miles from town. All wells are safe from flood pollution.

A. C. Buswell, power company manager, said power was maintained at the 300,000-gallon reserve but he would not put it into mains until the cause of the power failure at the wells could be learned.

## Last Flood in 1942

While Buswell and workers were checking the submerged lines to find the break, a three-hour standby reserve in the city's standpipe was used.

Dr. L. F. Dulany, former mayor and present commission member, said late Wednesday it was not known when power could be restored to the wells, or if the emergency reserve plant was still operating.

He said parts for the town's power plant had been ordered but will not be received until Thursday. Power may not be restored to all circuits until Friday.

Longtime residents of Kingfisher said the present flood from Kingfisher creek is among the worst in history. Downtown stores were last flooded by the creek in April of 1942.

## Crest Is Past Now

At 2 p. m. Wednesday the crest of the flood had passed, some downtown stores still holding water inside display windows a foot higher than the water level outside. Many owners waded in waist deep water to their business establishments to open the doors and let water out.

Volunteers with boats and outboard motors prowled the flooded districts from daylight to midafternoon to carry marooned motorists, residents and animals to higher land. One driver told of perching on his car from 11 p. m. Thursday until 1 p. m. Wednesday with the water lapping a foot below his feet.

## State Flood Area

Nine persons were swept to their deaths Wednesday when Deep Rock creek was swelled by 19 inches of rain. At Kingfisher, continued heavy rains sent two sn their banks and forced 225 families from their homes. Others were evacuated leetka and Henryetta. Geary reported 11 inches of rain, combining with Hy the long dry South Canadian river out of its banks near Newcastle. Flood cor the North Canadian above and below Oklahoma City. Flood stage exists Cimarron, Verdigris and Grand rivers, plus creeks in east and north central

# Bus Bobs Like Cork Most In Wall of Water Are St

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

north side of the bus and Jones had to swim around the vehicle to rescue her. He received help from Harry Paris, driver of a following bus, who joined the rescue work.

The Negro passenger, apparently jumped from the bus and made an unsuccessful effort to swim. Nobody could recall seeing him at the time. His body was found down the creek a few feet from the highway Wednesday morning.

The passengers had to swim only about 25 feet before they reached shallow water. They then waded, chest deep, to a nearby filling station.

Rescued passengers were taken by another bus to Oklahoma City.

The wall of water struck with little warning about 8:15 p. m. The pavement was covered with water before the big blow and a number of cars were stalled.

## Some Wade to High Ground

Three automobiles, including the Friesen car, were stopped bumper to bumper. In one of the cars were Mr. and Mrs. Hayden Morgan, Clinton; their 18-months-old baby, six-year-old son and another passenger, Billy Garnot of Clinton.

Passengers in the three cars waded to higher ground, but as the water rose, passengers in the Friesen car returned to their vehicle.

Morgan said they declared they would rather take their chances in the automobile. Morgan, his wife, and children clung to a fence post all night. Passengers in the Friesen car were found dead at daylight.

## Wind Tosses Trio In Tree

Mrs. Frank Campbell, 52, her daughter, Patty Lou, 17, and Thelma Bartlett, 27, were driving from Joplin to California.

"We were stopped by stalled cars up ahead when a wave of water came over the highway," Mrs. Campbell said.

"We climbed on top of the car, but in less than 30 minutes the car was covered by more than two feet of water. We were washed off, but floated into a tree and held on all night.

"During the night there were two hard windstorms that nearly blew us out. We thought it was a cyclone. We could see 15 or 20 cars washed into a creek. There were seven other persons, including three children, in a tree next to ours.

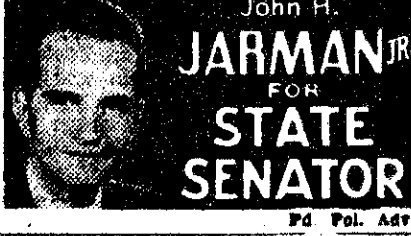
"We could see others in trees. We could hear them screaming, crying and praying all night. About 5 a. m. a bunch of men with ropes tied around them came and took us out of the tree."

Mrs. Campbell feared her car was

## Paul Whiteman Hurt When Car Hits Pole

WILLIAMSTOWN, N. J., June 23—(AP)—Band leader Paul Whiteman was injured Wednesday night when his automobile crashed into a pole on the Black Horse pike 10 miles south of this New Jersey community.

