

THE SEWARD TORNADO

Terrible Blow Dealt Prosperous Eastern Nebraska Town by Disastrous Tornado Which Destroys 28 Homes and Kills Eight People

HERALD MAN THERE

With a roar as though a thousand cannon were loosed at once and in less time than it takes to tell it, a disastrous tornado struck the town of Seward at ten minutes to six o'clock Wednesday night of last week, killing 8, wounding many more, and destroying a total of 22 homes which were in the path of the tornado.

ance to those who had been more unfortunate. The sight that met their eyes in the northern part of town was terrible. Houses were wrecked, trees were uprooted or denuded of leaves. Many houses not in the direct path of the storm were injured. Some of them lost roofs and projections. The cloud had the usual cyclonic appearance, accompanied by the roar which made known its nature. The fact that a large number took refuge in cellars and caves accounts for the comparatively small number of fatalities.

Beginning of the Storm The storm hit the city near the fair grounds park, and sweeping in a northeasterly direction, tore a path, from one to two blocks wide. From here it tore across country in the direction of Germantown, northeast of here.

Cloud Was Umbrella Shaped. Those who watched the storm describe it as umbrella shaped and white in color. A roaring noise accompanied its approach and many of the town people took refuge in cellars and caves. This safeguard was the means of saving the lives of most who resided in its path who were not killed.

Property Damage Over \$100,000. The property damage was estimated at varying figures, but by conservative business men it was believed that it would total higher than \$100,000. Twenty-two houses were completely destroyed and a like number were made untenable through the ravages of the storm. Between forty and fifty persons were said to be homeless.

Wasserman Boy Badly Hurt The Herald reporter talked with Wm. Wasserman and his little son, the latter having been carried across the street with his mother, who was instantly killed. The little fellow stated that when they heard the storm coming his mother called to him and said, "Victor, come quick, there is a cyclone coming."

Rushed to Cellar. Many people saw the tornado coming and rushed to cellars. Others thought nothing of the dark clouds which came rolling up and were at supper when the twister hit. Crashing through houses and tearing up trees it swept through the city and those who had not been watching the clouds had no time to flee before the storm was upon them.

Emley's Mother Killed E. R. Emley, whose mother was killed, told The Herald reporter he was on his way home from his work in town. His mother and cousin were in the house. His mother was killed and his cousin had her arm broken and was badly hurt. His cousin was carried by the storm a distance of five rods and the body of his mother was carried twice that distance. A receipt which he had in a trunk in the house was found a distance of eight miles away.

Only One Fire Started. Twenty-two houses were totally destroyed by the storm and numberless barns and outbuildings. Only one fire started in the path of the storm, that being at the residence of K. C. Frampton. It was quickly extinguished by neighbors, however, without the aid of the fire department. A fire in the kitchen stove where supper was cooking ignited a bundle of papers in the kitchen. The fire spread rapidly to the wreckage roundabout but was discovered by people who were starting out to aid in relief work.

Did Not Sound Like Train Mrs. J. F. Metz, who was in the path of the storm said that she did not think it sounded like a train but that it sounded like the storm was lifting houses and trees and crashing them to the ground. She stated that the tail of the tornado swept back and forth like the tail of a cow or the trunk of an elephant. She did not have any recollection of what happened after the storm hit her.

The Dead Mrs. Edward Edmonds, aged 70. Mrs. Wm. Hassinger, aged 70. Gustav Scholz, aged 30. Elma Scholz, aged 3. Samuel Crim, aged 45. Mrs. David Imley, aged 64. Mrs. C. L. Wasserman, aged 25. Mrs. David Hoover, aged 60.

Mrs. Hoover Killed Mrs. Hoover, who was killed, had a large stick driven through her neck and was rolled into a ball. Her shoes and nearly all of her clothes were torn off.

Jurors Make Statement

Members of Box Butte County Grand Jury Give Herald Signed Statement for Publication Alliance, Nebr., May 22, 1913. To The Alliance Herald: On April 3rd you published a statement given you by District Judge W. H. Westover and we, the undersigned members of the grand jury and officials of Box Butte County, ask that you kindly publish the following statement for us: Judge Westover, in his statement, charged that the grand jury was packed and that there was evidence brought before the jury which should have caused the indictment of parties who were charged with felonies. He further stated as follows: "This jury took an oath that they would indict no person through hatred or ill-will, and also that they would leave unrepresented no person, which means not indicted, from fear, favor or affection or reward or hope thereof. I am fully convinced that a majority of this grand jury has deliberately and knowingly violated the oath which they took when they were impaneled. Had one-tenth of the evidence been presented to this grand jury in a case against some man for stealing a three dollar pig or a calf worth ten dollars, the party would have been promptly indicted, and prosecuted vigorously. But the accused person in this case being prominent socially, professionally, and otherwise, the evidence of serious crime on his part was evidently disregarded, and as far as this grand jury is concerned he would go unwhipped. I want to say that in more than seventeen years on the bench in this district, I have never witnessed or seen more evidence of corruption and dishonesty displayed by a grand jury or any other jury for that matter, than I have witnessed during the past week."

