In Tornado's Wake

From the Ground

Workmen began clearing debris—all that was left of the Kuhn blacksmith shop in Oelwein Thursday—as clean-up work got under way following Wednesday afternoon's devastating tornado. The wind-lashed Presbyterian church is shown across East Charles street at the rear. Oelwein began the long, hard job of coming back after the twister caused about $14 million damage in the community.

IOWA Gov. Harold Hughes (photo at right) listened intently Thursday morning as national guardsmen explained Oelwein's plight in the wake of tornadoes. Hughes visited Oelwein and Charles City. Picture was taken at Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. offices, where city officials, national guard and highway patrol set up emergency offices.

In photo below, Myers-Lincoln Hardware store at First avenue and First street SE, Oelwein, collapsed in Wednesday's storm at Oelwein. National guardsmen were spotted throughout the business district as cleanup work started.

From the Air

This is how a section of downtown Oelwein looked Thursday morning, after a tornado slashed northward through the community Wednesday afternoon. This view from the ground is shown in the photo at left. The ruins of the blacksmith shop are shown at near center left with the Presbyterian church at an angle across the street. Oelwein's water and sewage systems were functioning Thursday and some telephone service had been restored. Hundreds of homes and business places were damaged, with many destroyed, and damage was estimated at $14 million. Two deaths in Oelwein were blamed on the storm.

AMONG the first places to be struck by Wednesday evening's twisters at Oelwein were the Lutheran Mobile Home Court, near top right of picture, and the Valley Mobile Home Sales, lower left part of picture. Picture looks southward, with highway 150 at the right and railroad tracks at upper left. Witnesses said two and possibly three funnels dipped down here before beginning their destructive pass northward through the city.

FURNISHING of a new, $150,000 Lutheran church in Maynard was completed Tuesday when the new altar arrived. Wednesday evening, a tornado careened through town and in a few seconds' time left the church a heap of bricks. First services were to be held in the church Sunday. The old St. Paul's Lutheran church was too heavily damaged to be used, and the parsonage was nearly destroyed. The tornado leveled the west half of Maynard, a community of 600.

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