



Woman Vows To Remember Flood Victims

By Nolan Clay
Staff Writer

Davetta Thompson vows she will never forget — and will always pray — for the family she saw drown in the creek outside her home in south Oklahoma City on Saturday night.

"Every year on this day, I will drop a rose and flowers in the creek for that family," said Thompson, 28. "I will pray for that family even though I didn't know them. No matter where I am, I will come to this creek ... to show my respects."

Officials reported a man and a child, approximately 5, were still missing after their car was swept into the south Oklahoma City creek. Rescuers found a woman drowned in the car.

Thompson, who lives at 2317 S Brock Drive, said she was standing with neighbors on her front porch watching a beaver about 7:30 p.m. Saturday when she saw flood waters pull the car backward into the creek.

"We were hollering at the people to get out of the car. We could see them rolling the windows down," she said. "The car got stuck on a tree and a man and a child got out."

"And we were telling them to hold on to the tree, and he had a hold on the tree and the water just swept them on. And there was nothing anybody could do."

She said she saw another person in the car but she never saw that person get out of the car.

She said she saw the person banging on the window trying to get out until the person gave up, she said. "It was real sad."



A sodden but safe Carlos Matlock comforts his grandmother, Helen Montanegro after he was plucked from floodwaters by Oklahoma City firefighters Saturday afternoon.

Wild Weather Rages in State; 1 Dead, 3 Lost

By Penny Owen
and Jim Killackey
Staff Writers

At least one woman was killed and officials late Saturday continued to search for up to three other people — including a 3-week-old child — swept away by raging flood waters as relentless rains, high winds and hail pounded most of the state.

Hopes and rescue efforts faded into darkness late Saturday as searchers lost daylight while hunting for the missing infant and two people seen floating down a southwest Oklahoma City creek.

The woman's body was found in the car in a creek near SW 22 and Brock, police Lt. Ralph Gibson said.

The identities of the dead and missing, whose vehicles were inundated in two separate incidents in south Oklahoma City, were unknown late Saturday, Gibson said.

The violent storms sent at least 17 people in Ponca City, Chickasha and Haldton to hospitals and flooded homes, businesses, streets, highways, and waterways.

In Oklahoma City, soon after a drainage creek overflowed onto South West-

On Page 10-A:

- Homeless Families Seek Shelter

On Page 1-B:

- Storms Delay Prep Championships

Rainfall Totals

Inches of rain in the 24 hours ending at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Oklahoma City.....	7.06
Enid.....	2.41
Altus AFB.....	2.23
Tinker AFB.....	2.31
Hobart.....	2.88

National Weather Service

ern Avenue, spilling some five inches of water into traffic, a northbound car carrying a 20-year-old woman, her 18-month-old son and 3-week-old baby plunged into a bordering drainage creek, police Maj. Ted Claypool said.

The car overturned and was swept some 50 yards down the creek before stopping. An off-duty police officer spotted the car and dived into the creek

See STORMS, Page 22-A

Lawmakers Decline to Allow Judges

By Bill Johnson

Associated Press Writer

The Oklahoma Legislature says that what a judge puts on under that long, black robe shouldn't include a gun.

A section of a bill that would have allowed judges in Oklahoma to pack a shootin' iron just like in the old Wild West died in a joint House-Senate conference committee.

"I thought it was kind of a dumb thing to be in there to start with," said Rep. Bill Paulk, D-Oklahoma City, who debated against the idea

on the House floor.

But Oklahoma County District Judge Richard Freeman said he was sorry judges wouldn't be allowed to carry guns legally.

"I think it would offer a degree of safety we don't have right now," Freeman said. "When we don't have sufficient security, I think we should take what steps we can to protect ourselves."

The proposal was inserted into a Senate bill by Rep. Ray Vaughn, R-Edmond, who said all judges in the nation were at risk from the Medellin drug cartel.

Vaughn said the federal Drug Enforcement Administration has sent letters warning that the drug cartel had begun "a bloody retaliation campaign" against U.S. law-enforcement personnel, including judges.

