

THE WEATHER
Temperatures
High Yesterday 58
Low Today 47
Expected High Today 60
Expected Low Tomorrow 43
Expected High Tomorrow 63
Sunrise 6:29 a.m. Sunset 5:49 p.m.
Rainfall
Season Total 7.02 Season Normal 4.16
Last Year 3.46
Isabella Dam Reservoir: 251,946 acre-feet
Kern River Flow: In 3,491 cfs; Out 918
Forecast
Increasing cloudiness with rain late Thursday.

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KERN PRODUCTION
Agriculture \$201,713,366
Assessed Value \$1,040,174,350
Bank Deposits \$115,235,000
Building Permits \$17,882,551
Petroleum \$266,275,000
Population 236,600
Telephones 170,772
(Kern County Board of Trade Figures)
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STORM RAVAGES KERN ROADS

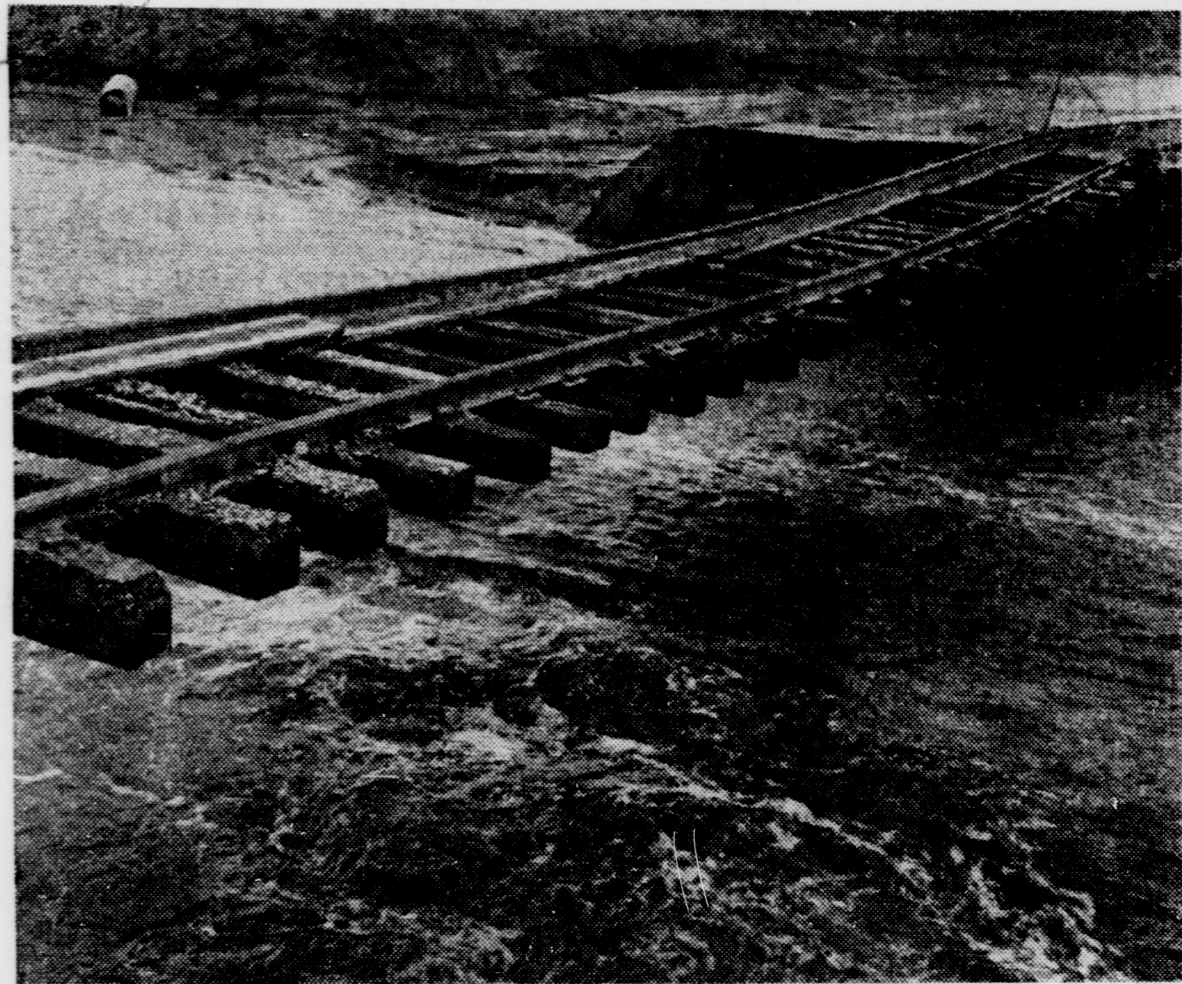


\$1 Million in Damages Estimated

Weary state and county road crews have been working around the clock since Monday pumping water from roads and sumps and making repairs for emergency traffic throughout Kern County. Damage to county roads and bridges has been estimated at nearly \$1 million by County Road Commissioner Vernon Smith.

Two county bridges already have been washed out, roads have been sliced up by rampaging flood waters—and more rain is on the way, according to the weatherman at Meadows Field.

Malaga Road disappeared under flowing waters which inundated large areas southeast of Bakersfield. This is at Panama Road.



Raging waters from Walker Basin Creek washed out the earth fill and left the tracks on the rail spur at the AFC Bena fertilizer plant on old Caliente Road hanging in midair. Flood waters in this section some 20 miles east of Bakersfield were receding today.

Israeli Premier Levi Eshkol Dies

By ELIAV SIMON

JERUSALEM (UPI) — Premier Levi Eshkol, who guided Israel through its gravest political and military crises of the decade, died today at the height of a new Arab-Israeli confrontation. He was 73.

Al Fatah Arab commandoes claimed responsibility for his death but the premier's attending physician attributed it to a heart attack, Eshkol's third in three years.

The cabinet met three hours and 15 minutes after his death and named Deputy Premier Yigal Allon as interim premier pending recommendations by Eshkol's Maipai Party on a permanent successor.

Damascus said Eshkol had been seriously injured in the shelling and brought to Jerusalem.

