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OZONA, CROCKETT COUNTY, TEXAS

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THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1954

NUMBER 13

15 DEAD MILLIONS IN DAMAGE FROM FLOOD

Here and There

By J. Troy Hickman

ON THE FLOOD

The blow that has fallen on Ozona is not only the worst in her history, but is one of the worst ever to befall a small West Texas town. The scars will be with us for time to come.

Some things have become clear since Sunday night and Monday morning, - things we knew but maybe had forgotten. The first is that its hard to find God in nature, when nature is on a tear. What we saw by the gray dawn Monday was raw elemental forces obeying impersonal laws of brute force. There was no pity in it, only terror and - for some - death.

Nature is no respecter of persons. Old and young alike, guilty and innocent alike, good and bad alike, lucky and unlucky alike, were affected. We know not why or wherefore.

But someone has said that the stars are brightest on a dark night. And human nature shows up best in a tragedy. Many acts of heroism and unselfish service will be told in after years about this flood. People risked their lives to save others. People, moved with pity, took strangers into their homes. People shared their food and clothing and shelter with victims, some of them people never seen before.

Yet another thing we have seen. It is a good thing to belong to a civilized society with ideals of mercy and love. In good times we get tired of donating to causes, paying taxes, and carrying the normal burdens of civilization. We even have moments of wishing we could revert to the elemental and be savages again.

But when nature hits like it hit the other night, leaving some of us wounded and helpless, then we appreciate the mercies of civilized society.

Within hours, some of our utilities were restored, utilities we don't miss until they fail. Within hours aid came pouring in from outside.

Within hours Ozona was on the news wires of the nation. Ham radio operators came in. Trucks rolled in with food and clothing as soon as the roads cleared. Local pilots brought in serums and medical supplies for the sick.

A trained mortician was on hand to handle bodies of the dead. A well-staffed and equipped hospital was here to take care of the

(Continued on Last Page)

Plane Crashes In Flood Search; Army Helicopter Damaged

A light plane crash and a helicopter crack-up, but fortunately each without casualties, were indirect results of Monday's disastrous flood.

A Piper Cub plane piloted by Tom Croke of Taft, Texas, crashed about four miles south of Ozona while aiding in the aerial search of the flooded area in that vicinity. Mr. Croke was brought to the Crockett county hospital where his injuries were described as not serious.

One of two helicopters from Fort Hood, flown to work in conjunction with an 80-man unit bivouaced at the Ozona Methodist Church while they aid in flood relief work, was badly damaged Tuesday morning in a landing mishap.

Both copters had landed and one was maneuvering to clear a traffic lane. The pilot, Capt. Hardesty, backed the plane a little too far and the rotor blades struck an electric light pole. The pole was sheared off in a blink and the rotor blades broken. The impact threw the copter back on its tail, damaging that section and then settled down. The pilot was unhurt.

Big Hearts of West Texans Open To Pour Money, Food and Clothing To Aid Victims of Ozona's Disastrous Flood

West Texas opened its big heart to disaster paralyzed Ozona this week and the combined services of the many agencies, firms and individuals from the outside as well as from among Ozona people themselves combined to produce a mounting supply of food and clothing and money to bring relief to 500 or more victims of Monday's flood.

People in neighboring towns and in this area have been magnificent in sending aid to the flood stricken people here. Food and clothing by the ton, home cooked foods ready to serve, including cakes and pies, baked hams, etc., plus cases of canned foods and prepared foods of all kinds arrived by truck, pickup and cars, from Big Lake, Sonora, Barnhart, McCamey, Sheffield, Fort Stockton, Eldorado, San Angelo, Eden, Junction, Menard and towns all over.

A heroic crew of Ozona people some of them flood victims themselves, pitched in after an organization meeting Monday morning and within a matter of hours hot meals were available to refugees and rescue workers under the leadership of Chas. Butler, who stripped supplies from his own cafe to get the feeding under way. Mustard Williams has been Butler's able assistant chairman and dozens of faithful and tireless workers, both women and men have assisted in the preparation and serving of meals to 500 to 600 people daily.

While Mrs. R. A. Harrell, Red Cross disaster chairman, was waterbound at the ranch early Monday, Supt. L. B. T. Sikes, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cooper and Mrs. Chas. Applewhite led off in recruiting and assigning workers and generally assisting in getting the relief work under way.

Red Cross workers, headed by Jack Bassett from the area office in St. Louis, Jim Hamilton, Red Cross field representative, and three other field representatives, Ike Burnett, Gene Fitzsimmons and Giles Boone, arrived Monday and set up headquarters to assist in the feeding, housing and clothing distribution.

Red Cross funds, local and area contributions, all are being made available for the immediate relief of suffering among flood victims, and in addition applications are already being taken at the Junior High School building from people who lost homes or suffered damaged homes, for rehabilitation funds through the Red Cross rehabilitation program.

"The Red Cross is here to help wherever it can," one of the officials said, "and all assistance given by the Red Cross of whatever nature is given without cost or obligation on the part of the recipient."

Under the Red Cross rehabilitation program, families who lost their homes in the flood will get assistance on the basis of family need in the restoration of those homes. A simple form has been prepared which will constitute application for such assistance.

A huge load was taken off the shoulders of the local workers in caring for and feeding the refugees with arrival of an Army unit from Fort Hood under Command of a Major Wilson. Eighty men and some 25 army vehicles arrived in the convoy Tuesday afternoon and the men went to work immediately, M. P.'s on patrol, officers directing operations, and men assigned to any job that needed to be done, including cooks to prepare the food and men to serve it and to clean up and haul off trash and refuse. The military policing has kept looting in the stricken area to a minimum.

General Biddle, commanding officer at Fort Hood, paid a brief

Army Engineers Study Johnson Diversion Dam

Congressman Regan Asks Survey After Damage Check

With a view to a permanent abatement of the threat of flood disaster such as that which struck Ozona early Monday morning, the Corps of Army Engineers will send a representative to Ozona sometime today to make a preliminary check looking toward the construction of a diversionary flood control dam north of Ozona on Johnson draw.

The matter of a flood control project by the Army Engineers was initiated by Congressman Ken Regan of Midland, who visited Ozona Tuesday and inspected flood damage and talked with citizens regarding local needs which the government might supply.

Congressman Regan called Washington Wednesday morning to inquire as to possible use of the President's emergency funds in rehabilitation work in addition to communication with the Army Engineers on the matter of a flood control dam. An immediate call from Washington to the Army Engineers headquarters in Fort Worth instructed that inquiry be made into the matter. Mr. Regan reported that Col. Trainer, head of the Fort Worth office of the Engineers, had advised him by telephone Wednesday afternoon that he was sending an engineer here Thursday in order that the preliminary survey might be made while the volume of run-off is still visible and to look over the area of a possible site.

County Judge Houston Smith has named a committee of citizens to meet with the engineer. The committee includes Wayne West, W. R. Baggett and Boyd Clayton.

Flood pictures taken by Rev. Troy Hickman may be available for next week's Stockman. Strained communication and transportation facilities prevented their completion in time this week.

OLD TIMERS ALWAYS SAID IT WOULD —

The Draw Came Down — A Graphic Word Picture Of The Greatest Disaster In Ozona's History

By J. Troy Hickman

Old settlers always said it would. Monday night it did. Johnson's Draw came down.

It wasn't the first time, but it was by all odds the worst. A little before the county was organized, it flooded the site where the town now is. In 1921 it came down again.

But this time people were off guard. Johnson Draw is usually a harmless gully, dry most of the time. It isn't any different from hundreds of draws in West Texas. Except when it rains in a certain place.

Miles above Ozona, on the divides and mesas of ranchland, heavy rains had fallen for two days and nights. Ponds were full. From every hillside trickled little streams, weaving like snakes downward and uniting as they rippled over rock, flowing at last into the big drains.

