

THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN

The State Newspaper Since 1907

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1981

128 PAGES

25c

Waterlogged State Flood Area Begins Cleanup, Repairs

By Joyce Peterson
Staff Writer

Residents of waterlogged southern Oklahoma counties Wednesday began cleaning and repairing as floodwaters that had closed roads, washed out bridges and chased many from their homes on Tuesday began receding.

A state Civil Defense spokesman said there were no monetary estimates of losses yet, but authorities feared damage to roads,

bridges, crops and farm machinery could be substantial, especially in Love, Marshall, Johnston and Bryan counties.

Some stormy weather returned to the state Wednesday evening. Winds and showers swept through parts of Custer County, bringing reports of tornado sightings in the areas of Custer City and Thomas, authorities said. However, the sightings were unconfirmed, the Highway Patrol said.

There was relatively little damage report-

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Texas Recovering

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ed to homes in Tuesday's flooding, said state Civil Defense Programs Director Robbie Robinson.

Robinson said the agency's estimates show that two mobile homes were destroyed and only "five or six" residences sustained "major damage."

Robinson said almost all of the approximately 30 families routed by the waters were back home or "going home" late Wednesday.

Also returning home Wednesday were the 123 patients of a Madill nursing home who spent Tuesday night in a National Guard Armory after water from a broken dam threatened the nursing home.

Lt. Gov. Spencer Bernard, who is acting governor while Gov. George Nigh is out of the country, toured some of the counties by

helicopter Wednesday to survey damages.

Robinson said the state may apply for federal disaster assistance.

The washout of bridges and other damage to county roads, some of which remained impassable Wednesday, could be the worst of the damage, Robinson said.

At least 60 rural bridges were washed out by the waters. School classes were canceled in Thackerville and Lone Grove until Monday.

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\$200,000 Bail Set for Suspect In Kidnap Case

By Paul Scott Malone
and Kim Stett

The evidence compiled thus far by Oklahoma City and County authorities against kidnapping suspect Donald Michael Corey is "circumstantial" at best, officials involved in the case confirmed Wednesday after Corey was formally charged with two felony counts.

And Corey's court-appointed attorney, Robert Ravitz, said that if the case gets past the preliminary hearing stage next month and appears headed for trial, he will request a change of venue because of extensive publicity.

Corey, 36, was arraigned early Wednesday in Oklahoma County District Court after being returned to Oklahoma Tuesday from Greenville, Ala., where