"I think we should provide a way for the judges to protect themselves," Vaughn said in debating his amendment.

The proposal would have required judges to undergo the same firearms training as police officers. A similar requirement was imposed on state district attorneys when

they gained the right to carry guns.

"The single most important thing about a gun is when to how to use it," Pauls said. "Our police officers, who are highly trained, have had their guns taken away and taken from them."

Paulk says there is a way to provide protection.

"If we have problems in our courtrooms, which we do, we can make sure our law people are better prepared," Paulk said.

Flood -

From Page 1-A

Leroy Ross, 15, of Oklahoma City said he and five others tried to rescue the man and a girl as they were swept down the creek.

"There were six of us chasing him. We had ropes and jumper cables. He was able to grab hold of a rope after the first underpass," Ross said. "He just couldn't hang on to it."

He said he saw the man let go of the girl and she never came up for air again. "He came up gasping for air several times," Ross said.

"It was pretty spooky," he said. "We just kept on chasing them. We never did find them."

Transvestite

Check Ring

Arrests Made

MOLINE, Ill. (AP) — A check-kiting ring believed to have bilked banks in Oklahoma and six other states out of more than \$1 million was cracked in part because a teller

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Storms -

From Page 1-A

after the victims, Claypool said.

Officer David Pennington "pulled the 18-month-old son out of the car while the woman was clinging to the bank," Claypool said. Pennington then dove into the water and searched the overturned car for the baby.

Only two empty car seats remained inside.

The fire department arrived about 6:10 p.m. and resuscitated the son, who had stopped breathing. Both mother and son were taken to Southwest Medical Center.

"She was in surprisingly good condition," Claypool said. "Other than she was in shock and upset."

Six divers waded through the rapidly moving, 10-foot deep creek within a five-block area in search of the baby. By dusk, search efforts were halted, but were expected to resume today.

Dramatic rescues punctuated the metropolitan Oklahoma City area as police and fire officials — and those just seeking to help — employed human chains, boats, helicopters and other apparatus to save individuals from watery peril. Traffic came to a standstill in many areas of the metropolitan area because of high water.

Between 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday, Oklahoma City received a torrential 5.95 inches of rain, a record for May 8, the National Weather Service reported. Between 7 p.m. Friday and 7 p.m. Saturday, Oklahoma City received 7.06 inches of rain.

Both fire and police officials were flooded with calls beginning about 3 p.m. and not slowing down until after 9 p.m.

Police Communications Supervisor Lorie Ardle said Oklahoma City's 12 emergency line dispatchers answered more than 2,000 calls during Saturday's deluge.

At one point, Gibson said both fire and police dispatchers each had 100 calls on hold, waiting to be answered.

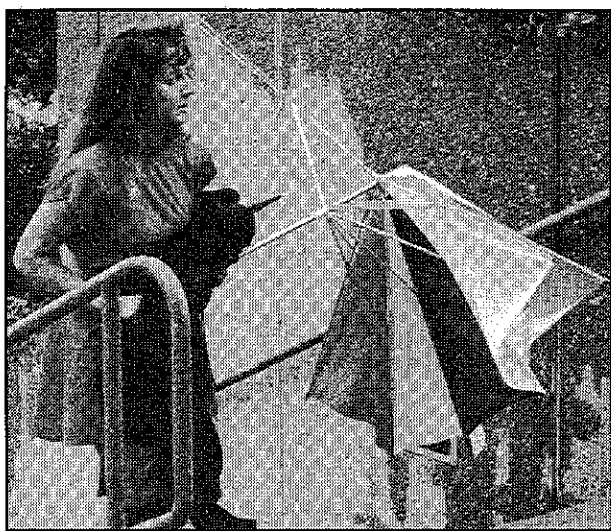
"They're ready to go home," Ardle said late Saturday.

Numbers were not certain, but Gibson predicted more than 200 rescues were performed by fire and police officials, who were expected to continue working throughout the night.

