

AFTER NIGHT OF DEATH AND FEARFUL DISASTER OMAHA COLLECTS HERSELF FOR SAD ACCOUNTING

DRAMATIC EXPERIENCES DESCRIBED BY SURVIVORS OF TERRIBLE STORM

Men and Women Who Passed Through Night of Horror Tell Stories of Tornado Terror and Panic and Sudden Death Make Tales Sound Like Nightmares.

Chicago, March 24.—Stories replete with thrills and pathos were related in Chicago today by eye witnesses of the tornado which swept over parts of Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois last night, killing and injuring hundreds.

Awed and horror-stricken, the narrators of these stories had sat fascinated in the coach of a Chicago, Burlington & Quincy train watching a great dark cloud skimming fantastically at its work of destruction in several villages they helped pick up the dead and dying.

The wounded and the slain—mutilated, groaning, dying—were placed on the plush-covered seats and in the carpeted aisles of the cars until the train reached Omaha. Here they were removed to hospitals or morgues.

On the way the injured told heart-rending tales of suffering and narrow escapes which seemed miraculous.

William Koon, president of an automobile company at Lincoln, Neb., gave a graphic description of the storm as he viewed it from the platform of the observation car. For miles it seemed as if the train were being pursued by the storm.

The Storm Cloud. "We were approaching Ralston, Neb., when I first noticed a strange, copper-colored cloud mounting the sky," said Koon. "Before that it had been clear. The cloud grew rapidly and was traveling at high speed toward Ralston. It assumed the form of a funnel and the air was filled with a curious noise, something between a hiss and a moan, but very piercing. Then the funnel seemed to grow black and the smaller end—that near the ground—was about half a mile in diameter. It swished across the railroad track and swept toward the little town.

"Then the storm struck the town. Houses collapsed, the roofs went sailing away and the sides fell in. The passengers sat as if glued to their seats when the cloud struck. Then as they comprehended the desolation wrought, a cry of horror went up from everyone. It was a fearful sight. Then the engineer brought the engine to a stop, and the passengers ran over to the wreckage of the houses. We could hear the groans of dying men and the wails and shrieks of injured women and children. I entered a house, or rather what had been a house, and beneath me lay a woman. I looked and I knew that she was dead.

"We got all the injured out of the ruins and brought them to the train. We were about to leave when our attention was called to a little house some distance from the others. It had been wrecked and moved from its foundation, but we found a mother and her little baby lying on a bed in the house. Another man was in a basement. His hand had been carried away bodily, and he was left standing with a very surprised look on his face in the open, uninjured.

Houses Carried Away. "I recall that there was a big threshing machine standing near one of the houses, and when the cloud struck it shot straight up into the air and was carried about 40 rods. Houses were rolling and tumbling along the ground.

"I saw a boxcar carried along for a quarter of a mile. When it split open six or seven men who turned out to be a repair gang, dropped out. Some of them lay still, while other feebly crawled away.

"The next station our train passed through was Denison, where the scenes were still more appalling. There were several large factories there, and all strewn in heaps. We picked up a lot of injured, and I don't know how many dead we left behind.

"Then the cloud wheeled and made toward South Omaha. We were not far behind, but our way was blocked by the debris the tornado had thrown upon the tracks. Then, too, we stopped frequently to pick up the injured. There were some with their limbs torn off, and all were cut and bleeding."

Another passenger was Mrs. George J. Halderwert of Syracuse, N. Y., who boarded the train at Lincoln. She still showed traces of the experience through which she had passed.

"When the houses began to fall," she said, "I saw a little girl dressed in white start from one of the houses and run down the street with her hands over her head. Just then the side of a house came soaring through the air, and, shooting suddenly downward, it struck the child and buried her beneath it. I closed my eyes—I could look no more."

Another eye witness was a Chicagoan who withheld his name to avoid possible shock to an invalid

Omaha, Neb., March 24.—Latest reports tonight gave the following list of identified dead:

A. J. PECK. BENJAMIN BARNES. MRS. A. H. BIGGLOW. HENRY BLEATVELT. MARRIE BOKER. JEAN B. BROOKS. INFANT SON OF MORRIS CHRISTENSON. HARRY COOPER. C. W. COPELEY. MRS. CLIFF DANIELS. CLIFF DANIELS. MRS. B. DAVIS. MRS. DAVIS. GEORGE J. DUNCAN. C. W. DILLON. FERRUSON.

