

The Storm. We understand that the storm in Porter was quite severe. A house was unroofed, fences were prostrated, and crops injured to some extent. At Fulton the dam across the Catfish was carried away. Loss about \$500. At Evansville a barn belonging to Edwin Bemis was blown down.

June 8, 1860, p. 4, col. 3, Janesville Weekly Gazette and Free Press, Janesville, Wisconsin

The Storm.—We seldom have witnessed a more thoroughly drenching rainstorm than what was experienced Wednesday afternoon of last week, commencing about three o'clock and continuing until about four the next morning. Men were upon the mill dam watching, but in spite of every effort the waters rose so rapidly, that before the head gates could be raised, the water commenced pouring over, about midway of the dam, and in scarcely a moments time a breach, some fifty feet in extent, was washed away. The creek became immediately swollen, and rushed past the town with the fury of a young flood, bearing every conceivable rubbish that it could gather in its way. The three bridges leading out of town stood the current remarkably well, although the embankments at either ends were washed considerably. At the point of the railroad where the creek was turned from its original channel, the water took its old track and swept through the embankment, cutting out a ditch under the track some fifteen feet deep and about twenty-five feet in extent, leaving the rails suspended in mid air. The 12:50 down train had passed but the up 3:52 train encountering other difficulties below, laid up. Workmen were immediately sent from Madison, but it was nearly night on Thursday, before the road was made passable. A heavy wind and rain occurred again Friday but caused no damage, that we have heard of excepting to soften up the ground, in addition to the previous storm.

July 2, 1873, Evansville Review, p. 4, col. 2, Evansville, Wisconsin

The flood of last Wednesday night so demoralized the upper sidewalk across the stream as to render it wholly impassible—about forty feet were carried away. It will probably be replaced when the water subsides.

July 2, 1873, Evansville Review, Evansville, Wisconsin

Just as the sun went down Saturday night the wind came up, and oh! What a hurricane. It swept over the country at the rate of 40 miles an hour, at least, playing with signs and fences and every loose object as with a toy. The large Haliday Wind Mill that did the pumping at the depot, was blown entirely free from the tower and

landed on the track, midway from the pump to the depot. Mr. Stevens had a shed blown over in which was his cow, but miraculously escaped unharmed. The lumber of both Randolph and Winston & True's yards, was scatted to the four winds and some of it badly broken. In many places heavy plank sidewalks were taken and landed in promiscuous heaps along with fence rails, boards and debris of ever description. The ground was so softened by the day's rain that shade trees were bent over and uprooted, completely destroying many.

The damage done, is principally to farmers, in prostrating fences, unroofing sheds, and scattering their loose fodder in every direction.

Mr. Newman's barn was unroofed at Cooksville, and several other buildings at that place suffered, but nothing irreparable.

Similar fate attended tobacco sheds and buildings at Union village. The destruction of property was not so terrible, but general.

It was the fiercest wind, unaccompanied with rain, and not severely cold, of any we have ever experienced.  
Evansville Review, January 5, 1876, p. 3, col. 3, Evansville, Wisconsin

July

### The Tornado.

The wind and storm of Saturday night, or rather Sunday morning, held a high carnival of destruction over a large extent of country.

Saturday night closed a very warm, oppressive day, with certain dark, ominous clouds away in the northwest; but apprehending nothing alarming, everybody retired as usual; but scarcely to sleep from the oppressive heat. At a few minutes past four Sunday morning, the wind began to blow and the rain came down in torrents, mingled with heavy masses of ice, that rattled against the panes in a fearful manner. Windows and doors that had been left ajar afforded an easy ingress to floods of water that drenched everything thoroughly.

Going out after the storm had abated, and the whole country presented a devastated appearance. Cornfields lay flat upon the ground, shade trees were twisted off like twigs, fences were turned over, and chimneys blown down and scattered about fearfully. The chimney on the bank building blew over upon the roof of Allen & Wilder's store, smashing in seven rafters, making a breach that emitted a flood of water, running through the ceiling and drenching goods and everything in its way. Mr. Waldo, who was occupying a room in the building, rushed out and prevented a much greater destruction than otherwise would have been. The damage to buildings in and about the village was immaterial, save the turning over a few out houses, and breaking down innumerable shade trees. Our office windows were open slightly, but enough to wet books, papers, presses, and everything in reach of the pouring flood.

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In the country, the damage was  
much more severe. Several houses  
were unroofed, and scarcely a wind-  
mill of any kind is left standing on  
the prairie east or west. Orchards  
were torn up, and large trees broken  
off and hurled against houses in a  
frightful manner.

Mr. Philip Cadwallader's barn  
was turned some eight feet from its  
foundation. An apple tree was torn  
up by its roots on Mr. Samuel Cad-  
wallader's place, and stood upon its  
topmost branches, leaning against  
an upper window on the opposite  
side of his house. Mr. W. H. John-  
son, of Union, thinks, that \$500 will  
not repair the damage done to his  
crops and premises. Nearly every  
farmer, so far as we can hear, has  
suffered more or less, by injury to  
his buildings, or by the hail to his  
crops.

In some places the hail cut fields  
of oats badly, others only driven to  
the ground. Corn was left in pret-  
ty much the same manner. But  
what is not entirely broken off will  
rise again. There was no accident  
to life or limb that we have heard  
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## THE STORM.

W. Since our last this part of the count  
has been visited by a storm which for se-  
881. verity and variety, has never been equal-  
before, even in the memory of the "ol-  
est inhabitant." Saturday morning ope-  
ed quite mild and pleasant and about noc-  
rain began to fall, gently at first, but in-  
creasing gradually as evening came on  
until by dark it was coming down in tor-  
rents, and continued falling that way all  
night. The rain was accompanied by  
continuous and heavy thunder and light-  
ning, and when our citizens retired for the  
night there was a pretty fair prospect for  
everything that was floatable to be afloat  
the next day. Towards morning it gradu-  
ally grew a little colder, the wind came up  
and about seven o'clock Sunday morning  
the rain suddenly turned to snow and a  
blinding snow storm commenced which  
continued with unabated vigor until well  
into Monday morning. The snow fell  
thick and fast and the wind blew an hurri-  
cane, piling the snow up in huge drifts on  
the sidewalks and in the streets, and in  
fact, everywhere, so that on Monday morn-  
ing the streets and sidewalks were almost  
impassable, and those first out had to use  
considerable exertions to get anywhere at  
all. The roads in and out of town were  
all effectually blocked, and most of them  
are still in that condition. The storm has  
not extended very far north but has pre-  
vailed with equal severity south, east and  
west of here for a great distance. Rail-  
road travel was stopped Sunday night, one  
freight train getting fast near Magnolia,  
another north of here near Butt's corners,  
and another laid up here. Engines and  
snow plows came down from Madison to  
the rescue, and by seven o'clock Monday  
evening the blockade was raised. The  
passenger train left Chicago Sunday night  
and the one due here at 3 P. M. Monday  
got caught in the snow below Harvard and  
did not reach here till about midnight. At  
present writing, Tuesday afternoon, trains  
are running all right again.

During the storm, on Saturday afternoon  
about 5 o'clock, the lightning struck a barn  
on the Widow Moore farm, about five  
miles south of here, and killed two horses  
literally melting the harness off of them.

