

This is the story of The Wisconsin State Journal's public service bureau, which galvanized into action today to save six lives.

Shortly after 9 a. m., the telephone rang at the Madison Municipal airport. Capt. Howard Morey, the manager, was ill, so R. F. Kitchingman took the call.

"There are half a dozen men stranded on an island in the Mississippi river near Ferryville," a voice said. "Can you fly over and save them?"

The State Journal immediately proffered its complete emergency organization to prepare for the mercy trip.

# State Journal Speeds to Hunters' Rescue

A 50-mile-an-hour gale was blowing directly into the airport hangar, so The Journal had to get 15 men to help move the 500-horsepower airplane into the open.

The State Journal got them. Those men had been on the island since Monday. They would be cold, perhaps frozen in near-zero temperatures. They needed heat.

We got coke briquets—light and compact — and lighting fluid, and matches. They went together in handy 10-pound sacks.

The men would be hungry, too.

We sent messengers to food stores, to get bread, butter, pork and beans, meat, soup, and 20 chocolate bars.

In employes' cars and in a State Journal truck, the men and food and fuel raced to the airport.

Preparations which ordinarily would take hours had been condensed even more than that canned meat.

The plan was to fly over the otherwise inaccessible island and drop this aid to the marooned men.

"But we've just got word they were rescued, somehow or other," Kitchingman cried as the Journal's men entered his office.

Somehow or other — and our aid, after all, was not needed.

But The State Journal was ready. And we will stay ready, too—those supplies are being saved for any future emergencies.

That's Wisconsin State Journal public service for you — and it can't be matched!

**Weather**

Partly cloudy tonight and Wednesday. Colder tonight. Minimum near zero. Fresh west winds.

# The Wisconsin State Journal

A fact-finding Newspaper

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Lake Mendota, Lake Wisconsin, Mississippi Trap Score; 4 Missing

# Dozens of Hunters Rescued, Two Die

Wind 'Blows the Top' Off Mendota's Waves

## Gale, Snow Maroon 19 From City Area



Monday's high wind literally "blew off the tops" of mammoth waves that rolled on Lake Mendota, sending spray high into the air to freeze on trees and transform the lake-shore into a "fairy forest." Mist hid the lake from view late Monday and early today, but the rising sun was greeted by a dazzling reflection. The State Journal camera caught this view in the cove near the Louis Hobbins home in Fuller's Woods.

Rescue parties brought aid to a score of Madison area duck hunters today, after Monday's sudden storm had left many of them marooned on lonely, wind-swept, islands in Lake Wisconsin, Lake Mendota, and the Mississippi river.

Help came too late, for two Janesville men who were frozen to death and two Madison youths who were taken to a hospital for treatment for exposure. Four other hunters including Harold Steffanson, Dodgeville, were reported missing.

Other hunters suffered only from devastation cold and high winds, which caused exhaustion.

**THE DEAD:**  
**Kenneth MacFarlane**, 35 Janesville, a pheasant farm operator.  
**Norman Schiefelbein**, 25, Janesville, welfare department case-worker.

**THE INJURED:**  
**John Bailey**, 525 Dunning st., frozen feet and hands.  
**William Scheer**, 2209 Oakridge ave., frozen feet.

In Lake Wisconsin, about 30 miles northwest of Madison, and a half mile out from Camp Perry, eight men were saved after 22 hours of beating back a 45-mile-an-hour gale and surviving a sleepless night during which they

the town hall, and officials examined him there."

Coroner Amos Sutton, Prairie du Chien, discovered through some of his papers that MacFarlane operated a pheasant farm about six miles from Janesville.

Schiefelbein's body was not immediately found, but authorities said he had been hunting with MacFarlane.

The two injured youths, Bailey and Scheer, both attended East high school. They were treated first at Ferryville in a tavern, Strang said, and later were to be taken to a La Crosse hospital.

The eight men rescued from Lake Wisconsin owed their lives to the tenacious, 13-hour fight which Columbia County Sheriff H. N. Hibner and his force of six men waged all night.

One of the rescuers who helped Sheriff Hibner and the Madison police was "Nick" Deonovich, former university varsity wrestler and boxer.

He was enrolled in school this fall, but withdrew about two weeks ago.

In four groups of two each, they had gone to Camp Perry early Monday morning, to rent boats from Bert Spalding, caretaker and concessionaire at the camp.

The weather was good then—good for ducks and duck hunting, for it was just cool, with some rain, and not too much wind.

**ABOUT NOON, JUST AS IT DID IN MADISON, THE WIND BLEW UP A GALE OVER THE WISCONSIN RIVER.**

As Walter Bernard, the Waukegan federal employe, described it today, "we thought the storm would die down pretty soon, so we never thought about it twice."

