

MORE STORMS COMING! STORM INSURANCE IS CHEAP

SCHEERER & HEAD Write Tornado and Wind Insurance

HEAVY TOLL OF LIVES BY TORNADO AT KEMP CITY

ELEVEN KNOWN DEAD. MANY INJURED. TOWN OBLITERATED FROM FACE OF EARTH. NEIGHBORING CITIES COME TO RESCUE WITH MONEY AND PROVISIONS.

At nine o'clock Sunday night the little town of Kemp City was a quiet and happy community with no fear for the future. At nine-thirty, the scene was shifted to one of death and destruction and desolation. It all happened in a moment. Without so much as five minutes warning the tornado demon swept down on the little village and obliterated it from the face of the earth, leaving in its path naught but the dead and the dying and the injured. Not one soul in the town entirely escaped injury.

The list of the dead is:
E. E. COX, manager Lingo Leeper Co. and wife.
DR. WM. BRINSON and wife.
CHANEY BATTLE, cashier Bank of Kemp.

M. A. THOMAS, postmaster.
ARTIE PLEASANT, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Pleasant.
MRS. J. W. Hively.

Daughter of Dr. J. C. McCullough, aged 6.
Son of Dr. J. C. McCullough, aged 14.

The injured:
J. E. Pleasant, wife and five children; W. J. Norman, wife and three children; J. T. Hockett, father of Mrs. Norman; D. S. Norman, father of W. J. Norman; Mrs. G. H. Ellis, Mildred Cox, aged 12 years, father and mother both killed; Barlow Graham, W. H. Webb, Harvey Cox, Miss Lucile Brinson, Baby Brinson, Miss Marie Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Ingram, Mrs. M. A. Thomas and daughter, Iona; Mrs. Chapman Mountain, J. W. Hively and five children, H. S. Johnson and wife, Lizzie McCullough and Willie McCullough.

The path of the storm was about three quarters of a mile wide and it did not spare the many houses, barns and other structures in its path.

The McCullough residence, a large two-story frame structure, stood on the tip of a high hill overlooking the Red River Valley. This house was swept away entirely, the timbers being strewn for a distance of a mile. In the McCullough home the family was seated about a room reading. The storm came without warning to them, and the house was crushed as though an eggshell. Baby McCullough was instantly killed and Miss Lizzie McCullough painfully injured, while Willie McCullough was fatally injured, at a late hour today physicians stating that he could not survive.

The storm-swept area was marked from the McCullough home toward Carpenter's Bluff, a settlement near Red River, by large trees uprooted and slight damage to the house of John Foust, Mat Foust, Finest Foust, G. W. DeVault and Leslie DeVault. These houses were damaged by the overturning of chimneys, parts of roofings being torn off, and in one case a house was lifted from its foundation. No one was injured on the Texas side of the river except at the McCullough home.

In Kemp City the people heard the roaring of the fast approaching cyclone and many saved their lives by going to storm cellars. Those who had no storm cellars were either injured or killed, as all but three the three left standing were damaged by the overturning of earth and ed considerably.

Though badly damaged, the station of the Missouri, Oklahoma & Gulf Railroad withstood the storm and the station clock stopped at exactly 9:23 o'clock.

The entire business section of the little city was swept clean. All business houses except the bank were frame. The brick two-story bank building was demolished. Like the frame buildings and bricks were hurled hundreds of feet through the air. The stocks of merchandise are a total loss, a greater portion being blown away entirely, while that which remained intact was ruined by a heavy downpour of rain and hail.

In the two-story frame hotel building were three guests, who were buried under the wreckage of the building, but were rescued with but slight injuries.

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Cox were hurled through the air about five hundred feet, alighting close to each other. Their baby was thrown near them and buried under a stack of timbers. The parents were killed instantly, while the child was severely injured.

Dr. W. M. Brinson and wife were hurled 200 feet, and were badly mangled. Chaney Battle, cashier of the Kemp Bank, was hurled several hundred feet from his home and but few bruises were found on his body. M. A. Thomas, a merchant and postmaster, was struck in the head by a large piece of timber that probably caused instant death. Artie Pleasant, aged 14 years, died about 4 o'clock this morning. Mrs. J. W. Hively died at 6 o'clock this morning, after arriving in the Physicians and Surgeons' Hospital in

Denison.

After the storm passed over the city, those who were not injured started a rescue party and with lanterns began the search of ruins for their neighbors. W. J. Duckworth was sent by horseback to Carpenter's Bluff on the Texas side to get wire communication with Denison and ask for aid. While Duckworth was summoning aid, his neighbors gathered up the dead and took them to the home of Mrs. J. K. McLaughlin, which was turned into a morgue. The injured were taken to the homes of T. H. Fowler and J. M. Webb, which resembled hospitals when the Denison relief party arrived.