### THE BIGGEST STORM YET.

On Wednesday afternoon, just before evening, there commenced a storm which proved to be by far the heaviest and worst that has ever visited this section, at least in the memory of our oldest settlers. About half six o'clock Wednesday evening the snow began to fall thickly and the wind came up and all through the night and until six o'clock Thursday evening, the storm continued without cessation and with but little "let up" to its vigor. Our streets and sidewalks which had been hardly opened, as yet, from the effects of the previous storm, were now most effectually blocked and the business houses might just have well as closed their doors, as far as business was concerned, for trade and travel were alike suspended and but few ventured out on Thursday except those who had to. Pedestrianism was extremely difficult the snow being fence high on most of the sidewalks and in some places much higher, while in the roadway it was about the same. During Thursday night the storm commenced again and on Friday morning those who had awoke off the snow the evening previous, found it piled up on their walks higher than ever. Snow continued to fall at short intervals all day until after dark, and piled still up higher. The wind which had not ceased blowing almost a gale since Wednesday evening kept the snow moving and making the drifts higher, even when no snow was coming from above. During Friday night the storm subsided and Saturday morning opened quite pleasantly. All wagon roads in and out of town and for many miles around are completely filled up and badly drifted and it must be some days before many of them can be broken through. In front of Mr. Hoskins' residence on the west side of the village the snow drifted fully ten feet high and in front of Mr. D. Stevens residence nearly the same height. The entire length of Main street, and in fact, nearly all our streets, were huge battlements of snow ranging from three to ten feet high. The railroad was blockaded early Wednesday evening and no trains arrived here from that time till Sunday when about 10 a. m. a snow plow, three engines and several cabooses loaded with men and a couple of cars of fuel, reached here from Madison clearing the track. All the cuts north and south of this point were packed full of snow to their tops and the deepest ones had to be dug out before even the snow plows could get through. With the clearing train was a band of 70 shovellers and these worked at the cuts near Magnolia all day before they got through. The road was finally got open late Sunday night and the first passenger train from Madison, since Wednesday morning, arrived about 9:45 that evening, and the first from Chicago since Wednesday afternoon, arrived about five o'clock Monday morning.

On Friday afternoon Ray Gillman, Gladson, Ge. Winston and others got out their horses and broke a track up and down Main street, and the next day a triangle plow was made and three or four double teams attached with which a good track was made through most of the streets. On Thursday it began to be feared that there would be a coal and wood famine, if the storm continued. Already a number were out of coal and some were out of both coal and wood. There was no coal to be had and a large stack of wood belonging to I. M. Bennett was confiscated and distributed around to those who needed it in half cord lots. Several others who had surplus cords also disposed of them the same way next day.

The storm extended over Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan generally, and doubtless with equal severity, being worse if anything south of us. The Milwaukee & St. Paul road seems to have been blocked the worst and they have not been able to get a train through to Monroe or to Edgerton since Saturday a week ago.

### Barn Struck by Lightning. Horses Killed, &c.

The barn of G. E. Newman, a short distance from Cooksville, was struck by lightning during the storm Friday night, and was burned to the ground. The barn contained hay, some farming tools, four horses, harnesses, and many other useful and valuable articles belonging to a well appointed farm. The horses were killed momentarily with the barn being set on fire. Just as the clap passed, the boys--Frank and Gideon--rushed out not only to find the barn on fire, but two of their most valuable horses stone dead. They were a match span of beautiful grays, and, said to have been worth \$400. One of the other horses, not killed, stood by the side of the killed ones, untouched. The other one was in another part of the barn, and belonging to Mr. Newell, also unharmed, but terribly frightened. These were removed before the fire reached them with no little difficulty. The harnesses and a few other things only, were saved. There was no insurance;--the loss was total, and the boys feel it sorely, for it was their all and sole dependence for business,

August 10, 1881, Evansville Review, p. 3, col. 3, Evansville, Wisconsin

Heavy storms of wind, rain, and hail visited this section last Thursday and Friday nights, blowing over the new smoke-stack at the tack factory and moving a small building called the pickling room to which one of the stays was attached, and breaking the limbs from some of the shade trees, but no damage of importance was done in this place.

July 24, 1883, Enterprise, p. 1, col.6, Evansville, Wisconsin

**A Terrible Rain and Electric Storm Strikes This Place.**

One of the most severe rains and electric storms that ever occurred in this section struck this place last evening about 8 o'clock.

Dark, threatening clouds commenced gathering in the north-west early in the evening, gradually coming nearer and nearer, growing darker and more threatening as they approached, the distant thunder pouring forth its loud rumblings as though the whole firmament was about to burst upon us in all of its fury, causing many, especially the timid, to tremble with fear. For a time it was thought and hoped that it would pass around to the north, but this hope was soon dispersed as it approached nearer and nearer and finally burst upon us with all of its fury in the inky darkness, which was only penetrated by the almost continuous flashes of lightning, while crash after crash of thunder seemed almost rolling at ones feet and the rain fell in torrents with but slight intervals. At 9 o'clock the alarm of fire was sounded and all that dare venture out in the terrible, raging storm were soon upon their way to the scene of the conflagration, which proved to be of but slight consequence and was soon extinguished, having originated from a new forge which had been put in that day and fire left in it in the blacksmith shop near the creek on Main street, recently vacated by Mr. Dan McCarthy and taken possession of by Mr. John McGill, of Whitewater. The storm continued in all of its fury almost throughout the entire night with its deafening crashes of thunder, terrorizing flashes of lightning and torrents of rain. But few of our citizens were able to remain in their beds, saying nothing of trying to sleep. The casualties in this section as reported at this writing this morning are but slight compared with what we expected. The most frightful was the effect of the lightning upon the electric light system, the surroundings around the dynamo in the Baker Manf. shops being in almost one continuous blaze, causing the belts to fly off, the melting of connections, the cessation of the lights at intervals and the burning out of many of the lamps throughout this place frightening the occupants of the buildings in which they are used. The exact amount of damage to this system is yet unknown. Mr. Wm. Holstead's dwelling in the north part of town was struck by lightning near the chimney, causing considerable damage in tearing away the wood work through its downward course. Fire was seen in the north-east and other directions. It is also reported that the city of Madison suffered considerable, and we presume that when the reports are all in the storm of last night will prove to be the most destructive of any which has occurred in this section for years, although there was no great amount of wind connected with it here. We think from all appearances that it assumed the form of a tornado in the north-west. The growing crops are undoubtedly damaged to quite an extent, especially upon the low lands and those that wash badly.

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One of the heaviest wind storms of the season occurred last Tuesday afternoon; the wind blowed furiously and the rain came down in a perfect sheet; trees were uprooted and broken; the wind doing considerable mischief but no great amount of fatal damage. In some sections crops suffered by being blown flat on the ground, and tender shoots of corn were more or less broken off. The oats and barley that was blown flat will come up again and show a fair stand if hot weather does not set in and smother the filling heads. Lighter grain will come out all right. Since the storm, farmers have rushed to the hay field and are swinging the scythe and pushing the mower with an energy begotten of a belated season.

character."

—Those who could not ride a wheel rode in carriages and those who could not ride in carriages went in the bus, Sunday to see the damage done by the cyclone, west of Town, Friday night. The damage done to crops and farms could hardly be estimated.