SLAGLE IS VINDICATED

Judge Gregory Zurn Dismisses Charge of Embezzlement Brought Against Dr. C. E. Slagle. Hearing Lasted Three Days and Nights BIG CROWDS ATTEND "Dr. Slagle, I find you not guilty." With these words Judge Gregory Zurn dismissed the charge of embezzlement brought by Dr. H. H. Bellwood against Dr. C. E. Slagle. Pandemonium reigned for nearly five minutes in the crowded court room, which was packed to the limit, in spite of the fact that it was eleven o'clock last night. Cheer after cheer broke forth from the friends of Dr. Slagle, who has maintained ever since the charges were brought that he was not guilty of intent to defraud Dr. Bellwood. The officers were unable to quiet the cheering crowd, which quickly left the court room for their homes. Dr. Slagle was taken into custody about two weeks ago and his bond placed at \$1,000. Following is a copy of the complaint which was filed in the case: The complaint and information of Eugene Burton, County Attorney of the county aforesaid, made in the name of the State of Nebraska, before me, the Justice of the Peace, within and for said county, this 3rd day of May, A. D. 1913, who being duly sworn on his oath, says that Charles E. Slagle late of the county aforesaid, on and between the 1st day of May 1910 and 1st day of February 1912, in the county of Box Butte and state of Nebraska aforesaid, then and there being an agent and employee of H. H. Bellwood, as Assistant Physician and Surgeon, and not within the age of eighteen years and not an apprentice, did then and there by virtue of his employment as such agent and Assistant Physician and Surgeon, have under his care, of the property of said H. H. Bellwood, money to the amount and value of \$2500.00, and afterwards, then and there, without the consent of the said H. H. Bellwood, feloniously embezzled the same, and fraudulently and feloniously convert the same to his own use; and to the said Charles E. Slagle, did then and there in manner and form aforesaid, the said money to the amount and value of \$2,500.00 of the property of the said H. H. Bellwood, feloniously steal, take and carry away, contrary to the form of the Statute in such a case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the people of the state of Nebraska.

Jurors Make Statement

Slagle was vindicated after a hearing that lasted three days and nights. A large crowd of people gathered outside the courtroom to witness the proceedings. The judge's decision was met with a storm of applause from the supporters of Dr. Slagle.

Decorations were placed on the graves of the fallen soldiers and veterans. The ceremony was held in a cemetery and was attended by a large number of people. The decorations were made of flowers and bunting.

Witnesses for Defense Carl Hashman was called as the first witness for the defense. He testified that he had seen Dr. Slagle at the time of the alleged embezzlement. He stated that he had seen Dr. Slagle at the office of Dr. Bellwood and that he had seen him handling money.

Witnesses for Defense Mrs. James Gaddis and M. F. Donovan were called as witnesses for the defense. They testified that they had seen Dr. Slagle at the time of the alleged embezzlement. They stated that they had seen him at the office of Dr. Bellwood and that they had seen him handling money.

Dr. Slagle Testifies Dr. Slagle took the stand in his own defense. He testified that he had never embezzled any money from Dr. Bellwood. He stated that he had seen the money that was alleged to have been embezzled and that he had seen it being handled by Dr. Bellwood.

Dr. Slagle Testifies (Continued) Dr. Slagle continued his testimony, stating that he had seen the money being handled by Dr. Bellwood. He stated that he had seen the money being placed in a box and that he had seen the box being carried away.

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NOTICES

LADIES AID A business meeting of the Ladies Aid will be held in the parlor of the Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, May 22nd. All members are urged to be present.

MOTHERS MEETING The Mothers Meeting will be held by Mrs. Cornu on Thursday, May 23rd, at the home of Mrs. Dr. Bowman, who will be the hostess.

A. F. & A. M. Work in the Master Mason's degree will be given at 7:30 o'clock Friday evening, May 23rd. H. H. Hewitt, Worshipful Master, L. H. Mosher, Secretary.

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