Sunday night Ozona people went to sleep blanketed by intermittent showers. Parts of town had already measured 6 and 7 inches of rain. Gurley Draw was rising a little by the time the churches dismissed their evening services.

Before going to bed about 11 o'clock, I glanced at the Gurley Draw which flows a hundred yards behind our house, draining the divide country northeast of Ozona. It was running, but I had seen it

Advisory Committee Works With Red Cross In Administering Fund

Ozona flood relief fund stood at \$18,000 Wednesday at the Ozona National Bank and contributions were being received from local and area sources by Lowell Littleton, chairman of the fund committee. Biggest contribution so far was \$5,000 by the Ozona National bank, \$1,000 each from three San Angelo banks and \$2,500 from the Massie Foundation in San Angelo. In addition to these, there have been a number of donations large and small from Ozona people and outsiders.

Mr. Littleton was named chairman of a local advisory committee which will be appointed to work with the American Red Cross in administering this fund and other funds of the Red Cross in both the present emergency measures and in the Red Cross rehabilitation program, the rebuilding of homes lost in the flood on the basis of family need.

Red Cross officials here have estimated that total expenditures in the rehabilitation program will approximate \$300,000. Funds now being received by Mr. Littleton at the bank will be used in meeting local emergency needs as long as such needs exist and in the final rehabilitation program.

Application blanks are now available for those suffering loss to apply for Red Cross help in rebuilding. This help is extended on the basis of family need and will not be an obligation incurred by the individual or the community, Red Cross officials explain.

330 Homes In Ozona Destroyed Or Damaged In Monday's Flood

A total of 330 homes and 46 business houses were either totally destroyed, suffered major or minor damage in the Monday morning flood which swooped down Johnson draw to create the worst disaster in Ozona history.

The count was made by a group of local people assigned in teams by the Red Cross to make a block-by-block check of the damaged area.

The surveyors reported 102 homes totally destroyed, 117 suffering major damage and 111 minor damage. There were 4 business buildings totally destroyed, 23 suffered major damage and 19 minor damage. Sixty-six percent of the destroyed or damaged homes were owner occupied, the surveyors reported.

JOHNSON DRAW CUTS PATH OF DESTRUCTION THRU HEART OF OZONA

At least fifteen dead, an estimated 300 homes washed away or virtually destroyed, hundreds of trailer houses, automobiles and trucks destroyed or damaged, and hundreds of people homeless and dependent on disaster agencies or neighbors for temporary shelter, food and clothing—that was the tragic picture of Ozona in the wake of the most disastrous flood in the town's history early Monday morning.

Happy that four years of economically disastrous drouth was apparently at an end, Ozona took another uppercut from the elements when usually dry Johnson Draw inundated more than half of the town area in a flash flood early Monday morning following two days and two nights of steady rain, and when the flood waters had drained away an estimated two and a half million dollars in damage was counted.

Already bank full from the heavy rains locally and in its watershed to the north, the draw spread over an area from the intersection of Highway 290 and 163 in mid-section of town and from the West Texas Utilities substation in the north end to the foot of the hill on the west side of town when a torrential rain fell during the early morning hours. The flood reached its crest at around 6 a. m. and remained out of banks until mid-afternoon.

Many volunteers who were up through the night watching the rising waters no doubt saved many lives by cruising through the potential flood areas alerting residents. But the rapidly rising waters caught most people by surprise and hundreds of narrow escapes were reported and many heroic rescues effected.

A simultaneously flood in Gurley draw, the short draw which traverses the southeast section of Ozona and empties into Johnson draw at the southwest edge of town, put water in some homes in that section of town and in the Latin-American settlement south of it, but its waters quickly subsided and damage in its overflow area was small in comparison with the devastating waters which rolled down Johnson.

One of the earliest reported deaths in the height of the flood was the heart attack death of George Russell, long-time Crockett County and District Clerk, who died around 6 a. m., apparently from a heart attack while aiding in the evacuation of members of his family from their flooded homes.

Mrs. S. L. Jeffers, whose two children were lost in the water, the body of one, Donna Weinette, 11 months old, recovered and the other, Harold Eugene Price, 2 years old, missing and presumed dead, died Tuesday afternoon at the Crockett County Hospital from exposure and complications. Mrs. Jeffers was found by ranch employes at the Roy Miller ranch about 11 miles south of Ozona at about 10 o'clock Monday night, and brought to the hospital here. The Jeffers came here from Dundee, Texas.

Bodies of the three children of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Bidlack, Janice, 3, Francis (Buck), 11, and Gary, 11 months, have been recovered as was that of Mrs. Bidlack's mother, Mrs. Hazel Mauney, 55, who was visiting here from South Carolina. Mr. Bidlack said that he held his 11-year-old son for a short time and finally lost him after the lad had been knocked from his grasp for the third time.

Mrs. M. T. Holley, 28, and her 14-months-old son, Harry T., were lost from their trailer home. Mr. Holley was hospitalized for treatment for shock.

Other identified victims of the flood include Mrs. R. C. Golden and her 5-year-old son, Larry D. Golden; Grover Martin, 78; Willis Tate, 76, father of Mrs. Ivy May-

field of Ozona; Donna Clapp, 14, and David Clapp, 3, children of Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Clapp. The Clapps were caught by surprise in their trailer home near the draw. Mr. Clapp took two of their children and Mrs. Clapp the other two. Sandra Kay, 6, and Linda Diane, 9, were carried to safety by Mr. Clapp but the other two were lost when the current and floating debris tore them from Mrs. Clapp's grasp.

The body of a Latin-American, about 40 years old and identified as Ruben Guterrez of Del Rio, was found Tuesday afternoon on the Terrell County side of the Pecos river about three miles below the mouth of Live Oak Creek. Guterrez, whose wife and one child were reported accompanying him, was thought to have been

(Continued on Page Five)

Geo. Russell, Sr., Dies From Heart Attack In Flood

County Clerk Here 28 Years Laid To Rest In Services Wed.

Funeral services were held at 2 o'clock here Wednesday afternoon from the Ozona Methodist Church for George Russell, Sr., 57, veteran Crockett County clerk, who died at about 6 o'clock Monday morning at the height of the flood while participating in rescue of members of his family at the home of his son, George Russell, Jr.

Death was apparently due to a heart attack. Mr. Russell had been in the water for some time attempting to move his car and had made his way to shallow water after failing in his attempt to get the car. He and George, Jr., then went to the latter's house a few blocks down the street where the families of both were staying.

Mr. Russell fell down in the water near its edge but waded out only to collapse in its edge. He was dead when lifted up by persons nearby.

A resident of Ozona most of his life, Mr. Russell had served as county and district clerk for 14 consecutive terms and was a candidate for re-election. He was born in Utopia. He came to Ozona with his parents at the age of three and attended high school here before serving in World War I. In 1924 he married Miss Evelyn Rutledge of Sonora.

In his youth, Mr. Russell worked in the oil fields in the Burk Burnett area for a time and worked in a garage and drug store here and on ranches. He served as a deputy county clerk under Tom Nolen for three years and later was elected to the office which he has held continuously since.

Surviving are the widow, two sons, George Russell, Jr., and Hugh Russell, one daughter, Mrs. Bochie Coates of Colorado and his mother Mrs. W. D. Russell.

He was a member of the Methodist Church, the Odd Fellows and the Masonic lodge. Pallbearers were Boyd Clayton, Charles E. Davidson, Jr., Kay Black, Hilary Phillips, Wayne West and Jack Holt.

(Continued on Page Three)

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Notices of church entertainments where admission is charged, cards of thanks, resolutions of respect, and all matter not news, will be charged for at regular advertising rates.

Any erroneous reflection upon the character of any person or firm appearing in these columns will be gladly and promptly corrected if called to the attention of the management.

THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1954

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Wendle Scott, Evangelist

Sunday — Services:

10:00 a. m. Bible Study
11:00 a. m. Worship Service
7:30 p. m. Worship Service

Mid-Week Service:

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oOo

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Mother Goose In Texas

By Ray Wood

As I went down to Silver Lake I met a little rattlesnake; He ate so much jelly cake It made his little belly ache.

