

Cyclone Swept Across Sections Of Sunfield and Roxand Townships

Monday--Paragraphe of Disaster

The John A. Haddix home at Hoytville had a close call. One of the three evergreens in the front yard was blown over but missed the house, the top of a second tree was carried over the top of the house and landed on the kitchen with the shattered portion of the tree facing the east, showing that the flying tree had turned around in its short flight. Three chimneys were ruined by the tree but not a pane of glass was broken. Mrs. Haddix was the Republican-Tribune Hoytville correspondent for years and still has a flair for the news side of events. This home has the trade name of "Evergreen Manor" and was a popular Sunday dinner place for many people throughout this section.

Gordon Green, the Mulliken senior boy, who had his collar bone broken in an accident eight miles south of Charlotte Saturday night, is a son of Paul Green, who lives just south of the Haddix place. The young man had the same collar bone fractured three or four years ago while sliding down hill. Young Green was taken to the Hayes-Green County hospital where the fracture was reduced but he returned home the next day. The young folks had been to Narrow lake to a dance.

The roof and several of the windows in the Irving Calhoun house, occupied by Rufus Meade, just west of Hoytville, were damaged. The eaves trough was blown away.

The barn on the Cecil Hill place, still heading west, was blown down and some damage was done to the house. Several out buildings, including the hog pen, tool shed and hen coop, were ruined along with most of the orchard. The debris from the barn was scattered along the highway for several rods. The tenants on the place are Mr. and Mrs. Jay Eldridge, who came to the Hill place four years ago from Lake Odessa. In his former location he saw another cyclone wreck a church shed across from his place.

Jerry Parker, a well known Roxand man, lost his best horse in his wrecked barn on a 280 acre farm, and fears that a second horse may die from injuries. He was standing near a tool shed across the road when he saw the storm coming. He hurried across to his home but the way was so dark because of the rain and hail that he didn't know that his barn had been wrecked until he looked out of the house a few minutes later. The garage was lifted above his parked car and was taken a distance of 50 feet.

The car was unharmed. He is fully insured. Clarence Parker, a nephew who lives on M-39, east of Mulliken, said his farm missed the storm by about 40 rods.

Donald L. Adams, county wiring inspector, was at Mr. Parker's to cut over the Consumers Power Co. line, which was only completed the day before, a big item for the four customers being served by this new service.

The crop loss will total thousands of dollars and in several instances is complete.

The 80-foot barn on the Otis Reed place was badly wrecked, in fact may have to be torn down for safety. The front end was blown away and the west side is a foot out of line. A long L barn, to the east, is still standing but is off its foundation. The Reeds lost 15 fine apple trees, 200 chicks, and all their crops and fruits. Both chimneys were blown away and several minor repairs must be made to the house. The Reeds have lived on the place 18 years, prior to which his father, Amos Reed, lived 20 years on the same farm.

Corrugated steel from the roof of the barn of Charles McAllister and J. B. Carpenter, (west of Reed's) was whipped around a telephone pole 500 feet away, giving some idea of the force at this point. Mr. Carpenter stepped from the front of the disappearing barn and credits his life to a Model T Ford, again which he was "parked" as the barn sailed over his head. They lost a lamb and a pig.

Most of the farmers with heavy barn losses are fully covered. Perhaps half of the crop losers have hail insurance.

Trees and shrubs were uprooted on the Frank Lyons farm across the street but the buildings escaped injury.

The east end of the James G. Dilley barn on the north and south road had to be repaired while the two Wonsers farms to the north suffered heavy loss. The barn on the Roy Wonsers place was flat while the loss of Ernest Wonsers was confined to timber and a badly wracked barn. The Ernest Wonsers lost 102 chickens.

The loss on M-39 is confined largely to points west of the Gates school. Ben Husman who lives on the old McDiarmid place lost his barn and windmill and 1 cow. Timbers from the Ed. Bera place to the west and across the road were scattered over the Husman field west of his homestead. The Husmans moved to this place from the Tom Walsh place three miles south of Sunfield.

The Ed Bera loss includes a portion of his house and his barn. The only casualties reported from the Eaton count cyclone area were Wm. Mossman, who worked for the Beras and Mr. Bera who himself sustained a broken collar bone. Mossman was pinned under a heavy timber and a passing commercial motorist was the first to hear his cries for help. Mossman, who served overseas with the British has a broken collar bone and a re-opened old wound sustained in the service. Dr. Huyck said that Mossman had a narrow escape, that his cut was within a hair of severing a blood vessel in which case he would have bled to death before he could have been released. Mossman was brought to the Hayes-Green County hospital where he will remain for a few days. Portions of the Bera barn were carried over to the lower section of the house taking the roof of the house with it. Rain and hail ruined most of the interior of the house. A beautiful grove at the rear of the home was ruined. Mrs. June Borden, a daughter, living in Lansing was home Tuesday helping her bewildered parents. Mr. Bera, who is 71, is a brother of the late J. H. Bera, long a leading citizen of Sunfield. He didn't know that Mossman was pinned beneath the wreckage until he was discovered by the observing motorist. The aged Mr. Bera helped take Mossman from the debris and did not realize he had sustained a broken collar bone until he went to Dr. Huyck's office in Sunfield. Both came to Hayes-Green County Hospital for X-rays and treatment.

James Jackson, age 71, sat on the trunk of a fine hard maple tree that had stood in the front yard of his home since he was a lad. He recalled with no little emotion that the old tree, laid low by the cyclone, stood in front of the old log cabin built by his father, Charles Jackson. The farm has been in the Jackson name for 90 years, in fact there are six members of the family living within an area less than a mile square. Across the road Mr. Jackson lost a basement barn but he could replace that loss with insurance money but the loss of the tree was the serious part of his distress. He is not related to the one time Cornelius Jackson, long active in county politics.

North of M-39—the Jacksons live a half mile south of the road—the Fleetham families were heavy losers, William on the Joe Fleetham place, across the Pere Marquette tracks, has a 30 x 60 ft. basement barn strewn along the highway; he lost two cows and his corn and alfalfa are practically a total loss.

Wells Rauser, who did the driving on this trek has occasion to recall the last cyclone in this neighborhood. He was married on that day, March 23, 1935, and one Russell Parish carried the responsibility for the transportation.