

IOWA TORNADO TOLL NOW 16



—Gazette Aerial Photo by John McIvor

Oelwein Devastation

This was one of the scenes of devastation in Oelwein after at least one twister slashed through the community, 60 miles north of Cedar Rapids, shortly before 5 p.m. Wednesday. At least two Oelwein persons died as a result of the storm and many were injured. Damage was estimated at \$14 million. This photo shows Second avenue SE. The brick building at right is on the southwest corner of Second avenue and Third street SE. More photos on pages 8, 9 and Picture Page.

Oelwein, Maynard, Charles City Hit

Iowa News

Tornadoes lashed through Oelwein, Maynard and Charles City Wednesday afternoon, leaving at least 16 dead, hundreds injured and millions of dollars worth of property damaged.

Residents of the communities, still dazed by the awful onslaught, began the sad work of cleaning up soon after the twisters struck, and were quickly aided by hundreds of volunteers, national guardsmen, and law enforcement people from all parts of the state.

The rubble and debris of smashed houses and business buildings in the communities were still being searched for missing persons. The Red Cross said at least one was still unaccounted for in Charles City and two at Oelwein.

Here is how it happened:

\$14 Million Loss at Oelwein How 4 Died At Maynard And Oelwein

By Bill Duffy

Gazette Staff Writer

OELWEIN — Dawn told tragic stories in this storm-struck town Thursday. Early light seemed slow to push back the darkness some 12 hours after tornadoes raced from the southwest to the north across Oelwein.

(Other stories and pictures. Pages 2, 8, 9 and Picture Page.)

Two persons were killed in Oelwein and two others died in Maynard as a result of the storm which hit the area just before 5 p.m. Wednesday. At least 35 persons were injured.

The storm — some persons saw more than one funnel — traveled north up Oelwein's main business street, North and South Frederick, and a parallel street a block east, First avenue SE. In Maynard the west part of town was hard hit.

With all electric power out, Oelwein was a ghost town lit only by red beacons on emergency vehicles when dawn broke Thursday. White splinters of broken trees and jagged outlines of smashed houses and buildings lined streets.

Hughes' Visit

Gov. Harold Hughes visited the storm area at mid-morning Thursday. He met briefly with (Continued: Page 4, Col. 1.)

Tornado Special on KCRG Tonight at 8

A KCRG-TV news special on the extensive damage caused in northeast Iowa Wednesday by a series of tornadoes will be telecast at 8 o'clock tonight. A similar program was shown at 3:30 p.m.

KCRG reporter Bob McNamara and cameraman Ted Beuter flew to Oelwein and Charles City by helicopter before dawn Thursday to record the devastation caused when tornadoes touched down late Wednesday afternoon.

The news special includes their filmed interviews with stunned residents and officials of the two communities as well as color film of the massive destruction of millions of dollars worth of property.

In addition, the news team visited Maynard, Elma and other smaller communities stricken Wednesday. KCRG-TV is channel 9.

The tornadoes which swept Northeast Iowa Wednesday afternoon resulted in two deaths at Oelwein, two deaths at Maynard, and 12 at Charles City. A complete list of the dead and injured in Oelwein and the dead at Charles City can be found on page 4.

Mrs. Donald Damon, 57, was in her apartment above the Ben Franklin store in Oelwein when the storm struck. A brick chimney fell and she was pinned under it. She apparently bled to death.

Albert E. Heaton, 89, Oelwein, escaped storm injury but suffered a fatal heart attack as he helped search for victims after the storm.

Mrs. Louis Ponsor of Maynard was found dead in a farm field not far from her demolished home near Maynard. Cause of her death was not immediately determined.

Glenda Kelly, 4, daughter of Gordon and Geraldine Kelly of Maynard, was dead on arrival at University hospitals in Iowa City.

Kelly found his wife and baby lying unconscious in the yard of their leveled home in Maynard. Kelly, who was at work a block away, had run home. The child was rushed to University hospitals. Mrs. Kelly is in critical condition at a Waterloo hospital. The Kellys have three other children. Mr. Kelly was treated at an Oelwein hospital and released.

