

Five Dead, 45 Injured in Eugene Area

Winds Ravage Emerald Area

Puffy white clouds dotted a blue sky over much of the Emerald Empire early Saturday.

Just a few hours earlier a storm buffeted the region and left widespread havoc in its wake.

On the Oregon coast near Reedsport, a measuring gauge broke after registering wind at 120 miles per hour Friday afternoon.

The reading came from the Coast Guard Umpqua River Lifeboat station, which reported no crafts were missing as of Saturday morning.

The storm left a trail of damage along the coast and inland through much of the Emerald Empire. A Saturday morning survey showed the following damage picture:

Reedsport

The roof of Highland Grade School was damaged. Many residences and business buildings reported damage but the city was partially protected from the wind by an adjoining ridge.

Electrical power was restored to much of the area late Friday night. Crews were clearing adjacent Highway 101 and Highway 38 to drain of fallen trees.

The storm was cited as a factor in a light voter turnout in which a \$25,000 bond issue to construct a new city library was approved 84 to 53.

Florence

Many coast residents surveyed damage Saturday morning and called the storm the "worst" in the past decade.

Property damage was extensive. An estimated \$3,000 damage occurred when a roof was blown off a school bus shed. Other school roofs were damaged.

More than \$10,000 in damage to four light aircraft was reported at the airport.

As many as 40 to 50 private boats were reported damaged and sunk in the Siuslaw River. The commercial fishing fleet was damaged. A tug operated by Ray Staban and used in the jettty repair was beached during the storm.

The light at Heeeta Head Lighthouse was off from 6 to 9 p.m.

Cottage Grove

Several trailers were nearly demolished by falling trees in a trailer park in the heavily-wooded north end of town.

The tin siding from Pioneer Hardware's warehouse was ripped off by the heavy winds.

Trees downed power lines in at least two places south of the city limits but power was restored to about half the city late Friday night.

The roof of the Keith Roberts Ford dealership building was lifted off, littering the Ninth and Main intersection with rubble.

Several large plate glass windows were smashed, including one at Safeway market.

Oakridge

This upper Willamette community escaped the full force of Friday's storm but strong gusts were reported in the surrounding areas.

Trees were toppled along Highway 58 between Oakridge and Lowell and most side roads were blocked by fallen trees.

Westfir

Strong winds and heavy rains which hit this area Friday caused little damage here.

The winds, which struck about 1:45, scattered veneer stacked in the rear of Hines Lumber Co.'s plywood plant.

Lowell-Dexter

Friday winds uprooted trees ripped roofing from the Lowell Grange hall and from several barns in the area.

Dexter received slight damage, but power in the area went out the same time as Lowell's and had not been restored by late Saturday morning.

Creswell

The sides of an old mill and an adjacent burner west of town were caved in by the heavy winds.

Drain

Telephone poles were blown over in this Douglas County community during the storm. In addition, one pole was being held up only by a line attached to a company truck.

Pleasant Hill

Roofs of the grade school gym and elementary school wing at Pleasant Hill were damaged. However, Supt. Charles E. Funk said the damage is considered minor and classes are expected to be held in the district Monday.

Minutes after Julie Tudwell left her trailer house to go shopping, the wind blew it over.

Junction City

Buildings in a two-block area were involved in a fire, which destroyed the Farmers' Warehouse and six houses.

McKenzie River

The brunt of the storm apparently missed the lower elevations along the McKenzie River. However, power lines were reported down at Finn Rock just west of Blue River.

Harrisburg

Extensive damage was reported to the dressing room addition being made at the high and elementary schools here, according to Police Chief E. G. McPhee.

Monroe

High school and elementary school gymnasium roofing was damaged and water leaked onto the high school gym floor.

Two elevators were blown over at Monroe Feed Mill and damage to a roof and kiln chimney at the Monroe Clay Products was reported.

Marcola

Some 20 houses were damaged by falling trees, according to Mrs. Leo Pascheke. Wind damaged the high school roof and community church.

Coburg

This community was still without power late Saturday morning as a result of the storm.

Veneta

Numerous trees were blown down, including one which struck the home of Mr. and Mrs. Linus Cook.

Elmira

A new garage at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Fountain was overturned by wind and another garage owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Wilkinson was struck by a tree.

Noti

Roofing at the elementary school multi-purpose room was blown off and the south wall was caved in. The roof on the new classroom addition also was damaged.

