

LOUP CITY NORTHWESTERN.

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THE NORTHWESTERN

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Entered at the Loup City Postoffice for trans-
mission through the mails as second-
class matter.

Tornado, Rain and Hail.

Visits Sherman County and
its County Seat.

RESULTS IN ONE FAMILITY.

Great Damage Done to Prop-
erty at Loup City and
Ashton.

Over Twelve Inches of Rain Fall—
Houses Blown Down and Unroofed.
Winter Wheat and Rye
Badly Damaged.

The terrible wind and hail storm that swept through this county last Friday evening will long be remembered by our citizens as being one of the most disastrous and dangerous of their experience. This paper had just gone to press and remarked in its local columns that the storm as reported by the weather bureau did not materialize, and so it had not up to the hour of going to press. But later in the afternoon the conditions changed and at 8:00 p. m. a perfect deluge of rain and hail, lasting one hour and twenty minutes, accompanied by a tornado came, and in all its fury swept down upon the people of this town and surrounding country with fatal and damaging results.

Many people sought refuge in caves, only to be driven out by the heavy rush of water. The family of Joseph McCoy went into a cave near the house but were soon driven out by the cave quickly filling with water. They all escaped but the little girl Nellie, who was drowned. Mr. McCoy hearing the water opened the door to the cave to examine the condition of things when the water rushed in so quickly that it was with great difficulty that the rest of the family was saved. There was a very large quantity of hail fell and much of it was as large as hen's eggs. It came with such force as to smash in screen windows and even the window shutters. The glass suffered to a very heavy extent and there was hardly a house and but few business blocks in town but what was drenched with the rain beating through the windows.

Dead Horse creek was a raging torrent and the water on the bottoms below town was deep enough to swim a horse. Near the R. R. tracks in the west and south part of town the water backed up to a depth of four feet. The houses occupied by the families of James Bradley and Guy Holmes started to float off but was lodged on a slight elevation. The families were brought up town in the St. Elmo bus. Jacob Winkelman's family living near the Dead Horse creek was also rescued in the same way. His residence was surrounded by water to a depth of five feet.

On the south side of the creek lived the families of John Hutson, Ohlsen Bros. and Mrs. Daddow. With them the condition was even more critical, they being located so as to catch the overflow from the creek.

When the first rush of water came Mr. Hutson, seeing the danger told his family to get into the wagon and he would get the team ready but the water rose so rapidly that he did not have time to harness and hitch them up, and seeing the wagon box was about to float off he got them all astride of the horses and started for the foot of the bluff which he reached with much difficulty and took refuge with the family of Mr. Brown living on the Criss Hauck farm and about a mile dis-

tance. After he had rescued his own family from the deluge he went back to the house of Mrs. Daddow taking his two horses with him. Several places on the low land he swam his horses but he succeeded in getting the family out all right. Mrs. Hutson had been sick and was scarcely able to be around when the storm came and the ordeal which she passed through was indeed a terrible one. Mr. Hutson lost some household furniture which was carried away by the water.

The families of Ohlsen Bros. each lived in brick houses. The water was about a foot deep in that of John Ohlsen, and it looked as though it would get much higher, as the yards were covered to a depth of about 3 feet and the water rushing by like a river. John cut a hole through the ceiling and the family climbed up for dryer quarters. Ohlsen Bros. brick yard was flooded to a depth of about eighteen inches. They had about 60,000 brick ready to burn. The sheds were blown away and about half of the brick destroyed. Their nice field of corn was five feet under water and washed so badly that it will necessitate being replanted. Their loss is estimated at between \$400.00 and \$500.00.

At the farm of J. B. O'Bryan, U. P. engineer, located near the Middle Loup bridge there was a sea of water. The house is sitting on a high brick foundation. The water raised to a level with the floor and rushed by with such velocity that it washed great holes in the earth. Mr. O'Bryan tried to get his family out and after the storm abated went out to see if there was any chance of escape. Before he reached the gate however, he was in water clear to his arm pits and was obliged to return to the house where he gathered his family in one room and awaited the result. Fortunately for the family the house stood, but a number of his shoats and chickens, correls and sheds were carried off. The barn was partially unroofed and the premises the next day presented a most disastrous spectacle.

The damage done in the city was of no small amount. The Catholic church was smashed into kindling wood. The Baptist church was blown two feet off its foundation and the heavy brick chimney fell through the floor, and the windows on the north and west nearly all battered in by the driving hail. The Methodist church fared better, only losing the window lights on the north east and west. The High School building was partially unroofed. Mrs. Bouers residence was also partly unroofed, the windows smashed in and much of the furniture spoiled. Her frame barn chieked coop, granery, and erib were completely destroyed. The north end of James Rentfrow's pump shop was blown down. Both Schwer's and T. L. Pilger's barns succumbed to the furious storm. Judge Wall's barn went down the creek. The windmills of C. W. Conhiser, T. S. Nightingale, Chas. Austin, J. Phil Jeager and G. H. Scott were leveled to the ground. Mr. A. Sutton had his barn blown down, a buggy smashed and about 200 chickens killed.