Mr. DeRemer seemed to have got more than his share, his barn was demolished, in falling killed several head of fat cattle and two of his best horses besides destroying all crops. Mr. Dan Patterson had crops destroyed, being cut and pounded into the ground with hail, the shingles were stripped from the roof of his house. Ad Bennett had his crops destroyed by hail and out buildings demolished in the whirl. A piece of shingle was sent flying through the air striking a small poplar tree with force enough to drive it two or three inches crossways into the tree. Mrs. Trip Ballard's farm was badly damaged, it lying to a hollow her crops were washed off the land, most all of her beautiful shade trees were twisted off leaving the front yard in a sad state.

Will Smith, an elderly farmer was badly hurt by the falling timbers of his barn, while milking.

In many places the hail was drifted two feet deep, where trees were not torn up by the roots the bark was peeled off.

The storm was unusually narrow but fearful in force and destruction, it extended about 25 miles.

July 30, 1895, The Tribune, p. 1, col. 6, Evansville, Wisconsin

Miss Maggie Earle who is living at the home of Elmer Rosa at Union, while standing in the window at that home, received a severe shock from lightning, Tuesday morning.

July 14, 1900, The Badger, p. 1, col. 3, Evansville, Wisconsin

Mr. Than Slauson's barn at Cooksville was struck by lightning and burned during the storm Tuesday morning. It was insured for four hundred dollars,

July 14, 1900, The Badger, p. 1, col. 3, Evansville, Wisconsin

Messrs. Truman Davis, Lew Fellows and Wm. Corey are a few of the well known farmers who suffered by the week's storm.

July 14, 1900, The Badger, p. 1, col. 2, Evansville, Wisconsin

Fifteen windmills were more or less demolished between Fulton and Evansville during the storm of the 6th. A barn of Mr. J. Hurd's was struck by lightning and burned.

July 14, 1900, The Badger, "Porter" news, Evansville, Wisconsin

## THE STORM

One of the most severe wind and rain storms that ever visited Evansville and vicinity occurred last Friday night and Saturday morning.

During the storm Friday evening Editor Libby's plate glass window, in the department of his office which is devoted to "Real Estate, Printing, Insurance and Loan," was struck by lightning in the editor's absence, and the letter "i" from the word "renting" was torn off the glass, and the glass broken. This is the most serious damage we have heard of, yet many houses were beaten into by the driving rain and many trees were leveled. Bro. Libby's loss was undoubtedly covered by insurance, he having an advantage over most editors by being himself an insurance agent.

The storm abated some in its fury but continued most of the night, at about five o'clock Saturday morning it again became severe and gardens and fields looked as though a Missouri cyclone had swept over them.

In the rural districts great damage was done, barns, sheds, windmills and chimneys were blown down, apple trees stripped of their fruit and corn and grain leveled.

Some of the heaviest losers about here were Wm. Stevens who had a large new barn blown down and other buildings injured, and Mrs. Chas. Miller, had a barn destroyed containing considerable hay and in this calamity five cows were killed.

A large tobacco shed in Porter belonging to the Leinau estate was laid low, the roof was first taken by the wind and carried some distance knocking down chimney and trees and completely wrecking the kitchen of the house.

These are but a few of the losses which were sustained by those unfortunate enough to be in the track of the storm.

8 --The most terrific wind and rain  
 storm of the season struck this city Fri-  
 9 day evening about 8 o'clock. The city  
 10 council was in session with a few other  
 11 citizens present, one of whom was ye  
 12 editor, considering the waterworks and  
 13 electric light propositions. Mr. Pearsall  
 14 was about the first to make a rush for  
 15 home, believing his place to be with his  
 16 family about that time, which lead to a  
 17 hasty adjournment until the next morn-  
 18 ing. The crashing of thunder and the  
 19 lightning, with the roaring of the wind  
 20 was certainly alarming for a short time.  
 21 Shade trees were broken off and many  
 22 bending almost to the ground as we de-  
 23 parted from the city hall and hastened  
 24 to shut the doors in our office which had  
 25 been left open on account of the extreme  
 26 heat and the rain was falling in torrents  
 27 but the most serious damage we have  
 28 yet learned of was at the fair grounds  
 29 where the large new building just com-  
 30 pleted was lifted bodily from its founda-  
 31 tion and carried about the width of it to  
 32 the north where it lay in complete ruins  
 33 with several large posts torn through  
 34 the roof. A large new barn under con-  
 35 struction upon what is known as the  
 36 Blackman farm just east of the city, be-  
 37 long to Mr. David Stevens, was blown  
 38 down. The rain was much needed, do-  
 39 ing a great deal of good, fully recom-  
 40 pensing for the damages, but the thund-  
 41 er wind and lightning could just as well  
 42 be dispensed with if satisfactory to the  
 43 Giver.

—The worst blizzard that has visited this section for some years struck here Tuesday forenoon and lasted until Wednesday afternoon. The wind blew at a terrific rate and piled the snow in great drifts, impeding traffic until people were able to break out the roads. The trains were also delayed by the drifts; No. 501 due here at 12:15 was snow bound and did not arrive until three o'clock, and then came in two sections. However, the roads are now in passable shape, at least the Stoughton Beavers remarked they experienced little difficulty in getting through Thursday. The railroad service is also about as usual.

—Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Whitmore  
Wisconsin

(February 25, 1908, The Tribune, p. 3, col. 6, Evansville,

—As far as we can learn, Merrill W. Ayers, R. F. D. carrier No. 18 from this city, is the only rural carrier that succeeded in making his regular trip of about 26 miles, last Wednesday, and his patrons certainly ought to feel grateful for the efforts made by Mr. Ayers in delivering the mail on such a terrible day. He in return is very grateful to his patrons in assisting him in making the trip. Before he left this city in the morning, a 'phone message was received stating that several farmers would meet him, and they lead the way. A great deal of shoveling had to be done, but the entire circuit was made and Mr. Ayers arrived home about dark, and neither he nor his team seem to be any the worse for the day's work.

Wisconsin

(February 25, 1908, The Tribune, p. 3, col. 5, Evansville,

# Death Enters Kloften Home

Clarence Alfred Kloften, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Kloften who reside on the Love farm in the town of Porter, died Tuesday, Feb. 18, 1908, of scarlet fever and diphtheria, aged 4 years, 5 months, and 3 days. Undertaker Boyd started early Wednesday morning, but was unable to get through the snow-drifted roads; late in the afternoon Mr. Boyd made another attempt and succeeded in reaching the sorrowing home. The remains were interred in the cemetery at Cooksville, early Thursday. None of the other children in the Kloften household have either disease. Mrs. Kloften was formerly Emelia Moe, and numerous friends sympathize deeply with the family in their sorrow.

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February 25, 1908, The Tribune, p. 3, col. 6, Evansville,



### **It Was a Bad Storm.**

The worst storm of the season, if not the worst in years, started in Thursday afternoon with a slow, steady rain, turning into snow in the evening. All night it snowed and all the next day, accompanied by a high wind. The snow drifted and filled the cuts on the railroads and piled huge drifts in many places. Railroad traffic was nearly suspended, no trains having succeeded in getting through from the north all day Saturday.

Telegraph and telephone communication was almost entirely suspended for awhile. Telegraphic communication was resumed with Chicago Saturday afternoon.

The local telephone service was badly disorganized. In the city some twenty-five phones were out of commission, while over a hundred on the country connections were down and out. On one line in the country eighteen poles were broken off. On some wires an inch and a half of ice had formed, making such a load that no pole could stand up under its weight.

By noon on Sunday, however, train service was again in normal condition and the force of line men under the direction of Supt. Loda were hard at work getting the telephone system into working order again.