Mapleton

The elementary school roof was damaged and power outages were reported throughout the area.



Storm Fatality

A rescue crew removes the body of Curtis Ray, 85, from debris of a portion of Sunset Home which collapsed during raging winds Friday. Ray was visiting his wife, Martha, 84, a patient, when winds blew down the retirement home's

chapel. Concrete blocks and other debris crashed down upon Mrs. Ray's room, killing her husband and injuring her. Five deaths in the Eugene area were attributed to the storm.

Governor Asks Disaster Relief

Dawn Reveals Heavy Losses

By JERRY UHRHAMMER
Of the Register-Guard

The big storm is history. But its epitaph was still being written Saturday.

As public officials and homeowners began the herculean task of assessing the damages, several things stood clear:

• The Emerald Empire had five dead from the storm, all from Eugene, part of a death toll of 26 as the storm funneled northward from Northern California, battering Oregon, Washington and British Columbia.

• At least 45 were injured in the Emerald Empire.

• Losses wrought by the storm in Lane County stood at well over \$2 million.

• Many power and phone lines were down.

• Just for the record, the storm was lapped the worst ever to hit Oregon.

Saturday noon, Gov. Mark Hatfield asked President Kennedy to declare Oregon a major disaster area—an action that would make the state eligible for emergency federal aid to help in recovery.

Hatfield Friday night declared the stricken area an emergency disaster area. The damage reports coming in Saturday presented this picture:

Coastal regions were hard-hit by the violent winds, which at times surpassed hurricane velocity.

Valley Worst Hit

Worst-hit, however, appeared to be the valley, especially Eugene, Junction City and Cottage Grove. Springfield, although it had numerous broken windows and fallen trees, was not hit quite as hard.

Closer to the Cascades, the McKenzie River valley and the Oakridge-Highway 58 area appeared to have escaped the worst of the storm.

The first signal of what was in store for the area came Friday morning as the barometer at the Mahlon Sweet Airport weather station began falling rapidly.

The pressure drop continued until 4 p.m. when the station's pressure marker "went clear off the recording sheet," according to the weatherman. The lowest recorded pressure: 28.86. Normal: about 29.9.

"That's the lowest we've ever recorded pressure-wise, for this area, as far as I know," said the weatherman.

In Eugene, the winds—from a Pacific storm reinforced by remnants of tropical storm Frieda—disturbed an after-

noon calm shortly after 3 p.m. and quickly increased in ferocity.

Gusts Reach 86 m.p.h.

The weather station said the top sustained wind was 63 m.p.h., with a peak gust of 86 miles an hour at 3:52 p.m. and many others in the 80 m.p.h. class. Hurricane velocity is 74 m.p.h. and higher.

At 5 p.m., winds of 52 m.p.h. gusts of 56, were measured. As the evening wore on, the winds slackened.

But by that time, the city was in a shambles.

As a city of trees, Eugene saw many of its stately giants fall—crashing into automobiles, snapping power and phone lines and blocking streets.

There were too many to count.

The gale winds blasted roofing, fences, carports and signs, tearing them loose.

Roosevelt Junior High School, at 24th Avenue and Hilyard Street, lost the entire center section of its roof. One piece flew through the air and killed 21-year-old Larry Johnson, a University of Oregon student who was trying to board up a window in his Amazon Housing Project apartment.

Wind Crumpled Chapel

Farther to the south at the large Sunset Home, the 20-foot high brick chapel crumbled to the ground, a loss of \$70,000 to \$75,000.

At first, said W. J. Tweet, superintendent, the front of the chapel "fairly exploded." Made mostly of glass and wood, "it burst right out," he said.

The south wall went next, then the roof collapsed. The remaining walls were left free-standing and "The wind toppled them in," Tweet said.

Debris from the chapel crashed into the room of Mrs. Curtis Ray, 84, and killed her husband, 85.

Throughout the city was mute testimony of the wind's northward path. Street signs, stop signs, speed signs—any sign with a flat surface exposed to the south—were to be pushed askew, leaning to the north.

Worst affected areas of the city were those with old, big trees—and the University area, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eleventh Avenues.

Chain Saw Volunteers

Besides knocking out power, the heavy trees which fell made the arterial streets impassable. City crews and volunteers with chain saws quickly began to cut through the leafy blockades, but

some of the streets Saturday morning were but litter-strewn avenues wide enough for only one car at a time.

