

# 112 Injured; Damage Great

## Lost Lives in Cape Storm

### *At Haman Funeral Home.*

Mrs. Helen Frey and daughter, 6 years old.

Jack Welker.

Marvin Welker.

R. L. Liley, North Sprigg street.

Merlin Thorne.

Mrs. Bertha McCain, Cape Rock Drive.

Fred Wise, Perry avenue.

Roy Rose

### *At Sparks Funeral Home.*

Mrs. Eva Hayes, Negro, Emerald and North Frederick street.

Rodney Hayes, Negro, 13 months old.

### *At Walther Funeral Home.*

Jerome Foeste, 6 years old, son of Elmer Foeste, Srigg and Emerald streets.

Rev. G. Jack Crowe of Middletown, O., evangelist at Church of God in Marble City Heights.

### *At Brinkopf-Howell Funeral Home.*

Rev. R. P. Basler, 811 North Park avenue.

Mr. Zimmerman, Red Star Addition.

Fifteen persons were killed and 112 were injured by a tornado which early Saturday night ripped through the city with a 350-yard swath extending from the west city limits to the Mississippi River.

Hospitals were jammed with injured and cots were set up in hallways to accommodate the overflow. Many did not go to hospitals.

Houses were smashed to bits by the impact of the terrific wind. Trees were uprooted and twisted by the wind.

Rescue teams began work almost immediately. National Guard and Naval Reserve men established communications, helped in traffic direction and worked to remove injured and dead from splintered wreckage.

The Red Cross moved into action to help the homeless. Countless volunteers dug into wreckage, helped in traffic work and did other necessary chores.

The storm first hit in the Gordonville Road area. Following an almost undeviating path, it moved across Highway 61 and wrecked the Airline, swept to Clark avenue and Broadway, and moved up Broadway to Perry avenue. Thence it wrecked the area on Missouri, then Dunklin avenue and North Henderson, beat its way to North Sprigg street, and then into Marble City Heights and Red Star where the loss was the heaviest.

Wherever it touched there was but a shambles remaining. Damage estimates in the darkness which came shortly after the storm struck at 6:56 o'clock were all but impossible.

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A major fire hazard was created at the Airline by a broken gasoline pump which spewed up volatile gasoline about the drive area. Those approaching were cautioned not to strike matches.

Martin Johnston, with two passengers, saw the storm approaching the Airline and they left the car on the highway, running to the Airline for what they believed would be protection. All were caught in the smashup. The car and another were tumbled together into a ditch on the east side of Highway 61 and badly smashed. Two other automobiles, parked in front of the Airline, were picked up by the wind and deposited completely across the ditch and over an embankment on the east side. It could not be determined if there were any passengers in them.

#### **Tree Plucked Clean.**

A huge oak tree directly across from the Airline was plucked clean of foliage and its smaller branches. It stood naked, except for its trunk and major limbs.

Trees and small buildings in the fields from the Airline on a path to the Coca Cola plant were smashed. The Coca Cola plants seemed to have escaped except for roofing on the back edge.

But the Cape Nash agency just one door west was demolished by the wind and an automobile on the apron in front was overturned. Up the 2100 block of Broadway several dwellings were damaged and many trees were blown down.

#### **Houses Ruined.**

In the 1900 block of Broadway the Elmer Clifton ranch type home, a new dwelling, was nearly wrecked. The roof was torn off and some of the walls smashed. Just up the street the new medical building was unroofed and windows blown out. Some of the stone walls appeared to have partially caved in as the roof fell.

Next door to it the Ed Wulfers house, a two-story frame building, was demolished and to its front a prescription shop, also a new brick building, was wrecked.

Many telephone and utility lines were down.

From the 600 block on Perry to a point near St. Mary's Cemetery the devastation of the storm continued after leaving the Broadway section. It moved across, following a near straight line, to Dunklin avenue, where all but the S. P. Neal house were wrecked on the north side of the street. Damage was not quite so all-inclusive on the south side.

It caught the A. A. Bollack home, 811 North Henderson avenue, caved in two sides and the top. The Rush H. Lim-

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# 15 Lose Lives In Girardeau Storm

(Continued from page 1.)

baugh house was badly damaged with the roof off. The study of President W. W. Parker of State College was damaged.

Along Henderson telephone and utility poles leaned crazily into the street, trees blocked the path and wire hung limply from crossarms, or snaked along the street.