TWO DAUGHTERS OF CLIFF DANIELS, AGED 8 AND 12 YEARS. JOHN DOYLE. D. L. FIELDS. W. M. FISHER. MRS. E. F. FITZGERALD. MRS. F. G. GOODENOUGH. HENRIETTA GRIER. J. G. HANSEN. MRS. J. G. HANSEN. MISS BRINE AND SISTER. ANDREW HENDRICKSON. MRS. ELLEN HENSMAN. MRS. VAN DAIEN. B. I. BARNES. LARDSON. LLOYD GLOVER (colored). GEORGE HANSETT (colored). SUNNY FORD (colored). T. E. JOHNSON (colored). JOHN DOYLE. MRS. BAISEN. MRS. HANSEN. JOHN RYAN. MRS. ELLA JOHNSON. NATHAN KRINSKY.

MRS. KRINSKY AND FIVE SMALL CHILDREN. SOLOMON WARTZEL. EMMA ROESING, 12 YEARS OLD. MISS JEPSON. MRS. FRANK DAVIE. CHARLOTTE DAVIE. E. V. FITCH. MRS. SABER. MARIE HANSON. MRS. LAVIDGE. LAVIDGE BOY. MRS. HINES. MRS. DAVIS. MRS. R. R. VANDEVAN. C. B. WISSON. MOORE KIEW. H. B. FITZ. EMMA ROSSING. MRS. FRANK DAVEY. MRS. AND MRS. J. D. HOGGE. MISS HASS. MRS. HOLMES AND BABY DAUGHTER. MISS FREDA HULING. MARY HANSEN. FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER OF EDWARD JEPSON. JEPSON. MRS. L. PECK. SAM RILEY. MRS. E. SAWYER. CASSIUS C. SHIMER. A. B. STANLEY. BERT H. FIELDS. MRS. SULLIVAN AND BABY THELMA. SHAW. NELLY OR NELLEIGH. 14-YEAR-OLD BOY THOUGHT TO BE NAMED RYAN. MRS. NEIHART. MRS. KRAMER. MRS. ROSE GRAY. BABY SHERWOOD. SCOTT BARBER.

MRS. EDITH KIMBALL. FRANCES KIMBALL. MARY MORGAN. H. E. SAID. MRS. H. E. SAID. MORRIS KINE.

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MISSOULA'S HELP IS OFFERED OMAHA

The Missoula Chamber of Commerce, as soon as the details of yesterday's disaster became known, sent a message to the commercial club of the stricken city of Omaha, offering aid and asking an opportunity to help. The message was as follows:

Omaha Commercial Club, Omaha Nebraska,

The Missoula Chamber of Commerce extends sincere sympathy for the disaster to Omaha and vicinity. Missoula and western Montana stand ready to help you. Let us know what we can do to aid you.

THE MISSOULA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. W. G. FERGUSON, Secretary.

From the Golden Rod Club. The Missoula Golden Rod club, an organization of former Nebraskans and residents of Omaha, yesterday sent the following message to Mayor Dahlman of the stricken city:

Missoula, March 24, 1913. Hon. James C. Dahlman, Mayor of Omaha.

As former residents of your great city and state, we feel deeply distressed over your sad misfortune and hold ourselves in readiness to give assistance if needed.

E. H. DEMING, President. MRS. H. A. WHEELDON, Secretary.

IOWA'S WINDSTORM LEAVES DEAD IN WAKE

EASTER SUNDAY STORM KILLS AND INJURES SCORES AND DAMAGES PROPERTY.

Council Bluffs, Ia., March 24.—Each succeeding hour tonight tended to increase the list of dead and injured due to the tornado of Easter Sunday. Every town in Iowa that was possible to reach by long distance telephone throughout the day added to the enormity of the destruction.