February 3, 1909, The Enterprise and The Tribune, p. 1, col. 7, Evansville, Wisconsin

**A BITTER BLIZZARD**

**A Heavy Snow Storm is Followed by a Hard Freeze all Over Northwest.**

Beginning Friday forenoon of last week one of the worst blizzards of the season and the worst for this time of year ever known to have visited this section struck us, and continued to pelt our devoted heads with rain, snow, hail and sleet all that day and night and part of Sunday. The precipitation was carried on the wings of a gale that at times attained the velocity of 40 miles an hour and the nature of a young hurricane. Several inches of snow fell and drifts three feet deep in places reminded us of what we went through with last winter. The six weeks of fine weather in March was forgotten by the wayfarer in that storm and nothing but present woe was evident to him.

During Friday and Saturday and Saturday nights it became bitterly cold and froze hard. Nearly all vegetation not covered by the snow suffered more or less severely. Small grain was damaged, apples, plums, cherries and raspberries were killed; strawberries were injured, but owing to the snow were not all destroyed.

Reports from the entire Northwest and much of the Middle West are to the effect that serious damage has been done to growing crops and fruit, the reports coming all the way from North Dakota to Arkansas. Some authorities place the damage as high as \$75,000,000.

The nearest to anything like this kind of a storm at this time of year was on May 16, 1894, when a reference to our newspaper files shows that there was a snow storm followed by frost that did a great deal of damage, but did not seem to be so far reaching as this.

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One of the worst storms in years during the month of April, was experienced here Saturday. Commencing Friday night it gradually grew worse, and finally developed into a full-fledged blizzard, rivaling in strength and disagreeableness the ones experienced during the winter months. Spring hats and light wraps disappeared from the streets as if by magic, and heavy coats and in some instances furs, were brought to light to aid in resisting the frigidity and sudden change in atmospheric conditions. Those who had prided themselves on the early appearance of their garden products were grief-stricken, and a general despondency was felt as to fruit and crop conditions throughout the country. But although this storm is one of the worst felt in many years during this month, it does not come as late in the season as the one of the year 1894. That year a snow storm

April 28, 1910, Evansville Review,

Evansville, Wisconsin

# ALMOST A HURRICANE

## MONDAY'S STORM

Monday afternoon a little after five o'clock a sudden gathering of clouds precipitated a heavy rainfall which was accompanied by a severe blow resembling in its fury the proportions of a cyclone not quite under full head.

The rain fell in huge volumes, and so fierce was its rush thro the air one could with difficulty see across the street.

But the wind was bent on mischief, too, and having begun its boisterous tactics it tore thro the various sections of the city, breaking off big limbs from the splendid shade trees and severing branches with the determination of a tree trimmer, but without any noticeable method.

In frenzied antics the blast swept down Main street and took up a position on the west corner of the Grange store, where it tarried a moment to take observations, thence bursting in the big plate glass window 7 x 10 feet, rushed thro the store to the skylight up which it sped, taking out about two sections of the skylight.

The electric light wires were somewhat disarranged, fuses blown out and the system temporarily paralyzed so that it was not deemed advisable to attempt any service Monday evening.

The old ice house on Maple avenue, which was partially burned last fall, was thrown to the ground by the force of the gale and is now but a mass of wreckage.

In the country the lightning gave its usual curious performance. On the farm of J. C. Ellis on Jug Prairie, lightning struck a building, but without doing any serious damage. It struck a barn

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Porter lost a horse from the same cause.

The wind also made a little record in the rural vicinity. C. S. Altemus in the town of Union reports the unroofing of a building, Mrs. Dr. Ware the unroofing of a tobacco shed, and Frank Hyne had a silo blown over and his barns damaged, while Thomas Steele's tobacco shed was moved on its foundation, on his farm 1 1/2 miles southwest of town.

In the fairgrounds the wind seemed fairly wild and resolved upon destruction. Without warning it caught up the grand stand and viciously threw it to the ground reducing it to splinters. Then it paid its respects to the horse sheds and sheep pens, utterly ruining 25 of the former and about two score of the latter.

This is a serious blow to the fair association and will involve the expenditure of a large sum to repair the damage.

It is also a source of not a little inconvenience and annoyance to the city, as many of the sewer ditchers were housed in the comfortable horse sheds.

Crops were flattened by the impact of the rain and heavy wind, and corn was somewhat cut by hail.

People were somewhat alarmed at first thinking a cyclone was getting ready to pounce down on them.

# Evansville News

Evansville, Jan. 14.—If the two blizzards within the past week have played havoc with railroads and train service, they have certainly done likewise with country roads. Hardly within the memory of the oldest inhabitant have the roads been in such a condition. Snow in some places is piled high—twelve and fifteen feet; in other places the ground is bare. It is impossible to follow the main road at times, so gates have been opened into fields, so that the traveled road now winds from the main road into fields, and back again. Farmers coming to town bringing their milk to the creamery, and for other necessary errands, average about an hour to the mile on the road. On their farms, too, they are having troubles galore these days, for, in order to get to the barns, the granaries, sheds, to this building or that, huge drifts must be shoveled away first and a path cleared. Winter always brings a long train of chores for the farmer to do, and when added to that he must shovel snow to get anywhere, he is busy indeed. The terrific gale that accompanied both storms seemed to change direction at different times, and would pile up the snow from one direction for a number of hours, and then turn again, banking and piling it up from the opposite direction.

## Mrs. Forest Dicks.

Mrs. Forest Dicks died at her home on the Earl Tullar farm, one and one-half miles west of Evansville, on Friday, January 11. She was forty-three years of age and is survived by a husband and one son. The remains were to have been taken to Oregon, Sunday, where interment was to be made, but owing to the impassible condition on both railroad and wagon road, this was impossible. The body will be taken to Oregon, Tuesday, for burial.

# SNOW STORM TIES UP TRAFFIC

Worst Storm In Years Surprises  
Entire Country. Deep Snow  
Drifts Stops All Trains

Beginning with a gentle rain last Friday and gradually growing colder, turning to snow, driven by a strong wind, the people of almost the entire country were caught totally unprepared by one of the worst storms for the season that the country has ever known. Fooled by the recent spring weather on account of which many had planted their crops and gardens, many were caught away from home in cars which had to be abandoned in the drifts, their owners being forced to take the railroads to return to their homes, to find that they had helped themselves but little, as the snow had so filled the cuts that trains on all the roads were stalled and delayed many hours, or until snow plows and shoveling gangs could reach them.

Fortunately, however, the weather did not turn cold, or else much damage would have resulted to stock and possibly human lives, where people had been caught in the open country in cars.

Sunday morning early the storm wore itself out and the Sun rose bright and warm, starting the drifts to melting rapidly, and by Monday night the majority of the snow was gone so that traffic on the railroads could be resumed, while a majority of the country roads were passible for teams.

As everything in the line of plant life was covered with a blanket of wet sticky snow, it is thought that what little freezing that occurred during the storm has done but little damage to fruit and crops.

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Several persons were injured and damage estimated at several thousand dollars was done to farm buildings in this vicinity late yesterday afternoon when the cyclone struck this area.

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Practically every building except the house on the Art Rasmussen farm east of Magnolia was blown down by the terrific wind and three cows were killed. One of the Rasmussen children was said to be slightly injured and Mr. Rasmussen was badly bruised. The father and child were thrown a long distance by the wind as they were leaving the barn.