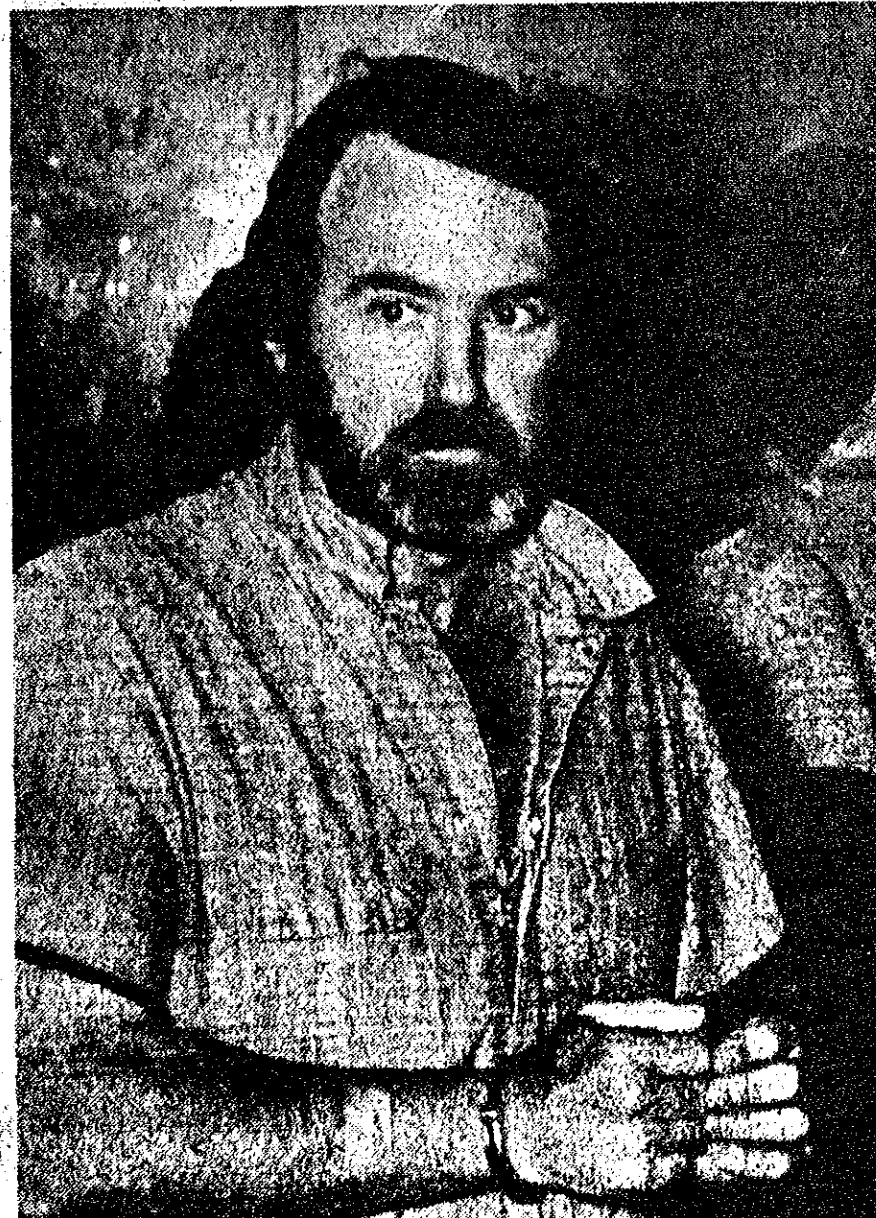
— That the man who offered the children the jobs was driving a 1980 or '81 model beige Pontiac Grand Prix. Corey was driving an Oldsmobile station wagon when he was arrested in Greenville.

— The girls have not been heard of in nearly three weeks.

One courthouse insider, apprised of the evidence gathered thus far, said it is "really questionable" that the district attorney's office has a solid case against Corey.

"It's a circumstantial case," Macy said.

"We're interested in evidence that proves or disproves he's the man," Macy said. "We're not trying to convict him; we're just trying to find out what



House Rejects Sale to Saudis

WASHINGTON (AP)

— The House overwhelmingly rejected Wednesday the proposed sale of AWACS radar planes to Saudi Arabia, but President Reagan, lobbying to save the sale, apparently converted two Senate opponents and a Senate leader who had been uncommitted.

"Well that was expected," the president said of the 301-111 House vote. "But it takes both houses to say no."

Reagan referred to the fact that the sale goes through unless the Senate also votes to block it in a vote scheduled week after next.

Asked if he would win in the Senate, where the administration has been concentrating its efforts, Reagan gave his standard reply:

Stripped AWACS

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switched from the uncommitted column and said he would vote for the sale despite "serious, serious reservations" about giving sophisticated weapons to the Saudis.

Stevens said he made his decision after hearing Presidential Counselor Edwin Meese III tell the senators, "The ability of this president to shape foreign policy is at issue."

Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., came away from a meeting saying he is

still uncommitted, and questioning if there could be an enforceable U.S.-Saudi agreement on command and control of the aircraft. When a reporter said it appeared Hollings would vote against AWACS, he said, "Not necessarily."

Sen. Charles H. Percy, R-Ill., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, raised the possibility that Reagan could go ahead with the sale even if Congress vetoes

it. Percy said the president could use his executive powers to either declare that an "emergency exists" or that "the national security interest of the United States" requires him to make the sale without Congress' consent.

Stevens said such action "would cause considerable disruption between the executive and legislative branch" and he hoped it would not be taken.

