

The Oelwein Daily Register.

VOL. 61—NO. 166

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1968

Per Copy 10c

Oelwein, Iowa 50662

View Of A Section Of Northeast Oelwein, Second Avenue



NORTHEAST OELWEIN DESTRUCTION FROM THE AIR—National Guard Helicopter pilot Robert Carpenter flew over the city of Oelwein yesterday to obtain photos of the area while his family worked long hours digging out what was left of his home in Charles City. Second and Third Avenues, running from bottom to top of picture, up to Eighth St., NE, are similar in amount of destroyed property to that throughout the city, with the exception of the majority of the West Side. The total amount of damage has not been estimated and probably will not be determined for quite sometime. Businesses as well as homes were demolished in the northeast section of the city before the twin twister headed for the town of Maynard.

EDITORIAL

Reconstruction, Phase One Crisis To Progress

The City of Oelwein has rebounded from its worst shock in history and is already rolling to an improved city . . . "A New Union."

Teamwork in all areas of the reconstruction has pushed this northeast Iowa community ahead with "amazing progress" since the killer tornado struck here Wednesday at 4:57 p.m.

City officials, law enforcement organizations, Red Cross, the National Guard and thousands of volunteers have joined efforts to push away the rubble and sweep it clean. New buildings are being planned. Oelwein's downtown business section has already replaced much of the broken glass and is ready to re-open whenever possible.

Oelwein's courage and optimism in the face of disaster has been terrific.

The city is faced with the remainder of a giant clean-up problem and this weekend will be the key to its eventual success. City officials have urged a complete sealing off of the city to all potential sightseers in order to keep the work going forward.

Law enforcement officials have expressed happiness with the cooperation of residents regarding the strict evening curfews. "It has been gratifying to see the community accept these rules and understand why they're so important in keeping everything in order," commented one official.

Residents who have been forced from their homes due to near or complete damage to buildings have been asked to place signs on their property noting where the owners and families may be located. Red Cross officials have been swamped at times with relatives and close friends trying to locate residents who have been pushed out of their homes.

The residents of the communities of Oelwein, Maynard and northeast Iowa express their sympathy to families who suffered tragic loss of lives in the violent storm.

But from darkness comes daylight and a faithful ray of light in tomorrow. Oelwein is looking ahead: planning, building, working for a greater tomorrow.

Late Bulletins

Employment Office

Iowa Employment Service Manager Carl Bradshaw said today that the office is closed because of the demolished City Hall building. A temporary office will be opened Monday morning in the Assembly Room at City Library until further notice.

Leave Cars Home

Chief of Police James Fortsch asks downtown residents to leave their cars at home if they have to come downtown. The town is being jammed unnecessarily with cars owned by persons living only blocks away and truck routes are being hindered.

County Extension officials announced early today that farmers in the tornado stricken area should think before making any repairs. The first item to be considered should be to clean any hay off of fields; plan improvements before planning repairs, and to seek help of County Extension officials at the Fayette office. Work around the farm, first, and on the farmstead last, Mel Wangness stated. Ames Extension officials are working throughout the area with Wangness and state they will help farmers as much as they can at this time.

National Guard To Seal Off City Area

by Mike Mahoney
Register Managing Editor

A tight ring of security will be applied around Oelwein's city limits this weekend to keep away thousands of sightseers.

The National Guard, Iowa Highway Patrol, and Oelwein Police will block off all traffic coming into Oelwein.

Lt. Stan Kuch of the Iowa Highway Patrol, "We are going to stop all traffic coming into the city. Parking lots will be established on the edge of the city. Workers and emergency crews will be bused into the city proper from the parking lots."

Kuch also urged citizens who live in the surrounding area and who come to Oelwein for church service are asked to make some other arrangements for this Sunday.

City officials and law enforcement representatives met for two hours Friday night to map out plans for the weekend and hear reports of progress from utilities and clean-up crews.

The National Guard has added 54 men to its group for the week-

end work. Forty-six highway patrolmen were on duty late Friday night and Saturday morning.

Red Cross officials have been swamped with around the clock work details in two centers, the Presbyterian church and Sacred Heart church. Numerous missing persons have been located and telegrams have been delivered and returned.

The Oelwein Jaycees are supplying 20 auxiliary policemen to handle cars in the exterior parking lots for the weekend.

Truck traffic has been re-routed again to allow city businessmen to continue reshaping their establishments. Trucks will be kept off the downtown area on Frederick.

Trucks will go east on East Charles to 3rd Ave. S.E., south to 7th St. S.E., west to First Ave. S.W., south to 10th St. and out to the dump.

Anyone parking cars on the truck route will have them towed away according to police.

The curfew will be in effect once again, beginning at 7 p.m. and put into entire operation at 9 p.m.

Firemen were called to only two minor brush fires. City officials request residents not to burn debris on their property because of the potential danger.

Congressman John C. Culver met with city councilmen and Mayor Samuel Mazziotti Saturday morning to investigate damage. Culver was expected to tour the city by car before his visit ends. City officials are straining to receive all the state and federal aid possible.

Culver received word of the tornado damage when he arrived in Malta on Thursday to participate in a weekend Anglo-American Parliamentary Conference sponsored by private foundations in the United States and England. He departed Malta on the first available return flight.

He plans to hold a news conference at 6 p.m. this evening at the telephone office operations center.

This writer benefited from an air tour via helicopter Friday afternoon and was able to get an overhead view of the entire damaged area. The devastation starts at the southern end near the trailer courts and doesn't end until the northern most end of the city limits.

By observation of our own and after talking with others who have had similar chances to view the city from the air, the area on Second Ave. NE,

from Second St. north to the city limits, is probably the worst overall section of the city. Hardly a house was spared extensive damage and many are complete losses.

It was a direct line of disaster from the south to the north and apparently did not lift or skip over one single block in the line that the storm followed.

Carpenter, who was the helicopter pilot, is from Charles City. Carpenter, who works for the forestry division, was in his basement in Charles City Wednesday night when a tornado struck that area.

His home was just a block away from where the damage started in that community.

He has been on air duty over both cities since the disasters hit northeast Iowa.



MAYNARD DEMOLISHED—The town of Maynard was, proportionately, as demolished as Oelwein or Charles City Wednesday, May 15, when the twin twister struck northeast Iowa and left in its path 18 residents dead and over \$35-million in real estate lost. In the above photo the twin twister struck northeast Iowa and left in its path 18 residents dead and over \$35-million in real estate lost. In the above photo shot by City Editor Earl Davis through the use of a National Guard helicopter, Iowa 150 runs along the top of the photo. At right the old St. Paul's Lutheran church bell tower remains standing, but just to the left the wall with windows is what remains of the new St. Paul's set to hold its first service Sunday. All business (top) across Iowa 150 were demolished, as well (lower left) as the cattle yards and Maynard Coop. The structure at lower right is what is left of a line of homes destroyed toward the north, including homes of Glenda Kelly, 3, and Mrs. Louis Ponsar who died in the devastation.