

Storm Leaves 26 Dead on West Coast

No More Severe Winds

No more severe winds are expected in the Pacific Northwest this weekend, regional weatherman said Saturday morning.

"We are getting calls from people fearful of a repeat of last night's windstorm," the Portland Weather Bureau reported. "We do not expect any severe winds for at least the next few days, and none are in sight at the present time."

For the Eugene-Springfield area, the Eugene weatherman predicts partly cloudy skies, no rain and cool temperatures tonight and Sunday.

He echoed the Portland weather bureau's prediction, and emphasized that weather charts and other forecasting sources indicate that there are no severe storms on the way.

A light, "more normal" rainstorm is expected in Western Oregon Sunday, the Portland weather bureau said. This disturbance may be accompanied by some light, gusty winds of 20 to 25 miles an hour in interior regions of Western Oregon.

The Oregon Coast, weathermen said, could get gusts of 40 to 50 miles an hour Sunday from the relatively mild storm.

Dual Storms Triggered Big Blow

Frieda, a frisky typhoon from the South Pacific, and another ocean-brewed storm, were to blame for the hurricane-force winds that swept through three West Coast states Friday.

The U.S. Weather Bureau at Portland said that the storm was the worst ever to strike Oregon.

Frieda formed thousands of miles off the coast earlier in the week and was dissipating when a new storm formed off the coast of California. Weather officials said it is not unusual for the tail-ends of hurricanes to hit off the coast and it was the combination of Frieda and the local storm that caused the big fuss.

First Hit State Line

The local storm formed off the coast of California when cold and warm air masses collided aloft. That established the wind. Frieda's gales helped blow the new storm along.

The storm first ramed into the coast at the Oregon-California border. Then its heart moved up the coast at about 40 miles per hour.

Off the Washington coast, the storm joined another that was already there and the combined storm moved inland over British Columbia where it was puffing itself breathless Saturday morning.

Winds Hit 90 MPH

At some points the winds reached speeds of up to 90 miles an hour.

The weatherman at Eugene's Mahlon Sweet airport reported Saturday morning that barometric pressure "went clear off the sheet" and reached 28.86 inches, "the lowest we've ever recorded, as far as I know."

Peak gusts at the airport were clocked at 86 miles per hour. That was at 3:52 p.m. Friday. The storm continued until about 8 p.m. before it slacked off.

Major Disaster

While damage due to the storm won't be totally assessed for many days, the 12 dead in Oregon ranks it as one of the state's greatest disasters.

Thirteen persons died from the Roseburg explosion on Aug. 6, 1959. Damage then was estimated at more than \$12 million.

Three men died in the windstorm which lashed through Eugene Jan. 7, 1961. Damage from that storm, which lasted only 15 minutes, was estimated at from \$200,000 to \$300,000 but that didn't include millions of board feet of valuable timber that was toppled in forest lands.

Gardiner Mill Loss Reported

GARDINER—Damage to the International Paper Company property here may go as high as \$250,000, it was reported Saturday morning.

The present sawmill and lumber sheds and the paper plant under construction received severe damage, company officials said.

About \$80,000 worth of blueprints were lost when a construction shed collapsed and the papers scattered in the storm.

Eugene Register-Guard

LANE COUNTY'S HOME NEWSPAPER

SECTION B

EUGENE, OREGON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1962

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JC Views Wreckage Following Fires, Storm

By ED BEELER
of the Register-Guard

JUNCTION CITY — Two square blocks were smoldering rubble Saturday morning in the wake of the worst fire and storm in this city's history.

Destroyed by flames were six houses and Farmers Warehouse Inc. Another house received extensive water and smoke damage.

Only one person was injured. Fire Chief Bill Nelson was knocked to the ground by flying debris and was overcome by smoke after an 80-minute battle with smoke, flames and wind. He was soon revived after being given oxygen.

Lloyd E. Wright, owner and president of the warehouse, estimated the loss of building and contents at about \$400,000. It was covered by insurance. No residential damage estimate had been made by early Saturday.

