

FRED SWANSON'S BODY REMOVED FROM RIVER

Other Reports On Flood, Tornado Pour In From All Over Region

Fred Swanson: Body found near Ravenswood. Was with party in Charles Miller, jr., home. Was one of region's leading contractors. Finding of his body accounts for all but Mrs. Charles Miller, jr., and four of the Miller children, Charles Francis, Virginia Mae, Claudine and an infant.

Attempts were being made to send a plane after the body.

Elizabeth Shook, body found on island at Bartley, and identified from teachers' certificate clutched in pocketbook in hand. Teacher near Imperial, daughter of Joe Shook of McCook and sister of Mrs. Charles Miller, jr. Lost when swept away at the Charles Miller home.

Unidentified body of woman, red hair. Her clothes were so damaged that other description impossible. Recovered near body of Mrs. Shook and will be viewed by Charles Miller, jr., for possible identification as his wife.

Unidentified body of girl, about four years old. Only description available was that she wore white shoes. Found near the body of the other two at Bartley and also to be viewed by Miller for possible identification.

MISSING

Living with Glen Bell of the Ravenswood dairy are Frank Duda and his son Elmer, and Fred McIlvanie, hired man at Ravenswood. They were trying to drive dairy cattle to higher ground when the flood crest hit. They probably took refuge on higher ground or in trees.

Persons who clung to trees during the flood in most cases could work to shore late yesterday. Many of these may be heard from when communications are restored to outlying farms.

First authentic reports from the south side were received when John and Louis Crocker waded the river from the Driftwood this morning to obtain mail and supplies. "We just about starved out," said the Crockers.

They told of the devastating hail which struck the south side Friday night, at about the time the tornado struck northeast of here.

The Crocker place was hard hit. Crops on the Ed Frank, Lynn Harsch, Fred Reiners, G. Unger, Stanley Miller, Ben Bryan, Elmo Harris and William Berndt farms were ruined. The Kelley ranch suffered the worst punishment.

John and Chet Wilcox suffered a narrow escape while trying to drive cattle to safe ground. Forty-five head of cattle were lost.

ACCOUNTED FOR

A Mr. Schultz, son-in-law of Frank Dudek and with the Ravenswood Dairy party. Rescued from a hay rack in Republican by rescuers from south bank.

The Lester Drake family was rescued from trees on farm south of the Willow. The Drake children had been tied to trees. They were removed today.

PLANE GIVES HELP

Burton Lofton, flier-farmer living on the south side of the river, was able to give his neighbors news on developments north of them. He also brought in supplies.

RELIEF AGENCY BUSY

A total of 125 families are listed at the local Red Cross headquarters as those who suffered losses in either the flood or tornado.

There are 90 families listed as flood victims, 35 as tornado victims. Some homes in both flood and tornado district are entirely swept away and homes are being provided. Others are re-entering homes today.

A committee of citizens is organized to aid the Red Cross in relief work. The water situation, milk supplies, sanitation will be checked by these citizens and provisions made to handle the needs.

Four men were ordered by the Red Cross to cross the river and survey needs at Danbury, Marion, Lebanon and rural areas of the south side of the county.

Supplies are being concentrated at the Y. M. C. A. for the flood sufferers, handed out by the Red Cross.

Names of 12 Frontier county families, tornado victims, have been turned over to Frontier Red Cross authorities.

J. N. Rankin, Red Cross official, reported from Cambridge to local headquarters that 70 families were homeless in Cambridge.

MORE ON TORNADO

Reports on conditions north of the Willow were brought in today by Bryan Harrison of 16 miles north and Fred Smith, who crossed the river on planks.

Walter Modrell suffered head injuries when the tornado of Friday night struck the south part of Frontier county. The Modrell farm was destroyed, including a new barn, and much stock was lost.

Otto Parsons lost outbuildings and the house was damaged. On the Charles Shaley, Ben Doyles and Merrit Quick places everything was destroyed.

Mrs. Claude Spaulding is in a very critical condition from injuries sustained when the tornado struck her home. A physician crossed over from McCook to attend her.

OFFERS HELP OF GUARDS

Major Guy Henneger, Kearney, national guard officer, flew to McCook to survey needs here. He reported 350 national guardsmen massed at Oxford, Arapahoe and Holbrook doing rescue and relief work. Their power boats are cruising the river in that area, he told local men. He offered use of troops and planes on request as needed here.

PHONE SERVICE EAST

Telephone circuits to the east were restored early today and calls can be placed through to Hastings and on beyond. Calls can be routed back through North Platte. Crews are busy at Red Willow and Indianola and by tonight enough circuits will be up so that long distance calls can be put through in short time. The service was an hour back of calls this afternoon. R. Y. Hyde, Omaha, is the area construction officer in charge of the Bell company's tremendous drive to restore telephonic communications. It may be two days before Western Union and Burlington telegraphic services are back in order.

THEATER OPERATING

Manager Fred Glass of the Fox theater had a generator brought to the city by airplane this morning. He intends to have a regular theater program this evening. Whitten's hatchery also brought in a generator in order to heat up an incubator and save five thousand eggs which were nearly due to hatch.

