

TORNADO RIPS OELWEIN



MRS. GRACE DAMON was dead on arrival at Mercy Hospital in Oelwein minutes after this picture was taken. Mrs. Damon was trapped under a giant pile of bricks in her apartment over the Ben Franklin Store.

4 DEAD; SEVERAL CRITICAL

\$14 MILLION DAMAGE

Storm Rocks City at 4:57 P.M. Wednesday

By MIKE MAHONEY
REGISTER MANAGING EDITOR

Four residents were counted dead Thursday morning following the worst disaster ever to hit the city of Oelwein and the nearby community of Maynard. A tornado ripped through Oelwein at 4:57 p.m. Wednesday with estimates of damage running from a conservative \$10 million to as high as \$30 million.

Listed as dead by officials were:
Mrs. Grace Damon, in her fifties, of Oelwein
Mrs. Louis Ponsar, Maynard
Glenda Kelly, Maynard, 3 years old
Albert Heaton, 89, Oelwein (died of a heart attack)

Hundreds of area and local repair crews, emergency utility crews, and an uncountable number of area residents were on hand Thursday morning to assist in the cleanup campaign.

Over 200 members of the Iowa National Guard were on duty along with 47 members of the Iowa Highway Patrol, Oelwein City Police, numerous surrounding police and volunteer firemen (too many to even begin to estimate).

A report from utility crews indicated reconstruction of the damage began immediately. Iowa Electric Light & Power Co. (Gas Company) estimated 50 men working on damage with only three problem areas in the core city. Gas officials report service was only disconnected at areas where buildings were completely destroyed.

Northwestern Bell Telephone Manager Robert O. Link stated at least 75 out-of-town servicemen have been rushed into the city to begin repair. Link estimated as high as 75 per cent of the city phones were out of city with only emergency calls being handled in long distance service. Link, like all utility officials, was unable to estimate the damage in dollars and was also unable to estimate when service would be restored.

Interstate Power Co. reported 100 work crews from all sections of the state have been rushed to the city. No one was able to estimate the exact damage, but power lines were down throughout the city.

Red Cross Emergency Units were rushed into the city with stations set up in the basement of the Sacred Heart church and Presbyterian church. Cots, blankets, clothes and other emergency rations have been trucked into the city to handle all situations.

City officials were urging residents to preserve their water supply. There was no immediate danger problem with water, but crews were working on pumps to handle normal water flow.

Mercy Hospital was flooded with injured immediately following the disaster. The serious and critical were transferred to Waterloo and Independence hospitals.

The injured list, certain to reach several hundred, will never be completed. Officials at Mercy reported 38 treated and released, 16 admitted, hospitals at Independence, Sumner, and Waterloo reported; 20 admitted for treatment.

HUGHES VISITS AREA
Gov. Harold Hughes and Adj. Gen. Junior Miller toured the city with Mayor Samuel Mazzotti and Capt. Les Ohl of the Oelwein National Guard Thursday morning. (Ohl's wife was one of the injured.)
Hughes offered the city any available state equipment and personnel such as trucks of the highway commission, chain saws, etc. He also complimented the Mayor and Clerk Tom Peterson, saying, "It looks as

if you have everything organized real well."

The Governor was particularly interested in what advance warning the town had and was informed by the Mayor that a broadcast warning went off (the siren sounded) briefly before the electrical power was disrupted.

The Mayor estimated damage at a conservative \$14 million. He reported three dead and three on the critical list.

The Governor declared the city a disaster area in order to provide governmental help, however he said "it won't be enough."

"This job requires a total community effort. Everyone has to rebuild and repair. I'm sure the Federal Housing Administration and Small Business Administration will offer help. I have confidence in Oelwein's courage to recover with all help available. The Governor also reported he would fly over the Maynard area to investigate damage there."

"Small communities sometimes are hurt more by these disasters because they don't have the comparative resources to recover."

2,000 TREES

The damage in the city was estimated to include at least 2,000 trees, an undetermined amount of houses completely destroyed and an estimate of at least 50-75% of all housing of the city had damage varying from minor to total.

Listed below is the group of business establishments that have been either completely destroyed or suffered near-total losses. They were made in personal observations in a car-tour this morning.

They included: Woods Novelty, Colonial Baking Warehouse, Braster's DX, Oelwein Chemical Company, Oelwein Tool and Die, Oelwein Specialty, Sacred Heart church, Oelwein Body and Truck, Herts Truck Rental, McAleer's Landstrom, Chandler Company, Sanitary Dairy, Dairy Queen, Laig's, Rauber's Auto and Farm Equipment Specialities.

