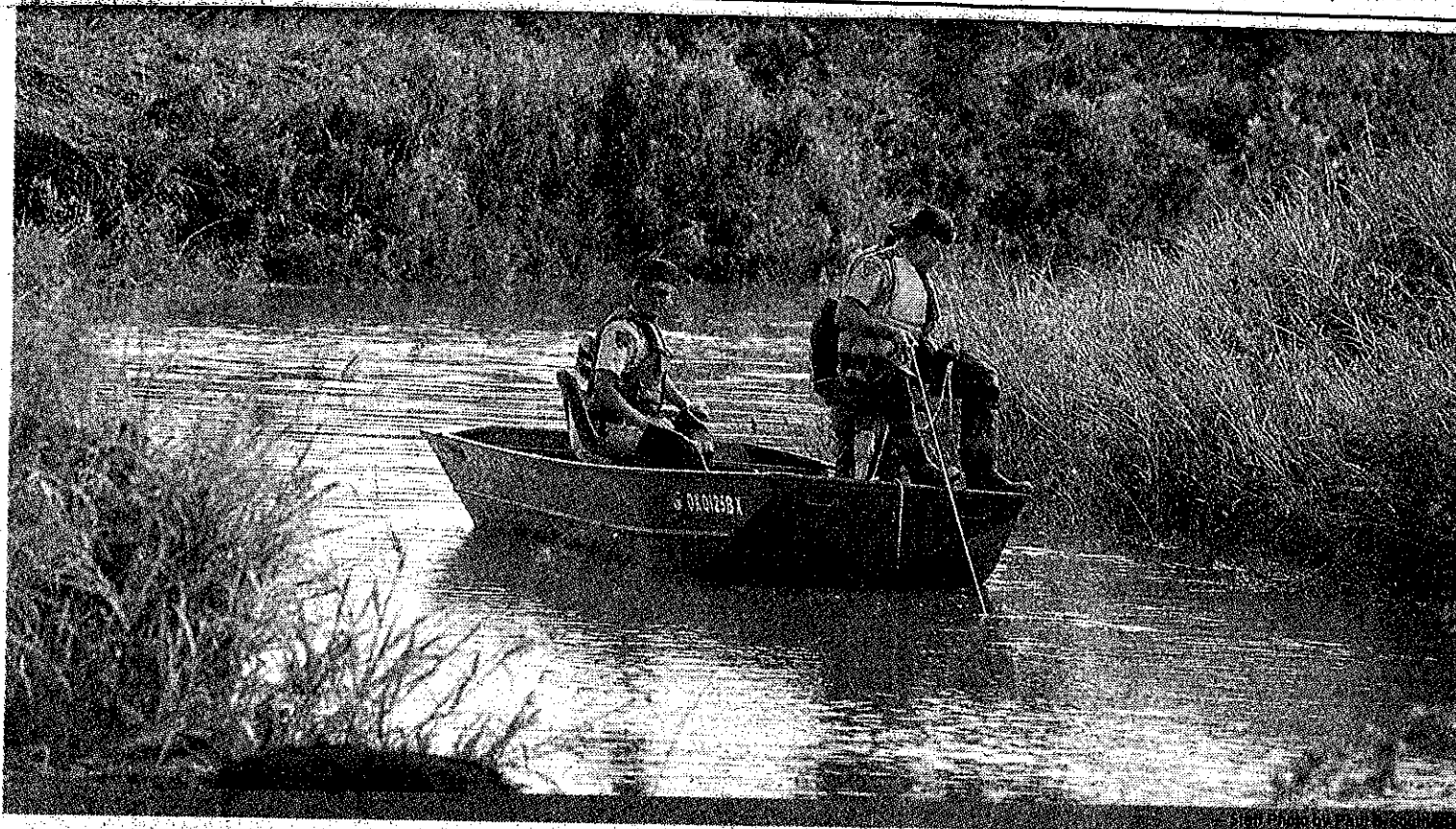


OKLAHOMAN

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1989



Lake Patrol officers drag the channel near a Choctaw road where floodwaters swept a Harrah man's car off the roadway Thursday night. Scuba divers and helicopters assisted the Lake Patrol Friday in an unsuccessful search for the man.

One Believed Drowned in Flooding

By Judy Kuhlman
Staff Writer

Police fear a 28-year-old Harrah man may have drowned when his car was swept off a Choctaw road by swirling floodwaters from Choctaw Creek Thursday night.

Floodwaters in other parts of eastern Oklahoma County caused extensive damage to homes and businesses and forced a shelter for the homeless to close temporarily. Officials did not have damage estimates, but a Spencer official said damages

there would be several hundred thousand dollars.

Scuba divers, officers in helicopters and Oklahoma Lake Patrol officers in boats searched in vain Friday for the body of Thomas William O'Rielly, said Choctaw police chief John Whetsel.

Whetsel said he expected Lake Patrol officers to return this morning with air boats to search the swampy areas left behind receding floodwaters.