The town of Bartlett added three to the death list. All were members of the family of Edward Dendean. Dendean himself is said to have been killed with two members of his family, but their first names were not known.

At Beebe, Mrs. Kate Cavanaugh, mother of Mrs. Lee Hopper, whose two daughters were killed at Neola and who herself was seriously hurt, was

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TWO HUNDRED ODD ARE DEAD FOUR HUNDRED ARE INJURED AND SCORES STILL MISSING

Not Until Long After Storm Has Passed Does the City Recover Enough to Ascertain the Extent of the Damage—Property Loss Is Estimated at Five Millions—Fire Adds to Horror.

Omaha, Neb., March 24.—More than two hundred persons were killed and 400 were injured in a windstorm that demolished 450 homes, damaged hundreds of other buildings and caused a monetary loss of \$5,000,000, according to reports available up to a late hour tonight from the main path of the tornado in and near Omaha.

Most of the casualties were in Omaha, which was stricken as never before. Nearby towns in Nebraska and across the Missouri river in Iowa also suffered severely. Wires were snapped off in all directions and it took many hours to gather and circulate the news of the disaster.

Fire broke out in the debris of many wrecked buildings in the Nebraska metropolis, and these were menacing for some time as the fire companies were hindered by fallen walls and blockaded streets. A heavy rain followed the wind and drenched the hundreds of homeless persons, but it also put out the flames.

Perhaps 1,000 persons are homeless. Aside from this 3,000 buildings, more or less, were damaged, many of these being churches and school buildings. Eight of Omaha's public schools were wrecked.

All forms of communication were almost annihilated by the wind and only two or three wires were in working condition when daylight relieved a night of high tension, which, at times, almost became panicky.

Soldiers, both state and national troops, poured into the city during the day to aid in bringing order out of what, for 24 hours, had been chaos. Tonight these guardians of the peace are patrolling the residence districts, aiding the police to maintain order and to relieve such cases of suffering as come to their notice.

The greatest loss occurred sectionally. Three points in the path of the storm offered the greatest sacrifices. These were at Fortieth and Farnum streets, where a crowd had sought refuge in a garage; at Twenty-Fourth and Lake streets, where a moving picture theater was demolished, and at Twenty-Fourth and Willis avenue, where a pool room had attracted a crowd. In each of these places the fatalities were large. No such catastrophe has ever before visited the city and it was overwhelming. The residents quickly rose to the situation, however, and measures of relief were organized promptly.

Trinity cathedral, parish of Omaha, was temporarily turned into a coffee house. Priests visited home that had been destroyed, in many cases administering the last rites of the church, and public organizations began forming relief committees. Tonight \$100,000 has been subscribed for the relief of the destitute.

Governor Morehead arrived in the city early in the day and took personal charge of the policing of the city.

Mayor James C. Dahlman opened negotiations with the governor for the protection of the city and for the relief of those who had been made homeless, with the result that not only the state officials became active in the work, but tonight a majority of the members of the legislature, in session at Lincoln, came to this city to secure such information as might be necessary in taking up the work of state relief.

As the night wore on reports of additional injured began to drift in from outlying suburbs. No disorders were reported in the stricken zone.

Searchers besieged the morgues and hospitals throughout the night. At 11:55 o'clock reports from hospitals gave no additions to the death list and it was noticed that most of the injured were improving.

Telegraph and telephone communication, which had been at a standstill for hours, improved during the night. Intrastate as well as interstate communication was far from normal and it is believed that the full effects of the storm may not be known for several days.

Reconstruction was begun today when, at a meeting of the real estate exchange, a committee was appointed to take up this work. Insurance companies experienced heavy losses, most of the policyholders carrying a tornado clause.

INCIDENTS OF HORROR-FILLED NIGHT SHOW EXTENT OF OMAHA'S SUFFERING

OVER TWO HUNDRED KNOWN TO BE DEAD

Table with columns: Name, Dead, Injured. Lists names of cities and their respective death and injury counts.

Storm Struck City Without Warning, Burying Citizens Beneath the Ruins of Their Houses, Killing Fleeing Women and Children in the Streets and Leveling Costly Buildings.