Terry's Gulf, Sun Mart, Oelwein Bottling Works, Whittig's Flowers, Farm Fleet, Acme Trucking, Kinsman Greenhouse, Warthan Motors, Pine Lodge, Oelwein Veterinary Clinic, Valley Mobile Homes, Hub City Implement, Oelwein Furniture, Apco Station, Northwest Distributing, Oelwein Elevator, Rogge's Machine Shop, Grand Hotel, Lambert Chevrolet, Oelwein Implement, Wiley Davis Insurance and Oelwein Glass and Paint.



ONE OF OELWEIN'S business establishments leveled in the storm was Barney's Texaco at the north edge of the city. Fred's Super Valu, Sperry's Garage, and the Book & Art were also heavily damaged in the immediate area.

Dunlap Press, Knief's, Meyer and Lincoln Hardware, Earl Moore Garage, Oelwein Supply, Zacharias DX, Eldon's Shell, Kahr's Blacksmith, Cottage Studio, Cross Printerie, First Presbyterian church, First Christian church, First Baptist church, St. Mary's Episcopal (completely destroyed), Barney's Texaco, Fred's Super Valu, Sperry's Garage, Book and Art Shop, United States Post Office, and City Laundering Company.

There was hardly a businessplace or home in the Oelwein area that did not receive damage.

The Oelwein City hall was practically destroyed along with many other city buildings.

Because of quick assistance from the telephone company, the Register was able to use two phone lines.

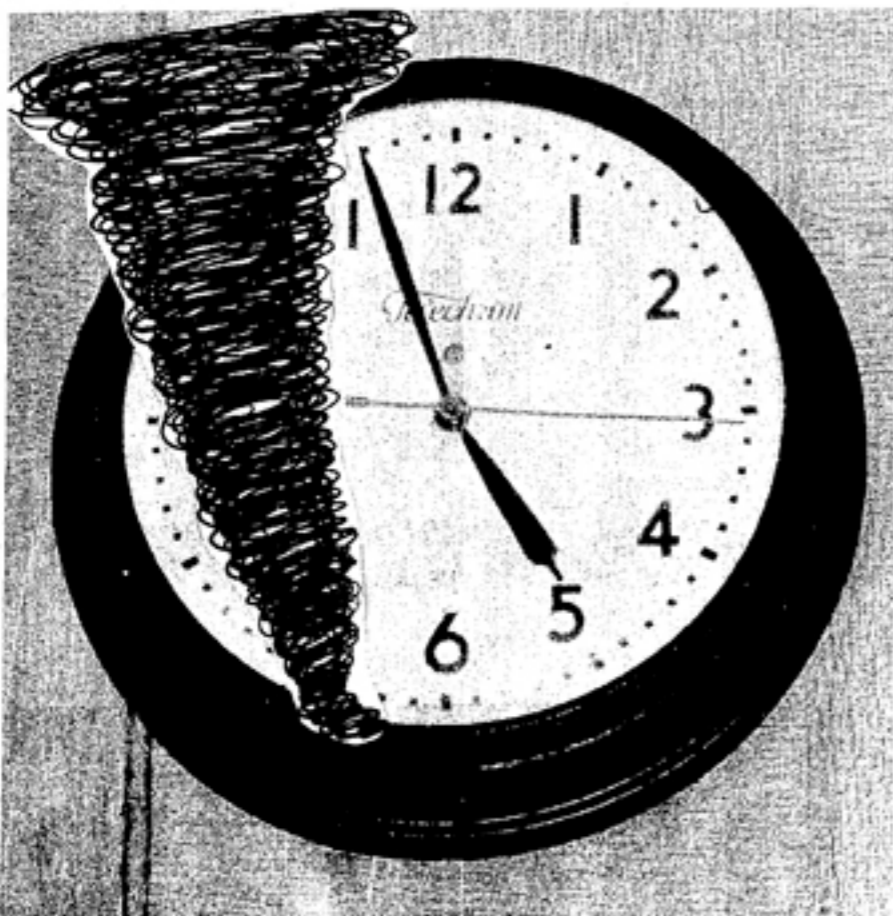
Members of the news and advertising staff called all hospitals involved and made a list of the injured. The list includes only those at hospitals, and does not include the many who suffered injuries, but who did not go to the hospital.