Danny Welch, who worked with O'Rielly in Nicoma Park,

said he was following O'Rielly in a pickup truck when O'Rielly's 1974 Pinto suddenly disappeared on Indian Meridian between NE 23 and NE 36.

"The headlights disappeared. I stopped my truck and jumped in to try and save him. The next thing I knew I was trying to catch my breath," Welch said.

He said he found himself on top of a pile of brush on a small island that had formed in the swirling water between the creek and a pond.

Whetsel said Welch was

stranded in water above waist for about two hours until rescue crews arrived and pulled him from the water.

O'Rielly's empty car was dragged from the murky water about 7:30 a.m. Friday.

Meanwhile, in other parts of eastern Oklahoma County, residents began trying to salvage their water-soaked belongings from the mud and debris left behind by floodwaters.

The Ark Interfaith Family Shelter at NE 23 and Air Dep

See FLOOD, Page 2

Dancin' Feet
Take Break



Superintendent
Gets Pay Raise

said crews will resurface the street.

Tucker also wanted to remind motorists that Memorial Road

Eastbound traffic should detour south on MacArthur to NW 122, then go east, he said.

in the parade. They showed their colors by waving blue balloons.

Maj. Gen. William P. Bowden, commander of Tinker Air Force Base, was the parade marshal.

The American Legion Post Kiltie Band 35 followed him, playing songs ranging from the National Anthem to "Boomer Sooner." Behind them were the "Eaglettes," eight Indian dancers dressed in their native costumes.

Rows and rows of square dancers, young and old, came next. The dancers rode one of two floats, the Oklahoma Central Square Dance Association's or the Oklahoma Panhandle District's, or walked in groups divided by region.

The association's float featured its central district officers. The main attraction on the Panhandle float was a bandanna-clad dinosaur saddled and "ridden" by one of the area's square dancers.

In addition, a group of teen-agers known as the Happy Tapper

some of whom said they had lived in the area 25 to 30 years, said they had never seen the creek climb out of its banks.

But Thursday night the creek swelled and sent water rushing into more than a dozen houses along its banks.

Fire chief Ron Kelly said firefighters evacuated about 50 people from their homes in the addition near Silver Creek and in other parts of the city.

Nema Palmer, who lives on Silver Creek Drive, said almost everything in her house was water-and mud-soaked.

"It is unbelievable to see. The water came rushing in, and the carpets began waving up and down and then it got into the air conditioning and heating ducts," Palmer said.

"It is awful."

Flood

From Page 1
Boulevard had to close after floodwaters destroyed supplies and contaminated the shelter's water well, said Bill Crowel, The Ark's operations manager.

Twenty-five people were evacuated to the Midwest City Community Center Thursday night. Crowel said the Salvation Army found places for the people to stay in other shelters or private homes.

Floodwaters got up to five inches deep on the first floor in two of The Ark's buildings, Crowel said.

"It is just devastating. It will probably take up two weeks or more to get back into operation."

Spencer residents near Silver Creek,

Setting It Straight

Due to an editor's error, *The Oklahoman* in Thursday's editions incorrectly identified the military affiliation of personnel helping move an F-104 Starfighter into the Kirkpatrick Center Air Space Museum. Master Sgt. Roy Riley and his men are affiliated with the 2953rd Combat Logistical Support Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base.

In the Metro Sections on Friday, an article about an Edmond police raid incorrectly listed one of the suspects as an Edmond Middle School cafeteria worker. Norman L. Dodoo, 30, has never worked for the Edmond school system, according to a payroll officer.

THE SATURDAY OKLAHOMAN & TIMES
(USPS 120-630)
Published every Saturday Morning
500 North Broadway, Box 26125
Oklahoma City, OK 73125
Telephone: General Offices, (405) 232-3311

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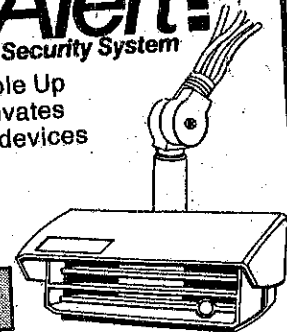
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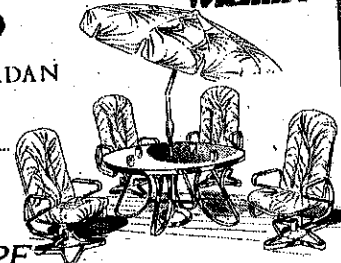
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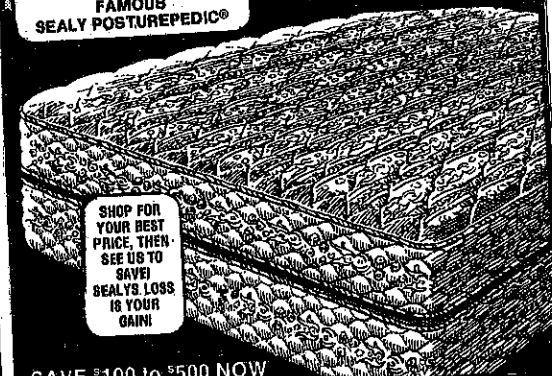
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