

THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN

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The Weather

Monday—Partly cloudy, warm. Sunday's high, 96; low, 73.

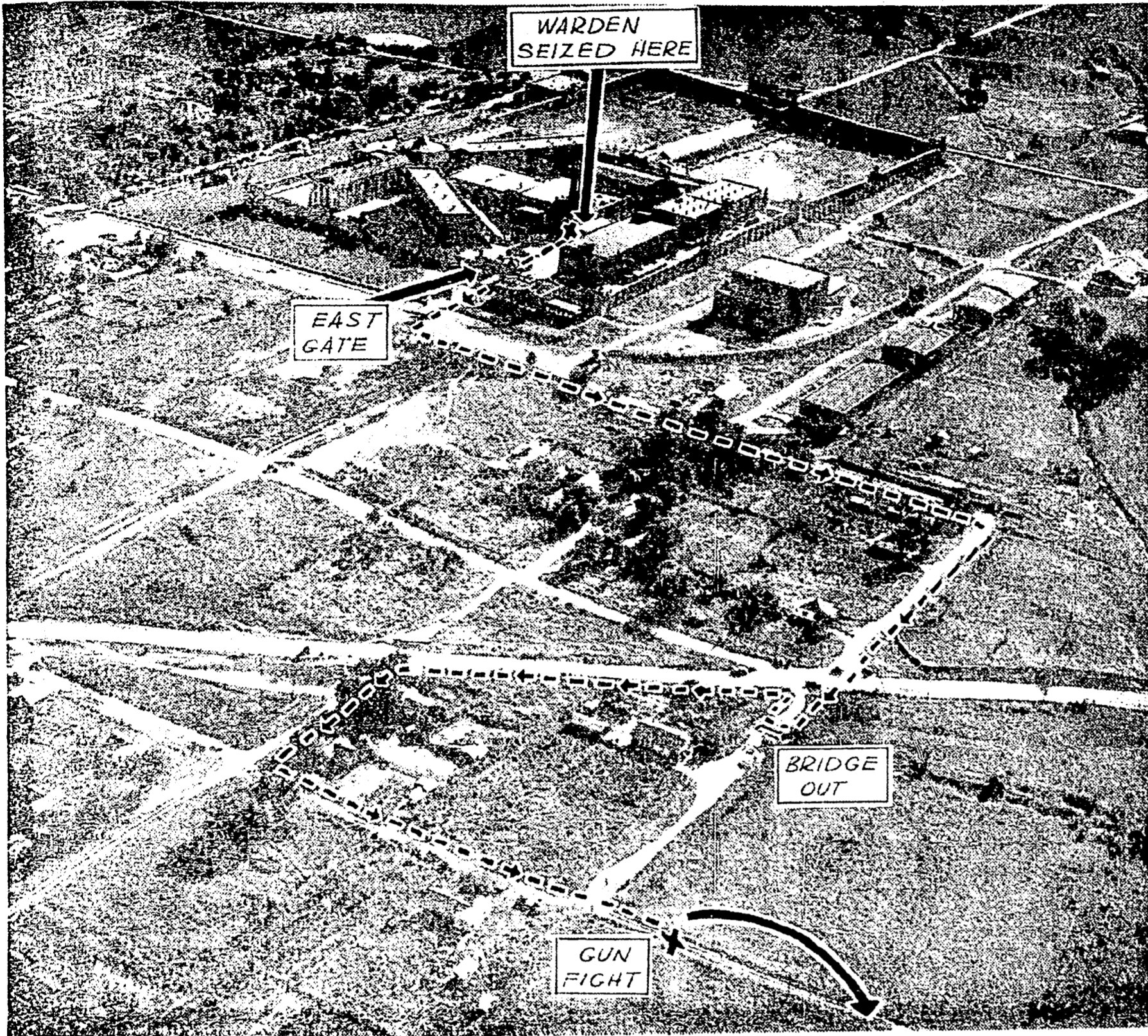
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Morning and Sunday

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WARDEN KILLED AT M'ALESTER



3 Others Die; Lone Deputy Halts Escape

M'ALESTER, Aug. 10.—Warden Jess F. Dunn of the state penitentiary here was killed in a prison break at 10:30 a. m. Sunday in which a former prison guard and two convicts also lost their lives. Two more convicts and another former officer were wounded.