AFTER ROAD EQUIPMENT

Highway department crews were concentrating upon the Maywood road in a driving effort to clear a route over which heavy equipment can be rushed to be used in repairing highways east and west. Other crews were working in from North Platte to complete the road and it was hoped that it would be open tonight. The Willow bridge this side of Faywood had to be replaced.

Work on bridges east, west and south was abandoned today in the concentration of efforts on the North Platte route. Heavy dredges and giant piles must be got in from the north before this work can be started.

The old bridge at Red Willow withstood the rush of water and can be crossed. By going across this and angling off across country, motorists can work back to the North Platte road and go on through, the highway department reported.

WATER SUPPLY

There is no shortage of water for drinking and household uses. At East, West and Central schools there are supplies. There is another at the Koetter store in East McCook and one at the West McCook Grocery. Frank Marsh has stretched a hose from his windmill to the front of his residence north on Main and will supply water. People are hauling household supplies from wells and from the McCook Ice company, which could not supply water for a few hours early this afternoon until a pump leak could be repaired.

GOOD NEIGHBORS

The spirit of neighborliness has stood out as the real agency of mercy in this emergency. People driven from their homes in the valley have been sheltered and clothed. Many got away just with the clothing on their backs. Mrs. John Herman, wife of one of the men caught at the light plant, is being cared for at the F. E. Sloniker home. She is critically ill and has an infant.

SIGHTSEERS ARRIVE

Many people arrived during the day from Venango, Imperial, Culbertson and elsewhere on sightseeing tours. They drove over roundabout routes, traveling across pastures and highland fields to get here. H. R. Evans, Hayes county commissioner, reported 15 bridges gone in his county when he arrived at The Gazette office. There was no extensive property damage.

NO ADVANTAGE TAKEN

Chief of Police Wesley Dutcher said this afternoon: "No advantage has been taken of us in this emergency. Not a break-in has been reported to the police. We expected trouble because of the streets and homes being in darkness."

A body of 75 American Legion men is on duty as police and these are working with city police and the sheriff. A national guard detail will be sent in from North Platte if needed.

PRECAUTION IS URGED

Until the true condition of McCook's water supply can be learned, local doctors are urging citizens to boil drinking water and are urging inoculation against typhoid fever. If typhus serum runs short, national guard planes have been offered to bring in more.

EXPERT HERE

Charles Warriner, Columbia radio engineer home on vacation, was pressed into service by many who were setting up makeshift power equipment.

PROGRESS AT PLANT

Unless something should develop unforeseen at this time, current will again be on the wires over a newly constructed line from the Nebraska Light & Power plant sometime Monday, was the statement issued at three o'clock this afternoon by J. R. Jaquet, local manager, the last man to leave the plant with rescue parties.

Three shifts of 40 men each are working day and night to restore service as quickly as possible, while specialists in every line are on the ground directing operations.

It was expected that two Westinghouse switchboard specialists would arrive this afternoon from the east by airplane.

While the rubbish and debris to a depth of 6 to 8 feet which filled the plant is being removed, other workmen are working on machinery and re-building transmission lines.

Four of the six engines had been cleaned on the outside early this afternoon and one of the engines was being cleaned inside which will be put into service on the city pumps.

"We will have one engine operating tonight," said H. C. Griswold, specialist from New Jersey. "This motor will be used in drying out of generators." Griswold expressed confidence that current would soon be restored, maintaining that the crew of workmen were making better progress than anticipated.

During the afternoon an aerial survey was made of the transmission line to the city pumps, which was found partly intact. Rebuilding will be begun as early as the water has receded to permit reconstruction. It was believed this could be started early Monday morning. Material is being assembled and made ready for the re-building.

BOATS AT OXFORD

Dr. W. W. Arrasmith arrived at noon from Grand Island by plane to report that four American Legion planes from Grand Island are helping to find marooned and drowned persons up and down the river from Oxford. Power boats were there this morning from Omaha and will work on up the river from Oxford to help reconnoiter farms and floating houses not possible to reach by local boats.

CULBERTSON REPORTS

Mrs. E. M. Reynolds was one of the first in from Culbertson. She said Roy Anspaugh and John Moore have been missing since they went out on saddle horses to help bring people out of the flood. The Red Wallaces are also still unaccounted for at Culbertson, she said.

COUNCIL

A citizens' council has been set up to give orders in the emergency and has been given full power to act by Mayor Lawritson. The committee consists of State Senator W. C. Bullard as general chairman, Dr. M. Campbell, Ed F. Petersen, Rolland Larson, F. N. Jordan, Harold Sutton, Asa Wolfe and G. V. Casler.

Petersen notifies citizens toilets can be used if they are flushed with sufficient water. Two two-thousand gallon tanks will be mounted on trucks ready for fire calls and a supply of chemicals will be available. Extraordinary precautions in the use of lamps and candles are urged.

There is an adequate milk and food supply. All distress conditions should be reported to the Red Cross or to the Chamber of Commerce, telephone 92.