Charles City Bounces Back

by Mark Brown
Associated Press Writer

CHARLES CITY (AP) — Residents of Charles City and neighboring Oelwein, struck what looked like a knockout blow by twin tornadoes, are bouncing back quickly to rebuild their shattered lives.

Shaking off the awesome destruction that wrecked their communities only three days ago, they are pushing plans to rebuild.

"This is too solid a community to be permanently disrupted," said Floyd County Sheriff L. L. Lane, watching from his office window as volunteers picked up the rubble that remains of most of this town of 10,000. "The town will pitch in, start repairing and replacing."

"This town will come back," declared Oelwein Mayor Sam Mazziotti. "I'm going to urge all businessmen to rebuild."

"Things are looking a lot better," said John Sebern, Charles City junior high school teacher, former City Council member and Red Cross disaster director for the county.

Sebern was one of the few who could see, even by the weekend, a bright spot in the disaster that left 17 dead, more than 600 injured and property damage estimated at nearly $40 million.

He commented that the Charles City tornado had done "a lot of what urban renewal would have done." The City Council had rejected an urban renewal plan only two weeks before the twister hit.

The tornadoes pounced out of sullen clouds late Wednesday afternoon. They knocked out electric power and left a darkness over the two communities—a darkness of more kinds than one.

The statistics can't impart the tragedy of the end of a man's hopes and dreams, smashed in five minutes.

"A guy works all his life to get a home paid for and just that quick she's gone," said Gordon Mead, of Charles City.

"All I've got is what I've got on my back," said 77-year old H. E. Gowin, one of 30 residents of the St. Charles Hotel in Charles City. They were left homeless when the tornado cut a swath through the middle of town.

He, like others, sat in the Red Cross headquarters in St. John's Lutheran Church while an eerie black silence settled over the town Wednesday night.

A malevolent driving rain and chill winds added to the darkness invading survivors' minds. National Guard sentries walked in pairs along the business district, dodging piles of rubble.

Inside the headquarters, four survivors sat staring bankly ahead. "They look like refugees from a war," whispered a Red Cross nurse. A tiny terrier belonging to one of them played around their feet, becoming a favorite with the volunteers.

At 5 a.m. Thursday the black sky became grey and teams went out to assess the damage, searching for possible victims buried under collapsed buildings.

The ghost like ruins "look like buildings bombed out in the war," murmured Lt. Col. Francis Kelly, head of the National Guard troops.

The rain continued off and on Thursday. But the silence gave way to the buzz of chain saws as crews chewed up fallen trees into manageable pieces. The darkness of the mind began to lift.

Church Services Interrupted Here

Oelwein ministers have made plans for some services on Sunday, but they have also asked that people come as they are, wear your work clothes and as one minister put it, "Don't worry about shaving, just look at me, I will soon be the only hippy minister in town."

Ministers from the Methodist, Presbyterian and Christian churches have announced there will be no regular services Sunday. Two joint Protestant services will be held at Zion American Lutheran church Sunday evening at 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

The Rev. Melvin Roy of the First Baptist church announced services in Brandt Funeral Home at 10:15 a.m. Sunday.

The Zion American Lutheran church will hold services as usual in the church at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. according to the Rev. L. H. Streich.

Mail Service Returns

Postal service is in and out today; mail has been shipped in and delivered and everything is operating under 'normal' conditions. Mailmen are delivering the backlog of three day's mail and will continue to work until everything is caught up and delivered.

Start Fund In Maynard

MAYNARD — A Tornado Fund has been started at the Maynard Savings Bank for the community of Maynard.

Bank officials report $2,000 was already on hand by 9 a.m. today (Saturday).

Anyone wishing to send money may mail it to the bank administrator at Maynard.

Interstate Work Progressing

Interstate Power Company Manager, Phil Suchy, said Saturday that work is progressing on restoring service to all areas of Oelwein. However, some residents are calling the power company making requests for individual power to homes.

Interstate will restore lines but a private electrical unit must make the repairs in the homes and business houses. All people who need electrical repairs are asked to call Disaster Headquarters who will in turn pass the word on to the proper repair unit.

Work is continuing in all areas and primary lines should be in today. Interstate Power has more than 150 men working at this time and have already started work in the residential areas that were hardest hit by the twister.

They are also in the process of picking up the remainder of the uptown area where service can be made. Some of the buildings are damaged to the extent that electrical service can not be made.

Repairmen are making a check of the residential area to find homes without service. There are cases where one house in a cluster will be without service and this will be taken care of as soon as possible.

Masses Moved To SH Gymnasium

Masses will be held in the gymnasium at Sacred Heart Sunday according to the Rev. Fidelis Kaufmann, pastor. The masses will be held at the regular Sunday times.

Mrs. Kelly Is Still Serious

Allen Memorial Hospital authorities in Waterloo listed the condition of Mrs. Gordon (Geraldine) Kelly as still serious today (Saturday). Mrs. Kelly, injured in the tornado which claimed the life of her four-year-old daughter, Glenda, Wednesday at Maynard, is still in the intensive care unit.

The other Kelly children are reported in good condition at Sumner Hospital. The condition of Mrs. Viola Zacharias, who has been at Mercy Hospital, Oelwein, was changed to good today. Also listed in good condition were Mrs. Lloyd Major, Oelwein, Mrs. Anna Steege, Maynard who are at Allen hospital.

All other hospitalized victims were listed as good on today's reports.

The condition of Mrs. Lucille Taylor, Maynard, and Mrs. John Phillips, Oelwein at People's Memorial Hospital, Independence, were changed to good while the Phillips by and LaVern Warthan, Oelwein, remain fair.