Falling hot wires raised another danger—fire.

The Eugene Fire Department—though its base radio station in City Hall was knocked out by power failure—answered about 75 calls. Many were home fires, touched off by electrical troubles.

But five of the alarms came from lumber mills as the winds blew over waste burners and scattered flames and sparks.

Losses to the mills were estimated at \$150,000, possibly more.

Fire whipped by the gusty winds left two square blocks of Junction City in ruins.

Warehouse Burns

Sparks from a blown-over sawmill burner ignited the huge Farmers Warehouse Inc., burning it to the ground with losses estimated at some \$400,000.

Six nearby houses also burned, despite efforts by firemen from as far away as Cottage Grove to stem the blazes.

Junction City schools and a number of houses also were damaged.

In Cottage Grove, 25 National Guardsmen were called out shortly before midnight to patrol the city when police reported their forces were insufficient to do the job.

Disaster Photos

This issue of the Register-Guard contains a special section of pictures of Friday's historic disaster.

Assisting the Register-Guard's four staff photographers in pictorial coverage of Friday's windstorm were other staff members and freelance photographers.

The four staff photographers are Phil Wolcott, Phil Grenon, Joe Matheson and Mirko Pitner. Staff reporters Pete Downs, Mike Richmond, Bill Richmond and Ed Beeler, and Paul Peterson, of the newspaper's advertising department, also provided photo coverage. Other photos were contributed by Stan Bettis, Donald Renfro, Jim Lowell, Val Thoenig, Paul Gilbertson, and Spence Hopkins.

Storm Leaves Grim Statistics

The death toll: Five.

The injured: At least 45, maybe more.

These were the grim statistics from the storm that swept over the Emerald Empire Friday.

The deaths, all in Eugene, were among 26 counted in California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia.

The Eugene dead:

• Larry Johnson, 21, of 2302-12 Patterson Dr., Eugene, a University of Oregon student.

• DeWitt O. Bevans, 54, of 955 Ascot Dr., Eugene, district manager for Safeway Stores.

• Herbert H. Beeson, 65, of 1293 Jackson St., Eugene, a laundry employee.

• Curtis Ray, 85, of 748 E. 21st Ave., Eugene.

• Margaret Hilda Blythe, 73, of 235 E. 33rd Ave. Eugene.

Two of the deaths were caused by the storm's brute force, which ripped roofs and buildings asunder; the others were apparently caused by the excitement and apprehension that accompanied the big blow.

Johnson was putting a piece of cardboard over the window of his apartment in the UO Amazon Married Students housing project during the height of the storm when a center section of the roof of nearby Roosevelt Junior High School gave way.

Pieces of roof flew through the air. One piece hurtled through the window of Johnson's apartment, piercing his chest. He died shortly after being taken to Sacred Heart Hospital.

Curtis Ray was standing near the bed of his wife, Martha, 84, a patient at Sunset Home in south Eugene, when the high winds demolished the retirement home's chapel, a brick structure, 75 feet long, 30 feet wide and 20 feet high.

Bricks and debris cascaded over the wing in which Mrs. Ray's room was located. Rescuers found his body completely covered with debris, Mrs. Ray partially buried. She was taken to Sacred Heart Hospital with wrist and possible leg injuries.

A stroke or heart attack was believed the cause of Bevans' death. The storm had ripped shingles from the roof of his home. He was atop the house Friday evening laying tarpaper when he was stricken.

Mrs. Blythe also was the victim of an apparent heart attack.

Eugene police said they believe it was she who telephoned headquarters during the storm's fury to ask for aid. The front window of the house had blown in. She was told no help was available to remain away from the window.

A little later, an ambulance was called to the house. Resuscitation was attempted, but Mrs. Blythe was dead. Police theorized that possibly she had become upset by the damage to the house, which brought on the attack.

Details surrounding the death of Herbert H. Beeson were scarce.

He was found lying on the sidewalk on 10th Avenue, between Olive and Charnelton, a few steps from the laundry where he worked. Taken by ambulance to Sacred Heart Hospital, he was dead on arrival.

He bore bruises on his face, possibly from the fall onto the sidewalk. Whether he died from the fall, or succumbed to a heart attack, wasn't immediately known.

The many injuries Friday mostly stemmed from persons being struck by flying debris.

