

Winds, Fires Damage Mills

Officials at five Eugene area lumber mills Saturday were still assessing the damage from fires started during the height of Friday's storm. Wind and fire damage seemed likely to pass the \$150,000 mark.

The five mill blazes were among an estimated total of 115 calls handled during the storm by Eugene and Springfield area fire departments.

Outside of the mill fires, most blazes in the area were apparently relatively minor. Many were home fires, started by electrical shorts, damaged meters or downed power lines.

In some cases one or two rooms were damaged, but no homes in the immediate Eugene-Springfield area were destroyed by fire. Countless runs by the various fire departments were simply for downed "hot" wires, trees on houses and the like, with no actual fire damage.

Dispatcher Jack Douglas and Battalion Chief David Boggs said all eight pieces of Eugene Fire Dept. equipment were in use almost constantly for an estimated three-hour period. About 20 off-duty firemen were called in to supplement regular forces.

The department was also kept busy through the night and early Saturday morning with more short-circuit and downed-wire calls.

23 Calls

The Springfield Fire Dept. answered 23 calls between 3:11 p.m. and 4:51 p.m. Friday. After that, calls slackened off. There were no reports of major fires in Springfield.

Eugene's fire box alarm system was knocked out early in the storm and was still out Saturday. Much of the system's wiring is carried on utility poles, which were down by the score.

No injuries were reported in any of the fire runs, either to firemen nor to others.

Several of the mill fires started when scrap burners—those tepee-shaped symbols of the lumber industry—were blown apart by the hurricane-force winds, hurling sparks into lumber piles, electrical control panels and the mills themselves.

Burner Mills In

Jim Rutherford, dump man at Camac Veneer Inc., 199 N. Bertleson Rd., described the scene there:

"The side of it (the burner) just caved in, and the next gust of wind that came along—over the side. It took the conveyor with it."

No official damage estimate was available, but there seemed no question that it would run into the tens of thousands of dollars.

Many Spot Fires

President Donald R. Barker of the Barker Willamette Lumber Co., 743 Lawrence St., estimated total damage at his mill between \$40,000 and \$50,000.

Barker said the mill's burner, valued at \$25,000-\$30,000, collapsed, and the resulting showers of sparks started spot fires through the mill.

Damage at Jones Veneer and Plywood Co., on Irving Road was estimated at between \$25,000 and \$35,000 by Ted Langton, treasurer. He said a burner partially collapsed, with the resulting sparks apparently starting a blaze that heavily damaged the "business end" of the veneer plant.

Planing Mill Hit

At Cuddeback Lumber Co. at Third and Garfield streets, the burner also was partially blown down, as was a lathing shed, causing a fire in the planing mill. No damage estimate was available, but it seemed likely to run into a \$10,000-plus figure.

The veneer plant at the B. J. Veneer Co., 90 Poch St., suffered an estimated \$25,000 fire damage, according to Eugene Battalion Chief Pete Hansen. Hansen said the cause of the fire hadn't been determined, but may have been an electrical short.

There may have been other mill fires of a relatively minor nature during the storm, but only these five were reported to area fire departments.

R-G Paper Boys Miss Only 1,000

Register-Guard delivery boys were able to get all but 1,000 papers delivered in the Eugene-Springfield area Friday evening. Most of the remainder were delivered Saturday morning when weather conditions improved.

Along the motor routes an estimated 1,500 papers did not get to the customers. Dick Lane, assistant circulation manager, said papers which were missed Friday would be delivered with Saturday's Register-Guard.

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Storm Had Its Lighter Moments

'It's a Bad Omen,' Said the Young Sign Carriers

By DON BISHOFF
Of the Register-Guard

The "Repent" signs on Willamette Street . . . The water show that went on as scheduled . . . the man picking up walnuts among the fallen tree giants . . .

These were a few off-beat aspects of what will probably go down in history as Eugene's Big Blow—future election campaigns excluded. The incidents provided some lighter moments amidst the chaos—although they weren't always amusing to those involved.

Take those high school students, for example. Nobody knows whether they were serious or not.

They appeared on Willamette Street between 4 and 5 p.m. The storm still raged.

They said their names were Jim Agnew and Terry Kencer

and that they attend South Eugene. They wore fur coats and sandals.

They carried signs. "Repent," urged the signs.

"People don't realize how serious this is," they told one who stopped to inquire. "This storm is a bad omen."

Up on the University of Oregon campus, Don Van Rossen, swimming coach, was earning for himself the title of World's Bravest Entrepreneur. He bade the Dolphin Swim Club, of which he is advisor, go on with its water show.

And starting at 7:30 p.m., on it went—before an audience of 500 persons, by Van Rossen's estimate. How many of these came from heatless homes to get warm is unknown.

"We felt that we had planned

it, we had electricity," he said. "You know, the show must go on. We didn't know who would turn out but the audience was real receptive."

The show's title incidentally, is "Wide Wide World of Water."

The walnut picker was spotted by KVAL's Keith Gebers, calmly picking up the nuts on W. 11th Avenue during the height of the storm. He had acquired part of a bucket full and was still going strong when last seen.

Elita O. Hopper, who lives at 448 W. 12th Ave., was on her way to the bank to pay a bill Friday afternoon. In her purse, she said, was some \$420 in assorted cash.

At Tenth and Olive, Mrs. Hop-

per was hit by a gust of wind. Her purse flew open and the contents—including the cash—were buffeted about the intersection.

Mrs. Hopper said she recovered \$70, but some \$350 was apparently still blowing, floating or lying somewhere around Tenth and Olive Saturday.

Friday was Don Allen's birthday. Not particularly a newsworthy event in itself, but Allen didn't have much time for celebrating. He's the City of Eugene's director of public works.