Percy's committee is to vote on the sale today and Percy, who has

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Two AWACS Judge Decides Planes Draw To Try Former

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Flood

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day because buses can't get through rural routes.

Parts of several major highways, including I-35 at Ardmore, were closed for a time Tuesday, but most were open by Wednesday. However, traffic on U.S. 69 north of Durant was funneled to one lane and directed by troopers because of water damage to a bridge near Armstrong.

Robinson said there also was significant damage in some towns to utility lines and water systems.

In Tishomingo and Durant, the National Guard was hauling water to residents left without city service when the floodwaters poured into low-lying pumphouses and damaged the pumps.

"We hope to get it back on, at least partially, by late this evening," said Bryan County undersheriff John Newcomb.

Newcomb said residents were lined up at the police station carrying "teakettles, cans, and anything else they can carry" to get their ration of water hauled in National Guard tankers.

In Tishomingo, crews were working to restore natural gas as well as water service to all parts of the city after a main line was broken by the flooding.

Authorities said that much of the service had been restored, but there were still scattered "problem areas."

Tishomingo residents also were mourning the loss of a landmark, "Swing Bridge" over

Pennington Creek, which until Tuesday was the oldest and the only suspension bridge still in use in Oklahoma. The swiftly rising creek washed away the bridge and another one beside it Tuesday night.

"We lost it in 1957 (to another flood) and they built it back, but I don't know if it'll come back this time," said Johnston County Deputy Bill Tyson.

The floods were the result of three days of rain that dumped up to 17 inches in some areas such as Tishomingo, which received 17.75 inches. Other heavy two-day totals included 16.75 inches at Kingston, 16.74 inches at Madill and 14.24 inches at Marietta.

The National Weather Service said the Red River at the Interstate 35 bridge north of Gainesville, Texas, crested at 29.5 feet. The record was 26 1/2 feet on May 21, 1951. Flood stage is 25 feet.

The Muddy Boggy Creek at Farris, a small community in Atoka County, was expected to crest at 45 feet Thursday.

The Blue River at Blue crested at an estimated 43 feet, but was receding rapidly Wednesday evening. Flood stage is 21 feet. The previous record was 32 feet on May 17, 1968.

Clear Boggy Creek near Caney crested Wednesday morning at 27 feet. Flood stage is 19 feet, and the previous record was 26.9 feet in 1938. Waters were expected to fall below flood stage by Saturday.



— AP Laserphoto

New Republican President Reagan welcomes Rep. Eugene Atkinson of Pennsylvania to the Republican Party during a ceremony at the White House Wednesday. Atkinson switched from the Democratic Party. Related story, Page 10.

AWACS

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borne Warning and Control Systems aircraft to Egypt stemmed from discussions Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig held with Egypt's president-elect, Hosni Mubarak, in Cairo over the weekend.

AWACS spokesman Capt. Michael Warden said at Tinker Air Force Base that two E-3A "Sentry" planes departed from Tinker sometime before 5 p.m. Wednesday, citing security reasons for not disclosing the exact time.

It took the aircraft about 14 hours flying non-stop to reach its undisclosed destination in Egypt, he said.

Warden said five C-141 "Starlifter" trans-

port aircraft flew out of Tinker earlier this week with 96 tons of equipment that will be used to set up the AWACS operation in Egypt.

State Department spokesman Fischer said Egyptian air force units will be given familiarization training in use of the aircraft, but they will remain under U.S. control. Tinker is providing 130 AWACS crew members to man and operate the radar planes while they are in Egypt, Warden said.

The arrangement is similar to one for Saudi Arabia, where the United States maintains four AWACS to help protect Saudi oil fields from outside attack.

AWACS are able to

spot the movement of other aircraft for distances of up to 300 miles and therefore are invaluable in warning against enemy attack or in coordinating offensive air operations.

Fischer said the AWACS would be operated in Egyptian air space.