Mother Goose went with the early pioneers and their offspring into the hills and valleys, the river towns, the farmsteads and ranches as they spread over the country, and she found subjects for child rhymes in endless variety. Many of these rhymes are far more amusing and interesting than those adapted from the Classic Mother Goose. Almost every critter known to the kinds of pioneer days became a subject for child rhymes. Even the rattlesnake.

Along with the snakes, the bullfrog, was a common subject for catchy and fantastic rhymes by Pioneer children. Here is a sample.
Snake baked a hoe-cake,
Set the frog to mind it;
Frog feet to noddin'
And the lizard come and find it.

Even the lowly June-bug (more often "tumble-bug", in America vernacular) found his way into child lore, and into folksong as well:

Possum up a gum stump,
Coonie in the holler.
Wake, snake! June-bug.
Stole a half a dollar.
Next Week: "Doodle Bugs".
Variants of these or similar rhymes will be recorded in the permanent collection of Mother Goose in Texas if sent to Ray Wood at Raywood, Texas.
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Ellenburger Test Staked 12 Miles North Of Ozona

Pan-Am to Drill On West Estate; Stake Noelke Outpost

Pan American Production Co. of Houston has filed application to drill an Ellenburger wildcat in Crockett County, 12 miles north of Ozona. It will be the No. 1 W. E. West.

The project is slated for an 8,500 foot bottom, with rotary drilling beginning when permit is received.

Location, on a 2,239.8-acre lease is 3,300 feet from the south and 660 feet from the east lines of 1-A-Runnels County csl.

The prospector is 1 3/4 miles southwest of Norsworthy No. 1 Mitcham, wildcat failure abandoned at 9,025 feet. The Ellenburger was topped at 8,075 feet on elevation of 2,578 feet.

It is also eight miles northeast of the Vaughn (Ellenburger) field and 5 1/2 miles east of the shallow Midway Land 1300 field.

OUTPOST STAKED

G. Stratton Jr. of Waco has filed application to drill a 5/8-mile south-southeast outpost to production in the two-well Noelke, Northeast (Queen sand gas) field, eight miles east of Iraan.

Cable tool drilling to 3,000 feet will begin at once. Elevation is 2,794 feet.

Location, on a 400-acre lease, is 3,767 feet from the north and 5,309.7 feet from the west lines of 3-Archer csl.

OIL FLOWS

Humble Oil & Refining Co. 1-H Fee, Crockett County Ellenburger prospect in 57-UV-GC&SF, 1 1/2 miles east and slightly south of Todd field, 16 miles northwest of Ozona, flowed 98 barrels of oil and 15.70 barrels of acid water in 24 hours.
Production was through a 1/4 inch choke and perforations between

6,530-6,550 feet.
The project flowed 44.06 barrels of oil and 7.19 barrels of water through a 1/2-inch choke in seven hours. It then made 48.48 barrels of oil and 13.67 barrels of water through a 3/4 inch choke in 11 hours. Testing continued.

VAUGHN PROSPECT

Sinclair Oil & Gas Co. 3 Nettie Holt, Crockett County project 3/4-mile northeast of the discovery in the two-well Vaughn (Ellenburger) field of Crockett County, swabbed 160 barrels of load oil and 36 barrels of new oil in 14 hours.

The recovery was through perforations opposite the Ellenburger between 7,670-7,720 feet. Pey section had been acidized with 1,000 gallons.

Operator pulled tubing and ran packer to 7,665 feet and was preparing to swab.

Location is in 63-OP-GC&SF, nine miles northwest of Ozona.

Grass Seed Planter Added To Equipment Of Soil Dist. Here

The Crockett Soil Conservation District recently received shipment on a 3 row grass seed planter. The planter was special built by a firm in San Angelo for use in the Crockett Soil Conservation District in connection with the district's pitting equipment.

The seed boxes are set on 25 inch centers, the same as the discs on the pitting machines. The planter has two boxes for each outlet; one for trashy seed such as blue-stem and one for fine seed such as blue panic. The two boxes can be used separately or simultaneously. The planter can be attached behind the pitter and both operations performed at one time.

Studies by the Soil Conservation Service have shown that several factors must be taken into consideration if good results are to be obtained from seeding bare range land to native or introduced grasses.

These factors are: Time of year for planting, seed bed preparation, and management following seeding. If these factors are properly

considered then good results can be obtained if sufficient moisture is present.

The time of the year to plant most of our warm season grasses is in the early spring, from about the first of March until May. If grass is planted after May and is germinated, the hot dry months of July and August will usually eliminate any stand that might have been started. Early plantings allow plants time to establish a sufficient root system to withstand this usually dry period in the summer.

Some good results have been obtained by fall planting. If a sufficient stand can be obtained with the fall growing season the grass will go dormant in the winter and have a head start in the spring.

Proper seed bed preparation is a must, otherwise, the seeding is usually unsuccessful. Methods of seed bed preparation might include pitting bare areas or disturbed areas where cedar or mesquite has been freshly dozed or cabled. In the Trans-Pecos area brush chopping affords a good seed bed. These measures break the thin surface crust and allow good aeration and water penetration, both essential in the germination of grass seed.

The last item but not the least is the management of areas planted. Small seedlings make very lush and attractive feed for stock. In order for the small plants to build up a root system and get established, so as to withstand the vigors of grazing, they must have at least one full growing season rest. It is usually advisable to plant as large an area as possible, in one pasture at a time. This al-

lows for the necessary deferment and cuts down the competition.

To get a stand of grass on old cultivated areas the above rules apply with this addition. It is best to plant in the protection of some kind of a grain stubble or in rows to allow for cultivation to control weeds, the first year.

Your local Soil Conservation Service office will be glad to discuss any local problems you might have regarding the different grasses and how to plant them.