Chief Nelson said the warehouse fire was reported at 4:45 p.m. It started, he said, from sparks blown north from a scrap burner fire at the Larsen, Clark and Powell sawmill two blocks south.

The sawmill fire was reported at 4:21 p.m. when the east side of the burner was blown away allowing sparks to spew out into the wind.

Officials were unable to give

a complete list of the families routed by the fire. Among them were Mrs. George (Amelia) Wilhelm and her son; the Robert Kelly family; the George A. Palmer family; the W. A. Collingswood, and the Odell Williams family.

9 Departments Respond

Fire quickly spread to the houses from the warehouse. Most of the damage was in a two-block area bounded by First and Third avenues and Front and Greenwood streets. By 8 p.m. the various blazes were under control.

Nine fire departments, 13 trucks and some 65 men helped fight the blaze. Junction City Fire Lt. Dee Lynch said these departments answered the call for help: Alvadore, Monroe, Harrisburg, Veneta, Eugene, Coburg, Bethel-Danebo and Cottage Grove. Twenty-eight Junction City volunteers were manning equipment.

Vard Nelsen, civil defense director, said fire fighters used "just plain guts" to keep the blaze from sweeping north through town.

Max Strauss, local Red Cross official, similarly praised firemen. "How they stopped it, with all this wind—well, it was just a miracle, that's all."

But fire damage wasn't the only kind being surveyed here Saturday.

Supt. Homer Dixon was inspecting schools. Friday night he said 25 per cent of the roofs at the high school, junior high school and Central Grade School had been blown away.

He feared water leakage would ruin gymnasium floors in the high school and junior high school. Dixon expressed doubt that school would be held Monday.

Hazel Townsend, 420 W. Tenth Ave., was looking for a new home. She and her nephew were inside the house at about 4 p.m. Friday when a huge oak, about five feet in diameter, was uprooted and crashed onto the roof. An inspection of the house Saturday morning revealed buckled walls and drooping ceilings.

The large screen at the Vista Drive-in Theater was smashed to the ground during the height of the storm.

A recently installed canopy cover at Nix Motor Co. was blown away.

The scrap burner at the Larsen, Clark and Powell sawmill leaned like the tower of Pisa, weakened when metal sheeting was blown off its exterior.

Another family lost a litter of four registered Pekingese pups which were in an out building which burned.

Some quick action, calculated to save the contents of one house from water damage, backfired. All of the contents of Dovie J. Dodson's home, 330 Greenwood St., were moved into the street so firemen could soak the house with water. But it began to rain and Mrs. Dodson's belongings were soaked.

Store Burned in '59

The second worst fire in this community's history occurred three years ago next Wednesday. It was on Oct. 18, 1959, that the Safeway store here was destroyed.

Farmers' Warehouse was one of the old landmarks here. Wright said the first portion of it was built between 1870 and 1880. In 1956 about 10,000 square feet were added. At one time the building was called Junction City Cooperative Exchange.

Wright, who has owned the firm for the past six years, said an average of ten people were employed there.

Although the building and its contents were insured, Wright said Friday night he didn't have any immediate plans for rebuilding.

Weeks to Estimate

Lane Loss May Top \$2 Million

Damage from Friday's storm in Lane County will total well over \$2 million, and will take weeks to be totally assessed.

A survey of owners of damaged property showed that about \$1,080,000 damage was caused in the larger, more spectacular fires and fallen buildings.

To this can be added at least \$1 million more from smaller buildings, rooftops, glass windows, dented autos and hundreds of miscellaneous items.

These are the known damage assessments:

• Fire at Junction City, which destroyed a large warehouse and six houses—\$445,000.

• Sunset Home in Eugene, where wind toppled a chapel, killing one and injuring another—\$75,000.

• Total damage to six lumber mills in the western Eugene region, where wind fanned flames in burners and started fires—\$150,000.