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On the Ben Hanson farm north of the city the wind destroyed two sheds, a chicken house, part of a barn, and several other buildings, twisting and practically ruining the silo.

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A large barn and silo on the Frank Croak farm east of the city on highway 92 were completely demolished and on another farm further east a roof was stripped from a house. Telephone poles, electric light lines, and trees were laying across the highways in Magnolia township last night making automobile travel nearly impossible.

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Practically every farm in that vicinity was damaged to some extent and on several farms large barns were blown to the ground. Rural telephone service was impaired throughout the area.

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Evansville was without electricity for nearly three hours late yesterday afternoon and in several residential districts, where wires were torn down, telephone service was impaired. The entire roof was ripped from one of the Smith warehouses on East Main street. A more complete account of the damage in this vicinity will be published in the Review's next issue.

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# JANESVILLE HIGHWAY REOPENED THURSDAY

n. **Road Barriers Removed After** **BI**  
**Month of Detour Routings;**  
**Ice Cleared Away**

After nearly a month of detour routings, traffic conditions on U. S. 10 highway 14 between Evansville and Janesville were restored last Thursday when the road barriers, in place since the heavy storms of Feb. 21, were removed and county snow plows completed clearing the ice from the pavement near Leyden. from  
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The water at Leyden went down enough to permit highway crews to work there the fore part of last week but eight inches of water continued the  
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(Continued on last page)



# THREE SILOS RAZED; LARGE BARN BURNS

Thursday's Hurricane and  
Friday's Lightning Play  
Havoc in Rural Area

## THREE SILOS DAMAGED

Evansville, Janesville Firemen  
Job for Three Hours at  
Louis Benash Home

Thursday night's hurricane and  
rain and Friday afternoon's elec-  
tric storm which beat down crops, up-  
rooted trees, and disrupted electric  
power resulted in the destruction of  
three farm silos, the burning of a large  
barn and the damaging of a farm resi-  
dence in this locality.

Thursday's storm struck the city at  
midnight starting out with a moderate  
breeze which blew up heavy dust clouds  
which quickly reached gale proportions.  
The heat wave which had en-  
veloped Evansville and surrounding  
localities for seven days.

### Three Silos Down

The storm reached its peak east of  
the city where it razed wood-stave silos  
at the farms of Steven Putnam, Earl  
Putnam, and Charles Gabler.

The electric storm which followed at  
2:30 p.m. Friday played the great-  
est havoc completely destroying a 24 x  
40 barn on the Louis Benash farm,  
two miles east of the city near Ley-  
den which was struck by a bolt of

lightning, which housed horses  
and was burned to the ground within  
a few minutes and it was the efficiency  
of the Evansville and Janesville firemen  
which saved the other buildings. The an-  
imals were pastured at the time the  
barn was struck.

### On Job 3 Hours

### On Job 3 Hours

Three hours firemen remained at  
the Benash farm in an effort to prevent the  
spread of flames to other buildings, and  
at that time the wind changed four  
times each shift bringing new hazards.  
The fire was carried on trucks from  
the surrounding farms and firemen pumped  
water for an hour and one-half from the  
city to the Benash farm.

The buildings saved included the  
garage, corn crib, milk house, a  
barn house, and a machine shed the  
last of which was only 60 feet from  
the burning structure.

Mr. and Mrs. George Holvey, neigh-  
bors who rushed to the Benash farm to  
offer assistance, found upon their  
return home that their own residence  
had been struck and the interior con-  
siderably damaged.

Although by a miracle the entire  
barn was not consumed, the wall pa-  
rtly covered, and curtains were  
damaged by the bolt of lightning.

### Crops Damaged

In the exception of the silo razing,  
the greatest damage from Thursday's  
(Continued on last page)

## STORMS RESULT IN HEAVY LOSS HERE

(Continued from page one)

wind was done to crops in surrounding rural areas. In a few areas corn was blown down, but the damage to this crop was held at a minimum because the heaviest wind came ahead of the rain. Had the showers occurred first and softened the ground, all of the corn in this area would have been tipped over or pulled from the ground.

Neither corn nor grain was as badly damaged as was feared at first. The grain, which had not been cut previously, was flattened to the ground which will make it necessary for farmers to cut the crop one way instead of circling the field. The capping bundles on the shocked grain were blown to the ground, and in many instances the other bundles of the shocks were scattered over the fields.

A large tree was uprooted Thursday afternoon on the Foncie Collins farm, five miles southeast of Evansville.

Friday's storm played the most havoc in Evansville at Leonard park where a bolt of lightning stripped an oak tree killing two Robins, and continued along electric wires to the tool house where M. L. Ellis, custodian who was seeking shelter there, was stunned by the bolt. Several light bulbs and fuses were blown throughout Leonard and Leota parks.

August 1, 1940, Evansville Review, p. 8, col. 1, Evansville,

# Tuesday

Lawrence Lange Farm Near  
City Scene of Miniature  
Cyclone at 1:55 p.m.

## ORCHARD UPROOTED

Chicken Coop and Tool Shed  
Razed; House and Barns  
Are Badly Damaged

Tuesday afternoon's electric storm and severe wind, which beat down crops, uprooted trees, and disrupted electric and telephone service, resulted in the destruction of several hundred dollars worth of property at the Lawrence Lange farm, two miles southwest of the city.

Starting out with a heavy rain and moderate wind, the storm quickly reached gale proportions and on striking the Lange farm removed part of the roof and siding from the house, took down a tool shed hoisting the roof into a tree, completely moved the chicken house off its foundation killing five fowls, and shattered the wheel of the windmill.

### Barn Moved

The smaller barn on the farm was moved two inches releasing the heavy braces which fell to the ground. Boards were blown from the larger barn and the east window was carried a considerable distance. Only two apple trees remain in the orchard and several large oaks are down. The porch roof was also badly damaged and one of the screens was carried a distance of nearly

fowls, and shattered the wheel of the windmill.

### Barn Moved

The smaller barn on the farm was moved two inches releasing the heavy braces which fell to the ground. Boards were blown from the larger barn and the east window was carried a considerable distance. Only two apple trees remain in the orchard and several large oaks are down. The porch roof was also badly damaged and one of the screens was carried a distance of nearly 100 feet.

Other destruction on the Lange farm included the razing of another outbuilding and two chimneys on the house roof, the removal of three telephone poles, and the ruination of a corn crop which was lying flat Wednesday morning.

### Roof Pierced

Resembling a miniature cyclone, the force of the wind on the house moved a bedroom dresser from the wall about a foot and a branch, two inches in diameter from a large nearby oak, was driven completely through the roof. The damage is covered by tornado insurance carried with the Union Mutual Fire Insurance company here.

Mr. and Mrs. Lange were returning to their farm from Evansville when they noticed the approach of the whirling clouds coming from the West. On arriving home they rushed to the house and had just entered the basement when the crash occurred at 1:55.

The approaching cloud, according to Mrs. Lange, resembled a funnel and was traveling at a terrific rate of speed.

### Pigs Smothered

Though no serious damage to buildings was reported on neighboring farms, a straw stack and three trees were razed on the William Wadsworth farm, a half mile west of Lange's, operated by Jake Rothlesberger. When the straw stack went down five small pigs were buried and the animals had not been recovered Wednesday morning.

A large tree was blown down near the house on the Lee Milbrandt farm, a half mile north of Lange's, and crops throughout that locality were beaten.