oOo

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oOo

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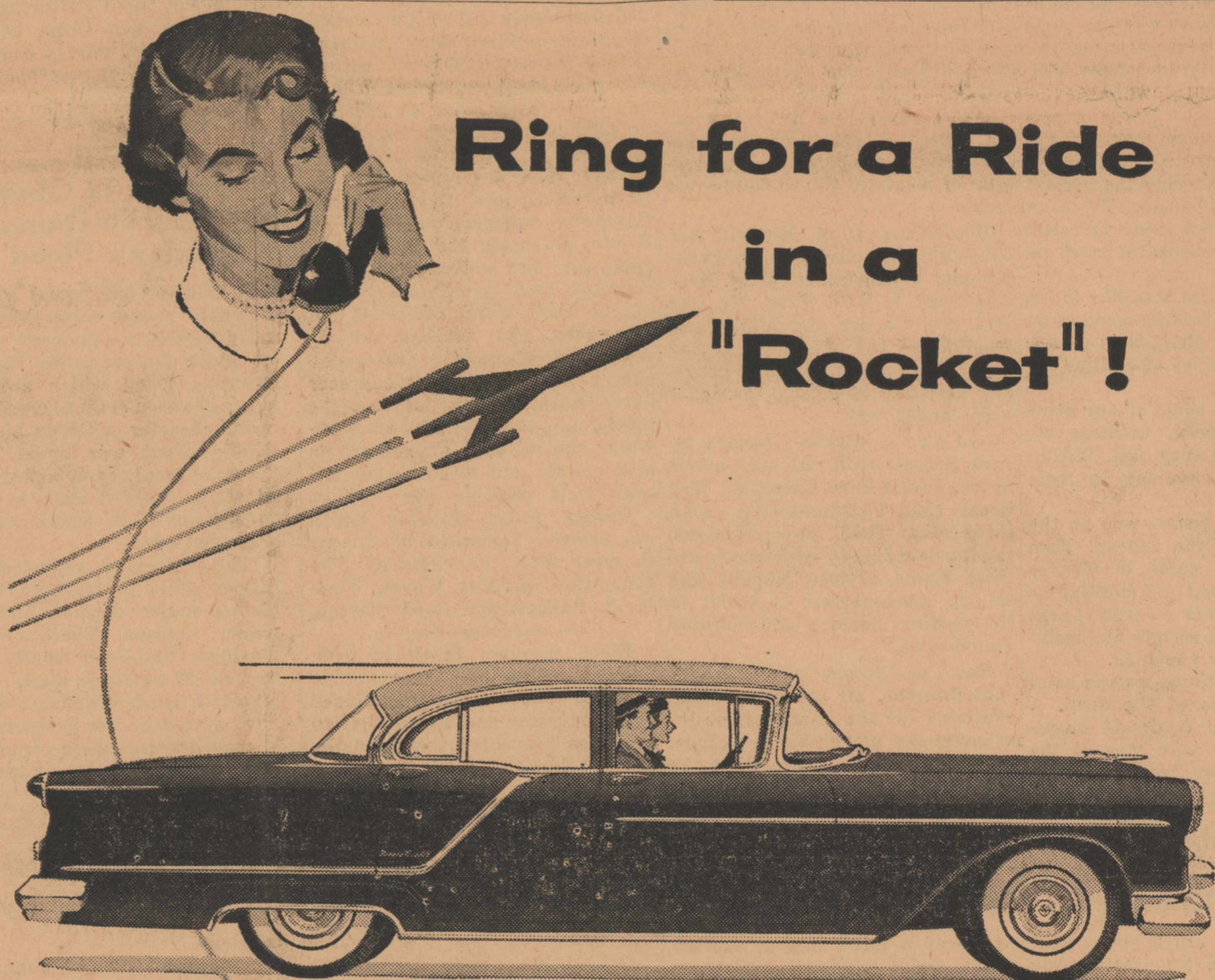
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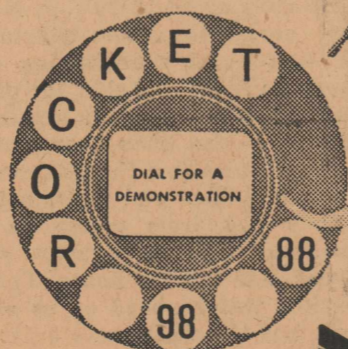


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The Draw Came Down—

By J. Troy Hickman

(Continued from page one)

cers came by, warning and awakening people along Gurley. Lights were on everywhere. Nearly everyone in our block was out by the time we were.

Being sleepy and not thinking clearly, or wanting to think much, we left everything behind. I took a camera and some film. We had a wrap each. Two of us were in pajamas.

As we drove away I mused on how silently the water had stolen up around us. Like a snake. Without the neighbors' noise, we should have stayed on asleep. A siren was sounding, but its noise was almost snuffed out by the rain.

Having nowhere in particular to go, we drove downtown and parked near where the Highway 290 crosses Johnson's Draw. It was running, but hardly enough yet to be interesting. Townspeople we knew drove by or stopped and chatted.

In a little while we drove back near our house to check on the water there. To our relief, it was going down slowly. It had lapped nearly to the top of the cement porch, about the height of the floor. I laid pebbles in the edge, so I could tell which way it was moving. It dropped maybe a foot in 20 minutes.

We moved back into the house. We decided against going back to bed just then. We made some coffee and killed an hour. Then I took the camera and went back downtown. It was raining hard, big wet drops, heavy ones.

Ozona's generally quiet at night. But now it was full of cars and people. Lots of them we knew. Others were tourists who had been routed through here because other roads were closed. I noticed one car pulling a pretty big red boat. The driver had pulled off to the side of the street at the city park square and gone to sleep. A good many big trucks were lined up, waiting for routes to clear.

Highway 163, south to Comstock had been closed since the day before. We heard that the bridge over Live Oak Creek, near old Ft. Lancaster, had been washed out.

By this time Highway 290 East out of Ozona, where it crosses Gurley Draw just out of town, was

under water. It was closed. Rescue work was going on to recover a car stranded in trying to cross.

But Gurley Draw went down enough to clear the bridge, and people started crossing. It was, I guess, around 2:30 a. m. by this time. A big truck crossing the Gurley Bridge caved in the approach, isolating the west end of the bridge.

Two cars of oil boys trying to get to the morning shifts on their rigs and finding draws impassable, returned to town. Some left their cars on the other side of Gurley and waded across.

Every wrecker and crew in town was now at work. High water along Gurley had stranded some cars. There was anxiety about the Mexicans, many of who live very near the edge of the draw.

We drove back uptown and took another look at Johnson Draw. It had risen to where it was just under the bridge. The waters were tumbling along at a fearful rate. The bed has been scooped out here. It is steep and deep. No still edge-water. Lighted by our flashlights and car headlights, Johnson looked cary. It roared, tumbled and frothed. Still, it was well within main channel.

The rain would slacken a little, then start again. Skies were heavy and solid. Small formations drifted along northeastward, lightning flashes we could occasionally see Johnson getting wider.

Officers, firemen and other volunteers were working the town, but mostly around Gurley. Johnson wasn't worrying us. I suppose we all felt as I did, that Johnson had probably done its worst and would go down as Gurley had done.

Around 3:30 a. m., as I remember it, Gurley rose again. Again we evacuated and went downtown. We left the house open and lights on. We took nothing but what we had on and my camera stuff. We even left the dog to fend for himself in the yard.

Around 4 o'clock—as best I recall—Johnson got out of its bank. It had held a pretty steady and slow rise since midnight, but now it was coming up fast. Businesses along the edge were moving things out.

The sky began to lighten around 4:40, and it was dim daylight or what would have been daylight in clear weather, by 5. What we saw

by daylight was awesome. Johnson had come up like a tidal wave. Toward the square, it was deep in the streets. Looking across westward, we could see houses go by, crashing against each other. Trailer houses, cattle, trees, oil drums, and other debris went by. Johnson was rising, rain still poured.

Now we all knew the worst, but it was too late. We could only hope that people on the other side got to high ground. The whole Valley of Johnson Draw, containing half of Ozona, was under water. A few tops stuck up, until they moved and disappeared. From the foothills on the east side of the valley to the high ground on the west side, half a mile to three quarters wide, there was nothing but muddy water with a fearful current and voice-quelling roar.

Out in the water near the other side from us there was an explosion. A cloud of black went up, followed by red flame. By the half-light of dawn we saw another flame and more smoke. It was the Casbeer house on fire. Both fires were in swift current; no chance to fight them.

Rain still fell, the draw rose even more. We forgot about Gurley Draw. We were fascinated and dazed by the tragedy taking place before us.

People were calling for help from fenceposts and porches all over town. Someone thought of the tourist with the boat. It was put into service. The Sierra, a speedboat belonging to a transient, and a crew of 2 oil boys, took to the water and brought in 12 or more people. At least five of these would probably have perished.

What an irony that the worst of this happened while the day was breaking! Now Johnson began to retreat a little, but only a little and slowly.

Reports began to come in from inundated places on the east side. Homes swept away. Not even traces of some. Some people rescued, some unaccounted for. Still it rained.

Now the rain was slacking and people were scurrying around checking up. The bridge across Johnson had long been under water and out of sight. No chance to get to the other side. We feared for the people over there.

What actually happened over on the west side was worse than we feared. A lot of people with homes

in the draw's valley had lived there for years. They had seen hard rains and sudden rises. They knew Johnson could come down but, like their neighbors on the other side, no one seemed to think that now was the time.

Many oil families were asleep in their trailers in 3 or 4 camps at the very edge of the draw's channel. Most of them slept on until the water was too deep or too swift to wade out.

A few trailer families awakened and got out in time. Most did not. They suffered heavy casualties. One father who lost a part of his family to the swirling waters said, "We didn't know anything about it until the trailer next to ours bumped into us."

Many crawled up on top of tourists courts, garages, and tall trucks. Some survived. One building with a number of people on it collapsed, and the children and women were lost in the waters.

