



OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1986

## Higher Ground Sought National Guard Ordered to Aid Evacuation

By Kim Alyco Marks

A three-day deluge led to evacuation recommendations Wednesday for thousands in northeast Oklahoma while their neighbors to the southwest continued to clean up the aftermath of destruction from thunderstorms that have dropped from 4 to 15 inches of rain.

The severity of flooding, which has caused

On Page 13:

- Guthrie, Kingfisher Cleaning Up
- State's Closed Roads Listed

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- Rain Continues to Drench Cities

one death, one other serious injury and a possible drowning, led Lt. Gov. Spencer Bernard to declare a state of emergency in Oklahoma

Wednesday. The National Guard also was dispatched to three areas to aid the evacuation process.

By evening, the edge

of a moisture band from Hurricane Paine, which was located in the Gulf of California Wednesday evening, was pushing a new line of thunderstorms toward Oklahoma from the Lubbock, Texas, area, said Larry Ruthi, forecaster with the National Weather Service.

Ruthi said the thunderstorms were moving slowly and would reach

southwest Oklahoma late Wednesday and the rest of the state early today.

As predicted, the thunderstorms moved into southwest Oklahoma Wednesday night, spawning sightings and radar indications of tornadoes as well as heavy rainfall. The weather service upgraded numerous tornado watches across the state to warnings.

A tornado was sighted by the Highway Patrol eight miles west of McKnight in Harmon County at 8 p.m. and at 8:35 p.m., radar indicated a possible tornado

See FLOOD, Page 2

## Teen Guilty Of Killings, Jury Rules

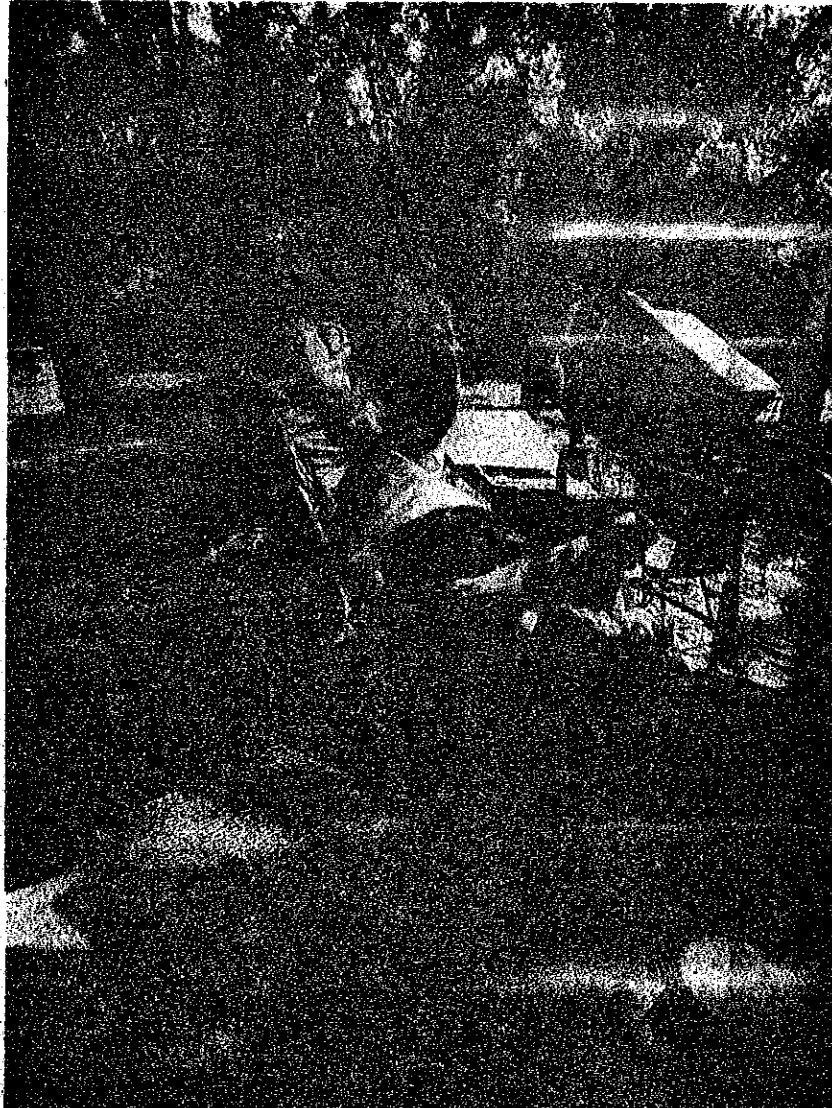
By Nolan Clay

A jury Wednesday found former Satan worshiper Sean Sellers guilty of first-degree murder for fatally shooting his parents in March and a convenience store clerk last year.