The Damon family had moved into the apartment on South Frederick just a week ago. Grace Damon is survived by her husband, Donald; three sons; a daughter and her 93-year-old mother, Minnie Morrison, who lives in an Oelwein nursing home.

2,000 Houses Destroyed at Charles City

From Gazette Leased Wire

CHARLES CITY — Twelve persons were dead and 60 percent of the city was damaged in the wake of a tornado which tore through this northern Iowa city Wednesday afternoon.

Ninety business places were reported wrecked or seriously damaged; 2,000 houses were destroyed in a 105-square block area, and about 367 persons were injured.

Rescue workers digging (Continued: Page 4, Col. 6.)

Today's Index

Comics	40
Courthouse	3
Crossword	40
Daily Record	3
Deaths	3
Editorial Features	6
Farm	22
Financial	41
Marion	18
Movies	36-38
Society	32-35
Sports	25-31
State	8, 9
Television	29
Want Ads	42-47

562 GI Combat Dead In Week; Highest Yet

SAIGON (AP) — North Vietnamese launched strong attacks Thursday north of Saigon and in the central highlands as the U.S. command announced that more Americans were killed in combat last week than in any previous week of the Vietnam war.

It said 562 Americans were killed, 19 more than the previous record in the week of Feb. 11-17.

A total of 2,225 Americans were wounded last week, a figure that has exceeded several times during the war. Of that total, 1,153 required hospitalization.

A U.S. spokesman said much of the death toll resulted from heavy action in the northernmost provinces, where marines fought several battles last week around Dong Ha. The week also saw hard fighting in and around Saigon.

Keep Up Pressure

Allied forces reported nearly 400 reds killed Wednesday in

Suspension of Auto Workers

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The AFL-CIO suspended the 1.3-million-member United Auto Workers union from the labor organization Thursday, climaxing a long feud between George Meany and Walter Reuther.

Officially, Reuther's union, biggest AFL-CIO affiliate, was suspended for refusal to pay dues. But in fact the break was seen as complete with the UAW deliberately forcing the showdown.

Meany as AFL head and Reuther as CIO head joined forces 12 years ago to form the combined federation, with Meany becoming president and Reuther vice-president.

Throughout their marriage of convenience they have been at odds.

Tom Darling, 21, Drowns in Cedar Near Palisades

Cedar Rapids News—

Tom Darling, 21, of 1619 Fifth avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, was drowned at Palisades-Kepler state park, just above the dam, Wednesday about 4:30 p.m.

A sheriff's deputy said that the body was recovered by dragging about 5:30 p.m. in six feet of water.

Darling was swimming with two other youths, Gerald Wieser and John Johnson, both of the same address.

The three reportedly had swum across the Cedar river and were swimming back when Darling went under. He was the first drowning victim in Linn county this year.

He is survived by a brother, Earl Swift, and a sister, Joan Chambers, both of Dubuque, and his parents, of near Dubuque.

Labor Party To Back Pay Curbs

LONDON (AP) — The Labor party's members in the House of Commons voted 205-42 Wednesday night to support the government's wage restraint measures in spite of a growing strike threat from the party's trade union supporters.

69 Die in Storms; 43 in Arkansas

United Press International

A siege of tornadoes, one of the heaviest on record, struck a wide section of the nation's midlands Wednesday, leaving 69 persons dead and hundreds injured.

The Weather Bureau at Chicago said 67 tornadoes were reported during the 24 hours ending at 12:01 a.m. Thursday. "This is one of the heaviest, if not the heaviest incidence of tornadoes ever recorded," a Weather Bureau spokesman said.

Damage estimates ranged into the millions of dollars and state and community officials said it would take days to clean up the debris left by the twisters. National guard troops, called out soon after the first tornado reports were received, assisted in the clean-up operations.

Tornadoes were reported in 11 states: Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

146 Incidents

The severe storm warning center at Kansas City said throughout the nation there were 146 incidents of severe weather, such as hail, damaging winds and tornadoes.