All Monday morning Ozona was dazed, as one tragedy after another came to light. As the waters fell, we began to see the property damage. It was worse than we had imagined.

Around noon new rescue work began. Some waded to the west side. One group of people who had been atop a truck since 5 a. m., were taken off around noon. Others in trees above Ozona, were rescued in the early afternoon. The hospital and morgue began to fill up.

Around 8 o'clock a. m. local authorities began to work up a citizen's meeting for 10 o'clock at the courthouse. Although rescue work had been going on all night by volunteers, now it was to be organized. A big crowd showed at the courthouse. Some had lost their own homes, others did not yet know what had happened because their homes were under water. Committees on food, clothing, medical care, housing, transportation and information were set up. Within half an hour they were working. Food stands sprang up on the main street. Public school facilities were opened to refugees. A soup kitchen was set up in the gym.

A strange thing. There were tired faces with eyes that had peered all night into dark waters. There were haggard faces. There were no tears. Now and then you could hear a joke made.

A rumor kept us uneasy. A big rain had fallen upstream and an 8 foot rise was coming down. But the people worked on, looking for their dead, getting the living back together, starting flooded cars, carrying injured to aid. A group of Mexicans caught on this side huddled in the post office. Many negro citizens, whose homes were very near the Johnson channel, took refuge in the school gym.

It was early afternoon before most of us knew what happened on the west side. What we saw saddened and dazed us. Whole blocks were wiped out. Familiar houses gone, with nothing but the foundation slabs to mark the site. Largest telephone posts twisted off like splinters, a maze of tangled wires everywhere. Half houses standing out of place, their contents spewed everywhere. Clothing and bedding hanging on fences. Heavy things like stoves, commodes, all over the now—uncovered bed of Johnson Draw. Cars askew in every position, some against houses or light poles. Houses jammed against each other, brushed liked pasteboard.

An industrial section in the valley between the channel and another low spot was wiped out. It was caught between two flows. Car motor blocks were hurled a hundred yards below their former sites. Out in the draw could be seen the tops of cars and trucks, a score or more, some battered. Pieces of trailer house lodges against broken trees and ruined homes.

The atmosphere was heavy with sadness and with awe. Here was death and destruction, fresh and raw. Some of us, by the mysterious machinations of Providence, had survived. Friends and neighbors had not. We knew not why or wherefore. We still don't.

The dark wet terror had been no respecter of persons, for young and old alike, had been spared or taken.

As this is written, our senses are coming back. The army and Red Cross are here to help us. The town is full of patrolmen and officers from far and wide. Groceries, food, and medical supplies are showing up. Things are getting organized.

Bodies are being recovered nearly every hour from the draw below us. They are laid out in the local mortuary. Help has come to the mortician from outside. The

hospital is jammed with injured and shocked. Many are prostrated from grief—fathers who clutched children until they were torn away, then saw them sink. A mother that was fished out of the water after hours of wandering. Husbands with lost wives, wives with lost husbands.

Emergency communications centers are functioning, answering questions from outside relatives, sending messages of death or survival. Some radio hams are helping. Volunteer workers are manning the hospital staff.

Everyone is being as brave as possible, as cheerful as possible. People are magnificent in a tragedy like this.

We cannot help brooding about the why of it all. There is but one answer. The town was caught napping. Those who lost most did not realize what Johnson could do, or how quick it could be done.

The loss has been heavy. Scars will remain for years. But somehow the same Force which sends rain down draws has also put into the hearts of people an unbelievable vitality, will to live, comeback power.

Under cloudy skies, under the threat of another possible flood, Ozona has begun to built back.

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PICK UP THE 'PHONE, GIVE US A CALL - WE'VE REALLY GOT IT ON THE BALL



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Easy To Keep - Complete Record - In 1 Volume

THE STOCKMAN
RANCH RECORD BOOK

Political

Announcements

The Stockman has been authorized to announce the following as candidates for offices as listed, subject to action of the Democratic primaries. Candidates are listed in the order in which they were received.

DISTRICT:

For Dist Attorney, 112th Dist.:

MARVIN BLACKBURN,
Kimble County
CONNELL ASHLEY
Pecos County

For District Judge, 112th Dist.:

ALVIS JOHNSON, Sutton Co.
JIM C. LANGDON, Upton Co.
ROY R. PRIEST, Upton Co.

For Congressman, 16th Dist.:

J. T. RUTHERFORD, Ector Co.

For State Representative 78th Dist.:

JOE BURKETT
Kerr County (Re-election)

COUNTY:

For County Judge:

HOUSTON SMITH (Re-election)
TED M. WHITE

For Sheriff, Tax Assessor and Collector:

V. O. EARNEST (Re-election)
KAY BLACK
BEN ROBERTSON

For County & Dist. Clerk:

GEO. RUSSELL (Re-Election)
HUBERT BAKER

For County Attorney:

HOWARD M. LEMMONS
DIXON MAHON (Re-election)

For County Treasurer:

For Commissioner, Prec. 1:

BILL SEAHORN
RALPH JONES (Re-election)
FRANK JAMES
JAMES BAGGETT

For Commissioner, Prec. 2:

BUD COATES
PAUL GIBBS
BROCK JONES
L. D. KIRBY
W. T. (Bill) MILLER
(Re-election)
CECIL LAXSON

For Commissioner, Prec. 3:

U. S. (RUSTY) SMITH
VIC MONTGOMERY
TOMMY NEWTON
ERNEST DUNLAP
GENE WILLIAMS

For Commissioner, Prec. 4:

JAKE YOUNG
ROGER DUDLEY, JR.
R. W. (FATS) PARKER
JOE COUCH

For Justice of the Peace, Prec 1:

W. M. (BILL) JOHNSON (Re-election)

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Dairy animals are T. B. and Bangs tested. Officially tested monthly by State Approved Milk Tester

For Health, For Growth, For Sleep Drink Goat's Milk. Doctors prescribe Goat's Milk for asthma, croup, infantile eczema, for stomach disorders, and ulcers, but once you have had good goat's milk you will drink it from preference.

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or Phone 304-W

**Conoco Oiler
In Elkhorn Good
For 849 Barrels**

Ellenburger Pay Extended By New Producer

The Elkhorn (Ellenburger) field of Crockett County has been extended one location northwest and southwest with completion of Continental Oil Co. No. 7-27 University for a calculated daily flowing potential of 849 barrels of 39.6 gravity oil, no water, with gas-oil ratio of 513-1.

The potential was based on an actual eight-hour flow through a 40-64-inch choke and perforations between 7,380-390 feet in 5½-inch casing cemented at 7,602 feet on total depth of 7,603 feet. Top of pay was picked at 7,378 feet on derrick floor elevation of 2,677 feet. Pay section was acidized with 500 gallons.

Tubing pressure was 150 pounds, with packer on casing.

This project was completed in the Crioidal reef of the Strawn. But operator believes this reef is a common reservoir with the underlying Elkhorn (Ellenburger) field. Communications are thought to exist between the two reservoirs through fractures which were developed subsequent to the deposition of the reef. The Crinoidal was topped at 7,370 feet and the Ellenburger at 7,390 feet.

Discovery allowable and new field designation will not be requested.

Location is in 27-46-University, 18 miles northeast of Ozona.

**Mrs. McMullan Named
Chairman of Gonzales
Foundation Drive**

Gonzales, Texas — Mrs. Ashby McMullan has again accepted the Chairmanship of the Crockett County Division of Gonzales Warm Springs Foundation for Crippled Children, according to a recent announcement by Ross Boothe, president of the Board of Directors for this treatment center of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Mrs. McMullan, who lives in Ozona, Texas, has taken an active part in past civic and charitable activities in Crockett County. She will select prominent citizens from this area to assist her in her efforts on behalf of this non-profit, non-sectarian, charitable hospital. The Crockett County Division Committee of which Mrs. McMullan is chairman is a part of a state-wide network of volunteers, contributing their time and talents to aid in the maintenance and expansion of the facilities of Gonzales Warm Springs Foundation.

