

Udall, Kansas, Wiped Out by Tornado on May 25, Rapidly Being Rebuilt

Volunteer Labor, Insurance Playing Big Part in Task

Editor's Note: Flash floods have taken more than 200 lives and left 34,000 families homeless in six North-eastern states. The future is grim for the stricken towns and cities. Here is a report on how a disaster-struck community fights its way back.

Udall, Kan. — (U.P.) — A new Udall is rising from the rubble left by the terrible tornado three months ago.

Volunteer labor in the spirit of the early settlers who helped their neighbors when there was trouble—has helped make the rebuilding possible.

The money has come mostly from insurance, the federal government and the Red Cross.

Work Volunteers

Workers from Wichita, 20 miles north of Udall, donated their time to pour concrete for a new City Hall. Contractors charged nothing for the material. This brick building will give Udall space for a fire station, the public library and offices for the mayor and city clerk.

The sight of the new City Hall going up has helped keep up the spirit of Udall residents.

It took only one minute, on the night of May 25, for a twister to reduce this town to debris. Eighty persons were killed, one-sixth of the population. Scores were injured.

E. B. Harvey, the town blacksmith who also ran an automobile agency, lost his wife in the tornado and spent six weeks in a hospital recuperating from the injuries.

Harvey's home and some of his new cars were partly covered by insurance. With the insurance money and a government loan he has started to rebuild.

"What's done is done, and there's nothing I can do about it, so I just go ahead with my business and try to be happy in my work," said Harvey. "There are lots of people worse off than I am."

Insurance Helps

Most of Udall's citizens will be in debt for several years to the government and to banks and private loan companies. Officials estimate the indebtedness will amount to about two thirds of the total cost of reconstruction.

Many were left with only the clothing on their backs after the tornado. At least half the population had some kind of insurance, but it covered only a small part of their losses.

One father and two children (the mother was killed in the storm) were not eligible for a government loan so the Red Cross replaced their small home.

Another family was left homeless when the wind reduced a six-room frame house to kindling. The house, valued at \$7000, has been replaced by a new one that cost \$11,000. Insurance paid for \$4500 and the remainder was covered by a personal loan. The Red Cross provided furniture for the new dwelling.

Home Drinking Said Foremost Problem

Los Angeles, Calif. — (U.P.) — The President of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union today warned that home drinking has become the nation's foremost temperance problem.

Mrs. Glenn G. Hays of Evanston, Ill., told the WCTU's executive committee prior to tomorrow's opening of the Union's 81st annual convention that radio and television commercials "have turned iceboxes into bars."

She called for "greater support" of bills in Congress to outlaw alcoholic beverage advertising on radio and TV.

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SECTION TWO

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Young Spelling Champion Runs TV Take To \$16,000

New York — (U.P.) — Little Gloria Lockerman, the 12-year-old Negro spelling champ who ran her winnings to \$16,000 on a TV giveaway show, rides back home to Baltimore today for some boning up with the dictionary and family conferences about her TV future.

Gloria confidently spelled her way through a nonsense sentence on CBS-TV's "The \$64,000 Question" last night to earn a possible shot next Tuesday at \$32,000.

Indications were that Gloria would go for the bigger money. Her divorced parents, James Lockerman and Vivian Singleton, both of Philadelphia, seemed to favor a go-ahead.

Future Important

"The important thing is Gloria's future," said her father, "we don't want the publicity to affect her life in any way."

Gloria's mother said: "She has nothing to lose since she had nothing to start with. And she's assured of \$4,000 anyway."

Mrs. Singleton referred to the \$4,000 the producers of the show give as a consolation prize to any contestant who reaches the upper levels in the TV question-and-answer game.

Gloria, however, said she didn't know whether she would go on.

She revealed that she had stumbled through part of the answer of her question because "I forgot where I was." The answer on the quiz program was the spelling of: "The belligerent asigmatic anthropologist annihilated innumerable chrysanthemums."

'Dog Lung' Surgery Performed on Child

Minneapolis — (U.P.) — Carey Ann Kutz, 3, Madison, Wis., was reported in satisfactory condition in University hospital here early today after undergoing a so-called "dog lung" heart operation.