After the verdict, a teary-eyed Sellers, 17, told reporters he wanted to warn other youths about satanism, the occult and the role-playing game "Dungeons and Dragons."

"I want to warn teenagers who are out there. It's not the way. It's not the way. Jesus is the only answer that's out there ... and it's time teenagers got serious about Jesus here in America. It's time now."

Sellers said he became a Christian again when he found his parents had been killed. He



## Bixby He

By Griff Palmer  
Tulsa Bureau

A call to evacuate an 18-square-mile area of Bixby, occupied by an estimated 7,500 people, was sounded by Tulsa County authorities Wednesday afternoon as creeks emptying into the Arkansas River backed into the floodplain.

A third straight day of heavy rains in northeastern Oklahoma caused flooding that forced evacuations in several counties Wednesday and was blamed for at least one, and possibly two drownings.

Charles Theodore Rogers, 68, of Westville drowned about 8 a.m. Wednesday when water

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Rain Big In

# Flood

**From Page 1**  
four miles north and northeast of McKnight, moving east at 25 mph.

Radar also indicated a possible tornado 12 miles southwest of Erick in Beckham County at 8:10 p.m., moving toward the northeast at 35 mph.

At 9:06 p.m., radar indicated two possible tornadoes in southwestern Greer County in the Reed area, moving toward Mangum, and one possible tornado three miles west of Canute in Washita County at 9:25 p.m., moving toward the east-northeast at 30 mph toward Canute.

Also in Washita County, a tornado was indicated by radar and reported by the Clinton Highway Patrol detachment west of Canute at 9:30 p.m.

One to 1½ inches of hail fell five miles southwest to two miles northwest of Willow in Greer County between 9:35 and 9:45 p.m., and at 10:07 p.m. the Highway Patrol reported a tornado touched down seven miles east and northeast of Willow in Kiowa County.

Dime-size hail also was reported at Moore-

land in Woodward County at 10:30 p.m. as an area of thunderstorms extended from Wichita, Kan., across northwest Oklahoma just east of Woodward into southwest Oklahoma near Hobart.

Radar-based rainfall estimates indicated 2 to 2½ inches of rain occurred over northern Harmon, Greer and northeastern Beckham counties, with most of it falling in less than an hour.

Earlier in the afternoon, the heavy thunderstorms that prompted flash-flood warnings had ended over all but the extreme southeast portions of the state. But the accumulation of heavy rainfall caused many rivers and streams to remain at or near flood stage.

The weather service warned that the respite would be brief. Locally heavy rainfall is possible today and the chances of rain are 60 percent in all areas except the extreme northwest and Panhandle, where there is a 20 percent to 40 percent chance of rain.

Because the ground is "extremely saturated," Ruthi said, the new

wave of thunderstorms " ... will exasperate the flooding situation" in Oklahoma.

Conditions will be partly cloudy and mild, with scattered thunderstorms mainly in the southeast Saturday and Sunday, and in most sections Monday.

During daylight hours Wednesday, cleanup efforts were a priority in Oklahoma City and other parts of the state.

In the metropolitan area, heavy lightning and winds up to 86 mph knocked about 20 trees into streets, the same number of light poles down and some structural damage mostly in southeast Oklahoma City early Wednesday, officials said.

The roof of a warehouse at Center Office Products, 1224 W Main, caved in about midnight because of the weight of water accumulated on the roof, fire department spokesman Jon Hansen said, adding the cave-in caused an estimated \$32,000 damage, but no injuries.

Power outages affected 7,000 to 8,000 residents across the city, said Dave Raybern of OG&E, and two miles of power lines were

knocked down by lightning in far west Oklahoma City between SW 59 and SW 59.