Commencement Set For UNI

CEDAR FALLS — Commencement Week activities at the University of Northern Iowa have been scheduled for May 26 through May 31, according to Dr. Cecil K. Phillips, professor of teaching and commencement chairman at UNI.

Activities will get underway with an alumni-faculty reunion luncheon that will be held at 12:30 p. m. Sunday, May 26, in the Commons.

Spring baccalaureate will be held at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, May 26, in the Commons.

A reception for graduates and faculty is scheduled from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, May 31, at the homes of President J. W. Maucker and Vice President William C. Lang.

Commencement exercises will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 31, on O. R. Latham Field. UNI President J. W. Maucker will address the graduates. In case of rain, the ceremony will be held at McElroy Auditorium in Waterloo.

FHA Announces Emergency Loan Program, 3%

WEST UNION — Emergency loan assistance, through the Farmers Home Administration, is available for Fayette County farmers who have had tornado damage, according to James D. Rogers, FHA Supervisor for Fayette County. The County was designated earlier in the year because of losses to crops caused by weather conditions last year, and this designation continues, presently due to the tornado damage.

These Emergency loans, which can be made by the Farmers Home Administration in Fayette County, bear 3 percent interest and can be made to those farmers who are unable to obtain the credit required to continue their normal orperations from regular sources.

The Agency is also taking applications from residents of Maynard, who suffered tornado damage to their homes and need to rebuild or repair their property. The interest rate will be 3 percent and repayment up to 33 years. These loans will be available to families who cannot obtain the credit they need from regular sources and have losses not covered by insurance.

The Fayette County FHA office is located in the Farm Credit Building in West Union. Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

Iowa Electric Manager Says 'Things Normal'

William Hemphill, manager of Iowa Electric Light and Power Company, reported early today that service for both Oelwein and Maynard are back to normal with the exception of being a little behind on service calls.

"All outside help has been sent home with the exception of repair crews from the Mount Vernon area," Hemphill said.

"Plant loss would amount to about $50,000 at the Third Street, SE, location, but we're really in good shape—both here and at Maynard," Hemphill added.

BUSINESS NEWS

In the effort to speed payment of insurance claims in this emergency, The Travelers Ins. Co. has put into effect a special disaster plan designed to provide rapid service to its policyholders in the Oelwein area.

Any policyholder of the Travelers who has suffered a loss is urged to contact his agent as soon as possible. In the event he is unable to reach the agent, it is suggested the insured telephone claim headquarters of The Travelers Ins. Co. 283-5503.

It was further noted by Bob Deley, Claim Mgr. that if in the present emergency a Traveler policy holder finds it impossible to make his premium payments on time, policies will remain in force for a reasonable time.

To help speed up claim service, The Travelers has set up a disaster office at 10½ South Frederick, with extra phones being manned by company personnel.

Mrs. Bradley Will Head Faculty Professional Club

FAYETTE — Mrs. Lois Bradley will head the Faculty Professional Club at Upper Iowa College during the 1968-69 academic year, it was announced today by Dr. Eugene E. Garbee, U.I.C. president.

Mrs. Bradley, assistant professor of psychology, succeeds Dr. Paul Pickett, professor of education, as president of the organization.

Other officers elected for the coming year are:

Dr. David Pippert, assistant professor of chemistry, vice president.

James Marik, assistant in the business office and instructor in the Business Administration Department, secretary.

Marvin Good, instructor in business education, treasurer.

The Faculty Professional Club is composed of all faculty and administrative members of Upper Iowa. They sponsor the annual Faculty Seminar each fall, and conduct various study programs relating to the cirriculum at the College.

Search On For WWII Members Of Thunderbird

DAYTON, Ohio—The 83rd Infantry Division, the famed THUNDERBOLT DIVISION of World War II, is conducting the greatest manhunt in history. They are seeking some 25,000 of their former members. That is the number of men on their roster who have not been contacted since the end of the war. These men are scattered all over the nation.

At the close of the war, an 83rd Infantry Division Association was formed and an annual reunion has been held every year. This year the 22nd annual conclave will be staged in Philadelphia, Pa., during August.

All former members of the old 83rd are urged to contact the national secretary, Larry Redmond, 132 Rockwood Drive Havertown, Pa., 19083.

WESTGATE BRIEFS

Mr. and Mrs. Orville Holtz, Jerry, Jeff and Gene were Sunday dinner and supper guests in the Marvin Holtz home. Mrs. Walter Fette, Sue, Jan and Jay were afternoon visitors.

Phone Service To Be Completed By Friday, Link

Northwestern Bell Telephone Company Manager Robert O. Link informed Register newsmen that telephone repair crews from Oelwein, Davenport, Burlington, and Decorah will begin residential service work early Sunday morning on the more than 2,500 phones knocked out by the tornado.

Some 150 repairmen will begin to rebuild, repair and replace parts and entire units and Link expects to be in real good shape by Friday.

"The men will work night and day, or as long as they can stand up to complete this task," Link said.

Time is the only thing holding progression up Link told the newsmen, and added that there is sufficient equipment to get the operation going, and more coming.

Oelwein Daily Register's only line is 283-2146 at this time.

Brant Funeral Home
221 NORTH FREDERICK AVE. OELWEIN
PHONE 283-4922

Hometown Assistance

When bereavement occurs far away, you can save yourself needless confusion and expense by turning to your friends and neighbors at Brant Funeral Home.

MONDAY thru THURSDAY 8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
FRIDAY 8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
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