Elsewhere in the state, an unidentified man was listed in serious condition Saturday at Grady Memorial in Chickasha with head cuts and internal injuries. Eleven others taken to that hospital were treated and released after a tornado damaged a trailer they were in.

Three storm victims in Ponca City were treated and released from St. Joseph's Medical Center, a hospital spokesman said. A storm packing 70-mph winds moved through Ponca City in north-central Oklahoma causing damage estimated by city manager Jay Johnson at \$1 million.

Two tornadoes reportedly hit Healdton, injuring two people and leveling



— Staff Photo by Steve Sisney

University of Oklahoma graduate Yvette Richardson of River Falls, Wis., got an up-close look at the field she received her master's degree in. The meteorology student's umbrella took the brunt of high winds and rains on the way to OU's commencement ceremonies Saturday at the Lloyd Noble Center in Norman.

patcher on duty during the storm said, "We've got extensive damage and a few injuries" in Healdton. The tornado "was hit and miss," he said.

"The damage is very extensive. There's not an area of town that was not touched," said Bill Dixon, Healdton civil defense director. The two injured people were treated and released from a Healdton municipal hospital and an Ardmore hospital.

Winds in excess of 100 mph struck Ringling, nickel-size hail pummeled parts of Lindsay and vehicles and trees were overturned in Woodford.

Winds whipped up to 100 mph around the state and some areas reported hail the size of tennis balls. Several tornadoes were spotted by radar and residents.

Jefferson County was "dancing" with tornadoes Saturday afternoon.

"Storms are dancing all around Ryan, all around us!" Sue Bridges, Jefferson County sheriff's office dispatcher, said.

High winds two miles south of Lake Burtischi near Chickasha blew over a trailer, sending 10 children and their parents to Grady Memorial Hospital, said Jerry Stewart of Chickasha Civil Defense.

Some residents said a tornado toppled the trailer, but Stewart said he suspected high winds.

"It looked more like a straight wind from the way it tore the trailer up," Stewart said. "There wasn't any circular motion."

About 100 people were evacuated Saturday night from two apartment complexes on the southwest part of Stillwater.

"We're asking for volunteer evacuation," Stillwater police officer Bert Franks said. "We have declared an emergency at this time to stay at home, stay off the streets and monitor local broadcasts."

The emergency order was issued in Stillwater late Saturday urging residents to stay off flooded streets, police said. Water at nearby Lake Carl Blackwell was about 4 feet over the spillway, Franks said.

"We've just got a mess here right now," said Harold Fisher, operations officer for the city's emergency management office. "We've got power poles down all over the place, huge trees just blown over because ground was saturated."

to be a plant nursery, while trees and power lines fell. The roof at Auto Electric, 118 W Grand, collapsed, breaking a man's arm, Ormand said.

Entire trees were thrown into homes and branches were driven into walls. The storm knocked out power to many homes and businesses, including the airport, on the west side of town, and a trailer home blew over. Power was restored within a few hours.

West of Lone Grove, a tank battery was blown over and a house heavily damaged.

In Kingfisher, about 100 persons from the northeast and northwest parts of town evacuated their houses which officials say could be under water by early today. An emergency center was set up at Memorial Hall.

Lightning struck a tank battery north of Piedmont in central Oklahoma, causing a substantial fire about 1:30 p.m., fire district commander David Levescy said.

Guthrie officials closed several roads, including Highway 77 (South Division Road) from Lincoln Street to Mineral Wells Park Entrance, diverting traffic through the park, police Lt. Rex Brown said.

In Oklahoma City, Western Heights High School, SW 44 & Council, lost its roof to high winds around 3:45 p.m., fireman Mike Moad reported.

Two 40-foot freezer panels were ripped off the building of The Ben E. Keith Company of Oklahoma, 316 S Blackwelder, said operations manager Harvey Rockeman.

A power outage again hit the Oklahoma County Jail, but a recently installed emergency backup system kept cell doors and gates operational, Sheriff J.D. Sharp said late Saturday.

In Enid, thunderstorms Saturday forced the first-ever cancellation of the 61st annual Tri-State Music Festival's parade.