• Eugene Water and Electric Board: A very rough estimate because of extent of power failures. Including an estimate of labor cost—\$100,000.

• Electrical facilities in the Florence-Mapleton area — at least \$80,000.

• Glass and other items in the Eugene business district—\$100,000.

• Boats, aircraft and other items in the general Florence area—at least \$100,000.

But Some Routes Blocked Transportation 'Fairly Normal'

Planes, trains, buses, trucks and cars were going to and from the Eugene-Springfield area in fairly normal fashion Saturday morning after suffering delays or absolute blockages from the storm Friday evening.

This was the highway report from the Eugene office of state police at mid-morning Saturday:

Highway 36 and Route F to the coast both closed from trees and lines across the road and, in the case of Route F, washouts; the Pacific Freeway open from Portland to the California border; Highway 101 on the coast closed south of Newport; Highway 58 (Willamette Pass) open all the way over the Cascades; Highway 126 (McKenzie Highway) open.

Other reports Saturday morning included:

• Travel by air—United and West Coast Airlines resumed normal schedules Saturday morning after having flights to Portland and to San Francisco cancelled late Friday afternoon and evening.

Mahlon Sweet Municipal Airport north of Eugene had runways and taxiways clear Saturday morning. Wind at the airport heavily damaged one Green Flying Service hangar. At least seven planes moored "on the line" had wings broken off or were otherwise damaged.

McKenzie Flying Service in Springfield reported only one plane overturned and wrecked by the wind. Some roofing and hangar doors were damaged by the wind.

• Travel by bus—Greyhound and Trailways buses were delayed for an hour or two through the night but all buses going in all directions were moving on schedule Saturday morning.

• Travel by train—Southern Pacific Co.'s Cascade passenger train from California came in "a few minutes ahead" of schedule Saturday morning indicating "the line south is in good order."

The Shasta Daylight passenger train, however, due in Eugene at 10:55 a.m., was held in Portland until 10 a.m. and was to be here by 12:30 p.m. The mail train from Portland due in at 1:45 a.m. was delayed until about 11:30 a.m. Friday, did not do so until 5:30 a.m. Saturday after being held in Canby.

• Travel by truck—Truck freight offices in Eugene reported trucks moving again Saturday morning after having been held up Friday afternoon and most of the night.

One freight line said that in general "there will be approximately an 18-hour delay" in freight going north and south due to the storm.

Pacific Motor Trucking Co. said two empty trailers at its Eugene terminal were blown on their sides by the wind.

On the local scene the Lane County Highway Dept. was sending its crews out Saturday morning to check the main county roads. The department said all county-maintained roads should be open at least to one-way traffic by Saturday evening. The department asked travelers to use caution because there are so many roads with trees across them that not all of them can be marked by flares.

Eugene's main streets were passable Saturday morning although some provided only one clear lane for traffic at some points. Quite a few isolated residential streets were blocked by downed trees, Matsler noted.

The worst street closures occurred on the west side of town affecting Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eleventh Avenues. City Traffic Engineer Gordon Wyatt estimated 70 per cent of the traffic signals to be out of service Saturday.

The Springfield Street Dept. reported Saturday that only one primary street was still blocked, Main Street between 28th and 35th Streets. The only other streets actually closed to all traffic, even emergency vehicles, were 70th and 71st Streets in the east end of the city.

Street crews were waiting for the Eugene Water & Electric Board to shut off power in that area before going in to clear out the trees.

Eugene Postmaster Ethan Newman said Saturday morning, "Our rural carriers will go as far as they can safely." The Star Route carrier to Florence went out early Saturday and got as far as Cheshire before being forced to turn back. Newman said some mail in street-corner boxes "will be wet but we're going to deliver it."

Newman noted that most connections were made with outside points, but the mail train was delayed out of Portland and mail from there was light, indicating that Portland stopped distribution early.

Winds Played Havoc With Communications

By SAM FREAR
of the Register-Guard

In a word, communications in the Emerald Empire Saturday morning were a tangled mess.