The twelve persons admitted to Sacred Heart Hospital for treatment of injuries received during Friday's storm were listed in good condition Saturday.

Sixteen other persons received out-patient treatment for minor injuries.

In good condition are:

Herbert Eastman, 45, 1070 Maple Dr., who received a broken right leg when struck by piece of plywood.

Mabel Wood, 66, 1040 Ferry St., who was struck in the head by a falling limb.

Frances Ledgerwood, 43, 1048 W. 27th Ave., who received a back injury when knocked down by wind.

Roy O. Johnson, 62, 1647 Villard St., who received a fractured rib and a kidney injury when struck by a University of Oregon ticket booth.

Peter M. Ruzicka, 40, 595 E. 12th Ave., who received a possible fractured vertebra when a tree struck his pickup truck.

Dee Lin, 50, 137 E. 13th Ave., who received bruises when the wind knocked her down.

Martha Ray, 84, Sunset Nursing Home, Eugene, who received a fractured wrist when debris crashed through the ceiling of her room. Her husband was killed.

Rudy M. Crommelin, 19, 1009 Patterson St., who received facial cuts when struck by a limb.

Theodore W. Titzlaff, 49, Jefferson, Ore., who received a broken heel when a structure he was working on blew down.

Alfred Fitzlaff, 23, Jefferson, Ore., who received a broken leg when a structure he was working on blew down.

Harry Enfield, 61, 142 Jefferson St., who received elbow and back injuries when he fell while clearing tree limbs from a street.

Maurice Fery, 24, Stayton, who received a thigh injury when wind blew him off a structure.

Also admitted to Sacred Heart Friday was Mrs. Larry Johnson, pregnant wife of the University of Oregon student killed at Amazon Housing Project by flying debris. She was being treated for shock Saturday. Her condition was listed as good.

Receiving out-patient treatment were:

Lad Holemar, 49, 1040 Country Club Rd.; Norbert Pietrok, 43, Seio; Sherrill Bailor, 13, 1553 Tinamou St.; Will Martin, 64, Silver City, N.M.; Linda Maggard, 14, 375 E. 46th St.; Ronald Ness, 24 Howard Ave.; Lenore Hyslop, 1938 Potter St.; June Olson, 3278 W. 18th St.; Marvin Landers, 1218 Nancy St.; Sherry Pelroy, 1143 1/2 W. 7th Ave.; Ben Peterson, 1090 Alder St.; Don Hawks, 843 Sprague; Sam Grubb, 2302 Patterson St.; Bessie White, 880 K St., Springfield; Don Smith, 306 Mill St., Coburg; Jean Olson, 1078 W. 11th Ave.

In Springfield, 91-year-old Sadie Perkins, 251 N. Fifth St., was admitted to the McKenzie-Willamette Memorial Hospital for treatment of a fractured wrist received in a fall.

Ben Minder, 34, Rt. 4, Eugene, was treated at McKenzie-Willamette for lacerations after his motor bike was blown over.

Three men receiving out-patient treatment for minor injuries suffered in a McKenzie River highway accident late Friday afternoon were James Oaks, 19, Rt. 4, Eugene; Denver Backubein, 39, 4660 Franklin Blvd., and Leland Salisbury, 54, 1620 Grant St., Eugene.

One person was admitted to the Eugene Hospital & Clinic for treatment of storm-caused injuries. Mary Brick, 5, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Brick, Rt. 2, Springfield, received a broken left leg when a tree fell on her.

Receiving out-patient treatment at Eugene Hospital were Gilead Baum, Cottage Grove, leg injury; Mrs. Glenn Waugh, 554 Pinto Ave., glass in ankle; Lucille Payne, 880 W. 23rd, glass in neck; Harold Wald, 830 W. 18th Ave., cut over eye; Richard Rademacher, 434 E. 13th Ave., eye injury.

Two patients were admitted to the University of Oregon infirmary. Mark Jones, from LaCanada, Calif., was treated for contusions of the scalp, and Laurel Kinninger, a dormitory resident, was treated for a possible concussion.

Out-patient treatment was received by Craig Clark, senior from Silverton, nose injury; Stephen Cruikshank, 572 W. Broadway, scalp laceration; Jerry Ashley, junior from Tygh Valley, particles in eye, and Andrea King, contusions.

The Western Lane Hospital in Florence, the Cottage Grove Hospital and the Oakridge Clinic had no reports of injuries or deaths.