"There was a lot of lightning and you don't need kids with metal instruments out there," said Margaret Buvinger, managing director of Tri-State.

The stormy weather also forced cancellation of the Armed Forces Day Parade in Midwest City, and forced commencement ceremonies at the University of Oklahoma in Norman and Oklahoma State University in Stillwater to

There's Always Time to Find A Way Home

Retiree Recalls Roots In Town of Mill Creek

By Jim Etter
Staff Writer

MILL CREEK — Elmo Shaw is the personification of the old saying: "You can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy."

And he's obviously disproved the one that's also the title of the 1940 book by Thomas Wolfe that says: "You can't go home again."

Shaw, who loved growing up in this southern Oklahoma area, returned after being away for some 35 years and bought the place where he used to fish and swim as a boy. That's where this spring he found the blooming redbud and dogwood trees symbolic of the realization of his dream.

"You'd be surprised at the people that get back to their roots," says Shaw, 63, who believes he's definitely a part of that movement. He says that ever since he left his home, he was thinking of it. "I couldn't wait to get back."

Shaw, 63, and his wife, Betty Ruth, returned about six years ago when he retired as a five-state regional manager of a home and automobile supply store chain, having lived in cities including Tulsa; Wichita, Kan.; and Little Rock, Ark.

After settling in Sulphur, Shaw more recently managed to buy 110 wooded, rocky acres in a Johnston County area near the town of Mill Creek and on the creek of the same name where, when he's not working at his present job as a paint company representative, he's preparing the place for building a house.

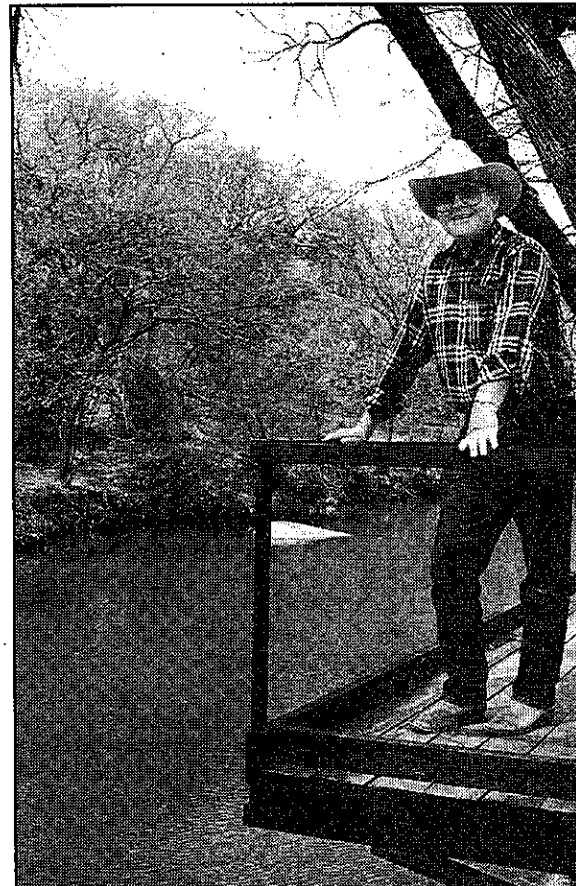
Shaw says his property is only "three or four miles downstream" from where he attended a two-room school in the old Fletcher community and encompasses some of the very places where he spent much of his boyhood. He named it Los Elmos.

Like a lot of nice places to live, though, this area wasn't the easiest place to make a living, he says.