"We had been shooting a lot, but getting no ducks because they all fell in the river too far away," Bernard explained. "Then, when the wind never died down, we began to get worried."

Frank Korn, 32 of 1147 E. Midway st., had rowed ashore, just before noon, as the storm started. He finally came to Madison, obtained a 16-foot rowboat from the conservation department, and had the Madison police department, with Officers Lester Shore and Richard Gruber in charge, take the boat to the Camp Perry landing.

As soon as there was light today, the conservation rowboat with another large one obtained at the camp, set out for the island.

With all the men in them, the rowboats started back. One boat was too full for the choppy waters, though, and turned back. Bernard said he curled up beneath the boat.

Sullivan and Sprengel set out from their island, near the one on which the eight men were marooned, shortly before dusk Monday.

"We had to be back to work today," Sullivan explained. "There just wasn't anything else to do, so we started out."

"The boat took some water, but we didn't have many bad minutes."

Batz and Brownie, his dog, finally were brought to shore at 11:10 a. m. today, after his rescuers had to equip the Isbell, the University of Wisconsin life-saving boat, for service. The boat had been stored on rafters for the winter.

Batz had rowed out to a steel blind off the Mendota shore near Catfish creek. High waves washed his boat away, and he was battered by nearly 30 hours of wind, snow, and ice.

Harvey Black, captain of the university life guards, and Vincent Grudzina, his assistant, were called about 1 a. m. They borrowed storage batteries, installed the life-boat's motor, and set out.

"At first we couldn't see a thing on the island," Grudzina said. "A few minutes later we saw Batz standing and waving his arms. We waved towels and a blanket to let him know someone was looking for him."



RICHARD GRUBER



LESTER SHORE

### 59 Dead in Nation

# Storm Kills 9 in State; Zero Wave Coming

Madison and Wisconsin, already numbed by a howling gale that plunged the temperature from 55 Monday to 9 early today, will feel near-zero weather tonight and will be buffeted by winds for several days, Eric R. Miller, government meteorologist said.

The lashing wind, which caused extensive property damage throughout the state and marooned hunters, is blamed for one death in the Madison area, two at Janesville, six others in the state, and at least 59 in the nation.

MONDAY		TODAY	
10 a. m.	55	1 a. m.	13
11 a. m.	51	2 a. m.	12
Noon	50	3 a. m.	12
1 p. m.	45	4 a. m.	11
2 p. m.	37	5 a. m.	11
3 p. m.	31	6 a. m.	9
4 p. m.	21	7 a. m.	9
5 p. m.	20	8 a. m.	9
6 p. m.	18	9 a. m.	10
7 p. m.	17	10 a. m.	10
8 p. m.	17	11 a. m.	15
9 p. m.	16	Noon	15
10 p. m.	14	1 p. m.	15
11 p. m.	14	2 p. m.	14
Midnight	14		

Winter's early invasion was the most severe in decades, causing uncounted millions of dollars' property damage across a broad belt of the central and southern sectors in addition to the heavy toll of human lives. Only the southern Pacific coastal area escaped the storm's wrath.

Mary Farrell, about 80, Lancaster, died of a heart attack caused by overexertion from draining her car Monday afternoon.

The aged woman, who learned to drive only a few years ago, had taught in Grant county rural schools about 25 years. She had been retired 25 years.

Only a sister, Mrs. Thomas Baillie, Bloomington, survives.

Two duck hunters from Eau Claire perished in the storm. They were Theodore Henry Geiger, 30, and Clyde J. Deira, 34, both employes of an Eau Claire bakery. Their bodies were washed up on the Mississippi river banks seven miles north of Alma Monday night.

Another storm casualty was Vincent Wiza, 54, Milwaukee. He was killed by the collapse of a brick wall which was razed by the wind

# Dane Budget Cuts Tax Rate County Levy May Be Lowest in Eight Years

By FRED J. CURRAN

The Dane county board found good news for next year when it opened its annual fall meeting today, and looked over a preliminary budget which calls for the lowest tax rate in eight years.

The board's finance committee presented a budget request of \$1,806,193.67, some \$69,000 less than the budget listed for 1940, and a figure which requires a tax rate of \$4.95, the lowest since 1933, when the rate was \$4.20.

That tax rate is 34 cents below the 1940 rate of \$5.29, and 38 cents below the amount requested by the different departments during the 13 hearings which started on Oct. 4.

The proposed budget calls for a \$4.95 tax on each \$1,000 of assessed valuation. In this budget, the finance committee continued to cut expenses as it did in 1939, when it prepared the 1940 budget. The rate in 1939 — established in 1938 — was \$7.18.