Fischer was non-committal when asked whether the additional aid for Sudan could include F-16 aircraft. He said the "principal elements" are likely to be armored equipment and air defense equipment.

Libyan forces are already in Chad and there have been reports of incidents involving Libyans along the Chad-Sudanese border.

From Local and Wire Reports

Try

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told me you would do me a favor," indicating, he said, that Owen was aware that the men were working on Cameron time.

A.B. Privratsty, who worked with the Cameron maintenance department from 1975 to 1981, testified he took a dump truck filled with a load of rock to the road approaching Owen's farm in the fall of 1975 or the spring of 1976. He said the truck and the load of rock were both from Cameron.

Lawrence E. Williamson, foreman of the grounds department at Cameron, said that he and another worker took a pickup load of hay from Cameron and fed about 20 to 25 head of cattle during the winter of 1975 or early 1976.

Cross-examined by Mack Martin, one of Owen's defense attorneys, Williamson said he did not know who owned the cattle, but "they ate Cameron hay

Bail

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Wednesday that the girls might have been picked up by someone and sold into prostitution. He was responding to a question from someone in the audience wondering what could have happened to the girls.

"It's one possibility we have to consider," he said later. "I don't have a high opinion of people who work at carnivals."

Macy said it is "logical" that more than one person was involved and that the kidnapper could have used the other person's car to abduct the girls, changing to his own car later.

"Of course, the troubling part is that we don't have positive sighting of him anywhere," he said.

To further aid in the investigation, Macy said, two agents of the state Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control are checking every hospital in central Oklahoma where Corey might have stopped to obtain Demerol in an effort to find someone who might have seen him with the girls.

Ravitz, who just entered the case Wednesday, said the two-car discrepancy is the stronger indicator that Corey had nothing to do with the disappearance of the girls.

"Maybe someone else was driving the Grand Prix," he said. "It was someone who looked similar to Don Corey. If I was a gambling man, that's what I'd say."

Ravitz said Corey is "adamant" that he was not a party to kidnap-

ping. Ravitz said that if the case goes to trial, extensive publicity thus far would warrant a change of venue to another county.

Macy said he would resist such a move, claiming that nothing substantial enough to bias a jury has been made public.

The newly created police task force will be led by detective Sgt. Don Pennington and Nancy Wing of the Crime Analysis Unit.

Task force members were organizing stacks of reports and physical evidence connected with the case Wednesday afternoon in a third-floor conference room set aside at the police department for the investigation.

Maj. Walt Wilhelm, commander of the detective division, said establishing the task force will allow for "better control on what has been done, what is being done and who's in control."

Investigators say they are confident Corey is involved in the girls' disappearance, but they have little evidence to prove it.

A check of items found in Corey's station wagon after his arrest Friday revealed nothing that would indicate the girls were with him. That evidence has been brought to Oklahoma City and will be studied again, officials said.

Investigators also are awaiting the results of a fingerprint analysis of the car taken in Alabama.

Unless more substantial evidence is found, the case will substan-

tially hang on the photo identification by the two boys.

Police steadfastly defend its reliability.

"All the information from the two witnesses has been accurate in every respect... and we have not encountered anything that would cause us to discount their stories surrounding getting involved with Corey," said Youth Bureau commander Lt. Adam Edwards.

Sale

From Page 1

come out in support of the sale, said Reagan has a better chance of winning in the full Senate than in the committee.

Sen. David Pryor, D-Ark., one of the nine who met with Reagan at the White House Wednesday, said afterward that he remains opposed to the sale.

The sale, the biggest U.S. arms sale in history, includes five Airborne Warning and Control System radar planes plus 1,177 Sidewinder missiles and fueling modifications to extend the range of 62 Saudi F-15 jet fighters.

At a White House briefing prior to Reagan's remarks on the House vote, deputy press secretary Larry Speakes denied suggestions the administration was winning AWACS votes by making deals with members of Congress. "There are no promises," he said.

Slain

From Page 1

pursue a fleeing felon," window, police said.

Greeks to Vote Sunday; Ties to West on Line