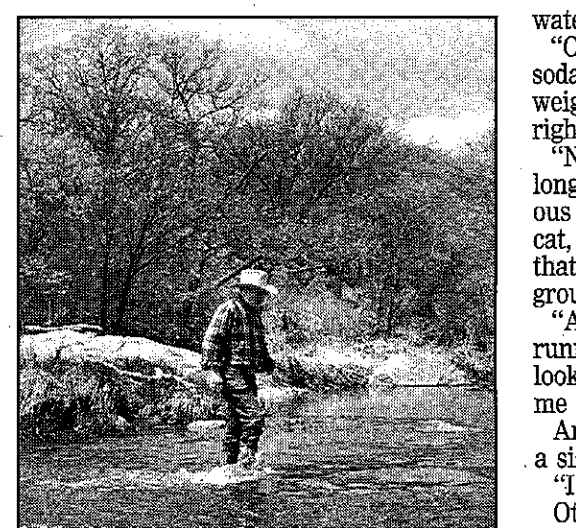
"I chopped cotton all up and down this valley. It was during World War II and I was in demand because there weren't many hired hands around," he recalled.

Borrowing from the late Oklahoma humorist Will Rogers, Shaw says: "Everyone's folks didn't come over on the Mayflower, but we all came over in the same boat, poor as hell. But I got out of it as fast as I could."

But he never forgot the peace and beauty of his home country, he says, and now considers himself fortunate now to own a hunk



Elmo Shaw stands on his porch and surveys Mill Creek, a boy and to which he returned after being away a long time. Shaw, live on property only a few miles down the creek. In photo below, Shaw crosses the creek.



of it. "A lot of people wouldn't want it if it don't run a cow to five acres, especially some of these ol' boys that were raised around here," he said.

But while strolling along the bank of the clear stream and looking for wildlife and flowering vegetation, adds: "This kind of stuff is the way I grew up, and it's hard to get it out of your system. I feel like I'm 10 million miles from nowhere when I get out on this creek."

Walking out onto a deck that extends a little over the water, he pointed down at the

City Moves To Refinance Savings Could Cut Taxes or Fund Impr

By John Parker
Staff Writer

Oklahoma City is joining a nationwide trend of refinancing general obligation bonds, a move that either will lead to a tax cut this year or will plow about \$3 million into streets, drainage or other projects, city officials say.

Depending on bond market conditions, underwriters hired by the city hope this week to market new bonds to refinance the city's \$98 million in outstanding municipal bonds.

The plan basically involves getting rid of higher interest rates on the city's current bonds and replacing them with new bonds at lower interest.

City finance officials are targeting a minimum savings of \$2.4 million, with possible savings of about \$3.1 million.

"I think it's just really a good move taking advantage of these lower rates," Mayor Ron Norick said.

When the savings are in hand, the city council can choose either to reduce millage rates on

pace in the first quarter of 1993, according to the Bond Buyer, a national publication that tracks bond investing.

The trend is fueled by cities taking advantage of interest rates that have hit their lowest levels since the 1970s.

In Oklahoma, general obligation bonds can only be issued by a vote of the people because taxes are levied to pay off the debt.

A 1984 law, however, allows cities to refinance their general obligation bonds without a vote, if the refinancing results in a savings and does not increase tax levies.

Ron Payne, Tulsa's finance director, said Tulsa used the law last year to refinance \$69 million in outstanding bonds.

Attorneys were wary of issuing more

off to that effect," Deck said. "You have to get an opinion on this is a legal and valid issue."

Tulsa's refinancing also from Oklahoma City's problem issue in that Tulsa saved a mated \$16.5 million from a million issue. Oklahoma will be issuing approximately \$100 million and only about \$3 million.

Payne said two factors figure prominently in the difference: interest and call dates.

Tulsa's old bond debt, with arate issues beginning in 1984, had interest rates ranging from 7 percent to 10 percent, Payne said. Oklahoma debt dates to 1986 and has its interest rates only 5 percent, Deck said.

The different rates mean, for example, that some of the debt went from 10 percent to about 5 percent, while Oklahoma City's could fall only from 10 percent to about 5 percent, said. "That probably is the best



Ron Norick

Two Kinds Of Coughs Explained

Homeless Families Seek Shelter in Flash Flood's Wake

Two Kinds Of Coughs Explained

DEAR DR. SOLOMON: I've heard doctors make reference to a productive cough. Is there such a thing as an unproductive cough? I'd appreciate an explanation of one or both.