The bridge leading to the fair grounds was swept down the street and lodged near the B. & M. depot. The B. & M. bridge across Dead Horse was washed out and several hundred feet of both tracks swept off its bed. A large stock car standing on the B. & M. track was missing the next morning, but was found at Schapp's Siding, having been pushed to that station, a distance of seven miles by the wind.

The mails have been greatly delayed on account of the wash outs. The U. P. train went as far as Boon today for the first time since the storm.

The business houses which had their fronts smashed in by hail

were those of the Porter block now occupied by J. H. Travis & Co., First Bank, A. Watkinson, A. Boone, W. T. Chase, A. E. Chase, Landers Block, Mrs. R. Taylor's store building, Reynold's meat market, R. J. Nightingale's law office, John W. Long's law office, W. H. Morris' old brick store building, Gasteyers block, John Oltmans saloon, Lesehinsky's photo gallery and the NORTHWESTERN building.

Chimneys were blown down all over town and many cellars were filled.

All the cellars along main street and under the store buildings were filled with water and the damage done to the goods stored therein was great. The merchants were busy Saturday and Monday pumping out the water and trying to save goods.

ASHTON BADLY WRECKED.

Reports from Ashton, twelve miles east of Loup City, say that that town is completely wrecked. The three brick buildings, namely, Badura's store, the Germania hall and the saloon building belonging to Joseph Ripperger were first unroofed and afterwards a part of the wall undermined by the waters fell into the cellars. The church was blown down and badly damaged. The Catholic church three miles east of Ashton was also blown to pieces. Windmills, out buildings and windows were badly used up. Between Loup City and Ashton some farm buildings are reported to be more or less damaged. Paul Miller's large frame barn was washed down the creek and his residence unroofed. The crops are much injured, winter wheat and rye are thought to be almost a total loss. Corn and spring grain will probably come out again.

The Loup City irrigation ditch gave way in several places.

Reports so far as we can hear from irrigation work north of here say that a great deal of damage has been done.

NEWS FROM OAK CREEK.

On Oak creek, east of this town the water rose high but no personal damage done to buildings. The report about W. A. Wilson's brick building in that vicinity going into the cellar was without foundation. Mr. Wilson did however lose several fat hogs and a large amount of pasture fence. He also, like many of his neighbors had his crops badly damaged.

L. D. Garder was in from Oak creek yesterday. He says that the creek was filled 20 feet above its bed and that not a bridge of any note was left on the creek. Mr. Gardner had his windmill blown down and the north end tore out of his stable. The hail was heavy at that place and the crops damaged.

Reports from Washington township say that there is not much damage done by wind or hail but several substantial county bridges have been carried off.

THE PATH OF THE STORM.

The first evidence of the destructive part of the storm in this county is noticeable in the south edge of Washington township, and traveled in a southeasterly direction through the central portion of this county and to the east line, and from there eastward to the central portion of Howard county where it appears to have interceded another disastrous storm which seemingly originated in the vicinity of Walbach and Ord and sweep down the North Loup valley. The hail and wind storm through this county was about six miles in width but the rain was quite general.

ROCKVILLE BRIDGE GOES OUT.

There was no storm at Rockville and consequently no damage to crops or buildings, but the waters from here that rushed down and into the river carried off one span of their river bridge.

AUSTIN UNHARMED.

Austin is located 6 miles south

est of Loup City. The settlers here report a heavy rain but no destructive wind or hail.

TURKEY CREEK FLOODED.

Turkey creek, 20 miles east of here was flooded so that houses were afloat. One man by the name of Andrew Cira lost his barn and had his house moved 300 yards. Several other houses were moved off their foundations and out buildings were lost entirely. Numerous carcasses of hogs, cattle and horses were found near a large wash out on the B. & M. near Farwell. People were compelled to flee for the highlands for safety.

HEAVY LOSS AT NORTH LOUP.

At North Loup there was a great amount of damage done by the flood. The North Loup bridge is reported to be lodged in the Sailing timber south of Cushing. Many farms were under water and nearly all the bridges in that section washed out.

DANNEBROG FLOODED.

The wires brought the news that Dannebrog was under water and later it was learned that the report was well founded. The water stood in the streets to a depth of several feet and every business house in town had to be cleaned of nasty, sticky mud and debris. The water left its mark high up on the buildings.

SPRING CREEK AT WALBACH.