The dead: WARDEN DUNN, 49 years old, in his eleventh year as a prison official.

TAB FORD, former Pittsburg county deputy sheriff and former penitentiary guard.

ROY M'GEE, 36, a convict serving 15 years for robbery with firearms from Kay county.

Wounded were Bob Pollock, 49 years old, former prison guard now working for the city of McAlester; Hiram Prather, 34 years old, convict serving life for murder at Chickasha; Bill Anderson, 34 years old, convict serving life for the 1936 break.

The convicts captured the warden and Herschel Fentress, Oklahoma City electrician, near the entrance to the mess hall in the prison yard, and threatening them with prison-made daggers and a razor, forced them to march to the east gate.

Wrecked Bridge Halts Fleeing Convicts

There the warden ordered guards on the tower to throw down their weapons. Passing through the gate, the convicts took a car belonging to a guard, but because a bridge was out on the road over which they hoped to escape, they were forced to run into a group of officers seeking them. All the deaths and wounds were suffered in the ensuing fight.

Warden Dunn, planning to attend a rodeo Sunday afternoon, stopped past the prison to instruct an Oklahoma City electrician, R. W. Murray where to place loud speakers in the prison yard to extend the prison communications system. Murray, his 12-year-old son with him, left the warden's office with the warden. On the way to the prison yard they picked up Fentress, working with Murray.

They were standing in the prison yard with the warden pointing to the places on cell houses where he wanted the speakers fastened when the four convicts, only recently released from punishment cells for various violations of prison rules, crept from beneath the steps leading to the mess hall hardy a dozen steps away.

Their daggers were at the backs of the warden and Fentress before they knew what was happening, two convicts attacking each man.

"Get that (blank) kid out of here," Beaver is said to have ordered.

Murray and his boy were a few steps away and they hastily returned to the main prison office where they sounded an alarm.

Deputy Warden Tries to Talk Them Out of It

H. Ben Crider, deputy warden, and other prison officials were in the yard in time to see the convicts creep back from under the steps where they took the warden toward the east gate. Crider said he could see blood flowing down the warden's neck from the pressing knife point as they walked, the warden silent.

"I tried to talk them out of it," Crider said. "You wont get away with it, boys," I said. "You'll be killed sure if you go through that gate." But they wouldn't pay any attention.

At the gate, Beaver commanded the guards, George Woods and Clark Brewster, to throw down their guns. One, Crider said, started to level his gun on the convicts.

Dunn then said, "My God, Ben, don't let them shoot now. There's an innocent man here."

Dunn told the guards to lower their guns and they did at the end of the ropes used for that purpose by guards checking in and out. They were two .38 pistols and two .30-30 rifles.

"Now open both gates," Beaver ordered.

"You know we don't let down both gates at once," Dunn remonstrated.

"This is one time we are going to open both gates," Beaver insisted. Dunn gave the order, Crider said.

Car of Tower Guard Is Seized

Outside the wall a Negro trusty was washing a Ford car which belonged to Brewster.

They tied Fentress and made him lie on the floor in the back seat. The warden was forced to ride in front between two convicts, who drove away straight north.

In the Pittsburg county jail, William E. Alexander, 45-year-old deputy was alone on duty, when news of the escape came. But he was being visited by Tab Ford, 52 years old, a former prison guard and a former deputy sheriff, who volunteered to accompany him. Ford was given a sawed-off shotgun and they drove toward the prison gate in Alexander's car.

Meanwhile Bob Pollock, 49 years old, a former employe of the prison over a seven year period, was visiting in a store about 100 yards from the east gate. He saw the prisoners drive by and heard the escape alarm. He borrowed an army revolver from a friend and waited for some other officers to appear.

Pollock knew that the convicts had missed a guess. Hardly a block north of the prison a bridge was out on the road they were traveling and they would find themselves in a trap.

Alexander and Ford came along and Pollock explained the situation to them. He said he would direct them to a street intersection two blocks east of the prison where they would be certain to come upon the convicts.