Raybern said all power should have been restored by late Wednesday afternoon.

In Moore, lightning caused \$20,000 in damage to a home at 2512 Cedar Lane, assistant fire chief Ken Streeter said.

Still, compared with storms earlier this week, the Tuesday night bluster didn't seem so bad, said Charles Turnbull, city civil defense spokesman.

A violent storm downed trees and electric lines but managed to miss aircraft at Tinker Air Force Base early Wednesday.

A base spokesman said the storm brought rain, hail and high winds that destroyed a post office building, tore siding from residences in the base housing area, and blew out windows and damaged autos in the enlisted men's dormitory area.

Four stained glass windows in the base chapel also were broken.

The wind was clocked at 56 mph but weather specialists said it probably gusted much higher in the area of destruction. Base operations weren't hindered by the damage, the spokesman said.

No estimate of the cost of repair was available Wednesday, he said.

Shawnee also experienced a day of cleanup. A movie rental center was destroyed Wednesday by straight winds that hit a northwest shopping center, Lt. Phil Cheatham of the Shawnee Police Department said.

"It tore the roof off and placed it on an apartment building a block away," Cheatham said. "The walls were

gone and movies were dropping all over the place."

Three other businesses in the shopping center suffered less serious damage, blamed on wind shear at the height of the early morning storm, Cheatham said. The mall establishments were the only businesses for which damage was reported, he said. Several homes in the Shawnee area also were hit by the storm, Cheatham said.

"Insurance adjusters were all over town all day long," he said.

Three planes at Shawnee Municipal Airport were overturned as the storm moved in around 2 a.m. Cheatham said damage to the planes was estimated at \$20,000.

Heavy street flooding and tree and sign damage also was reported in Shawnee.

Wednesday's thunderstorms led to 260 evacuations in Tahlequah, Muskogee and Coweta. Authorities in Bixby recommended evacuation for 7,500 people. In Miami, 55 nursing home residents and 22 households remained evacuated from Tuesday.

Lee Akin, state Civil Defense deputy director, said the National Guard was dispatched to Tahlequah, Muskogee and Bixby Wednesday in connection with the evacuation and flooding situation.

Because of the probability of more rain in those and other flood-prone areas of the state, Akin said the Civil Defense department cannot give accurate dollar estimates of damages.

However, in proclaiming a state of emergency, Bernard said, "This executive order allows us to utilize appropriate state agency personnel and equipment in providing both rapid and effective assistance to

local authorities.

"Our number one priority is the safety and welfare of the people affected by the flooding throughout the state. The state Department of Transportation will be of major importance in assisting the make our roads and bridges passable," he said.

Meanwhile, the weather was responsible for one death in Adair County when a Westville man died after his car was swept off a bridge. In Tulsa, police said they were checking out a possible drowning in the north part of that city.

A lineman for Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co.

was reported in critical condition and remained in intensive care late Wednesday night at Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City after he was shocked while working to restore power in Shawnee following a severe thunderstorm Tuesday night.

Troy Webb, 26, of Shawnee suffered burns

over 45 percent of his body, officials said.

Residents of Kingfisher and Guthrie took time to sort through the damage caused by extensive flooding from Monday and Tuesday while preparing for more rain and rising water today.

Reporters James Johnson, Ellen Knickmeyer and Colleen Donahue Smith, and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

# Problem

**From Page 1**  
of folks had not planted and were doing soil preparations, and were waiting for some rainfall before planting — but a couple of inches would have been fine."

Ernest Davis, who farms in the Seward area, had planted about half of his planned 1,500-acre crop when the rains came. He believes he'll have to re-do much of what he's planted.

"With the low wheat prices, a lot of people had planted early to have wheat pasture. All this is causing a problem," he said.

"Not only that, but there's so much erosion. You hate to see it just wash

away."

He added: "We were needing a rain real bad — but we didn't need a foot of it."

Kingfisher County extension director Avery Eeds said some wheat in his county that was planted early "probably will survive, but that that was just recently planted will have to be re-sowed — and we're looking at the loss of fertilizer, seed and time to plant it — plus, there may not be time to utilize the wheat pasture."