Treated at Mercy Hospital:
Bencke, Elizabeth
Bilyeu, Mrs. Lois
Bilyeu, Daniel
Benjamin, Sister Mary
Cue, Susan
Dixon, Mrs. Charles
Duncan, Mrs. Madeline
Eikesberry, John
Eikesberry, Mary
Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Mary Jane
Gates, Jennifer
Goulder, Albert
Hallock, Pat
Houser, Jessie

Houser, Robert
Huter, Paul
Huter, Steven
Ingels, Jean
Johnson, Earl
Kamper, Jane
Kamper, Nancy
Kauffman, Essie
Kelly, Gordon
Keegan, Ronald R.
Kriegling, Steve
Krafton, ?
LeRoy Latham
Leehey, Andrea
Liberi, Mrs. Robert
Lowe, Mrs. Ben
McGregor, Bertha
McNamara, Genevieve
Michael, N. J.
Miller, Joseph A.
Morgan, Mrs. Charles
Moyle, Marion
Mandt, Jerry
Machmore, Dick
Murray, Bill
Nielsen, Jens
Ohlischlager, Mary
Osterman, Mrs. Lucy
Phillips, Russel
Phillips, Mrs. John
Phillips, Beverly
Pond, Cella
Ricchio, Alex
Shea, Sharon
Sexton, Hannah
Schlegel, Aaron
Smith, Dave
Streitmatter, Dale
Strenpke, Darwin
Teufel, John
Trotter, Myrna
Wardell, Tom
Wise, Leona
Wolfe, Emilia

Admitted at Oelwein Mercy Hospital:
Mrs. Kathryn Beaman, good
Emily Carlson, fairly good
Mrs. Dorothy Flaucher, good
Conne Francis
Jason Francis
Mrs. James Ingels, fair
Fred Ingels, fairly good
Mrs. Hazel Jones, good
Mrs. N. J. Michael, fairly good
Mrs. Leslie Ohl
Ben Proctor
Frank Schepple, fairly good
Julie Trotter, fairly good
Mrs. Marjorie Trotter, fairly good
Mrs. Viola Zacharias, fairly good
Mrs. Hattie Zander, fairly good
Admitted at Allen Memorial Hospital, Waterloo:
Mrs. Lloyd Major, 26 fair condition
Dawn Major, 6, fair
Mrs. Anna Steege, Maynard, 77, fair
Mrs. Gordon (Geraldine) Kelly, Maynard, 28, serious, in intensive care unit
Dale Streitmatter, 41, satisfactory
David Schlader, 33, Marble Rock,

serious, in intensive care
Julie McKoon also reportedly hospitalized
Treated and released:
Gordon Kelly
Mrs. Diani Libert, 25
At Sumner Hospital:
Galen Kelly 5 1/2, fair, Maynard
Cary Kelly, 3, fair, Maynard
Gerald Kelly, 1 1/2, fair, Maynard
Julius Wegner, Fayette, 57, fair
At St. Francis Hospital, Waterloo:
Mrs. William (Nina) Hicks, 54, good condition
At Scholtz Memorial Hospital, Waterloo:
Mrs. Winifred Joyce, 81 1st Ave. N.E., 71, left arm injury, condition good
At People's Memorial Hospital, Independence:
Florence Paulsen, 49, Oelwein, good
Lucille Taylor, 67, Maynard, fair
Russell Phillips, 10, Oelwein, fair
Mrs. John (Aline) Phillips, 40, Oelwein, fair
Henry Warneke, 82, Maynard, fair
Oma Neifzger, 58, Oelwein, fair
LaVern Warthan, 66, Oelwein, fair
Members of the Iowa Highway Patrol and National Guard were turning back sight-seers at road blocks on all four sides of the city. Passes were handed out to officials to get in and out of the community.



WHERE WERE YOU? The tornado winds hit the downtown Oelwein area at 4:57 p. m. Wednesday. The results of the

storm will have side effects on each and every resident of the community during the next weeks.

City officials warned residents to be aware of unauthorized personnel in the city, working to "make a fast buck." CHECK before you agree.

PHOTOGRAPHS for this issue were taken by Earl Davis, Jim Leuck, and Lynn Arnold of the Register staff.

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The tornado that first hit the area along highway 150 south of the present city limits, swirled to the north and blanketed the entire community with damage. Businesses were flattened and cars tossed about like snow balls.

Heavy damage was reported to Senior High, Junior High, and Central grade school. Supt. Arthur Sessor called school off until further notice.

Pick up began immediately. A center of communication was established in the basement of the telephone office, working in coordination with officials at city hall. Members of the national guard, highway patrol, city police, and other emergency units coordinated the work.

Construction materials and heavy machinery from Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, Independence, Cedar Falls, Volga, Strawberry Point, Oran, Fairbank were rushed in. A large amount of students from the University of Northern Iowa and Upper Iowa pitched in to help with numerous work activities. A few gas stations were able to pump gas with auxiliary pumps.

Today's issue of the REGISTER was published with the cooperation of the Independence Bulletin-Journal. The Oelwein Register press and equipment was stymied without electrical service.

Oelwein Mercy Hospital personnel