University surgeons used the lung of a dog, removed from the dog a short time earlier, to supply oxygen to the blood of the little girl while they tied off her heart to repair a hole between its chambers Tuesday.

Nine airmen from Traux field at Madison flew here to donate their blood for the girl, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Kutz.

The hospital said some of their blood was used during the operation.

Anti-Soviet Congress Approves Resolution

Rio de Janeiro — (U.P.) — The second congress against Soviet intervention in Latin America yesterday approved a resolution calling for all Latin American countries to break diplomatic and commercial relations with Communist countries.

The resolution was adopted unanimously but with reservations from Argentine delegate Sergio Boto. He said the United States, Britain and France should make the break first, setting the example for the other countries.

Mexico Expects Agricultural Imports To Be Lowest in Decade

Mexico City — (U.P.) — Mexico expects its imports of agricultural products this year to be the lowest in a decade because of reports of almost uniformly good harvests.

Government sources predicted wheat would be the only crop to fall below the 1954 yield.

They estimated the value of over-all agricultural production for 1955 at approximately \$760,000,000, an 80.95 per cent increase over 10 years ago.

Mexico imported more than \$132,000,000 worth of food products in 1953, but the figure dropped to \$98,500,000 last year, the sources said.

The country will not have to buy corn or beans in the foreign market.

Earlier, the government had predicted it would not have to purchase wheat abroad in 1955. However, the wheat harvest is now expected to be lower than last year's bumper crop because of losses due to frost in January and March.

More Corn

As a result, the economy ministry has asked wheat producers and distributors to meet soon to determine how much of the cereal will have to be imported to meet domestic needs.

Although figures for corn production are still incomplete, the yield is expected to be slightly larger than last year's unusually good harvest because of a 30 per cent increase in acreage in Nayarit and other west coast states.

Good harvests were also expected for rice, oats, barley, citrus fruits and sugar.

Mexican farmers are expected to take advantage of a poor year for U. S. cantaloupe producers by shipping their fruit north.

The Mexican Union of Cotton Growers estimated it would produce a record crop of close to 2,000,000 bales. The harvest was valued at more than \$300,000,000.

The official figure for cotton production in 1954 was 1,300,000 bales.

The cotton growers were worried about possible "chaos" in their industry because of mounting world surpluses of the fiber.

Cotton Problem

They said they would have a carryover of 150,000 bales from last year after all sales were completed. Domestic consumption and exports were estimated at 1,750,000 bales, leaving a surplus of 400,000 bales for 1956.

The growers advised a reduction of cotton acreage in Mexico

to eliminate overproduction, measures to increase home consumption which has remained stationary during the past 10 years while output has increased 400 per cent and opening of new foreign markets.

They demanded the abolition of the 22 per cent ad valorem tax on cotton exports, which they said cost them almost \$28 on every bale shipped abroad.

However, the treasury ministry promptly announced the ad valorem tax would not be changed because profits earned by cotton producers were 70 per cent higher than those of wheat growers.

"A substantial reduction in taxes on cotton would result immediately in an increase in the price of cotton for the textile industry which has just emerged from a long and difficult period," the ministry said.

Cat's Curiosity Blamed For Her Many Troubles

Detroit — (U.P.) — The cat is the biggest problem faced by the Michigan Humane Society.

Of the 50,000 "cases" it handled during the past year, most of them dealt with cats. They involved cats stranded on poles and in trees, cats caught in machinery and cats which became lodged between walls of buildings.

Clifton Johnson, executive secretary of the society blames the curiosity of cats for their predicaments.

"They do more investigating than most dogs," he said. "That's why they get into more trouble."

FIRECRACKERS FOR CROWS

Tallahassee, Fla. — (U.P.) — A new state Agriculture Department regulation requires that farmers buying firecrackers file a statement with their county sheriff swearing they will use the explosives only to frighten crows or other destructive birds.

Boy Slays Mother To Prove Bravery

Los Angeles — (U.P.) — Jimmy Thomson, who shot and killed his mother "to show other kids I was no sissy," was held in juvenile hall today pending a pre-detention hearing.

