



ROAD BLOCKS were set up as the officers waited to arrest Vertie Bolyard after a chase to his home. Norvin Anderson, St. Francis police officer, keeps an eye on traffic. Right, a helicopter was brought in by the Highway Patrol. Below, the Special Response Team rode the special vehicle onto the Bolyard property.

Herald staff photos by Casey McCormick

Attempt to issue warrant starts chase; ends in arrest

By Karen Krien

What might have been a fairly simple traffic stop to give a Bird City man a warrant for criminal threat turned into an all-day standoff with the sheriff calling in help from other law enforcement.

Monday morning, Cheyenne County Sheriff Troy Gardner, St. Francis Police Officer Norvin Anderson and Officer Mark Davidson stopped Vertie E. Bolyard, a 69-year-old man, who lives south of Bird City. Mr. Bolyard had been making threats against his estranged wife and the officers were delivering a warrant for his arrest.

The stop was near U.S. 36 and County Road 23. As the officers got out of their car, Mr. Bolyard sped away. The dust was thick and officers were unable to get too close to the white Chevy pickup Mr. Bolyard was driving. Speeds climbed to over 80 miles per hour on the dirt roads as Mr. Bolyard went to his country home 9.5 miles south of Bird City.

Mr. Bolyard has the Country Trader Gun and Pawn Shop on his

grounds which, according to those who have been there, is well stocked with guns and ammunition.

Sheriff Gardner, said he was being very careful and taking things very slowly to keep anyone from being injured.

Officers were called in from the Sherman County Sheriff's office along with the Kansas Highway Patrol and Kansas Bureau of Investigation. It was determined that the Kansas Highway Patrol Special Response Team should also help with the arrest.

The Special Response Team is made up of officers from all over the state. It was the middle of the afternoon before they were able to be there with a special SUV. A black helicopter was also on site. The officers had set up a command center just north of the Bolyard farm.

Listening on the scanner, the officers keeping surveillance on Mr. Bolyard talked about his casual activities around the yard, walking between buildings and mowing the grass. It was as though nothing had

gone on earlier in the day.

About 4 p.m. with the helicopter hovering over the house, the first response team with a highway patrol car following moved in behind a windbreak, dropping off the officers. Both vehicles returned.

After the team had time to look over the situation, the second response team and highway patrol officers moved in. This time, Mr. Bolyard was arrested without incident.

The Highway Patrol Officers remained at Bolyard's home to secure and search the house, gunshop and outbuildings.

The officers were enroute to take Mr. Bolyard to the Sherman County Bastille when Mr. Bolyard began complaining of chest pains and an ambulance was called. Mr. Bolyard was taken to the Goodland Medical Center where he was treated but was not having a heart attack. He was released Tuesday morning.

Sheriff Gardner said Mr. Bolyard's current charges are



Criminal Threat (level 9 felony) warrant arrest and Fleeing and Eluding. He was in Cheyenne County District Court for a first appearance on Tuesday where he charges were upgraded to two counts of criminal threat, level 9 felony; one count of aggravated

assault, level 7 felony; and one count of fleeing or attempting to elude a patrol officer, level 9 felony. His bond was set at \$50,000. He was taken back to Sherman County where he will be until he meets the bond.

Sheriff Gardner said the assis-

tance provided by surrounding law enforcement and the Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Technicians, Bird City Fire Department and Cheyenne County Emergency Management along with the Cheyenne County Road and Bridge was tremendous.

Cheyenne County Fair Parade



Grand Champion float - Good Samaritan Village



First Prize float - Organization Division - Association to Benefit Cheyenne County



First Prize float - Family Division - The Neitzel Family



First Prize float - Business Division - Donna's Gift Palace