August 15, 1940, Evansville

# FARM

## COUNTY SUFFERS SEVERE DAMAGE IN SUDDEN GALE

Evansville Telephone and  
Light Service Cut Off  
Saturday Night

**\$12,000 DAMAGE**

Most Severe Storm Since 1934  
In Area Annually Hit By  
Freak Winds

Striking early Saturday night with great suddenness and severity just 10 miles southeast of Evansville, a tornado wreaked havoc on 12 farms in the Footville area, causing an estimated \$12,000 damage.

Sweeping along a narrow path scarcely more than a half-mile wide, the twister originated near the Mulcahy brothers' farm just southeast of Footville, and its strength was felt well into Center and Magnolia townships. For the most part, the heavy damage was confined to barns and small buildings.

Evansville received only a slight taste of the storm, but it was sufficient to disrupt electric power service for a short time. Telephone service likewise was affected in certain sections of the city. A large tree at the Gollmar residence, 115 South Madison street, was uprooted, and several other trees were reported down or damaged.

reported down or damaged.

### No Casualties

In the area where the storm was most severe there were no deaths or serious injuries. Because of the high stone foundation under most of the barns, there were no live stock losses. Poultry buildings, however, provided no such protection; consequently, the loss was great on several farms. One farmer reported nearly 100 chickens taken by the twister and carried away without leaving a trace.

The tornado, Rock county's most destructive in several years, struck shortly after 8:30 p.m. It was of such short duration that residents of Footville were unaware of its seriousness until the next morning. As the reports of damage spread, the highways throughout the area became crowded with thousands of sight-seers.

Farms most severely hit were those of the Drafahl estate, 1½ miles northeast of Footville, the William J. Kennedy farm near the Footville village limits, that of William Silverthorn across from Kennedy's, and that of Dan Conway near Leyden.

Electric and telephone service suffered throughout the area. Trees fell across transmission lines, and several poles were blown down.

### Takes Linoleum

Among more unusual aspects of Saturday's tornado was the report by one farmer that the wind, after blowing in his kitchen windows, actually took the linoleum from the floor. Another farm-

(Continued on last page)

# FARMS WRECKED AS TORNADO STRIKES

(Continued from page 1)

er likewise had his windows blown out, following which the wind carried in hay and fodder from the leveled barn.

One farmer's little girl had a narrow escape when the glass in her room was blown in. She was sleeping at the time, and suddenly the wind brought the window in upon her. No injuries resulted, however.

The storm was Rock county's most severe since June 20, 1934 when considerable damage was done in the Milton area. Not since September 21, 1931, had Footville and Leyden been so severely struck.

Extent of the damage in brief summary by farms is as follows:

Drafahl Estate farm, Mineral Point road: The large barn and all small buildings were virtually destroyed; a large grove of trees was uprooted or broken off; chimneys were blown from the house; cattle, though under the barn's wreckage for several hours, were found unhurt.

William Silverthorn farm, town of Center: The garage, barn and smaller buildings were destroyed; windows were smashed; roof on house was slightly raised; some chickens killed.

Dan Conway farm, U. S. Highway 14, 1 mile west of Leyden: Barn and windmill down; garage damaged.

William Kennedy farm, east of the Footville village limits: Tobacco shed destroyed and 1940 tobacco crop slightly damaged; house moved off foundation and windows smashed; poultry houses wrecked and many chickens killed; windmill down.

Charles Gundock farm: Windmill leveled; wooden part of barn down.

W. P. Kealy, North Leyden: Windows out; house roof and doors damaged.

Roberty Estate farm: Chicken house and tobacco shed leveled and small buildings damaged.

# FLOOD WATERS STRIKE CITY LAST FRIDAY

## Melting Snow, Rain Cause Lake Leota To Rise Overflow Banks

### PROPERTY DAMAGE

#### Low Areas And Basements Are Flooded For Several Hours During Disaster

Descending upon Evansville last Friday with very little warning was the worst flood the city has had in at least 25 years and from all reports received, it did a large amount of damage especially in the lower areas of the city.

It began to rain about 7 a.m. Friday and although many citizens remarked that "it was the first rain we had had this winter," no one was alarmed about the results until about 2 o'clock in the afternoon when the creek began to rise rapidly, and it was not until about 6 p.m. that the situation became serious.

The east end of Leota park became a second Lake Leota, and basements along North Madison street were flooded causing damage to furnaces, motors and canned fruit. Thousands of fish went over the spillways and when the water receded were left on the flats which had been covered. Some of the fish were picked up Saturday morning and many local citizens enjoyed fish dinners during the weekend. Three raccoon and three foxes were drowned at the conservation pens before the animals could be removed.

imals could be removed.

Eighteen inches of water ran across the railroad tracks and isolated the railroad station, and water which filled the basement of the Miller Hotel came within two inches of running in the front door. Four feet of water rushed through a barn in the rear of the hotel.

Both the Main st. and Church st. bridges were under water in what the residents here claim is the worst flood in 25 years. Visitors in the city living southeast of Evansville along Highway 14 were forced to remain in Evansville until 9 p.m., when water receded and cars could be pulled through the flooded area by tractor.

Fence posts from the Brunzell company's supply floated down onto the railroad tracks and were removed by employees before any trains were derailed.

The Waefler Frozen Food locker plant was flooded with 20 inches of water in the boiler room, and the Evansville Feed and Fuel Co. sustained a loss when a basement storeroom was flooded, damaging three trucks and several motors, according to W. M. Bewick, proprietor.

The pattern room and foundry of the Baker Manufacturing company were flooded.

Of course the rain that fell was not entirely to blame for the flood but that along with the melting snow and the fact that the ground was frozen too hard to soak up the surface water, was the main cause.

Some local citizens feel that a warning of the opening of the spillway gates when a flood threatens would be timely. But according to R. J. Antes the gates were opened early Friday morning in an attempt to control the water and keep it from going over the top of the spillway in a torrent, as well as protect the fish, but the water was rushing so hard that nothing could control it, and if the gates had not been opened the flood might have been worse than it was. With the flood gates wide open, the water went over the dikes which has never been known to happen before.

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# Barn Goes Down in Heavy Winds

## Thousands of Dollars Damage in Area as Heavy Winds Strike

Heavy damages were reported throughout the Evansville area last Thursday, following gale winds which blew Wednesday night, May 20. Trees, power lines, and small buildings were hard hit, with at least two large buildings going down under the force of the abnormal blow.

A modern 30 x 90 foot barn on the Elmer Allen farm northwest of town was almost completely demolished, and a tobacco shed on the Floyd Steele farm also went down under the heavy winds.

A group of Allen's neighbors in the Pleasant Prairie area pitched in Saturday afternoon to help clean up the damage and bale up the hay which was uncovered when the barn went down. The Pleasant Prairie club served meals to the workers, and by the end of the day the cooperative group had done a lot toward cleaning up the mess that the barn's destruction has caused.

Hundreds of trees went down in the storm, which caused millions of dollars worth of damage throughout the central part of the United States with several days of abnormally strong winds reported from the Gulf of Mexico to Lake Superior.

City utility crews, and commercial power company and telephone company crews were busy for a number of days after the big wind repairing damage, and carpenters and electricians were at a premium with power off and roofs gone at points for miles around Evansville.