Political sources said Mrs. Golda Meir, a former foreign minister, or Abba Eban, the current foreign minister, were the most likely candidates to succeed Eshkol. They expressed doubt that the choice would be Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, the hero of the 1967 war whom the Arabs fear as a hawk.

Eshkol was recovering from influenza at his official residence when stricken with chest pains that precipitated the heart attack. His physician, Prof. Moshe Rahmillet Rahmilitz, was summoned to his bedside and at first reported his prospects good. But Eshkol's condition deteriorated and the old fighter for a free and independent Jewish state died at 8:15 a.m.

Jerusalem Radio reported his death one hour and 45 minutes later, and a crowd gathered almost immediately to stand in silence outside the high wall that surrounds his residence in the Erechavia section of Jerusalem.

The Al Fatah claim, reported from Damascus, referred to the Arabs' Monday night shelling of Eshkol's rural home at Deganiah, near the Sea of Galilee in the Jordan Valley.

The Arabs said they shelled the home because of intelligence reports that Eshkol was there at the time. The Israeli government said he had been in Jerusalem during the shelling.

"His death came today to confirm the truth of our information," said a spokesman for the Al Fatah group in Damascus.

"Al Fatah boasting," replied a spokesman for the Israeli foreign ministry. "It is the most ridiculous and infantile of the Fatah's one thousand and one nights fairy tales."

Physicians disclosed that Eshkol had been ailing since suffering a heart attack last Feb. 3 that had not been announced publicly. He had suffered his first heart attack in 1965, they said.

The Foreign Ministry said Eshkol had been in Jerusalem since suffering the Feb. 3 heart attack, and other Israeli sources pointed out that Eshkol's rural home was still intact to further discredit the Al Fatah claim. Arab commando sources in

coming here in 1921, and Eban as the most likely candidates. Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir was another possibility.

Eshkol, who entered politics when malaria forced him to abandon his lifelong love of farming, was a political manipulator who came to power June 26, 1963, by solving a political crisis that had forced the resignation of his old ally and Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion. Eshkol formed the coalition of parties around his Maipai party that still governs Israel.