Officials of electric and telephone companies surveyed thousands upon thousands of trouble reports, but hopefully predicted most persons will have service by Saturday night.

But not all. Most utilities contacted said it will be several days before normal service is completely restored.

The Eugene Water & Electric Board, for example, on Saturday was still sorting out thousands of little blue slips marked "electric trouble report." These ranged through downed poles, broken lines, disconnected house service, and trees across lines.

Not Even a Guess

EWEB Deputy Supt. Byron Taylor predicted that costs of damage to the utility may range between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

The Pacific Northwest Telephone Co., however, could not hazard a guess about damage cost estimates, it was still in the process of trying to determine how many problems it had.

"We still have major problems," said District Commercial Manager John Helfrich.

The rampaging winds seriously damaged two communication facilities. Television station KEZI reported that winds did extensive damage to transmitting facilities atop the Coburg hills, but the exact nature will not be known until crews hack their way through trees to reach the site.

And radio station KEED got back on the air Saturday morning without the use of its 220-foot tower. Owner Glenn Stadler said this "buckled up like a piece of taffy" at the height of the storm.

KEZI was not predicting Saturday when it would be able to go back into service. It appears the television station has lost a micro wave transmitter in the Coburg Hills and several towers are apparently either blown over and or bent.

The station definitely won't be on the air Saturday, and could only hope for transmission on Sunday.

At KEED, Stadler said that the station resumed broadcasting at 11 a.m. Saturday using a weather balloon floating 200 feet above the station with an aerial attached to it. Meanwhile, it is attempting to get a new tower, but this would take several days at least, Stadler said. He estimated the damage at the station will amount at least \$5,000.

Other radio stations were out for varying periods of time because of power outages. KUGN was still awaiting power at mid-morning Saturday, worrying whether it would be on the air in time to broadcast the Oregon-Rice football game from Houston.

The Saturday morning atmosphere was considerably different from that of a scant 12 hours earlier. At EWEB, for example, at the height of the storm the office was operating on emergency power. The switchboard, manned by two girls, had lights blinking all over its face. In several rooms radiators blared away.

The man on the spot was Howard Stenshoel, superintendent of the electric department, who had seven crews reporting to him by radio and needing split-second decisions on what to do.

The primary concern during the night was keeping up service to emergency facilities. Power was never out at Sacred Heart General Hospital, and was restored to the Eugene Hospital and Clinic after several hours.

Saturday morning the EWEB offices were still busy. Telephones kept ringing, but the overall atmosphere was one of getting work done. People were sorting out trouble reports, and Stenshoel was still methodically routing repair crews.

"We're setting up work to get the main stem done first," Taylor said. He hoped, however, that most of the utility's 30,000 customers would eat dinner by electric light tonight.

5,000 Still Without Service

There was no particular area where EWEB ran into more trouble than in others. "For all intents and purposes, everything is down," a dispatcher noted Friday evening.

And this was true. Not only were crews struggling to restore electric service, but the water department had to worry about water mains broken when trees uprooted, dragging pipes with them.

Some 5,000 Eugene customers were still without service Saturday morning. Manager Helfrich said that company offices as far away as Boise, Fresno and Utah were alerted to send crews and equipment into the Willamette Valley to help restore service.

Helfrich could make no prediction about when completely normal services will be restored. But considering the damage, the company was in "pretty good shape" already by Saturday, he said.

Pacific Telephone had to go on emergency status about 4 p.m. Friday, putting auxiliary generators to work. But these were only on for several hours before EWEB restored power to the utility.

Meanwhile, the other municipal utilities were having their problems. The Lane Electric Cooperative, serving the upper McKenzie, Veneta, Elmira, Oakridge, Lorane and Cottage Grove rural areas, was struggling to restore service to more than half of its 6,000 customers.

Assistant Manager Lowell Shay said Saturday that the heaviest damage to co-op lines was in the McKenzie and Veneta-Elmira communities.