Mrs. McMullan's activities for the Foundation are of great importance, Boothe pointed out in announcing the appointment. Besides conducting an annual fund raising campaign, the local committee will also provide a year round program of education and information, designed to keep the people of this community advised of what their contributions, are providing for the physically handicapped youngsters of Texas.

**Church of Christ
E. M. Steph, Minister**

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Study — 10:00 a. m.
Communion — 10:50 a. m.
Preaching — 11:00 a. m.
Young People's Meeting 7 p. m.
Preaching — 8:00 p. m.

WEDNESDAY:

Ladies Bible Study, Junior 9:30 a. m.
Ladies Bible Study, Senior 10:00 a. m.
Prayer Meeting — 8:00 p. m.
"Come thou with us and we will do thee good".—Num. 10:29

**Mrs. J. H. Wilson,
Ozona's Oldest
Citizen, Is Dead**

**101, She Lived From
Frontier Days To
Atomic Age**

A life that spanned from the frontier days in America, the days of Indian fighting and the Civil War to the atomic age ended here at 11 o'clock Thursday morning in the death of Mrs. J. H. Wilson, 101 years old, and Crockett county's oldest citizen.

Mrs. Wilson died quietly at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. John Young, where she made her home for the past several years. Despite her years, Mrs. Wilson had enjoyed excellent health until the time of her death.

Funeral services are set for 10:30 a. m., Friday in the Ozona Church of Christ, with services by minister E. M. Steph, assisted by Rev. J. Troy Hickman, pastor of

the Ozona Methodist Church. Burial will be in Cedar Hill Cemetery with Cody Funeral Home in charge. Pallbearers will be Max Schneemann of Ozona, Bode Owens of Barnhart, Bart Westfall of Barnhart, Gordon Roach, Fletch Holt and John Carr, all of Big Lake.

Mrs. Wilson was born in Cass County, Missouri, August 18, 1852. She moved with her family to Pilot Point, Texas, when she was a young girl. She was married to the late J. H. Wilson when she was 21 years of age. Mr. Wilson died in the fall of 1916.

Mrs. Wilson often entertained her friends with stories of Indian raids in the Pilot Point area and of the experiences in operating the family farm after her father went into the Confederate Army in the Civil War.

The Wilsons moved first to Runnels county and later to the Big Lake area where they went into the ranching business. The house the Wilsons built in 1902 on the Big Lake ranch still stands. The ranch is now being operated by a grandson, Walter Young of San

Angelo.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. John W. Young of Ozona and Mrs. Ned Friend of San Angelo; seven grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren and nine great-great grandchildren.

Office Supplies—Stockman office

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If you are in need of service or repairs on your Singer machine or interested in a new Singer, Phone 316-W or drop a postcard to Box 424, Ozona Texas 12-4tp

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Wagner Office Equipment — San Angelo



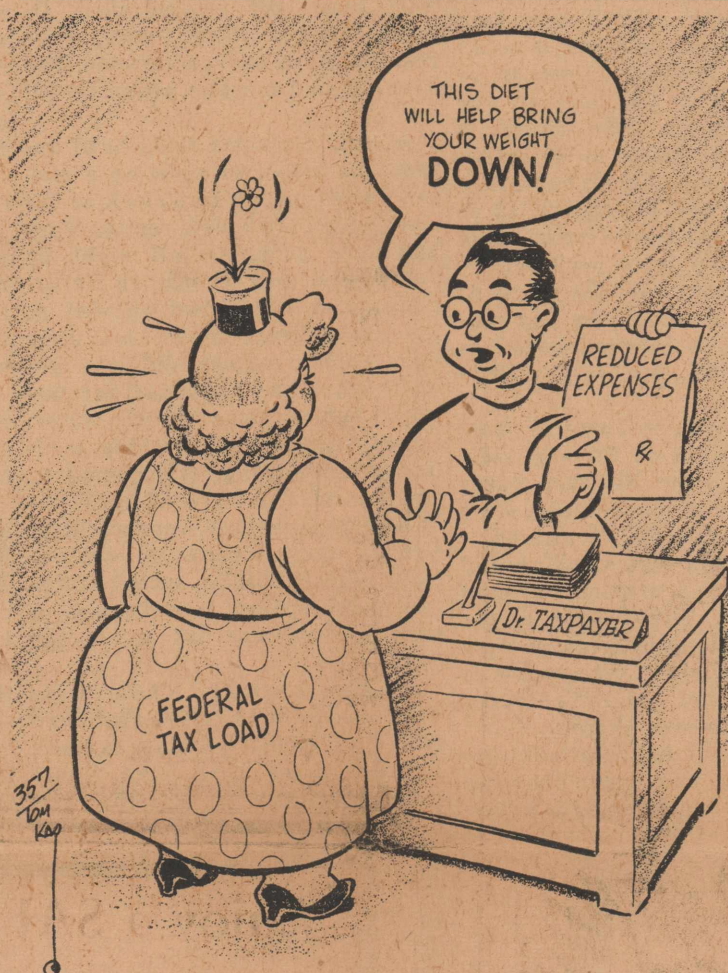
Elect **J.T.**

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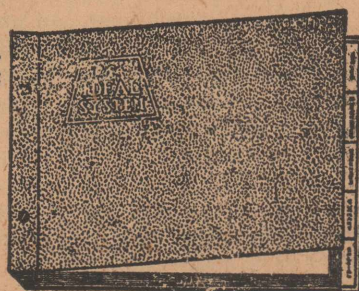
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Prices: \$2.00, \$3.50, \$5.00 and \$7.50 complete, including sheets for one year or more, and Income Tax Bulletin

The Ozona Stockman

To Ozona Flood Victims --

GAS APPLIANCES AT COST

To Replace Those Lost in The Flood

We have made arrangements to supply our customers in Ozona who have lost their appliances - REFRIGERATORS, RANGES and WATER HEATERS - with replacement units at our actual cost.

We must necessarily limit this offer in time and if you have suffered such loss we invite you to confer with us as soon as possible in order that we can replace all losses on this basis.



James Isbell, District Manager

Ozona Wool & Mohair Co.

BEALL BARBEE, Owner and Manager
Phone.60

WOOL MOHAIR

RANCH SUPPLIES

FUL - O - PEP FEEDS

15 Dead —

(Continued from Page One)

washed off the Live Oak bridge while crossing it in a car. The bodies of the woman and child have not been found. Live Oak creek was on a tremendous rise as the result of a nine-inch rain in its watershed. Three sections of the bridge were torn out by the raging waters and through traffic was routed over Highway 67 to the north until a temporary crossing could be constructed. It may be several weeks before the bridge can be repaired, Scotty Houston, local Highway Department superintendent said.

Dazed by the immensity of the tragedy, Ozonans who were fortunate enough to be on higher ground did what could be done at the height of the flood to rescue victims and many were saved by these heroic people. Fire added to the horror as the M&M Cafe on the west side of town went up in flames after a butane tank which had been floated out of the ground exploded. A few minutes later fire broke out and consumed the home of Mrs. Tom Casbeer, both blazes beyond the reach of fire fighters.

With the coming of murky daylight, helpless watchers on the east side of the draw saw houses, trailers, automobiles and household goods tossing and tumbling down the current. Realization that many lives were being lost struck awe in the watchers.

Survivors of the flood on the west side of the draw set up field kitchens and available food from homes was pooled to meet emergency needs and people were provided with food until the flood subsided and relief could be sent across the draw or those in the flood area could reach this side.

One of the many, many heroes in the rescue work during the flood was a passing tourist with a big motor powered boat who rescued a number of persons from the raging water. E. M. Steph, Church of Christ minister, who held his 2½-year-old granddaughter, Jeanie Seiber, above his head while the child's mother Mr. Steph's daughter, Mrs. K. G. Seiber of Fort Worth, clung to a fence. All were rescued by the motor boat as were Mrs. J. P. Pogue and son, Norris, and daughter Margo.