In a moment the convicts appeared. Alexander and Pollock were on either side of the highway. Alexander said the warden was in the front seat with Beaver, leaning over from the back seat holding a razor at his throat. Alexander could see Beaver saying something and saw a trickle of blood start from the warden's throat.

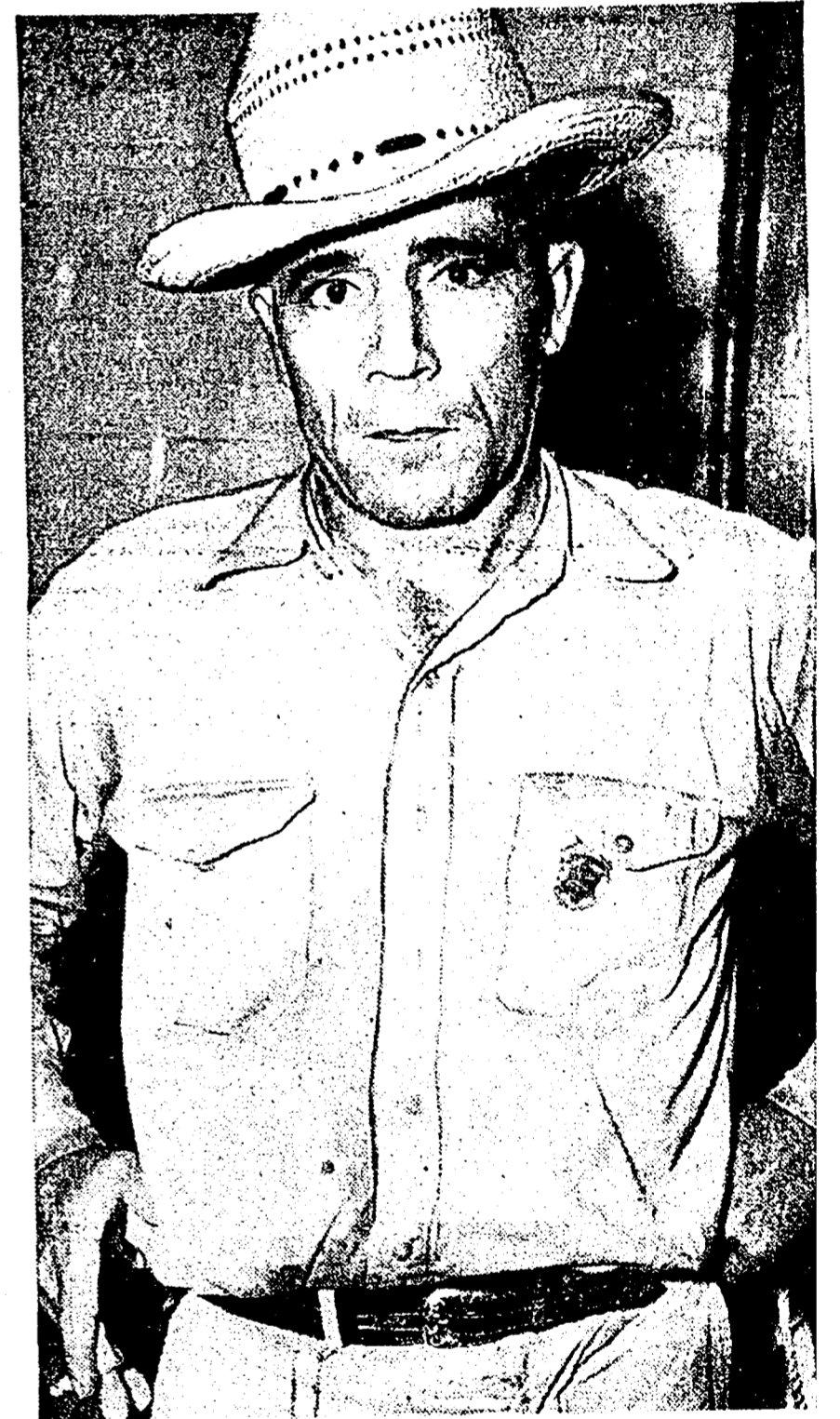
"Let us past, Billy," Warden Dunn said to Alexander.