HELICOPTER RESCUES 2 NAVY PILOTS

LEMOORE NAVAL AIR STATION (P)—Two stranded Navy pilots were picked off a 12,000-foot plateau in rugged, snow covered Sierra country today by a hovering Air Force helicopter. Both were reported in good condition.

The rescue mission began Tuesday afternoon after Lt. Cmdr. Gary Lubbers of Lemoore and Lt. John McDaniel of Hanford crash landed their A13 Skyraider propeller plane on the plateau 72 miles east of Lemoore.

A paramedic parachuted into the area Tuesday night and said the two suffered only minor bruises.

An Air Force helicopter attempted to land in the area Tuesday night but turned back because of strong winds.

A spokesman at Lemoore Naval Air Station said details on the crash were not immediately available.

Sirhan, Wild in Court, Seeks to Plead Guilty

By JACK V. FOX

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Sirhan B. Sirhan is willing to plead guilty to the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and die in the gas chamber rather than proceed with his present trial.

The 24-year-old Arab exploded in anger in the courtroom Tuesday at presentation of notes in which he wrote that Kennedy "must die like his brother."

Defense attorneys and his mother tried to calm him and counsel Grant B. Cooper said: "He is like a man in a hospital who tells his doctors he wants to leave when they know he cannot possibly do so."

Sirhan stood up and shouted and had to be shoved to his seat twice by bailiffs when the prosecution presented the diaries in which he had scribbled that he favored the overthrow of the United States government, backed Russian and Chinese Communists and wrote over and over again that "RFK must die."

Sirhan told Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker in private chambers that he would rather die "than have people think I am getting a fair trial."

In notebooks dated May 18, 1968, Sirhan wrote in disjointed and unpunctuated phrases:

"Robert Kennedy must be sacrificed for the cause of the exploited people. My determination to eliminate RFK is become the more of an unshakeable obsession."

"RFK must die—RFK must be killed—Robert F.

Kennedy must be assassinated—RFK must be assassinated, assassinated, assassinated."

"Robert F. Kennedy must be assassinated before 5 June 1968."

Kennedy was cut down by gunfire in the pantry of the Ambassador Hotel early last June 5.

Today Sirhan was coming back to court again and the question is whether he is still determined now to plead guilty and throw himself on the decision of the jury as to death or life.

Cooper said that if Sirhan persisted in that plea he would have to fire him and his other attorneys, Emile Zola Berman and Russell Parsons. If Sirhan pleads guilty, Cooper said, there is no possibility of an appeal.

The mother of the tiny Arab,

Mrs. Mary Sirhan, dabbed at her eyes with a handkerchief and said, "They are even trying to use the trash against him." She referred to an envelope found in a garbage can in which Sirhan had written that Kennedy must die like his brother.

Said Cooper: "He doesn't know what he's doing. He has blown his top. We are his lawyers and we are going to protect his constitutional rights."

Another entry in the notebooks said:

"The so-called presidents of the United States of America must be advised of their punishment for their treasonable crimes against the state, against the glorious United States of America will eventually be felled by an assassin's bullet—bullets assassin's bullets today I must come home in a new car today I must plan to drive home a new Mustang tonight must buy a new Mustang."

"Ambassador Goldberg must die die die die die Ambassador Goldberg must die Goldberg must die Goldberg must be eliminated Sirhan is an Arab Sirhan you you you Arab you you Arab."

Should Sirhan demand that he plead guilty to first degree murder in Kennedy's death, Judge Walker would question him and perhaps even call psychiatrists to ascertain whether the defendant really knew what he was doing.