Oakridge wasn't hit too hard for the utility, but Shay said service to other areas might be off "quite a lot longer" — into next week.

"Pretty Well Restored"

Jack Criswell, superintendent of the Springfield Utility Board, said the system Saturday morning "was pretty well patched back together" after crews worked throughout the night.

The utility's four main feeders were back together, but there were many isolated trouble cases because of line damage. The biggest problem, he said, came between 28th and 32nd streets, but he hoped to have service restored here by Saturday afternoon.

At Pacific Power & Light Co., a spokesman said the utility has the urban area services "pretty well restored" but some rural areas were still out Saturday with trees over lines.

He said the utility fared better than it first thought.

Blachly-Lane County Co-op, which serves some 1,200 customers west from Highway 99 North to beyond Mapleton, was gradually getting service restored Saturday.

"Most Lines Restored"

Mrs. Dale Swancutt of Junction City, wife of the co-op manager, said crews here also worked through the night to restore service.

She said, however, they often became hampered by roads into some of the co-op service areas that were blocked by fallen trees. Lines were out in a widespread area.

And the Bonneville Power Administration which transmits electrical energy to all these utilities reported Saturday it is in pretty good shape.

An official said that most of its lines were restored, with only one of Walton in the Emerald Empire still out on Saturday.

The system is in a fortunate position, he said, if being able to keep pace with its customers, and as they restore their own service. Bonneville can send them the power.

Guard Units Patrol Portland

(From AP, UPI Reports)

A howling killer storm with wind gusting to more than 100 miles an hour left at least 26 persons dead and a broad band of devastation along the West Coast Saturday.

That made the two-day toll of 35 killed by successive storms, with 13 dead in Oregon, 11 in California, 8 in Washington and 3 in British Columbia.

National Guard units and all available police were on duty in the Portland area to curb looting, which began after the wind smashed hundreds of store windows Friday.

Portland was virtually paralyzed. Most power and telephone lines were broken by winds that sent signboards sailing, knocked down thousands of trees, tore the roofs off scores of buildings and blew in countless windows.

The city sprawled in darkness Friday night, and residents holed up in their homes, fearful of flying debris outside.

It was the same along the Oregon coast and in a number of Oregon communities up the Willamette Valley.

The storm was felt from northern California to British Columbia, but Oregon caught the worst of it.

'OREGON'S BIGGEST DISASTER'

"It was probably the biggest disaster that Oregon ever had," said Gov. Mark Hatfield, who declared a state of emergency and alerted the National Guard. Some guard units went on active duty in the Willamette Valley. Hatfield wired President Kennedy alerting him to the possibility Oregon may ask for federal disaster aid.

The worst was over Saturday. Winds were diminishing and the Weather Bureau said winds of only 25 to 30 miles an hour were expected on the coast.

Oregon Public Utility Commissioner Jonel Hill estimated it will take at least four days to repair utility lines.

In Sastoria, at the mouth of the Columbia River—where the storm apparently centered—a fish cannery was flattened.

The peak force of the wind at Portland was not measured. Power lines were knocked out at the Weather Bureau before the height of the storm. Wind-measuring equipment registered 80 miles an hour before going out of operation. Experienced weather observers estimated the gusts at well over 100 m.p.h.

They measured at 120 m.p.h. at a station on the northern Oregon coast. Mt. Tamalpais in California, just north of San Francisco, registered 121 m.p.h.

Hundreds of streets were blocked by toppled trees. U.S. 101 was blocked by downed redwood trees between Eureka and Crescent City, Calif.

The Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone Co. said its repair bills alone will amount to \$400,000 or more.

NO SHIPPING DISASTERS

Shipping disasters were avoided, although at one time there were boats adrift at Seattle, Portland and a number of smaller ports.

Gold Beach, reeling from the effects of a storm which caused damage estimated up to \$1 million Thursday, was hit again. Twelve families were evacuated and several buildings, which survived the first blow, succumbed to the second. Two sections of Pacific High School at Port Orford were wrecked.

