

THE McCOOK TRIBUNE

VOLUME 52—NUMBER 145

McCOOK, RED WILLOW COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1935

POWER HOUSE EMPLOYEES ARE SAFE

FOUR SAVED FROM DEATH

Thanks to the efforts of two splendid oarsmen, Clinton Madron and Craig Welch, little Charlotte Ruth Miller, daughter of the Chas. Millers, Jr., Clyde Mc-Killip, Nels Nielsen and Mrs. Dinges were saved from the muddy waters of the raging Republican.

The two men, in a skillful manner maneuvered the light rowboat unerringly into position and brought the flood victims to safety. No word has been heard of Dale Miller, Mrs. Charles Miller, jr., Fred Swanson, and the remainder of the Charles Miller children at press time. There are, however, three men stranded on an island southwest of the August Cappel place near Perry, and parties have gone to their rescue.

Searches first heard the cries of the marooned in the cold, chilly dawn of the morning when it was yet too early to send out a boat. Several cars and a truck braved the buckling and slimy pavement to reach Perry from whence operations commenced. An ambulance also succeeded in making its way to the victims of the tornado. At press time, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Steinke, who also lost their home, were still among those missing.

The tracks along the highway west are spiraled, twisted and utterly ruined as far as the eye can see. The roadbed appears to be ruined. Two cars are submerged in water about four miles west of town.

Aiding in the rescue of the flood victims were many officials and townspeople. Outside of exposure, the victims did not seem to be suffering any ill effect from their trying experience.

TORNADO LEVELS FOUR HOMES

Striking with devastating force, the tornado Friday afternoon claimed the lives of Mrs. Franz Zander and her two children and seriously injured Mr. Zander. The storm, terrible in intensity, lasted but 15 minutes and leveled four houses in the Perry vicinity to the ground, and seriously damaged several others.

The homes of Franz Zander, jr., Ralph von Riesen, Clifford Steinke and Albert Rathe were totally destroyed while the storm did terrific damage to the places of Mrs. Franz Zander, sr., Louis Suess (farmed by Alex Lebsack), and E. G. Steinke. The scenes at many of these places beggars description. Neighbors were mulling over the wreckage this morning. The Henry Cashen place was also reported destroyed. Contrarily, the August Cappel place was comparatively unmolested.

SEEK PATROL VOLUNTEERS

Legionnaires ask that all men who are willing to serve on night patrol duty report at the Legion Rooms in the Court House tonight at seven o'clock.

NOTICE

Asa Wolf, Red Cross Director, requests all merchants to get requisition orders signed by Red Cross officials when issuing supplies to families in need of aid.

If there is any question with regard to the orders or requisition blanks you may call at the Red Cross Headquarters in the County Supt's. office or phone 211W.

BULLETIN

All men were rescued from the power plant shortly before 2 o'clock.

With the wreckage of the light plant standing as a spectre of the most disastrous flood in the history of McCook, three men were relieved from their 24 hour vigil when a boat, stroked by Madron and Craig succeeded in reaching shore with them. They were: Lou Dulany, Ray and Virgil Lytle.

Previously there had been a successful attempt to deliver coffee, food and "smoking" to the marooned men.

A second attempt to remove 10 men from the plant nearly ended in failure when the rope leading from the sandbank to a power boat got away. The large boat drifted downstream for probably a hundred yards before the crew succeeded in snubbing it to a tree. After swimmers had delivered a second rope to the boat, it made the shore in safety. Work was immediately recommenced to remove the remainder of the men.

The plant itself is a mass of mangled brick and mortar with the water tank apparently embedded in its side. Some say however, that the tank merely drifted into the building after it had fallen. Hundreds of people lined the banks thruout Friday, and Saturday forenoon from 7 o'clock on to watch the rescue.

McCook hopes for a better railroad condition to the east were dashed when airplane observers reported between 25 and 40 miles of track out in that direction. As in the west, the rails were twisted wreckage, and the roadbed was reported out in many places.

The highway is also reported to be in poor condition with several large bridges out. Men, however, were working this afternoon at the Willow to repair that structure.

The aerial observer for the Red Cross reported that he discovered the body of a woman on a sand bar near Bartley. He also reported dropping food to a man, woman and two children stranded on an island at Red Willow and also to a man at the county line by Perry.

Jack Jeffords, Broken Bow, is the Red Cross observer. Patrols along the bank early this morning reported that they could not find anyone that was marooned, and the absence of bodies in that vicinity.

SIDEGLANCES

People lined the banks of the road west peering earnestly to observe the spectacular rescue of flood victims.

Only farm animals and chickens inhabited the wreckage of the Alex Lebsack home.

One won't soon forget the eerie cry of those marooned in the flood as they echoed thru the all-too long dawn.

The muck and grime that were labored thru to help victims to their friends—the boat to start on a return journey.

The strangled cry of the crowd where the motor boat crashed into a tree—and the cheers when a line was delivered to the boat thru the efforts of George Scott and Beverly Heber.