

**Storm Damage At Oelwein, Charles City**

Destruction wrought by two tornadoes in northeast Iowa Wednesday night is evident in downtown sections of Oelwein (right) and Charles City. The two tornadoes left more than a dozen people dead, hundreds injured and millions of dollars in destruction.

(AP Wirephotos)



**Town Will Come Back, Says Mayor**

OELWEIN (AP)—This town will come back, said determined Mayor Samuel Mazziotti as Thursday dawned on the rubble of his tornado-ravaged community.

The mayor called a meeting of all business owners to discuss ways of reopening damaged stores, and he asked federal officials for financial aid.

"I'm going to urge all businessmen to rebuild," he said.

The roar of heavy machinery broke the quiet of the early dawn as workers began clearing fallen trees and wreckage of homes and business establishments.

Scores of volunteer workers poured into the community. They faced a gigantic task.

It was fireman Wallace Rundle who pushed the city's civil defense siren button at the fire station Wednesday after hearing residents scream "Tornado! Tornado!"

"The siren went about 15 seconds before the electricity went off," said Rundle. "Then all hell broke loose."

The twister whipped straight through the city, leaving death, injuries and millions of dollars of property damage in its wake.

Another fireman, Leo Reiser was in the bath tub when the tornado hit. He thought it was the daily train coming into town.

"But by the time I got the soap out of my eyes, the lights were out and this roar was continuing," he said.

One businessman estimated that 90 per cent of the buildings in the downtown area suffered severe damage, and many structures were leveled.

"It looks like we've been bombed," he sighed.

The injured crammed into Mercy Hospital. Doctors were forced to treat patients by the light of flashlights since the entire city was darkened by a power failure.

The homeless spent the night in churches, school buildings and the homes of friends and relatives who escaped the tornado's onslaught.

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**Keep Faith, Belmond Mayor Tells Victims**

BELMOND (AP)—The former mayor of Belmond, which was ravaged by a tornado 19 months ago, says Charles City and Oelwein can be rebuilt if their residents keep the faith.

"People will be vomiting and walking around with glassy eyes for two days," said Dr. Robert Misner. "Those two days are the toughest any town can have."

"But no matter how hopeless it looks, no matter the human hurt, they can whip it. Right now, their first job is to keep faith with each other and in God; then start digging people out. Help's on the way."

Six persons were killed and 172 were injured in the Oct. 14, 1966, Belmond tornado. Most of the town has been rebuilt.



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