At Coos Bay, the wind toppled a 200-foot steel tower which carried a 115,000-volt electrical line across the bay. The tower brought two smaller wooden towers crashing down with it and blocked the main shipping channel.

Off Crescent City, Calif., the Blunt's Reef lighthouse snapped its moorings and began drifting away. A Coast Guard cutter rescued it and got it back in position.

Houseboats broke loose from their mooring at Portland, and were blown across the Willamette River to the opposite shore.

The storm damage was almost entirely in the 125-mile wide belt between the coast and the Cascade Range. The mountain range cut the wind velocity.

Weather Bureau said the storm—like the one that preceded it by 24 hours—formed 900 miles off San Francisco, moved easterly, then shifted to the northwest.

The first storm also had hurricane force gusts, but it was not as fierce as the second storm. Weather Bureau forecasters said the second one was intensified when cold air from the Bering Sea reached the warm air of the tropical storm.

'LOST' TRAINS FOUND

At one point three trains were reported missing between Seattle and Portland. It turned out they were delayed by trees and debris on the tracks, but with all communications out it took hours to locate them.

Public buildings were hard-hit. A 40-foot-long section of the Portland auditorium roof was blown off and carried a block away. The city's Memorial Coliseum suffered shattered windows and the roof was leaking badly. Multnomah Stadium where the Washington-Oregon State football game was scheduled today, lost part of its grandstand roof.

A 230,000-volt power line spanning the Columbia River near Vancouver, toppled into the river when a 553-foot tower collapsed. Portland International Airport was closed at 5:30 p.m.

Portland Meadows racetrack reported \$100,000 damage in the first hour of the storm. Horses ran loose and barns collapsed but there were no reports of injuries. The track's programs Friday night and Saturday were canceled.

Television Station KGW-TV lost its 600-foot antenna and will be off the air indefinitely.

Airplanes were overturned at a number of points and at Ashland, even an airplane hangar was blown over.

The Capitol mall at Salem was a mess. Trees sprawled everywhere. Numerous cars were trapped in the center by the trees.

So many power lines were down that a bus driver said he drove in complete darkness. "I don't think I saw a light in a building until I got to Eugene," he said.

Six-ocean-going ships were blown adrift in the Portland harbor. One bumped into the Hawthorne Bridge across the Willamette River, but it and the others were retrieved without major damage. It was feared there was damage to the bridge.

The bridge and three others across the Willamette were closed to traffic until they could be checked thoroughly. Debris had piled up against the other bridges.

In addition to wind damage in California grape growers said they may suffer a \$40 million loss because of the storm-borne rains that caught them before completion of the harvest.

WORLD'S FAIR CLOSES

In Washington, the eight deaths included five persons crushed by falling trees. Damage was expected to run into millions of dollars. Sixteen persons were injured in the Longview area on the Columbia River north of Portland.

Winds up to 83 m.p.h. whipped Seattle and that city's World's Fair had to close its doors at 9:15 p.m., five hours ahead of the normal closing time. On the fairgrounds, trees snapped like matchsticks and the wind whistled through the towering space needle tripod and made a sound like a giant tuning fork. Signs were toppled and some exhibits received minor damage.

Hundreds of rural roads were blocked by fallen trees and several communities were without power. Two pet lions, frightened by the storm, escaped from their pen at Spanaway near Tacoma, attacked three persons and had to be shot.

Congress Quits for Year

WASHINGTON — Congress finally ended its longest session in 11 years Saturday after sending to President Kennedy a \$5 billion public works bill and a \$2.4 billion authorization for similar projects in the future.

As one of their final acts, the House and Senate agreed on Wednesday, Jan. 9, 1963, as the date the new 88th Congress will open. The Senate quit first at 2:41 p.m. (EST). The House followed 1 hour and 4 minutes later. It was the latest windup of Congress since the Korean war year of 1951.