The tousled-haired boy shot his mother, Mrs. Hilde Thomson, 51, with a .22 caliber rifle in their East Palmdale, Calif., home late Monday. He told sheriff's deputies "the kids at school kept calling me a square because I didn't steal or get into trouble."

Mrs. Thomson was shot in the head three times and her clothes were partly torn from her body. The boy's father, Harry Thomson, and his older brother, John, 18, both were away from home at the time of the shooting.

The boy telephoned sheriff's deputies after the shooting, saying, "I shot my mother. I think she's dead. I'll wait here for you."

FIRST AIR ATTACHE

Weisbaden, Germany — (U.P.) — Col. John C. Kilborn of Cisco, Tex., will assume duties Sept. 5 as the first United States air attaché to West Germany. The appointment of Kilborn, inspector general of U. S. Air Forces in Europe, was announced Tuesday by European Air Force headquarters here.



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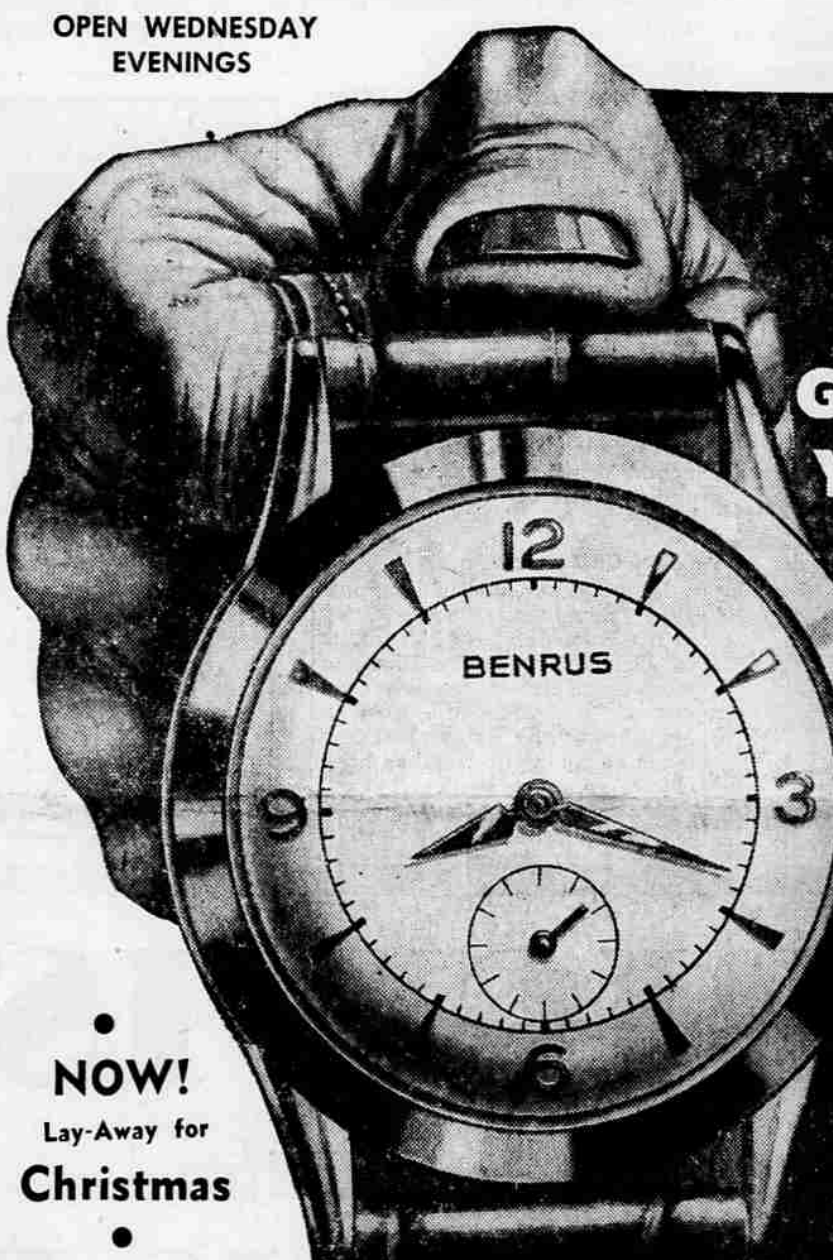
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