Eleven persons, including a negro cook at the M&M Cafe, and four negro children, employees of the Ozona Oil Co. Cosden station and of the cafe clung to a big panel truck which Joe Tom Davidson drove away from the cafe and station in an effort to reach higher ground on the highway west. The big truck was pushed downstream by the current and battered by a floating house and finally lodged long enough for the eleven

persons to reach safety. Davidson had started a big transport oil truck and was rounding up employees in haste to escape the rising waters. He went into the station to hunt J. P. Pogue and returned a few seconds later to find the transport floating down the draw, its engine still running and lights still burning. The truck lodged several hundred yards down the stream.

Business buildings from the Cosden station to midtown were wrecked or damaged by the flood waters. Smashed were the Dairy King, Hubbard's garage, Spencer Welding shop, Ivy Mayfield's warehouses, the big quonset building on the extreme western edge of the business blocks, the new Humble Station operated by Leo Bawcom, the Sutton Service Station, the Ted Lewis Texaco Station, the Montgomery Grocery washed completely away as was a cage egg house operated by Mike Couch. The Couch grocery building and tourists cabins were badly damaged.

Around sixty guests in the Silver Spur Ranch motel of Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Taylor rode out the flood on the rooftop. The raging current broke through a glassed in lounging room in the center of the north line of cabins to relieve pressure, possibly saving the motel from destruction.

On the east side of the draw, the James Motor Co. was practically

guttured of cars, equipment and merchandise as the water smashed in plateglass front and raced through the building. Heavy motor blocks in the garage were carried hundred of yards downstream by the force of the torrent. Flooded were the Smith building on the draw bank, occupied by McCollum Exploration Co., the Little Mexico Cafe, Kyle Kleeners, Williams Magnolia Station, the Home Gas Co., Ranch Feed & Supply, Pride-more & Allen's Gulf station, and Taliaferro garage. The record high water reached the highway intersection to put water in the Miller Firestone station, Hi-Way Cafe and the next door Perner building, sloshed in the back doors of the postoffice, across the Foxworth-Gabraith lumber yard and raced down the main street south. A section of a house was lodged in front of the Gulf station.

Other businesses in the north end of town were hit—the Ozona Laundry, Brownrigg Electric Shop, the Hughes Grocery and cafe, Moore Oil Co. station and the Saunders Nursery. The water was some four or five feet up on the walls of the North Elementary School.

Hurried disaster relief headquarters in the early morning hours were set up at the sheriff's office, directed by Sheriff V. O. Earnest whose own home had been completely washed away and a nearby rent house smashed. Citizen

volunteers, dazed but willing, sought jobs to be done and were given assignments for patrolling, rescue and search, communication, transportation and other chores. The State Highway Patrol and Rangers were aiding in the early operations, later to be reinforced by some fourteen units of Highway Patrolmen, rendering an invaluable service in communications, watching for more flood waters and patrolling the stricken area and aiding in the search for victims.

A mid-morning citizens meetings further organized the relief operations and Ozonans rushed in to set up centers for serving coffee, and food to rescue workers and flood victims. The high school gymnasiums and churches were opened to refugees.

Power and telephone lines were ripped and for several hours early Monday the only outside communication was a one-line long distance telephone made possible by use of an emergency unit. The West Texas Utilities repair crews were summoned and by mid afternoon had power restored to all but the devastated section of town. Broken water and gas mains necessitated cutting off these services for several hours Monday, but service was restored to all possible sections of town before the day's end.

Meanwhile two San Angelo "ham" radio operators Maurice (Tony) Nixon and Jess Williams, set up a communication center in the courthouse and for the balance of the day and night sent messages to relatives and friends from Ozona

telling of their losses or advising that all was well.

Dick Henderson used his private plane in a splendid service throughout Monday, flying in serums and other medical supplies, ferrying rescued flood victims to the hospital and aid from the air in the search for persons stranded in the flood waters.

The American Red Cross rushed trained personnel and volunteers from surrounding towns and aided relief headquarters in the Davidson gymnasium and in the girls' gym in the high school. Food was prepared under the direction of Chas. Butler and served by volunteer workers and Red Cross personnel, with between 500 and 700 persons fed at each meal.

Salvation Army personnel, an Air Force patrol from Goodfellow Field in San Angelo, units of the National Guard, Navy and Marine Reserve were rushed to aid in policing, aiding refugees searching for bodies.

A convoy of 80 men in about

25 vehicles, with relief equipment, field kitchens, cots and bedding and medical supplies arrived late Tuesday afternoon from Fort Hood and helped in the feeding of refugees in cooperation with the Red Cross.

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Ambulance Service Day or Night
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OZONA LODGE NO. 747
A. F. & A. M.
Regular meeting on 1st Monday of each month.



NOTICE OF REWARD
I am offering
\$500 Reward
for apprehension and conviction of guilty parties to every theft of livestock in Crockett County — except that no officer of Crockett County may claim the reward.
V. O. Earnest
Sheriff, Crockett County

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THE OZONA STOCKMAN

STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION
of
Ozona National Bank
OZONA, TEXAS
At the Close of Business June 30, 1954

Resources	
Loans	\$1,359,530.24
Overdrafts	3,977.62
Banking House	18,500.00
Furniture and Fixtures	16,000.00
Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas Stock	6,000.00
C. C. C. Certificate of Interest	51,000.00
United States Government and Other Bonds	2,451,246.02
Cash and Due From Banks	1,459,293.84
	5,365,547.72
Liabilities	
Capital Stock	\$ 100,000.00
Surplus	100,000.00
Undivided Profits	280,974.54
Dividend Number 77 Payable July 2, 1954	10,000.00
Deposits	4,874,573.18
	5,365,547.72

OFFICERS
W. W. West, President
Roy Henderson, Vice President
Lowell Littleton, Active Vice Pres.
J. W. Howell, Cashier
Roy H. Thompson, Asst. Cashier
Geo. Russell, Jr., Asst. Cashier

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J. M. Baggett
P. L. Childress, Jr.
Boyd Clayton
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—they give "Twice as Much Cool Air"
Why fight the heat and highway traffic for just a few days vacation when you can vacation all summer long at home in the cool, cool comfort of Paramount Air Coolers? Yes, this summer vacation at home in the round-the-clock comfort of Paramount Air Coolers.
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Budget Terms
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West Texas Utilities Company

Here and There

(Continued from Page One)

sick. Highway patrol and other law officers came in numbers, protecting us from confusion and lawlessness. The Red Cross came with its tested ministry of mercy. The different units from our armed forces, fully equipped for any emergency, rolled in to help us.

Even before these came to our aid, local committees under the leadership of county officials and plain citizens, had begun their work. No one went without food, or clothing, or shelter, or medicine, or comfort.

This has been one of the most remarkable demonstrations of fundamental human compassion and unity that most of us will ever see. It restores our faith in our kind.

But the big job is still ahead. For after the dead are buried, the hurt are healed, and the mud is scraped from such houses, or fragments of houses, as remain in town, there will be a solemn business of checking the property damage. As time goes on, new losses will be discovered. It will be a long and heartbreaking job to rebuild, to replace, to start over again. For some have lost their life accumulations. A great many have lost homes. Businesses have been hurt or destroyed.

But the same God who made raw nature and her destructive forces also put tough survival in the souls of men.

We will rebuild. Some will build on the old sites. However and wherever we build, the job goes on. For people can be bent, but not all of them—not many of them—can be broken.

Ozona will never be the same again, but we can only hope that the Ozona that emerges finally from the ruins of its old self will be somehow a little better.