Berman said that Sirhan's explosive nature in the trial went a long way to explain see Sirhan—page 12

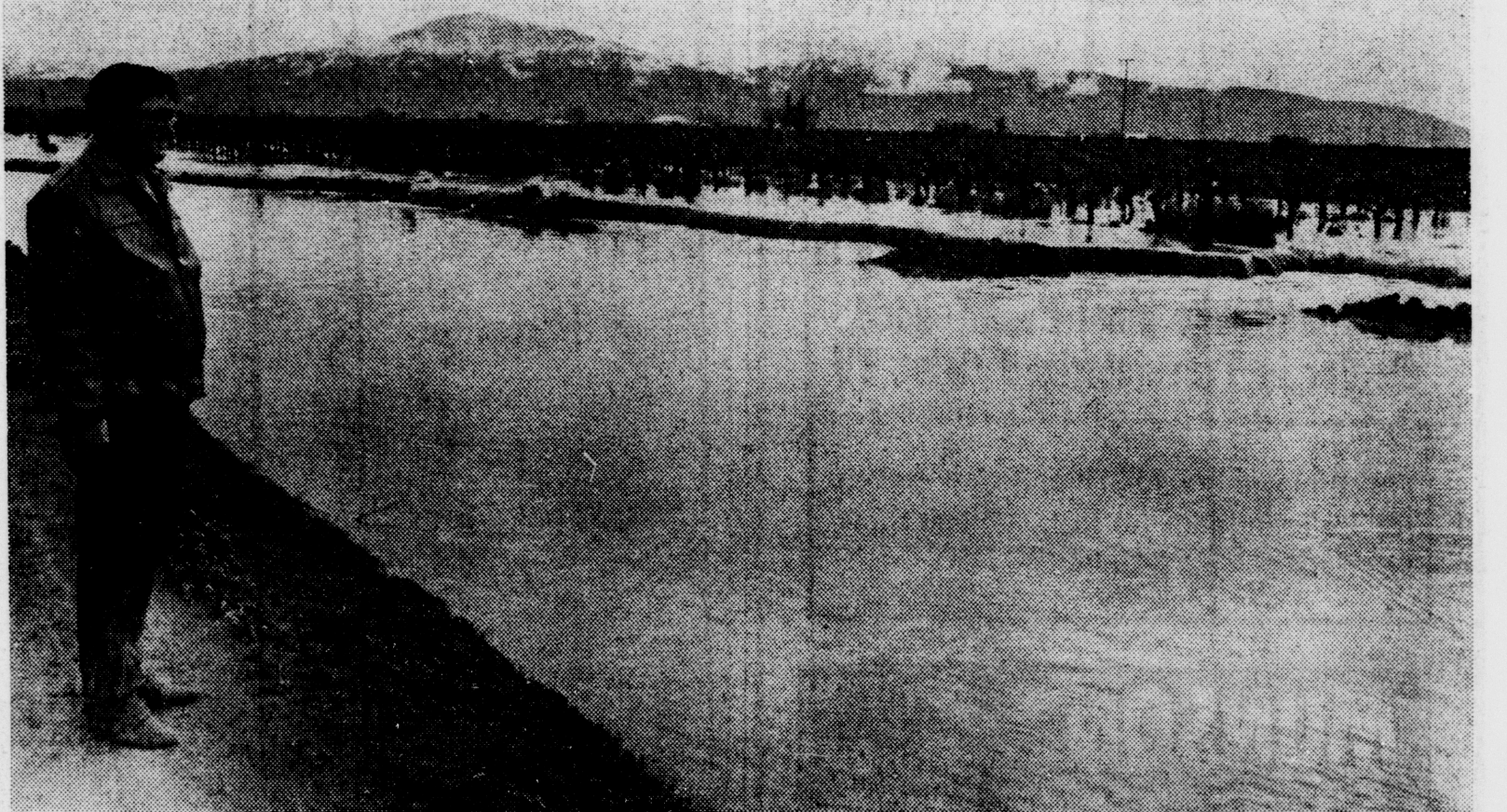
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FLOOD FREES CROCODILES, TWO HIPPOS

PALMDALE (P)—Two hippopotamuses and two crocodiles swam to freedom from a rain-flooded animal compound Tuesday, and the owners said later they don't know where the animals are.

The escape was from Africa, U.S.A., a compound which houses animals used in Hollywood movies. The rural area of ranches and brushland was under water after days of rain and flooding streams. The owners said helicopters would be used to hunt down the animals.



Albert Morris watches as fast-swirling flood waters rip through a canal bank from the Panama Road course,

heading through the Guidera Farms and a vineyard. In past years the canal has filled and spilled water into Lomont.