Omaha, March 24.—It was late today before all the details of the storm with accompanying wreckage were known even within this city itself.

The pathway of the storm, from three to seven blocks in width, cut a swath 24 blocks long, first through an exclusive residence section of the city, then through a graduation of dwellings until it expended its final energy in the wrecking of a pool hall and moving picture show.

The total number of deaths in this part of the city reached almost 50. Within the space of this storm center, which, if made rectangular, would cover a quarter section of land, 1200 houses are wrecked, 100 dead bodies have been recovered, and workmen are still engaged in searching the ruins for bodies.

Several are known to be still in the ruins at the end of the storm's path.

Estimates of the value of property demolished vary between \$5,000,000 and \$12,000,000. Some of the more substantial houses can be partly rebuilt, but this number is small, and where the buildings have not been torn asunder they have been so twisted that even the material is useless for rebuilding.

Today five public schools were out of commission in Omaha. Seven churches were partially or wholly wrecked, and a private school for girls is a total wreck, although the students escaped. The rest of the loss is to homes.

Rich Homes Destroyed. The destruction began with the mill-owners' homes in the exclusive West Farnum and Bemis park districts. Few lives were lost in this exclusive district, but farther northwest the buildings collapsed more easily and large numbers of deaths resulted.

Rescue work started as soon as the residents of the town were able to hurry to the stricken district but the night's work was by the light of lanterns, and little was accomplished. The storm in passing took down all the wires in the path of the tornado, and the electric power was shut off immediately to prevent further loss of life.

With the arrival of daylight came a trainload of militia from Lincoln and Governor Morehead, and the work was systematized, and tonight indications are that one more day will end the search for bodies and will even witness a general attempt at rebuilding work.

Local facilities were generally adequate. Des Moines sent a special train with 40 physicians and nurses, arriving at noon, headed off the local staff, who had been at work since 6 o'clock the night before.

Nurses and medical supplies were also brought on this train.

Money is already pouring into the city, the city organizations taking the leading in providing funds.

State and religious bodies are falling into line, and offers of help are coming from all quarters of the United States.

A pathetic sight was that of a young girl keeping watch over the dead body of her mother. The mother, Mrs. John Newman, had been instantly killed. As the body lay on the porch of the Institute awaiting suitable burial arrangements, the daughter, Mabel Newman, told of the storm.

"Mother was ill and confined to a room on the second floor of our home, 424 Doweay avenue," she said. "When the raging winds hit the house it toppled as if built of pasteboard. Mother and I were buried in the wreckage. As soon as I could pull myself from the debris, I began to search for her. Board after board I lifted, I tugged and pulled at them until my hands were cut and bleeding. Finally I reached her. I bent down to raise her, but she was dead."

Dry-eyed and calm, the girl recited the story, justifying it with a remark that it was the work of Providence.

Cuts All on Faces. A coincidence among the injured at the child institute was that all were badly cut about the face, while the bodies were comparatively unmarked. Ugly looking scalp wounds marked every injury.

The home of George J. Duncan of the Omaha Bee was completely destroyed. Mr. Duncan died at a hospital this afternoon. Mrs. Duncan is in a critical condition.

At the home of Patrick Hynes a party in celebration of his 81st birthday was in progress. The guests had just begun dinner and were drinking a toast to the health of their host when the storm swept the house away.

"The party had just begun dinner,"

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EIGHTEEN ARE DEAD AS RESULT OF STORM

TORNADO DEVASTATES TERRE HAUTE AND NEIGHBORING INDIANA HAMLETS.

Terre Haute, Ind., March 24.—Eighteen persons are known to have been killed, 250 seriously injured, 275 homes are destroyed and other property damage, estimated at nearly a million dollars, was the toll of the tornado that devastated Terre Haute and its vicinity last night. Tonight the officials in charge of the rescue work say the list of dead will be increased as the searchers clear away the debris of wrecked buildings.

Hundreds of homeless tonight are being cared for by charitable institutions and citizens while the wrecked district is being patrolled by national guardsmen and police. The militia was ordered out early today by Governor Ralston, who directed the relief measure from Indianapolis.