Whiteman, enroute to Philadelphia from Atlantic City, was taken to Camden County General hospital at Lakeland by a motorist. There attendants said he had received lacerations about the face, hands, and right leg.



John H. JARMAN JR. FOR STATE SENATOR

Pd. Pol. Adv.

a total loss. It was nearly filled with sand and mud. The three spent the rest of the night in a filling station and were taken to El Reno by truck Wednesday. Most of their belongings were lost.

Orville Weaver, Lawton, was driving west with passengers Jesse Elrod and Rex Massey. They were about the last car to make it through the flooded area and got a good view of the flood.

"Water came from all directions," he said. "A wall of water three feet deep came rolling straight down the highway."

Pete Horton, owner of the Horton Motor Co., just east of Hydro, had his car stranded, but waded to safety. Bill Riggs, Clinton, and Bessie Means, Weatherford, who were in different cars, wound up in the same tree.

## Honeymoon in a Flood

Mr. and Mrs. George Mueller, Allenton, Wis., were married Sunday and left on a honeymoon trip to see the Grand Canyon and Boulder dam. They also waded to safety after their car was stalled and spent Tuesday night sitting in a filling station.

A. Kautz, Springfield, Ohio, who was transporting three trucks to Amarillo, stopped at the edge of the rising water. He was forced to swim underneath the truck to unbolt a tow bar before he could back up.

"I would work for about a minute and then come up for air," he said. "It was the coldest water I ever felt."

He managed to get the three trucks—all brand new—back to high ground safely. Three injured persons were reported by the highway patrol Wednesday night. The injured, taken to an El Reno hospital, were J. C. Cornutt, Sunray, Texas; and Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Hutchin, Merced, Calif.

The patrol also announced a giant search of the entire area for other possible victims will start Thursday morning. The patrol also was trying to trace two persons not definitely known to have been in the flood area.

Adolph Krewal, Corn, who was bringing a load of wheat to Oklahoma City, and Ep Walters, Cordell, who had started to Oklahoma City with a load of cattle, had not been located Wednesday. No sign of their trucks had been found in the Little Deer creek vicinity, however.

The search for missing persons was handicapped by a lack of communications. Telephone lines were out of commission. The patrol was contacting Oklahoma City by radio.

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Mrs. George Sutton and sons, I., rest after Hydro ordeal.

## South Canadian River Jumps Banks, But Does Fast Retreat

**F**LOOD waters spilled out into the lowlands between Union City and Newcastle along the South Canadian Wednesday morning, hitting a high point between noon and 2:30 p. m. Then, almost as rapidly as the floodwaters rose, they subsided during the afternoon.

At Union City, Dr. D. P. Richardson, physician and banker, reported the river level dropped nearly seven feet by late afternoon, although a new rise of approximately four feet was anticipated.

Only a few families were driven from their homes by the sudden rush of water in the Union City-Newcastle vicinity. However, a good many cattle were stranded at points south of Union City.

Rock Island railroad workmen successfully averted inundation of

a large area south of Union City and east of the railroad tracks shortly before noon Thursday when they plugged a threatened break in the railroad embankment.

On the north side of the river near Newcastle about three families were forced to retreat from their homes during the morning but were encouraged in the afternoon as the crest fell. Oliver Clement, whose farm lies on the Newcastle road just north of the river, said he was called from his job in Oklahoma City Thursday morning as the flood waters rose rapidly.

Arriving home he hurriedly stacked his furniture high in his house as the waters lapped halfway up his doorstep. By midafternoon, however, the water had retreated almost to the edge of his yard.

for a man who wanted to jump off the bus. It was very swift and full of logs and weeds.

"In the rain I helped the driver and some others ferry the passengers through the deep water to high spots until we reached another bus that was parked behind us."

The stranded group was taken back to a filling station and cafe about a quarter of a mile from the Little Deep creek east of Hydro. More than 100 persons spent the night there.

"They were wonderful, and simply opened the place for us," Miss McClelland said.

### Man Clings to Brush

"We had coffee and Mrs. Stockton kept cooking hard boiled eggs, for that was all there was left. The lights went out about 2 a. m.

"In the morning we learned the man in the car that had been in front of us had driven off into about six feet of water. He clung to some brush all night but the woman with him was washed away.

After a rest the Suttons will try again to reach their husband and father in California. Miss McClelland will try again to reach her brother's farm eight miles north of Weatherford.

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