The following special from Walbach tells of a terrible cloud burst at that place which says, "Spring creek was swollen to a torrent that stretched from hill to hill; the crops on all the low bottoms were twenty-five feet under water and the creek level a good thirty-five feet then above the then high water mark."

The swollen torrent was covered with swift moving debris and there was to be seen everything from buildings and box cars to barrels and cracker boxes.

The damage as near as can be ascertained at this writing at Wolbach was considerable. The depot agent, Mr. Archer, who lives in the second story of the depot, awakened a little after daybreak and, noting the sound of the on-coming torrent, remarked to his wife that the creek was raising. She asked him to dress and let the town cows out of the corral on the low bottom, but by the time he had dressed and descended the stairs the water was knee-deep on the platform. Mr. Archer ran back to his wife and requested her to dress with haste, stating they had better get to higher ground, but by the time they were ready the lower story was half full of water. He then began to fire his revolver and call for help, which attracted some of the town people, who rushed to their aid and, hastily constructing a raft and attaching a rope thereto, Henry Wagner and Charlie Chase volunteered to attempt the rescue but the water was then eighteen feet deep around the depot and part of the second story was under water. The raft shot out and away from the depot and was narrowly saved from capsizing. Chase had his leg caught in the rope and came near drowning, having been nearly drawn off the raft before he could be freed.

Archer and wife and three babies were now in a perilous position. The building was lifting from its foundations and slowly swinging around towards the pond in a mighty eddy, but strong hands brought the raft once more into better position and this time it floated out and caught on the rocking building. The wife and babies and husband crawled onto the half-submerged bark and were brought to shore amid much rejoicing. It was a close call and Mrs. Archer is still suffering from the shock.

The depot is now standing on the edge of the old pond, far away from its foundations, full of mud to the window sills.

The whole town was in an uproar

occasioned by the flood, and the crops on the low lands were covered to a depth of 25 feet.

Four Persons Drown

IN THE LOWER OAK CREEK BOTTOM.

This morning news reached this place that four dead bodies, one man, two women and a child were found in lower Oak Creek bottom, near the John Ervins farm. Others are missing but it is not known whether they are living or dead. The creek bottom is swept down for miles and some farm house taken with the flood. Several head of dead horses and other stock were also found at that point.

STORM NOTES.

Sidewalks were floating in almost every part of town.

It hailed almost continuously for 55 minutes.

The first mail out of town was taken across to Ravenna last Sunday afternoon.

Peter Rowe came near getting drowned trying to get his cow out of the barn.

Arandia was visited by a rain fall of about 6 inches but no wind or hail.

The fire bell in the court house yard was laid low by the wind. It is being re-constructed.

A two inch seaelling struck the house of Supt. Johnson and was drove clear through the side of the house. Mr. Johnson was trying to keep the storm from coming in at a broken window when the seaelling struck just above his head.

Mrs. Hultz lost a fine Jersey cow in the storm. She was of a dun color, with drooped horns and had when she went away a picket rope with a piece of cirsingle around her head. Any information as to her whereabouts will be thankfully received.

When Mrs. Hutson went to the wagon to await her husbands coming she took with her a black dress containing \$130.00 in the pocket. In

her confusion she left the dress in the wagon box which floated off. It was found the next day and the money recovered.

A stretch of over a thousand feet on the B. & M. track east of Ashton was swept off its bed.

C. L. Drake is deserving of praise for the manner in which he rendered assistance to the helpless in time of the flood by getting out his team and bus. He was assisted by O. Beschoter who came up town and repaired the danger. They were joined by the Winkelman boys. Their heroic and successful efforts will long be remembered.

County Clerk Rein had quite a serious experience during the storm. He went with his family to the cellar. Looking out of the cellar window and seeing the water rising he started to go out and see if there was danger of the cellar filling up, but could not raise the door. Fearing that the water would come in on them he hunted around and found a table leaf and with it smashed the door.

An inch board from the barn of T. L. Pilger struck a tree in John Taylor's yard. The end of the board split the tree through the center and went clear through it without even marring the end of the board. The tree is about four inches through. It was sawed off and placed on exhibition at Pilger's store with the board sticking through it just as found.

The fine orchards of K. J. Nightingale, J. Phil Jeager, Thos. Inks, C. F. Johnson, Criss Hauck, T. S. Nightingale, J. D. Ford, D. A. Jackson and others which were loaded with fruit are greatly damaged. There will be no fruit on them this year and it is feared they will be completely ruined. Young orchards about town are without doubt destroyed.

M. C. Mulick and J. T. Hale engineered the work of getting the body of little Nellie McCoy out of the Cave. It was a very difficult task as the top of the cave had to be taken off and about six inches of hail shoyeled off the top. A rope was tied to Mr. Mulick and he dove down into the cave and found the body.

D. C. DOE,
Vice-President.

A. P. CULLEY,
Cashier.

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