The path continued to North Sprigg Street Road. Starting at the Mahy store and for a distance of 352 yards the loss was terrific all along the road. The John Langston house was moved off its foundations and placed on the lot next door with its wreckage strewn about. W. H. Fowler, his wife and two children went to the basement. Mr. Langston ran outside and clutched willows along an embankment.

A reporter checked the width of the storm path at this point by an automobile speedometer. The distance was a fifth of a mile, 352 yards. This same strip apparently prevailed along the entire path cut through the city.

On Bend Road the same shambles prevailed. The details scarcely varied from one location to the next. It was the same story of wrecked houses, downed trees and stark foundations peering out in the darkness with the main framework cast down beside.

Marble City Heights and Red Star carried the same terrific scars. It was in this area that most of the injured and dead were found. Houses were blown many feet away, or were masses of splintered wreckage with debris littering streets, lawns and any open spaces. Huge pieces of tin were wrapped in trees. Dozens of automobiles were caught beneath the wreckage.

The storm then continued up toward Cape Rock and apparently moved across the Mississippi some place in that vicinity.

## Damage in Area Near Whitewater

The storm dipped into a community along the farm to market road north of Whitewater, where residents apparently escaped injury.

At the Fred Dirden dwelling the house and barn were torn down, according to Tom S. Morgan, who was in Cape Girardeau a few hours later.

At the Wm. Kuehle farm nearby, the barn was wrecked. Also a barn at the H. H. Jones place was ripped to pieces. Some livestock in the barns was killed.

At the farm owned by Judge Albert Rau, nearer Dutchtown, a large barn was blown down. The house there was damaged, and many trees uprooted.

A power line was torn down, and much of the Whitewater community was without electric power or lights for some time.

## Killed as Storm Wrecks Auto

Special to The Missourian.

Lutesville, May 22. — Truman Fullbright, about 30, of Bessville, lost his life when he was thrown from his car as it was picked up by a tornado which struck the Horn's store community 10 miles north of here and near Bessville between 5:30 and 6 o'clock Saturday afternoon.

Lutesville and Marble Hill escaped damage from the storm, which bypassed the twin cities.

Fullbright and his wife had just left the store after buying groceries and were about 200 yards down Highway 51 when the tornado picked up their automobile and rolled it up a hill. His wife was uninjured.

A short distance away a house owned by Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Bennett was picked from its foundation and carried to a field a quarter of a mile away where it was demolished. They were reported taken to a Cape Girardeau hospital.

F. D. Shoulders, 36, waiting for treatment of a head and leg injury at Southeast Missouri Hospital, told that he was one of those caught in the Airline when it was demolished. He is an employe of the liquor store there.

He related that when he heard the storm coming he moved against the south wall. The force of the wind, which cut with full strength directly on the Airline, tumbled him over and over across the floor, Shoulders said. He estimated there were 15 people in the room at the time and all were hurt. Virgil Sisson owns the Airline.

Lieut. Max Frazier, 1401 North Main street, Army recruiting officer, his wife and two children, Laura Anne, 3, and Lawrence, 2, were uninjured, although their house was demolished.

Lieut. Frazier, who had been through two previous tornados in Arkansas, heard the roar and hustled his family to a coal chute beneath a concrete topping, and then lay atop them for their further protection.

The storm blew off the roof and one side of the house, the front porch, back porch and the garage. His car was left standing in the empty garage space, its only damage a broken side window.

Mrs. R. W. Nichols and Mrs. Harold Haman said they were driving out Broadway when they saw the tornado coming. They turned and started back toward town, hoping to escape the blow by turning north on Perry avenue. But their guess was wrong, and they had to stop in the street, near the Huckstep dwelling, at Pemiscot street. The car was little hurt by debris, which soon littered the street. An attic fan was in the street a few yards farther north. Dozens of electric wires were down in that area, many of them charged. The Denzel Slinkard house on Perry, near Dunklin, was wrecked and cleared from the foundation.

Five students of the University of Iowa, here as guests of Wm. Reed, also a student, escaped injury when the Reed residence was badly damaged. The six were in the basement at the time. The other students were Don McConnell, Bill Stiles, Jack Stiles, Bill Hilger and Bart Johnson. Reed's parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Reed were away at the time from the home at 1317 Dunklin street. The students will return to Iowa City today. The Reed house was damaged, with the roof on the south and west sections blown off and windows blown out. The garage collapsed, but the students' car escaped with a broken headlight.

Much damage was done along Gordonville Road, west of Highway 61. The brick dwelling of C. C. Eddleman, a deputy sheriff, was leveled by the force of the wind.

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