Lucille Vaughan Payne, Eugene short story writer, went on with her planned speech at the Oregon High School Press Conference Saturday—despite four storm-inflicted stitches in her jaw.

She was standing with a group of other women at a large display window in Sears, watching the roofs blow by.

"A girl had just said 'look at that roof.' I looked up . . . At that moment this huge glass window just disintegrated. I guess everyone ran—I did. I could feel the glass just whizzing by me."

"Finally I had sense enough to turn left behind a counter and hit the dirt."

A woman walked into the McKay's Market on S. Hilyard Street while the storm was whipping away pieces of the store's roof.

"Where is the popcorn?" she asked a clerk. "I can't think of anything to do but go home and pop popcorn."

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COMMENT

by R. L. McGaffey



COLUMBUS DAY

October 12th was the day Christopher Columbus first sighted land at the end of his famous voyage and disembarked on an island he called San Salvador. He didn't know where he was or what he had discovered. That didn't matter. His voyage was to change the map of the world.

Columbus' trip itself was remarkable, but other ships had sailed as far, and under circumstances just as difficult. What was monumental in his achievement was his willingness to sail into the unknown, his faith in himself, his refusal to give up in the face of obstacles, skepticism and ignorance.

It is this spirit as well as his discovery which is remembered on Columbus Day, a spirit which America has embraced and made her own. A man does not always need to be sure where he is going, if he is willing to try the new, to explore the unknown, to trust in himself and his courage, and in his God.

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Watch Frozen Foods, Check Trees

Farm Crops Among Hardest Hit

By BOB NEWCOMB
Of the Register-Guard

Farmers, fruit and nut growers and ranchers throughout Lane County were still rubbing their eyes Saturday trying to size up the damage done by Friday's storm.

Apple, walnut and filbert trees were toppled. Corn crops, whipped into the ground by the wind, were feared badly damaged. Some farm animals were killed; others probably hurt.

The experts were advising citizens to check downed trees to see if they can be saved and to watch foods stored in freezers during prolonged power outages.

Paige Hall chief of the Lane County Extension Service, said it was still impossible to assess the damage done to crops. Many crops, such as green beans, already have been harvested.

But the harvest of nuts is barely under way, according to Alton McCully, research director for the Eugene Fruit Growers Assn. He said there is still an estimated 1,500 tons of corn in the county yet to be processed by the Eugene plant—"if it can be harvested now."

Tree Damage Extensive

That processing plant was back in operation Saturday at 5:30 a.m. after more than 12 hours without power. Power went off in the midst of processing of 25 tons of ripened pears valued at \$2,000, he reported.

There were scattered reports of crop damage from farmers. Hardest hit, it appeared Saturday, were filbert, walnut and apple growers. Cherries have been harvested, but damage to dormant trees could be extensive.

• In Pleasant Hill, orchardist Lyman Tinker said Saturday he estimated his crop damage at \$14,000 to his fruit trees and another \$3,000 in the loss of unharvested pears, apples and prunes. He said 80 per cent of his prune trees, covering five acres, were toppled by the wind. Damage was general throughout his 30-acre orchards, he said.

• Rodney Chase, owner of the Royal-Dell Ranch near Springfield reported that nearly 25 per cent of his filbert and walnut crops were down and a 20-acre block of pie cherries was badly hit. He reported the loss of two pigs.

• At Goshen, Howard Merriam, an orchardist, said about 3,000 bushels of apples fell to the ground in the windstorm; about 60 trees were uprooted. He estimated that overall, he lost about one of his 20 acres of trees to the storm. His loss will probably run about \$6,000 in fruit, \$2,400 in trees, he estimated. The storm was the worst seen here during his 60 years in the area, he said.

Fruit growers generally agreed that it is not feasible for commercial growers to attempt to prop up toppled trees—once

their larger roots are broken or badly damaged.

But a Eugene nurseryman, Edward Cross, advised that if trees are not badly damaged—if their main roots are still intact—that they have a good chance of survival if they are propped up again and given a firm brace.

Any Kind of Tree

That would apply to almost any kind of tree, he said, because most trees in this area have already entered dormancy—even the deciduous trees with their leaves still green. If smaller roots have been broken, he advises, cut them off with a sharp, clean cut before replanting. Then keep them from wobbling further by the wind.

It was not known Saturday how all Lane County farm animals fared in the storm, but some reports indicate light losses.

It was reported that a valuable Hereford bull, owned by Harry Simmons of Creswell, was killed by a falling tree Friday. Sixty or more dairy cows owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Benier of Creswell escaped injury when the barn they were in was badly damaged Friday

afternoon. Hall said he thinks the greatest loss suffered by most farmers will result from damage done to structures.

A word of advice to persons who had foods stored in home freezers during the extensive power outages was issued Saturday by Virginia Houtchens, Lane County extension agent in home economics.

Cook Thawed Meat

She urges that fish, meat and poultry be examined to see if it thawed. If so, she says, do not attempt to refreeze it without first cooking it. If power has not been restored, keep the freezer as well insulated as possible—with newspapers or blankets. If possible, pack the freezer with dry ice to keep foods frozen.

Fruits containing acid are not apt to spoil quickly when thawed and may be refrozen without danger, she said. But starchy vegetables such as peas, corn, beans and squash should be cooked before refreezing.

Of all frozen foods, fish, meat and poultry are most apt to spoil quickly once thawed, she warned.

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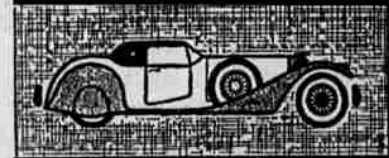
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