At least 69 were known dead. Forty-three were killed in Arkansas and 500 injured. At

least 16 died in Iowa. Eight were killed in Illinois, one in Indiana and one in Nebraska — a youth who drowned while swimming when a twister struck near Omaha.

Six towns in northern Arkansas were ravaged. A twister roared up Arkansas route 39 into Jonesboro, leveling almost every house along the highway and tumbling cars like toys, wrapping them around trees and poles. Some of the Jonesboro area's 34 dead were found in their cars.

Five persons also died at Oil Trough, three at Henderson and one at Tuckerman, Ark.

Gasoline Loosed

At Jonesboro, the tornado smashed the McDaniel Oil Co., one mile southwest of town, sundering its gasoline drums and spewing 20,000 gallons of high-test gasoline into the screaming winds.

Manila, near the Mississippi river, and Russell, Ark., also were hit.

Today's Chuckle

The international situation is becoming so complicated that now our diplomats are being thrown out of countries we never even heard of before.

Four persons died at Wapella, Ill. At Freeburg, Ill., 20 miles southeast of St. Louis, four were known dead and 51 injured.

Train Lifted

A tornado lifted box cars of a Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad freight train off the tracks near Milford, Ill. The town of Natrona, Ill., reported its grain elevator, its school and the homes of its 50 residents were destroyed, but there were no injuries.

Three-foot-high waves in Carter Lake near Omaha, Neb., swamped one youth swimming when winds struck. He drowned. Three private airplanes were badly damaged by hail whipped through high winds.

Two tornadoes touched down at Wooster, Ohio. A damaging hail, rain and windstorm hit Cleveland, knocking out power to 4,000 homes on the west side. At least two tornadoes skipped through southern Minnesota where several area farms had buildings ripped apart.

Church Burned

Lighting touched off a fire which destroyed a church 30 miles west of Eau Claire, Wis., as thunderstorms dropped hail and heavy rains through high winds.

Early Thursday, injuries and (Continued: Page 3, Col. 2.)

Six Miners, Trapped 10 Days, Rescued; Hadn't Eaten for Week

HOMINY FALLS W. Va. (UPI) — Six miners given up for dead were found alive Thursday deep in a coal mine where they were trapped 10 days ago by a "river of water."

They had not eaten for seven days, they said.

They survived since Wednesday night a week ago only on dirty mine water, which they drank after "skimming off the scum."

Only "stern discipline kept

us alive," Edward Scarbro, 38, said.

All said their rescue by fellow miners who refused to give up the search was "God's doing... a miracle of God's."

Fifteen trapped in another section of the mine were rescued Saturday.

Four other miners were found dead. Apparently drowned when millions of gallons of water broke through from an adjoining abandoned mine May 6.

Five of the six men rescued Thursday, told of their experience from their beds at a hospital where all six were pronounced "in good physical shape." The sixth, Jennings Lilly, 30, was unable to because of an intestinal ailment.

"I was a sinner when I went into the mine, but I came out a Christian," Joseph Fitzwater, 33, said. "Each day we grew weaker but we kept our heads. We survived through the grace of God."

Eugene Martin, 34, said they managed to salvage only three lunch buckets when "the water came in a quick roar... like a swollen river" after a cutting team broke into the water-filled abandoned mine, which their maps showed to be 350 feet from their working area.

The food in one of the buckets was soaked and inedible, and was discarded.

"The other two buckets had six sandwiches, and that's all we had between us. By last

Wednesday night it was all gone. We have God to thank for everything. I spent much of my time praying," Martin said.

Larry Lynch, 28, a part-time minister, said they held a "prayer session every day."

"If the Lord has ever performed a miracle, let Him do it now," Lynch said he told his comrades after they were trapped.

Martin said Lynch was "the only true Christian. He helped us a lot. We spent much of our

time praying and he was the one to lead us."

Lynch said that immediately after the water trapped them in a shaft 4,600 feet from the mine entrance they began building a barricade, 100 feet long and 34 inches high, with roof timbers and canvas.

They remained behind it and on only two occasions did they attempt to see if they could make their way out of the mine. The first time was the day they were trapped and the (Continued: Page 3, Col. 3.)