Relief work today showed that hundreds lost everything they owned and their suffering was made more acute by the rain.

The rescue work was carried on fast and tonight it appears that all the homeless are being cared for by charitable institutions and citizens, while the more seriously injured have received medical attention. In many cases private homes were turned into temporary hospitals.

Harrowing stories of their experiences were told by the survivors of the storm. The scenes in the wrecked

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AS WORK OF SEARCHERS THROUGH RUINS OF DEVASTATED CITY CONTINUES LIST OF IDENTIFIED DEAD AND SERIOUSLY INJURED RAPIDLY GROWS LARGER

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LLOYD GLOVER. TOM JOHNSON. GEORGE HAMMEL. CHARLES SOUTH. DUNN. MRS. ODESSA PARKS. MARIE LINDSEY. DAUGHTER OF MORRIS CHRISTENSON. NELS LARSEN. MABEL SUBRIDE. MRS. IDA NEWMAN, head nurse at Child Saving Institute, instantly killed. J. B. NICHOLSON. MISS CORALIE NORRIS. T. B. NORRIS. HELEN NOWNS. MRS. H. S. CLARKE. MRS. A. CARPENTER. MRS. H. J. DYKES. BERT H. FIELDS. JOHN C. FITZPATRICK. JONAH L. GARRISON. MRS. J. D. HAGUE. M. HIMES. MRS. J. G. HANSEN. GEORGE HAMFET. A. J. JACKSON. C. F. KOPELEY. MRS. ANDREW KOLP. J. J. McDONALD. MRS. E. D. MOTE. BERT H. FIELDS. MRS. JOHN SULLIVAN. MRS. E. A. SAWYER. MRS. ANNA SULLIVAN. SHAW.

JASON L. GARRISON. MRS. HANSEN. MRS. RATHKE AND TWO SONS. MRS. E. D. MOTE. BERT THOMAS. MISSING: JOHN BERGE. GEORGE ANDERSON. W. F. ROBERTSON. PAUL MURRAY. J. F. BARNETT. AT BERLIN. HENRY KOCH. MRS. HENRY KOCH. ALBERT KOCH. JOHN KOCH. SYLVIA TIEDE. MRS. R. BRANDT. AT COUNCIL BLUFFS. JAMES H. RICE AND WIFE. MARGET RICE, THREE YEARS OLD. JOHN SCHULTE AND WIFE. MRS. JOHNSON, INFANT DAUGHTER MISSING. UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN AT DONSVILLE CROSSING. Injured. Miss Mary Poole, Louisa Parker, may die; Mrs. Bert Norgard and child; one child dead; Mrs. Lininger; Roy Hawkins. AT WESTON, IOWA. MRS. LON THOMAS. MRS. JOE SWINERMAN. Injured. Lon Thomas and son. AT TERRE HAUTE. JAMES H. BROWN, SR. MRS. CLARA KING AND BABY HELEN.

MRS. IDA DAVIS. MOSES CARTER, WIFE AND DAUGHTER. C. EDWARDS. ALEXANDER ROGERS. JOE HOUTS. BRYAN LESLIE HOUTS. ALLAN MCGUIRE. WILLIAM MATHERLY, Garden- town. MRS. BELLE GRIFFIN, Garden- town. MISS HANNAH TULLEY. DR. ERNEST L. MOORE. JOHN E. MEYERS, JR. ALBERT WATTS, Oblong, Ill. JESSIE GRIFFITH. MISSING. M. A. CORBER. NEALY YEAGER. JOHN FOX. HINES. Fatally Injured. Fred King; James Wells; Ollie Hidenrich. AT NEOLA, IOWA. MRS. EDWARD JONES. Injured. Two young daughters of Mrs. Lee Hopper. AT GLENWOOD, IOWA. MRS. EDWARD LAMBER. DESHA LAMBERT, 22 YEARS OLD. CLYDE MERRITT, 22 YEARS OLD. MR. AND MRS. JAMES McDONALD. SERIOUSLY INJURED. At Omaha. George Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Ward Baggett, Chicago; Frank Bell, Elkhorn.

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