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**Booke Discussion Group**

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May 28, 1953, Evansville Review, Evansville, Wisconsin

## Local March Ends, Makes Like Lion

### Windstorm, Snowfall Hit City During Final Week, Cause Several Accidents

Evansville has had a taste of March going out like a real lion in the past week.

Friday the strongest wind to hit the area in a couple of years wreaked havoc on TV antennas, garbage cans and other loose items and felled two trees in the city.

And Monday some two to four inches of snow fell on the city, directly causing two automobile accidents and creating hazardous driving conditions for nearly 24 hours.

Most damage was caused by splitting into three portions a venerable, rotted tree on the property of Claron Powles, 245 W. Liberty st. The largest of two limbs that split from the trunk of the tree fell across a space of some 50 yards and landed on the roof of the home of Roscoe Haynes, 239 W. Liberty st.

The limb broke rafters, cracked plaster, shattered glass, punched several holes in the roof and did a large amount of minor damage.

The tree split during the noon hour and Mr. and Mrs. Haynes were eating lunch when the limb hit their home.

"It made a terrible crash," Mrs. Haynes said. "I thought to myself, 'The tree's come at last,'" she continued.

There had been some discussion during the past year as to whether or not the tree would hold up in a high wind and those discussions were what prompted Mrs. Haynes' thoughts.

The Powles heard little noise as the tree fell, Mrs. Powles said. She said her son, C. J. Powles, a high school sophomore, saw it falling.

Neighbors across the street from the scene were more aware of the noise than were the Powles. Mrs. Wilbur Andrew, 232 W. Liberty, said, "There was just a crash; that's all there was to it. It happened so fast I didn't have time to think."

The tree was removed Saturday by tree surgeons from Beloit.

The other tree was on the property of the Congregational church parish house, 112 W. Church st. It broke off about half-way up the main trunk, but fell in an open area and caused little damage except to foul some wires and knock a cross-piece from a telephone pole.

Snow-packed roads resulted in two accidents Monday. One driver lost control of his vehicle on Finnane's hill, wound up in the ditch and received bruises and sprains. Slippery pavement on the N. Madison st. viaduct caused a jeep truck to skid and the driver of the automobile behind the truck, in trying to avoid it by swinging around it, side-swiped the lead vehicle. None of the occupants of either vehicle were injured.



## Recent Snowstorm Gave Evansville A Fight, But Everything Finally Came Out All White

The most severe snowstorm of the season last Wednesday afternoon blanketed Evansville with nine inches of snow and most of the southern Wisconsin area with about as much of the white wintry stuff.

But Supt. of Streets Braden Wolff and a crew of five men worked day and night clearing away the snow almost as soon as it fell to make nearly all streets within the city passable.

Two men began the snow-removing operation at 7 p.m. Wednesday. One operated a truck-mounted plow, the other a grader. Their first step was to clear the snow from certain key thoroughfares to permit the passage of emergency vehicles. This they had done by 11:00 Wednesday night.

Then they plowed windrows of snow to the center of the streets in the heart of the business district to facili-

tate the complete removal of snow from the area. These streets included Main from Union to First st., Madison from Church to Mills, and Maple from Church to Main.

The removal operation began shortly after midnight and was completed by noon Thursday. Three trucks and one loader were used to haul the snow from the business district to the city's Second st. dump and to the dump near Green Bros. Motorport.

All that remained after noon Thursday was to shovel the intersections in the residential areas and the viaduct and to sand intersections. Two men on the crew worked all day Wednesday, all night, and Thursday morning.

The storm gave Evansville workmen quite a fight, but it turned out all white.

## Storm Causes Damage in Evansville

The storms which struck Evansville early Sunday and Monday mornings took on the semblance of tornadoes in several sections of the city.

The house of Mrs. Mayre Clark on South Second st. was not only damaged by a falling tree but lightning struck several spots on the lawn and burned the grass. The gutters on the house were damaged and the canopy over the front steps was ruined. In the neighboring yard of Mrs. E. M. Cole a large tree barely missed the fence.

In other parts of the city the wind felled trees in yards and streets and a great deal of damage was done in the city parks. The large willow tree on the east shore of Lake Leota was split in the center. Many Evansville residents recall that they spent many happy hours way back when playing in the shade of the old tree and even diving from a branch into the 'old swimming hole' before the creek was dammed up to form Lake Leota.

The Water and Light department and telephone company workers were busy Sunday and Monday taking care of wires that were down because of falling trees especially in the parks. Streets were blocked temporarily in several parts of the city. The storm appeared to hit harder in the north section on Sunday morning while the south and west parts were more directly in the path of the Monday morning storm.

OREGON VOTES

### MEETING PLANNED

The Grace Division of the Congregational Church will meet for a 1:30 dessert luncheon at the home of Mrs. Wallace Everill August 9. Business meeting will follow.

are: Werner Hoffmann, Heinz Kordecki, Martin Henschke, Jochen Runge, Joachim Boltz, Joachim Grutz, Ingrid Wisniewski and Gisbert and Ursula Muenster. The two Americans are Paul Cates and Anna Hodgkin.

READ THE REVIEW !!



The familiar old Willow tree on the south edge of Lake Leota fell victim to the storm last week end. This old tree is a landmark for many of our pioneer residents. Evansville lost quite a number of its big old trees during the storm and suffered quite a bit of property damage, too.

August 3, 1961, Evansville

Review, p. 1, Evansville, Wisconsin

## Evansville Area Cleanup Organized

EVANSVILLE — A team of Evansville area men has been organized to assist in cleanup operations in the tornado-struck area.

Organized by Jim Kennedy, Ken Kuetz, and Dr. Edward Jeans, a team of about 60 persons worked all day Thursday cleaning debris from farm fields.

Kuetz said Friday that any persons wishing to aid today should meet no later than 12:30 p.m. behind the Evansville Grange store.

April 17, 1965, Wisconsin State Journal, p. 7, Section 1, Madison, Wisconsin

### Tornado Damage Surveyed - Cleanup Begins



Approximately 80 high school students accompanied by about 12 men responded to a call for help in the storm damaged vicinity Thursday afternoon. They showed their goodwill by working diligently all the afternoon on the clean-up project.



Mrs. J. B. Larsen views the damage that was done by the April 11 tornado to the gift shop and other buildings at the J. B. Larsen Orchard near Evansville. The men in the picture are Senator William Proxmire, right, who was in this area Saturday inspecting the storm damage and Wenzel Renvick and Don Woodstock.

#### STORM STRIKES CITY AND RURAL AREAS

Although the electric storm that visited Evansville last week Thursday night was not as severe as far as wind was concerned and did not last as long as the storm of June 16, 1973, it sent many local citizens to their basements.

Those who drove about the city and out into the nearby rural areas after the storm saw more water than they had ever seen on farm land before. There was foaming rushing water in heretofore dry ditches, creeks where there had never been creeks before and huge ponds in numerous corn and hay fields also water rushing across the highway in some places. Most of it was muddy water which indicated that farmers were losing much of the top soil in the fields.

There was also some damage in the city. In front of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Al Golz on Garfield Ave. a tree had been hit either by wind or lightning and the top was broken over. On North Third Street near the home of Mrs. Russell George electric wires had fallen against a tree and ignited it. The Power and Light Co. responded to a call and averted damage to any of the homes in the area. Lightning struck one of the school buildings on the South First Street campus. Other minor damage was reported in various parts of the city.