But the board this morning found immediate worry over additional county expenses, when the city of Madison presented additional claims of \$214,550.90 for indigent school tuition, as a follow-up on the victory it won in the state supreme court last Friday in a test case of about \$2,000.

(The story on the city's additional claims, and a story on other actions of the county board this morning, will be found on Page 7.)

That indigent tuition item is the No. 1 worry for the board this fall, because the county now is held liable for claims which may reach the sum of \$1,000,000. The amount presented today is in addition to some \$80,000 in claims now pending. But none of the other units have turned in claims yet.

Dist. Atty. Norris E. Maloney pointed out this morning that "it's a case of one hand washing the other," as the county will slip any additional expense there back into the budget, and Madison pays about 68 per cent of the county tax.

That, and other items, will remind supervisors again of the old dispute over the county and unit relief systems.

Another matter which will come before the board during its November meeting is the approval of a financing plan for a \$390,000 bond issue for completion of the county's million dollar stretch of the new streamlined super Highway 30 between beer and Milwaukee.

Rumors persisted that a proposal

Here's your proposed Dane county budget in brief:

ESTIMATED REVENUES			
1940 Estimate	1940 Actual (Four Months' Estimate)	1941 Estimate	1941 Estimate
\$812,742	\$586,221.44	\$656,363.96	\$656,363.96
ESTIMATED TAX (For Highways)			
1940 Budget	1941 Request	1941 Recommendation	1941 Recommendation
\$290,500	\$332,846	\$279,946	\$279,946
(For Other Than Highways)			
1940 Budget	1941 Request	1941 Recommendation	1941 Recommendation
\$928,175.16	\$907,323.73	\$656,363.96	\$656,363.96

ESTIMATED TAX OF \$1,149,829.73, PLUS ESTIMATED TAX OF \$1,149,829.73, GIVE BUDGET OF \$1,806,193.69; AND THAT, FIGURED AGAINST A COUNTY VALUATION OF \$232,336,745, GIVES A TAX RATE FOR 1941, PER \$1,000, OF \$4.95, COMPARED TO \$5.29 FOR 1940.

committee has hit on the idea of having kept steady figure of \$400,000 for the general fund, so the excess goes back to cut down the ultimate budget figure.

Thus, the proposed 1941 budget shows up better than the one for 1940. In the latter, the general fund revenue was listed for \$67,942, while in 1941 the figure is \$124,782.96.

Right from the start, the finance committee started cutting the requests made in different departments. The request of \$23,650 for county board expense, lower than the \$23,726.82 of a year ago was approved.

The committee recommended \$15,275 for the county clerk's office, instead of the \$16,055 request; \$6,260 for the county auditor, instead of a requested \$6,560; \$15,447.98 for the county treasurer's office, instead of a requested \$15,607; \$15,140 for the district attorney's office instead of a \$15,280 request; \$21,353 for superior court instead of a \$21,633 request; \$34,715 for circuit court instead of a \$35,215 request; \$2,410 for the coroner instead of a \$2,500 request; \$14,985 for the register of deeds instead of a \$15,105 request; \$21,005 for the traffic department instead of a \$21,390 request; \$45,795 for pensions administration instead of a \$46,395 request; \$12,500 for the county assessor and farm instead of a \$17,500 request.

It also cut requests for outlay in different departments from \$39,631.69 to \$32,806.69.

The budget includes an increase for county nurses from \$8,585 to \$10,605, including another nurse, who will be "matched" by the state.

Members of the finance committee, who with County Auditor John D. Williams, worked out the budget proposal, are Frank Swoboda, Madison, chairman; Albert J. Daley, Perry; J. C. Olson, Cottage Grove; Andrew Brink, Cross Plains; Oscar Olmsted, Springdale; Walter Doubrava, York; Alva Eighmy, Madison; A. S. Lerdahl, Madison; Arthur Schminning, Windsor; and H. J. Doll, Waunakee.



DEONOVICH

was Rupert Bartz, 311 E. Midway st., assistant government meteorologist in the United States weather bureau.

A dozen hunters were taken from Mississippi river islands early today, after choppy waters prevented their getting to shore earlier.

They included:

Gordon Adams, 2118 Chamberlain ave.

Ray Wilcox, 3421 Viburnum dr.

Eugene Dietz, Rt. 3.

E. R. Tracy, Westmoreland.

Merrill Haley, 1922 E. Washington ave.

Oliver Knight, Crestwood.

Fred Fisher, Quaker Oats farm.

Ola Severson, 213 Cory st.

