

# 72 Seriously Hurt in Cape

## Twister Ripping Across City Levels 203 Houses

The death toll in Saturday afternoon's tragic tornado stood at 21 and the list of those still in hospitals numbered 72 today as Cape Girardeau began the tremendous task of recovery from the battering it received from the devastating twister.

Scores of other persons today bore the marks of the battering they received. It was impossible to estimate the number of those treated at hospitals, or of the many more who sustained superficial injuries and sought no aid. But they numbered in the hundreds.

### Damage Grown.

Damage was estimated—and the figure is only the roughest kind of approximation—at between 3 and 4 million dollars. Certainly it would not fall below the former figure. A Red Cross survey team found 202 dwellings completely destroyed, 231 homes damaged, 19 business structures destroyed and 14 others damaged.

The damage survey was made by John L. Wescoat, chairman of a Red Cross storm survey committee, Ted R. Regenhardt and Wm. Wescoat Jr. They set the average house loss, where the dwelling was partially ruined, at \$5000. The average loss for partially damaged houses was placed at around \$2000. This was only an approximation, they cautioned.

A tentative estimate of \$1,010,000 was placed on those houses which were destroyed. Loss to those damaged but not leveled was placed at \$462,000. In addition to this are personal effects and other intangibles. Not included is utility and telephone losses.

Mayor Walter H. Ford officially designated the Red Cross as the rehabilitation agency to effect recovery as rapidly as possible. National Red Cross disaster funds have been made available for those unable to afford reconstruction from their own funds.

Funeral services for the 21 victims began today and will continue at least through Wednesday. Many in hospitals were still carried on the critical list and the toll may be added to.

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ters for the homeless were established at Central High School, St. Mary's High School, John Cobb School and Knights of Columbus Hall. A number of persons took advantage of them, but most were able to find accommodations with friends.

### Sent to Arena.

Sunday the temporary shelters were abandoned and permanent headquarters for the duration were established at the Arena Building by the Red Cross.

Field ranges of the National Guard were set up in the kitchen, 50 cots were erected and blankets were supplied for those left destitute. The first meal was served Sunday night and a breakfast of fruit, fruit juice, eggs, bacon, toast, coffee and jam was served this morning.

There are 100 National Guard officers and men mobilized and on duty three hours and off six. Many are working in the kitchen at the Arena.

A tent city of shelter halves has been erected for National Guard personnel across from the Arena Building.

### Men Were Called.

The National Guard mobilized on its own a few hours after the storm struck.

At 3 o'clock Sunday morning, in reply to a request from Mayor Walter H. Ford, Adj. Gen. John A. Harris in Jefferson City ordered official mobilization of the unit, placing it on emergency duty. Capt. Sanford G. Jones is in charge of the contingent in Red Star and Capt. Raymond T. Roth in Marble City Heights. Capt. Rodney T. Preston was in charge in the Red Star section Sunday.

Police, faced with many problems Sunday, installed loud speaker systems on patrol cars to aid in giving instructions to those in the areas, and particularly to the curious who thronged in.

### Scene of Destruction.

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In a surprisingly short time, despite pitch darkness and lack of power, crews dug into the wreckage. By midnight most of the ambulance calls had been completed and there were no reports Sunday of any bodies or injured being found in wreckage. All appeared to have been removed before midnight.

### Crewmen Busy.

Missouri Utilities Co. crewmen, augmented by forces from Illinois, Chaffee and Sikeston, effected repairs through Saturday night and Sunday. Telephone crews worked to put the city's shattered communications system back into service, with 3000 phones out.

Hundreds of persons from southeast Missouri and southern Illinois thronged into the city Sunday as sightseers. This was done despite appeals that visitors keep away to avoid clogging streets and hampering the essential work.

Long lines of traffic stretched north and south on Kingshighway, moving bumper to bumper a few feet at a time. At certain peak periods the lines were double, north and southbound, creating a traffic pileup that was all highway troopers and their volunteer assistants could cope with.

### Parked Hundreds of Cars.

The out-of-town residents were joined by those in non-stricken areas of the city. Hundreds of local automobiles traveled the streets. But unless they had official business they were detoured. None was let in the destroyed area. Hundreds of persons on foot toured the storm path. Many parked automobiles back from the stricken area.

Stories of the tornado and the experiences of individuals were numerous. Everyone had his own tale to relate. Harrowing experiences were numerous.

Of those who escaped injury, or were only slightly hurt, most had taken to basements when the twister hit. They had ample warning from the diesel train roar of the storm.

National Guard and Naval Reserve officers and men did a heroic job of working throughout Saturday night, Sunday and Sunday night. They continued today.

Saturday night temporary shelter

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What remained of trees—mostly stumps and skinned-off limbs—was scraped as if houses had been dragged over them. Actually that had happened. In more than a block no timber stood higher than three feet.

Up the hill, to the east, on Emerald, the well-stocked Walker Childs' store was wrecked, blown down to the level of the walk. Mr. and Mrs. Childs crawled out of the basement where they took refuge, little hurt. There was some salvage from the grocery stock, but little from the furniture of the living quarters of the same building.

### Church is Wrecked.

A few feet to the east, and also facing south, was the Church of God. It was virtually demolished, although some little lumber possibly may be salvaged. It was a red stone building, both attractive and substantial. In the main, the building, of average church size, was smashed down to the east, in a twisted mode. Part of the front and a little of the west wall stood, but they are in sad repair. The roof, twisted, was partly still on the rubble. Evidently seats and small equipment were smashed. Rev. J. H. Shirrell is pastor.

To the east and north of the church a reporter counted two dozen houses ruined, and none, within 1½ blocks, in those directions, will be worth much. Farther east more houses were smashed to bits. Along Middle, and much of Emerald, the damage to houses seemed to run anything from 20 per cent to 100 per cent.

### Five-Day Week at Shoe Factory to Be Resumed

Manager Frank Miller announced today that when the International Shoe Co., plant resumes operation June 1 after a week's vacation the plant will return to a five-day week.

When opening next week Wednesday, June 1, the plant will run also Thursday and Friday, then resume full five-day operation the following week.

The plant has been on a four-day schedule for some time.