June 27, 1974, Evansville Review, p. 1, col. 1, Evansville, Wisconsin



Some of the corn crops in the area were dealt a hard blow the night before the Fourth, when a heavy rain, hail, and high winds swept through certain areas and wreaked havoc with the corn. Here is a scene taken on July 4th, on Hy. 59 near Franklin Road. The roots of the corn were pulled from the ground, while some stalks were left standing upright. The Footville area on County A was also badly hit. An additional storm on Saturday night brought heavy rains, wind, and hail again as well as lightning which illuminated the sky in a constant flashing. It was reported that Norman Heffel on Gibbs Lake Rd. lost a barn during this storm. Electricity outages were reported both nights.

July 10, 1975, Evansville Review, p. 1, col. 3-5, Evansville, Wisconsin

# Snow, Drifting Cause Standstill



The school buses took an extra day of vacation on Monday. They were scheduled to run after the Christmas holidays, but the snow storm put a stop to just about everything on Monday. Most people spent the day digging out, and drifting kept piling it back up.

## City Hall Weathers The Storm

Most of the night was quiet. Not much traffic or any movement going on within the city limit. Earlier reports of a storm heading our way was kind of a guess game. Some said, "It's going to pass by us." Others said "We're going to get hit". We were right.

Officer Warner patrolled the city doing his routine building checks. The temperature was rather warm for this time of year. We thought we were going to get through the night with no problems, but boy, were we mistaken.

The first report of a problem started with a tree down across the road on Maple Street around 5:30 am. in the morning. Wires were sparking. Water and Light Dept. repair was called in. Then all the phone lines in City Hall started lighting up. "I don't have power." "How are the roads?" "Is there school?" Some callers wanted to chit chat about their heat and freezer problems and what to do. I politely told them that the men are out and as soon as they find the problem, power will be back on.

Chief Katzenmeyer and Mayor Jones' power was out. Anticipating problems they both came in early to assist. Mayor Jones came to the City Hall and helped the Dispatcher answer phone calls while Chief Katzenmeyer patrolled the city along with Officer Warner looking for problem areas.

Traffic was picking up as people were going to work. Then believe it or not, it started to thunder and lightning. It even rained for a few minutes. A large bolt of lightning shook City Hall and seconds later as Dispatcher, I noticed that my police radio was dead. In checking, I also found that the Fire Radio was dead and also the CB. All telephone communications were down for a few minutes. Then a dial tone returned only to find out we could call within the Evansville district; the long distance lines were dead. Again, the City Hall phones started to ring with citizens wondering what happened.

Then came what we dread most during a severe storm. A house fire on Tuttle Road. Footville requested our fire department for mutual aid. Then an emergency ambulance call to transport a patient to St. Mary's Hospital, Madison. With everybody work-

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Then came what we dread most during a severe storm. A house fire on Tuttle Road. Footville requested our fire department for mutual aid. Then an emergency ambulance call to transport a patient to St. Mary's Hospital, Madison. With everybody working together, everything went smoothly. A plow in front of the ambulance got them to the residence on Badger Drive and then a county plow led the ambulance to the Dane County line where a Dane County plow picked them up and led them into Madison.

Radio communications were very difficult. All we had to call out of Evansville were two portable radios that the Chief and Officer Warner had to contact Rock County Sheriff's Department.

Radio Repair finally came to check out the damage caused by the lightning. They advised us that there was a major problem and the only way we could use the

radio channel was for someone to make a trip to their company in Madison and pick up a back-up unit. Chief Katzenmeyer and Curt Hartzler said they would chance it with a four-wheel drive vehicle. Within three hours they were back with a radio to get things back in business.

During the entire day off-duty officers and private citizens with four-wheel drive vehicles were out there helping people. Some even offered their houses for people who may be stranded. Snowmobiler Russ Jeske advised us that the Sno Devils would be available if needed. Nursing Home employees were picked up and driven to work. City employees worked late while others came in early to releave them.

With the direction of Chief Katzenmeyer and the help of everyone, we got through the day with no major disaster — only a lot of tired people.

A word of appreciation goes to Mayor Jones, Ron Phelps, Kurt Hartzler, off-duty officers Phillips and Gallman, and to all the private citizens who offered their help.

Merry Christmas to everyone.

**Subscribe**

**Thought for th**

Peace is not God's gift to his to each other.





There was plenty of snow in the parking lot behind the Grange Mall, after the lot was plowed. Some 14 inches of snow on Tuesday created the pile. That was

snow number 13. Saturday night produced a light snow, number 12. The prediction for this week is snow on Tuesday, which would reduce be number 11, leaving on-

ly 10 more to go. Tuesday was the first day of winter and the shortest day of the year. From now on, there will be an improvement each day.

December 23, 1987, p. 1, col. 2-4, Evansville Review, Evansville, Wisconsin

# Record Snow, Thunderstorm Blitzes Area

A record snowfall which dumped a some 16 inches of snow on Evansville and the area on Tuesday of last week brought winds up to 73 mph. It was the greatest snowfall in the area's history. All Rock County roads were closed and even road crews were unable to work on the roads. The snow proved to be Evansville's Number 13, and after Saturday night's snow, the count now is at 11 remaining. Schools were closed as well as offices and employees were told to stay home and off the roads. Power was out in some areas, on the north edge of town for an hour.

Not many businesses were open Tuesday, but a few merchants who reside in town, were able to open shop. The Village Square provided food to those who were without electricity, due to a downed tree on Maple Street. Most people stocked up on groceries on Monday when they heard the news of the impending storm.

Tuesday proved to be a very quiet day, with phone service being very erratic. All was quiet as the soft white stuff kept coming

down. The Review could not be printed, so delivery was a day late.

Basically the thunderstorm was like a summer storm, but in winter the conditions depend on a large difference between the surface temperature and the upper atmosphere. It was about 6:30 am. when the center of the storm passed and then the winds subsided.

Saturday's rain was recorded as two and a half inches, which would have been a terrific amount of snow, had the warmer temperatures not prevailed. However, by midnight, the snow began to fall, covering up somewhat the area the rain had uncovered.

People shoveling snow were cautioned to take care. This kind of exercise is extremely hard on the heart. People are reminded to breathe normally when shoveling, not to hold their breath when picking up a heavy load of snow.

## Second Ward Candidate Takes Out Papers

Bill Thompson, who resides in the Second Ward at 122 S. First Street, has taken out papers for

December 23, 1987, p. 1, col. 3-4, Evansville Review, Evansville, Wisconsin

## Disaster Recovery Center to open Thursday

(Published Wednesday, September 12, 2007 05:21:50 PM CST)

By Gina Duwe  
gduwe@gazetteextra.com

## EVANSVILLE

A federal Disaster Recovery Center will open at noon Thursday for Rock County residents affected by recent floods.

The Rock County mobile center will only be open from noon to 7 p.m. Thursday at the old Dean Clinic, 11 W. Church St., Evansville, and from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

The recovery centers, or DRCs, are intended to help those who suffered loss from the severe storms and flooding Aug. 18-31, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

More than \$4.6 million in disaster assistance has been approved for 14 Wisconsin counties, according to FEMA.

The first step in applying for assistance is registering with FEMA, and it is recommended to register before going to the center, FEMA spokesman Donald Bolger said.

Individuals may register for assistance online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or by calling between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. to (800) 621-3362 or (800) 462-7585 for the hearing and speech impaired. Applicants may also call those numbers to check on the status or update their applications.

Advertisement