While the extent of the total wheat damage wasn't yet determined, Hennessey farmer Homer Mauck said the water "did lots and lots of damage. It didn't do us no good."

# Satan

# Streets

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Sheere Gray of Kingfisher surveys belongings she managed to get to high ground Wednesday as area floodwaters receded.

A call to evacuate an 18-square-mile area of Bixby, occupied by an estimated 7,500 people, was sounded by Tulsa County authorities Wednesday afternoon as creeks emptying into the Arkansas River backed into the floodplain.

A third straight day of heavy rains in northeastern Oklahoma caused flooding that forced evacuations in several counties Wednesday and was blamed for at least one, and possibly two drownings.

Charles Theodore Rogers, 68, of Westville drowned about 8 a.m. Wednesday when water swept him away from his stalled pickup truck near Westville, while Adair County sheriff's deputies and Westville firefighters watched helplessly.

"He had a hold of the

went under," Adair County Sheriff Russell Neff said.

In Tulsa County, sheriff's deputies searched Wednesday afternoon without success along the swollen Bird Creek between Sperry and Skiatook, looking for a man witnesses reported seeing swept downstream.

from roofs of two flooded homes, one in Bixby and one in the Mingo Creek flood basin and at a boys' home in Bixby. Dozens of residents joined a sandbag-filling brigade in the parking lot of the Town and Country Shopping Center in Bixby, loading the sandbags into trucks to be ferried to homes

See BIXBY, Page 11

## Rain Provides Big Problems In Agriculture

By Jim Etter  
Oklahoma wheat farmers got their rain.

And they, and the cattlemen, too, say it was too much.

Rains that ravaged some wheat fields came, oddly, at a time when the growers were hoping for moisture to nurture their new crop. But the damaging rainfall — amounting to three-day totals of about 15 inches in places — also came at a time that could mean the farmers won't have wheat pasture, agriculture authorities said.

In Washington, Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng was asked Wednesday to declare counties damaged by flooding in western Oklahoma as disaster areas, making farmers eligible for federal funds.

In a letter to Lyng, Rep. Glenn English, D-Cordell, said farmers "are experiencing the toughest economic conditions since the Great Depression and the additional hardship brought on by flooding and soil erosion will be

unbearable to many farmers without immediate help to repair damaged crop and pasture land."

English asked that counties hit by flooding be declared disaster areas, and "to make funding available as soon as possible" to assist producers.

He did not specify what counties were hardest hit.

Meanwhile, some ranchers in the northeast were hurrying to move cattle from low areas.

Hominy area cattleman Tom Points was checking out reports that about 95 head were stranded on an island in floodwaters from the Caney River in nearby Washington County.

"I don't know if they're drowned or if they're on high ground," said his wife, Mary. "When he left this morning he didn't feel like there was very much hope."

Many wheat farmers had similar feelings. Whether they had recently planted or were getting ready to plant, some will have to do it over again if they want a wheat crop, the authorities said. There also is a question of whether it will come up in time for pasture.

In Logan County, extension director Charles Cox said 12 inches of rainfall washed much wheat out of the ground, eroding deeply through the fields in places.

He estimated about half the county's normal wheat crop had been planted, and about 30 percent of that will have to be replanted because of gushing rainwater, "and it'll be a while before 12 inches of rain will drain out so it can be replanted."

Also, Cox said, "a lot

See PROBLEM, Page 2

## Envoy Warns Grain Deals Hinge on Sanctions Vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — The South African foreign minister warned two U.S. farm-state senators his country would immediately end purchases of U.S. grain if the Senate overrides President Reagan's veto of economic sanctions against South Africa, Sen. Richard Lugar said Wednesday night.

Lugar, R-Ind., called the action by Foreign Minister R.F. "Pik" Botha "despicable" and an unacceptable intrusion into Senate business that amounts to "bribery and intimidation."

Lugar, who is chair-

man of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the two senators — Edward Zorinsky, D-Web., and Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, — were called to the telephone in the Senate Republican cloakroom by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., a strong opponent of the sanctions.

In South Africa, Botha confirmed early today that his nation will stop buying American grain if sanctions are imposed.

Botha said that South Africa also would stop transporting American grain to black nations

in southern Africa.

Botha also confirmed he had spoken to Zorinsky and Grassley.