**NOTICE OF SALE
THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CROCKETT)**

NOTICE is hereby given that on the 13th day of July, A. D. 1954, between the hours of 10 o'clock A. M., and 4 o'clock P. M., at the Court House door of Crockett County by virtue of my authority as Commissioner, appointed by the Commissioners Court on the 10th day of May, A. D. 1954, I will sell at public outcry for cash that certain tract of land situate, lying and being in the County of Crockett, Texas, and being a part of Survey 1, Block OP, Certificate 4/1536, GC&SF RY Co., and being out of the tract conveyed to Mrs. Ella B. Dudley on Sept. 12, 1922, which Deed is recorded in the Deed Records of Crockett County, Texas, in Vol. 24, page 332, reference to which is here made for all purposes, and is described as follows:

Beginning at a point located as follows: Beginning at the SW corner of the above described Dudley tract;

Thence North 0° 5' E 638 vrs (passing the NE Corner of Cemetery tract of land);

Thence N 4° 45' E 189.4 vrs to point for the beginning point in the tract hereby conveyed;

Thence N 4° 55' E 125 feet to point for NW Corner of this tract, from which a "C" cut on fixed rk brs N 11° E 19 ft. and another "C" on fixed rock brs N 60° 10' E 36 ft.;

Thence South 85° 5' East 80 feet to point for NE Corner of this tract;

Thence S 4° 55' W 125 feet to point for SE Corner of this tract; Thence North 85° 5' W 80 feet to the place of beginning, same being the SW Corner of the tract hereby conveyed.

And I am further authorized by said Order to execute a Deed of Conveyance on said above described tract of land to the highest bidder at said sale.

WITNESS my hand this the 10 day of May, A. D. 1954.

/s/ JAMES R. CHILDRRESS
Commissioner

11-3c

For Rent—Two-bedroom furnished house. T. L. Nelson home. Phone 403 or 322. 11-2p

Big Heart —

(Continued From Page One)

visit here Wednesday to inspect and check on the efficiency of the unit assigned to relief work here and Judge Houston Smith expressed the community's gratitude to him for the help the Army unit is rendering.

Army, Air Force, Naval and Marine Reserve units were rushed here from San Angelo Monday and the State Highway Patrol moved in 14 units to assist local officers in communications, relief, patrol and law enforcement.

**L. D. Kirby Named
OIIIC Chairman Here**

Ozona oil marketer L. D. Kirby has been appointed local chairman of the Texas Oil Industry Information Committee.

OIIIC is the oil industry's public relations and service program sponsored by the American Petroleum Institute.

West Texas Area OIIIC Chairman Robert I. Dickey of Midland, vice-president of Forest Oil Co., announced Kirby's appointment today. Kirby is a distributor of Humble Oil and Refining Co. products.

The objective of OIIIC is to make clear to the people of the United States how well they are served by the oil industry and to gain support for conditions under which they can continue to be privately managed, fully competitive and financially sound.

**Ray Piner, Jr., In
Training At Ft. Bliss**

Fort Bliss, Texas — Pvt. Ray Piner, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Piner of Ozona, recently began eight weeks of Army basic training in the Antiaircraft Artillery Replacement Training Center at Ft. Bliss, Texas.

He will spend his first eight weeks of basic military training on fundamental subjects such as rifle, machine gun, and bazooka marksmanship, and familiarization with Army technical subjects. This first phase of training is climaxed with a one week maneuver in the field.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Williams, Jr., have returned from a vacation trip to Florida.

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**Little Stories About
The Big Flood**

No accurate record was available on the total rainfall in Ozona during the three days of rain which produced Monday's flood here, but estimates were that 12 inches had fallen. The fall to Sunday afternoon was around 6 inches. The record report received so far of measured rainfall was a reported 40 inches on the Marshall Montgomery ranch. Welton Bunger near Pandale had registered 30 inches when he lost count and it was still raining. The Bud Kincaid ranch was reported to have registered 22 inches and 14 inches fell at the Wayne West ranch.

A school bus loaded with fifty volunteer workers from Mason rolled into Ozona early this morning ready to help Ozona in its after-flood clean-up. A hundred more were expected from San Angelo. These workers were being pressed into service manning trucks in the clean-up, in salvage work along the lower reaches of the draw and in helping stricken Ozonans.

To amuse children who were forced from their homes in the flooded area and concentrated in nursery groups at Red Cross shelter areas, a loudspeaker appeal was broadcast for funny books. And the funny books did pile in. Now a new appeal is being made for toys to amuse the youngsters and for kitchen utensils to fill a need in the food preparation.

Ozona's utility companies, the West Texas Utilities, the Crockett Water Control District, the Empire Southern Gas Co. and the General Telephone Co. are to be commended for the fine work that was done in restoring services to as much of the town area as possible in the short time in which it was accomplished. Line crews were summoned by the telephone and electric companies before the waters had begun to recede and local crews of the water and gas

companies were on the job shutting off mains and getting service to unaffected areas and making rapid repair to extend the service. The new stand-by electric unit on the water works hill proved its worth Monday morning after the electric power went off. Although the city's supply was nearly drained by breaking mains, the stand-by unit supplied power to pump enough water to keep the town from being without.

A stranger in Ozona who had stopped for a bit of sleep in his car, to which was attached a trailer and a 125-horsepower motor boat, was instrumental in rescuing 13 persons from the flood waters before his propeller was rolled up from striking solid objects in the water. He was Ray Richardson, who was on his way to California to work in an airplane factory. Scott Hickman and one other rode with Richardson and aided in pulling helpless victims from the water.

Empire Southern Gas Co. has announced a worthwhile program to replace for Ozona flood victims the home appliances which they lost in the flood at their actual cost. Water heaters, ranges, refrigerators etc. will be included and the company invites those who wish to take advantage of the offer to confer with them as soon as convenient.

The tremendous and sometimes freakish force of the flood waters was something akin to freaks of tornadoes. Automobiles were stood on end against telephone poles and trees and one was resting against an unbroken window pane in a home.

A refrigerator washed from one of the damaged or destroyed homes in Ozona was found on the Wayne West ranch 35 miles south of Ozona.

Mrs. Joe Bussey had a set of dishes which were in a box all wrapped and stored. Each individual piece of an eight-place service was wrapped in paper. Af-

ter the flood, Mrs. Bussey found her eight dinner plates neatly stacked and unchipped, and not a scrap of paper even between them.

Ted Lewis was worrying during the flood about a treasured family Bible which was left in his home. When the water had subsided, he found the Bible undamaged on a high shelf. The water had reached to within a half inch of the Book.

R. L. Hatton, 83 years old, who rode out the flood on the rooftop of his Ozona Tourist Courts, had twelve pipes which he rotated in spending his days in a rocker in his living quarters. He lost eleven of the pipes. The report did not state whether he had the one in his mouth or the water had spared it to him.

Reports of tremendous damage to ranch property along Johnson draw south of Ozona, on Howard draw, the Pecos river and Live Oak creek are trickling in. Wayne West reports about 25 miles of fence destroyed along with his airplane and hanger at his ranch 35 miles south. The Howard Cox ranch headquarters on Live Oak was reported washed away, water was in the ranch homes of Roger Dudley, Walter Dudley and Roger

Dudley, Jr., and Bill Conklin and Hugh Childress, Jr., across the river. Livestock losses along all the flooded streams in expected to be heavy.

A group of Ozonans who were up through the night watching the rising water in Johnson draw made a house-to-house run through the more dangerous sections of the city in an effort to alert sleeping residents of the danger. Many of these, they reported, were skeptical of the danger—never having seen the draw get even near their homes. They couldn't believe that this was the time it would get "from hill to hill," as the old timers had predicted.

People in Big Lake learned that sheets were needed in the shelter center here and Tuesday a pickup load of sheets arrived. Five men were in the group from Big Lake and they spent the day at work in relief centers.

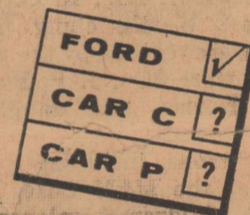
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CAR P 100-hp. SIX 110-hp. SIX	YES	YES	NO
	NO	NO	YES

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