Doyle, Augusta, Ga.
DEAR DOYLE: A productive cough is

Dr. Solomon

one that brings up mucus. A nonproductive cough, which is also known as a dry cough, does not.

DEAR DR. SOLOMON: When I have a cold, I'm often advised to take an antihistamine. What does this accomplish?

V.Y., Akron, Ohio
DEAR V.Y.: A substance called histamine causes small blood vessels to swell, and this, in turn, can lead to such symptoms as sneezing and a runny nose. Antihista-

By Penny Owen
Staff Writer

Away from the water-swept streets, the sirens, the abandoned cars, the broken stop lights and the tattered debris sat a makeshift shelter and, as darkness fell, the victims piled in.

Many of those arriving early at the Red Cross shelter, SW 55 and Western, managed to beat the flood by climbing on kitchen cabinets, tables and whatever else put them above the sudden stream.

Wrapped in blankets and sipping coffee, they recapped what all agreed was the worst flooding they've ever seen.

"The water came up so fast it was up to our

knees," said Juanita Dubois, 71, who was rescued by firefighters in her southwest Oklahoma City home, along with her husband, Jules, 78.

The Duboises waited about 30 minutes for help after finding their phone dead during the storm. Firefighters searching their neighborhood for victims found them and, after waiting without success for a boat, held a pole out to the couple, which led them "through front yards, back yards and everything, till we ended up on Robinson."

Like many others in Oklahoma City, the Duboises had no time to prepare for the flood or recover damaged items from their



— Staff Photo by Steve Gooch

Oklahoma City firefighters maneuver a boat through floodwaters Saturday afternoon after rescuing Carlos Matlock, center, from high waters in south Oklahoma City.

home. "They said, 'Don't try to save anything. We've got to get out of

here,'" Juanita Dubois said. "It was scary." Later, they found a big black dog — origin unknown — seeking refuge on their front porch.

"We just left him there in the flower bed," Juanita Dubois said with a laugh.

From the same area came Jeffie Schrader, 81, who found high ground on her kitchen cabinet while waiting for someone to save her.

In the meantime, Schrader's son, Leon Rinehart, experienced flooding in Newcastle

Cross shelter. Schrader also had a dog and cat in the house, but felt confident they were OK.

First to arrive at the shelter were neighbors Christine Smith and Kathy Sellers.

Smith said the high spot she held on the block saved her from the destruction others suffered.

"It was coming through the ceiling and through the door," Christine Smith, 1540 SW 33, said of the home she rented a week ago. "All I lost was my roof."

Neighbor Kathy Sellers wasn't so lucky. Not only was every square foot of her home immersed in several inches of water, but her truck was flooded as well.

"I came home to it. It

took us an hour and a half to get home because of the streets," Sellers said. "We had to walk down to the house and the water was to my waist."

"All the pictures of my kids, everything," said Sellers, whose husband was still searching for their missing dog. Sellers said she tried to insure her home earlier, but couldn't.

The block lost power during the flooding. Smith said she went door to door helping people out, including some elderly residents trapped in their im-

mersed homes. When Smith reached Sellers' home, "her ice box was on its back. It was still running and everything when we went to unplug it."

Sellers said she plans to stay with friends tonight. By 11 p.m. Saturday, the Red Cross shelter housed 62 vic-

tim. "I knew it was going to rain," Sellers said, "but not like this."

Bridge

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

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BE WARNED BY THE BARD

Both vulnerable. South deals.

<p>NORTH</p> <p>♠ A J 7</p> <p>♥ 9 3</p> <p>♦ 7 4 3</p> <p>♣ Q J 9 6 3</p>	<p>WEST</p> <p>♠ 5 4</p> <p>♥ K Q 10 7 4</p>	<p>EAST</p> <p>♠ 10 9 6 3</p> <p>♥ 8 6 2</p>
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West's lead of the queen of hearts was the mark of a good player. It asked partner to unblock the jack or, if unable to do so, to give count. East's two of hearts showed an odd number of cards in the suit and South followed with the five. This maneuver, known as the Bath Coup, since that is where it originated,



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