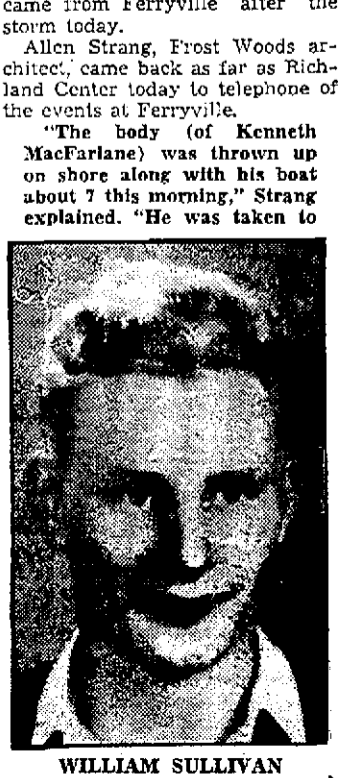
Two other Madison residents, also duck-hunting on this group of islands about a half mile out in Lake Wisconsin from Camp Perry, and about 30 miles from Madison, braved their way through the waves which sometimes reached a yard and more in height to row to shore in a flat-bottomed tin boat about 5:30 p. m. Monday.

They were William Sullivan, 27, a fireman at No. 1 fire station, and Michael Sprengel, 30, an Oscar Mayer co. employe.

Tales of heroism and courage came from Ferryville after the storm today.

Allan Strang, Frost Woods architect, came back as far as Richland Center today to telephone of the events at Ferryville.

"The body of Kenneth MacFarlane was thrown up on shore along with his boat about 7 this morning," Strang explained. "He was taken to



WILLIAM SULLIVAN

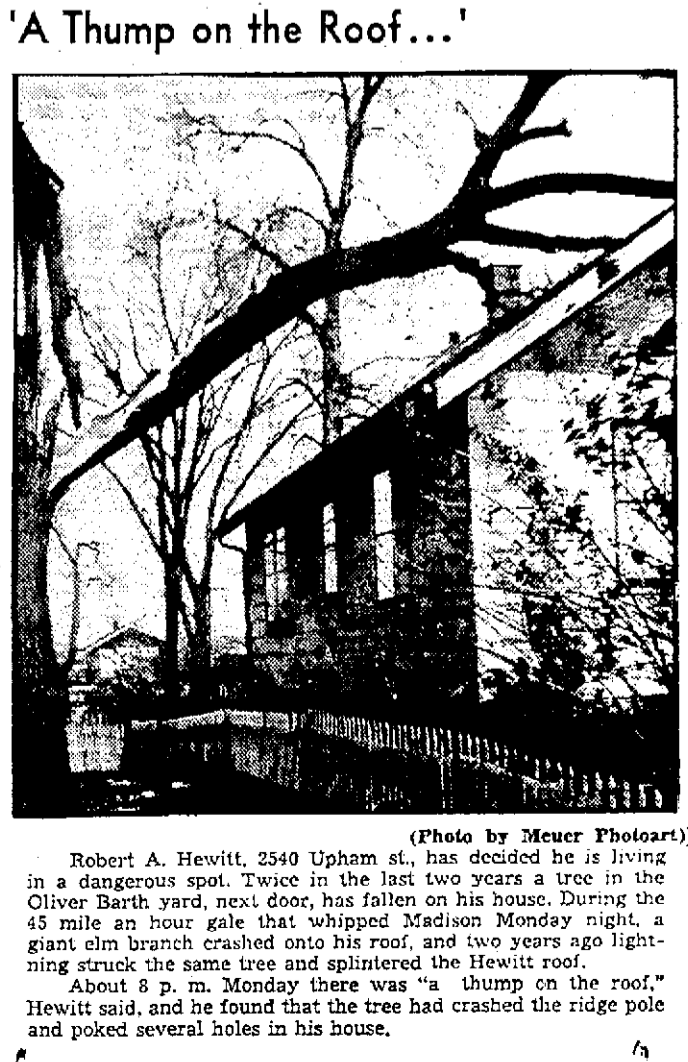
## Three Powder Plant Blasts Kill 11, Injure 38 Others

## Unify by Heeding Opposition's Pleas, Willkie Asks FDR

## Sharp Drop in Strikes Cited By New State Labor Board

## The Feature-Finder

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(Photo by Meuser Photoart)

Robert A. Hewitt, 2540 Upham st., has decided he is living in a dangerous spot. Twice in the last two years a tree in the Oliver Barth yard, next door, has fallen on his house. During the 45 mile an hour gale that whipped Madison Monday night, a giant elm branch crashed onto his roof, and two years ago lightning struck the same tree and splintered the Hewitt roof.

About 8 p. m. Monday there was "a thump on the roof," Hewitt said, and he found that the tree had crashed the ridge pole and poked several holes in his house.