In a speech on the Senate floor, Helms confirmed that "Pik Botha called me and several other senators and said, 'We will have to announce we will cease to purchase U.S. grain if the president's veto is overridden.'" Helms also said he had called Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., to the phone.

According to Lugar, Zorinsky said the South African foreign minister told him that "the moment that you override President Reagan's

veto, South Africa will immediately ban U.S. grain imports. ..."

Lugar said Botha also declared that South Africa would react to the override of the veto by barring from its ports U.S. grain shipments bound for the so-called frontline black African nations, some of which are landlocked and all of which are largely dependent on South Africa for transportation facilities.

"I believe that all Americans, and especially American farmers, will condemn foreign bribery and intimi-

See GRAIN, Page 3

## Plot Included Guns, Marshal Says

Wednesday break convict- Richard Little several Correc- tly included fire on guard automatic

hearing for Linda Joyce vice investi- ttle had re- fac 10 sub- him in the

another El

Reno inmate he needed the guns to fire on guard towers when the helicopter in which he planned to escape appeared over the prison. The investigator did not say who was to get the guns for Little or how they would be smuggled into the prison.

Little, an experienced helicopter pilot, is serving a 25-year sentence at El Reno for the 1984 robberies of banks in Texas and Louisiana. In both cases, the getaway was made in a helicopter.

Harris, 39, of Mineral Wells, Texas, was arrested by marshals last week on charges that she planned to hijack a helicopter at gunpoint and force its pilot to fly her inside the prison walls.

Once there, authorities said, the plan called for Little and another inmate to climb aboard the helicopter and fly to freedom.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Blair Watson said the plan to fire on the guard towers showed "the violent nature of this plan. This isn't a plan where they were going to cut some wire and somebody was going to slip through."

After hearing the testimony, U.S. Magistrate Ronald L. Howland ruled that the government had sufficient evidence to order Harris held without bail while awaiting grand jury action on the case, which is expected next week. Howland also denied bail for Harris, who has been held in the Oklahoma County jail since her arrest last

Thursday.

The woman's estranged husband, Johnny Harris, also of Mineral Wells, testified that she had told him just before the hearing that she no longer loved Little. But Watson said that as recently as Sept. 25, she had declared that "she didn't care if she died in this escape attempt. She just didn't want her man — James Little — to die."

Harris said that his wife, who met Little in Mineral Wells before he began robbing banks, fell in love with him while she was having serious emotional problems. "She just got carried up in his problems ... She was not emotionally secure. She was very mixed up," he said.

## Rainfall To

Total readings Monday through day:

Statewide	
Kansas	.....
Wagoner	.....
Beggs	.....
Spavinaw	.....
Foraker	.....
Pawhuska	.....
Westville	.....
Oneta	.....
Ramona	.....
Scraper	.....
Ralston	.....
Hominy	.....

Metropolitan	
Edmond	.....
Draper Lake	.....
Bethany	.....
Yukon	.....
Del City	.....
Moore	.....
KTVY	.....
Will Rogers World Airport	.....
Lake Hefner	.....
Tinker Air Force Base	.....
Norman	.....

24 Hour Total		7 a.m. Tuesday until 7 a.m. Wednesday	
Bartlesville	8.78	Seminole	.....
Beggs	7.47	Oneta	.....
Oklahoma	7.35	Grandd	.....
Wagoner	7.41	Haskell	.....
Dewar	7.07	Webber	.....
Stillwell	6.45	Welty	.....
Okemah	5.99	Tussy	.....
Chicotah	5.75	Euche	.....
Tahlequah	5.05	Hanna	.....
Westville	5.05	Tecum	.....
		Tulsa	.....
		Prague	.....

## Inside

Weatherline  
Call 524-3377 for local reports  
A 24-hour Oklahoman and Times

The city area can expect thunder heavy rainfall, highs in the low 70s.

Higher Education Chancellor seeks a speedy report on the program payments he received.

United Founders Tower will be sheriff's sale.

U.S. Sen. David Boren loses insert a catch-all farm progress' giant spending bill.

Athletic directors say two are exempt from an IRS ruling on stadium seating.

EDITORIAL: Since Democrats led the job in so many ways, time to give Republicans a chance at state government.

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