After appeals for aid reached Denison many automobiles with physicians and others who wished to lend aid, left for the scene. Large trees were encountered across the road and had to be cut away to allow passage. While automobiles were rushing physicians to the scene a special train with a dozen Denison physicians was made up over the M., O. & G. This train was operated slowly to Kemp City on account of large limbs and other obstructions across the track.

Arriving in the little city, physicians were met with tears of joy by residents who were still seeking missing members of families. The injured were given first-aid treatment and a further search of the ruins was made.

While undertakers from Denison took care of the dead, the injured were placed on the relief train, which arrived in Denison at 5 o'clock Sunday morning, and the injured were taken to the two hospitals of the city for treatment.

The following business houses were destroyed entirely: Fowler Mercantile Company, with 4,000 bushels of corn stored in warehouse; O. E. Cox, grocery store; R. P. Hedrick, drugs; J. W. Robinson, restaurant; First State Bank, Lingo Leeper Lumber Company; two-story frame hotel, one storeroom used for storing grocery supplies, vacant store building and J. W. Robison, blacksmith shop.

The following homes were completely destroyed and blown away: Dr. G. H. Ellis, Dr. W. M. Brinson, W. J. Norman, J. W. Hively, O. E. Cox, J. E. Pleasant, W. B. Hill, C. P. Rogers, E. E. Cox, G. W. Ellis, Mason Mountain, W. H. Webb, Dixie Williams, T. E. Memminger and T. E. Brown.

The houses left standing in the city were those of T. H. Fowler, damaged considerably; J. M. Webb and J. K. McLaughlin.

Many farm houses near the city were damaged or blown from their foundations. The home of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Ingram, formerly of Denison, who reside two miles north-east of Kemp City, was demolished and both Mr. and Mrs. Ingram were severely injured. A house occupied by a family of seven negroes was torn to splinters, but only one child was slightly injured.

Insurance was carried on all the

business houses but two and the gin. The loss could not be estimated, as the merchants had either relatives or friends killed or injured and no idea could be gained as to the amount of stock carried. The damage will no doubt be total, as the buildings were torn to splinters and scattered over the storm-swept district.

It was stated this morning by several of the leading merchants, also directors of the bank, that the buildings would not be rebuilt.

Many freak acts were performed by the wind. Large oak trees were bent and twisted, while large timbers were driven for several feet into the ground in places. Feathers were torn from chickens that were strewn dead over the city. Several horses were killed in a large barn and many cows were seen lying in the wake of the storm.

One small house at the edge of the storm path had a small timber driven through the roof and another driven through the side of the house. A limb from a large oak tree was driven with such force against the house that the smaller limbs crashed through the planks, leaving an imprint that resembled the limb of a tree with its several branches. No one was injured in this house.

In speaking of the storm's warning, T. H. Fowler, a leading merchant, said: "We heard a roaring toward the river and as I started to close the door the wind grew stronger. I then heard a tree fall in the yard, then an awful crackling of timbers, and in a minute it was all over. A heavy rain and hail fell for a long time, but looking out of the house I noticed all houses were dark, and taking a lantern, I began to investigate, finding the homes of my neighbors torn down."

Mr. Fowler's home was damaged considerably, but it was used as a hospital for the injured, and during Sunday it and the home of J. M. Webb, was turned into a restaurant where citizens of the little city were fed by supplies furnished by the citizens of Denison.

Practically all clothing was lost and many persons went through the cold night only partly clad. Those fortunate enough to have any at all divided with the less fortunate. Clothing and food was sent from Denison Monday and thousands of sightseers visited the storm-swept district.

Farmers say that the hail ruined the corn crop and in many places the cotton was ruined by water washing the fields.

Many Durant people went to the stricken village Sunday and Monday and offered what relief they could. Attorney C. C. Catchett Sunday made a talk to the crowd in behalf of the stricken community and in a few minutes \$150.00 for relief was raised, and since then much more has been subscribed. County commissioners Spears, spent Monday there and arranged to send clothing and provisions Tuesday.

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NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE.

On May 31, 1916, at 2 p. m., in front of the court house in Durant, the following described lands will be sold to the highest bidder:

40 acres in Section 1, Township 8 South, Range 7 East, being the Emma Mitchell, nee Kemp, allotment.

210 acres in Sections 4 and 9, Township 5 South, Range 12 East, being the Cordelia Gray allotment.

188.65 acres in Section 19, Township 8 South, Range 10 East, being the Sammie Bacon allotment.

CHAS. C. PARKER, Attorney.

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