"I'll let you past, warden," Alexander said.

(Continued on Page 9, Column 2)



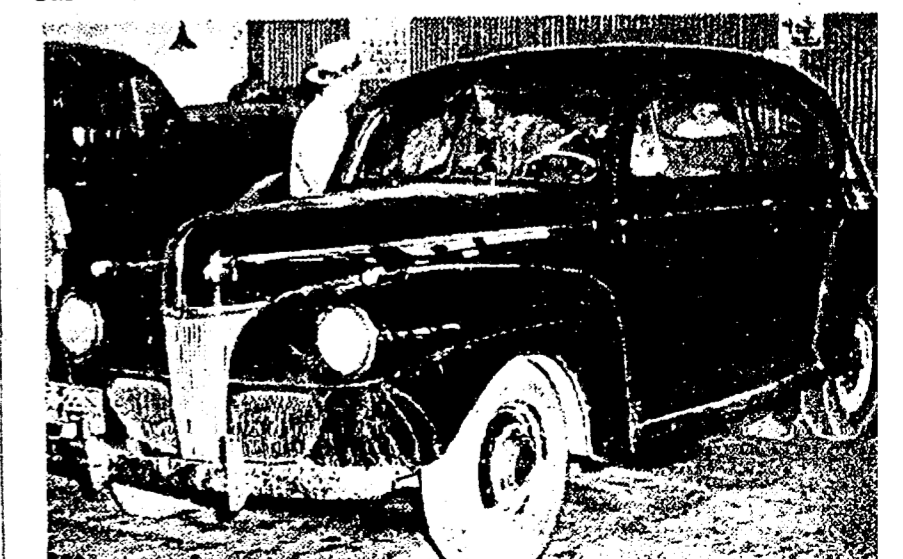
With His Boots On Jess Dunn, warden of the Oklahoma state penitentiary at McAlester since 1936, died Sunday at the hands of escaping convicts. This is his latest picture, taken in July.



William E. Alexander, Pittsburg county deputy sheriff fought four convicts single handed, killing two, wounding two.



Bob Pollock, former prison guard, a volunteer posseman suffered a hand wound after a borrowed gun proved unloaded.



And this is the bullet splattered convict car after the battle.

Former Guard Says 'I Shot It Out With 'Em, Killed All But One'

M'ALESTER, Aug. 10.—(AP)—Deputy Sheriff Bill Alexander of Pittsburg county, a former guard at the state prison, gave this account of the chase and capture of the convicts who made a break for freedom Sunday:

"I got the call at the sheriff's office. I was there alone. They told me there was a break at the prison. I picked up Tab Ford (a former guard) and Bob Pollock and started out.

"We ran into a lane and met the prisoners with the warden coming out. I swung the car around and blocked the road. "Then I jumped out of the car and the warden asked me to let them pass by. I told the warden he could pass but that the prisoners should fall out of the car. One was holding a big knife at the warden's neck. I was out of the car at the side of the road and they backed up and a man in back shot at me. Then I started shooting and killed Beavers who was driving the car.

"They changed drivers and I swung away and we chased them three blocks north. They ran into a blocked street where a bridge was out and stopped. I jumped out of my car with them shooting at me. They jumped out of their car into a ditch and I shot it out with them there.

"I had to walk across the road and there wasn't any cover and they were shooting fast. But they had to stick their heads up to shoot at me and that's when I got them. "I killed all but one and he came out with his hands up begging. (Alexander was mistaken. He killed all but two. The other convict who survived was Bill Anderson. Prison officials also believed Anderson was dead until several hours after the gun-battle, when the prison hospital sent word he was alive but in very critical condition.)

"The warden's body was slumped in the backseat of his car. The phone man's hands were tied and he was tied to the car. I untied him. He'd been stabbed."

ALEXANDER said Ford was killed by the convict's fire before the jailer could get out of the back seat. He said that Pollock was in a store when he called him to join him in the chase. Pollock grabbed up a gun that had been kept in the store. Only when the shooting got under way did Pollock find out that his gun was empty.

Croat Party Dissolved

ZAGREB, Croatia, Aug. 10.—(AP)—Croatia's Farmers' party was dissolved Sunday under the totalitarian one-party system by a vote of its 180 parliamentary representatives. When Croatia was created the Fascist-like Ustachi organization was designated the sole party.



Step-by-Step in Prison Break

Above is the picture story of the kidnaping and slaying of Jess F. Dunn, warden of the state prison at McAlester. Inside the gate, upper X, four desperate convicts seized him and with prison made knives forced him to the east prison gate. There the warden was forced to order guards to throw down their guns. Outside the gate the convicts seized a car and went north. Finding a bridge out, they turned back southeast on a diagonal road. Accosted a block east, they again bridge out, they turned back southeast on a diagonal road. Accosted a block east, they again turned north until they were stopped by another missing bridge, marked by an "X." There the fatal gunfight took place. This picture was taken from an airplane flown by Carl Winstead of Oklahoma City just after the break. Below is a closeup of the impassable bridge, scene of the bloody gunfight that ended the break from the prison. The single "X" marks the spot where a convict bullet put an end to the life of Tab Ford, former deputy sheriff of Pittsburg and former prison guard, a volunteer posseman. The double "X"s mark the spot where two convicts lying in a ditch were killed by William E. Alexander, Pittsburg county deputy sheriff.

Adrift in Atlantic, Nazi Sailors Wont Accept Rescue Offer

LISBON, Portugal, Aug. 10.—(AP)—Survivors from the German freighter Frankfurt are adrift in the Atlantic in an open boat despite a proffer of rescue.

Messages from a ship of Panama registry but not otherwise identified said the Germans refused to come aboard when they were found, expressing fear of internment.

The Panama vessel wirelessed the position, and the Portuguese destroyer Vouga put to sea Sunday to take them aboard. The messages described the Frankfurt as a Nazi raider which had been intercepted and sunk by a British warship a few days ago.

The British admiralty announced August 4 that the 5,522-ton German freighter Frankfurt had been captured while trying to run the blockade from Rio de Janeiro.

Acute Pacific Crisis Seen in Australia

Premier Cancels Tour, Rushes to Capital

MELBOURNE, Monday, Aug. 11.—(AP)—Prime Minister Robert G. Menzies declared the Pacific situation was "more full of danger than ever" Monday.

The prime minister cancelled a tour of south and west Australia to return to Melbourne for the cabinet meeting. "While we desire peace in the Pacific, we are not disposed to run away from the geographically plain fact that Singapore is a part of Australia's frontier," he told the cabinet.

"Australia is prepared to defend herself with her forces," he added. Navy Minister William Hughes said: "Whether there is to be peace or war in the Pacific is for Japan to decide. (Additional details, Page 9.)

More Hot Weather On Schedule Today, Asserts Wahlgren

There's more sizzling weather on the Oklahoma City menu for Monday, and Harry Wahlgren, weather forecaster here, reluctantly admitted Sunday that Monday's temperatures likely will hover around the 100-mark.

The high in Oklahoma City was 96 at 3 p. m. and low was 73 at 6 a. m. Sunday. The maximum, Mr. Wahlgren pointed out, is far under the 112 of Aug. 10, 1936, and under the 99 at Ponca City, the highest reading reported Sunday.

The city's outlook for Monday and Tuesday is partly cloudy and continued warm. The state will see clear to partly cloudy skies, except for scattered thundershowers in the northwest portion Tuesday, Mr. Wahlgren predicted. Readings over the state Sunday included Gage 93, Tulsa, Muskogee and Lawton, all 96, Ardmore 94 and Waynoka 95. No rain was reported late Sunday.

★ Right now is an excellent time to offer livestock for sale. Lots of people are watching the Want Ads to buy horses, milch cows, mules and hogs, and like a gentleman living north of the city who quickly sold 4 hogs you, too, may expect quick response from an offer of your own. Check up on your surplus stock and take the cash that's yours through the Want Ads. Phone 2-1211 or write for Want Ad service NOW!

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