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THE HERMAN DISASTER

Details of the Storm that Brought Destruction and Death.

TEN DEAD TWENTY-FIVE WOUNDED

Only Six Buildings in the Town Left Standing—Hundreds of People Homeless and Subjects of Charity—Measures Taken to Afford Relief.

HERMAN, Neb., June 16.—Special to the Omaha Bee: The desolation is indescribably pathetic. Such is the universal verdict of the thousands of spectators who have visited the site of the once pretty village of Herman today.

Yesterday it was peopled by a happy, prosperous half-thousand citizens as could be found in Nebraska. Today, with half a dozen exceptions, all are homeless, without a place to lay their heads or a table from which to eat.

As a result of the storm, ten persons lie dead, one family having been almost entirely swept out of existence. Twenty-five are injured, some of them fatally.

The dead: A. B. HOPKINS, farmer, Herman. MRS. A. B. HOPKINS, Herman. ANDERSON HOPKINS, son of A. B. Hopkins, Herman.

MRS. KELSIO, Pender, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins, whom she was visiting. LOUIS CLAUSSEN, machinist, Missouri Valley, Ia., injured so he died later in Blair.

W. S. RICHARDS, postmaster, Herman, died from suffocation, as he was suffering with chronic case of asthma. J. E. HAWKINS, home five miles northwest of Herman; blown into barn and killed by lightning.

THOMAS HINES, plasterer, Blair; died from injuries after removal to his home. CHILD OF S. M. DAVIS. EARL PETERSEN, son of farmer four miles west of Herman in Dane Hollow.

The injured: Carrie Kelsio, aged 7, home in Pender; skull fractured, will probably die. Ella Hopkins, Herman; face cut, head and hand badly bruised.

William Anderson, Herman; left side of skull fractured, may die. Mrs. William Anderson, Herman; back and side of skull fractured; body badly bruised.

Ed Tackett, Herman, head cut quite seriously. E. G. or "Caney" West, head and body badly bruised, nail run through foot, removed to Tekamah.

Mrs. E. G. Pagan, Herman, head cut and bruised about shoulders. Mrs. John Klittenbernd, Herman, head and face cut. C. Rankin, employe on Herman stock farm, picked up in street; injuries consist of bruises and cuts about head; suffering from nervous prostration.

Earl Pipher, boy, Herman, temple and head cut, hand badly bruised. Fred Christensen, restaurant keeper, Herman, head cut, arm bruised. E. A. Pagan, merchant, Herman, head badly cut.

"Grandma" Noster, mother of Mrs. Hawkins, five miles northwest of Herman, both arms broken, internal injuries, not expected to live. Mrs. J. E. Hawkins, five miles northwest of Herman, ribs broken and body badly bruised, injuries not fatal.

Miss Hawkins, daughter of J. E. Hawkins, five miles northwest of Herman, back badly sprained and bruised. Peter Louis, farmer one mile west of Herman, arm broken and body badly bruised, injuries may prove fatal.

Mrs. A. Anderson, Herman, head and face badly cut, arms said to be broken, removed to Blair, injuries may prove fatal. H. H. Herzog, lumberman, head cut slightly, body bruised.

George Buffington, an aged citizen of Herman, face cut and badly bruised. Fred Hurrell, farmer and spiker, head cut. Oliver Lowe, creamery man, Herman, head bruised and cut.

George Coyle, station agent, head cut slightly. Mrs. Louis Wachter, wife of implement dealer, Herman, bruised head, causing a succession of fainting spells. Louis Wachter, implement dealer, Herman, body badly bruised.

Mrs. William Bree, Herman, left shoulder badly bruised and back sprained. Yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock Herman presented a peaceful scene. A little later clouds began to gather and before 6 o'clock torrents of rain were deluging the streets. The citizens were not frightened at the appearance of the storm, because they thought it was simply a repetition of the heavy rainfalls, which had visited that section previously.

At 6 o'clock, however, ominous clouds began to appear, and little knots of people assembled in every part of the town to watch them. As the clouds grew more dense the inky blackness appeared terrifying and the more they sought storm cellars. Scores of people congregated in these cellars awaiting the approaching cyclone.

At 6:15 it swept down upon them, coming from the northwest with a frightful velocity. Those who were still in positions to watch its onward sweep say that it came from two directions and the appearance of the town today would indicate that such was the case. Old-timers who were cooler-headed, however, think differently. They believe it came down from the northwest, spreading as it struck obstructions and converging when these were torn out of the way.

It required but a few minutes for the storm to do its work, although it seemed hours to the unfortunates penned up in the storm caves. Citizens who are able to recall their impressions during the storm, although suffering with terror, say that as the wind passed over them it seemed like the flight of thousands of large birds, accompanied by the inter-

mittent crashes of heavy shells. They knew little of the havoc which was wrought in and around their homes. When they emerged it was to find a scene of desolation which was absolutely appalling.

Houses were blown down in every direction. With few exceptions the citizens could locate their homes only by the cellars in which they had crouched or by a few familiar pieces of furniture which remained in the shells which formerly had been comfortable and comfortable homes. As far as the eye could see, from south to north, no building stood to furnish a refuge for the homeless citizen.

It required only a moment of contemplation of the frightful scene to bring the citizens to a realization of their duties to each other. Parents began looking for children, wives for husbands and sons for their parents. As these were found unscathed the neighborly spirit took possession of them and they turned their attention to alleviating the sufferings of those about them.

The dead were removed to the Methodist church in the north part of the city, which served as a morgue. The injured were taken to a parsonage to be transported later on a relief train to Blair. Relief trains came down from Tekamah and Blair with physicians and nurses to aid in the search for the injured and unharmed, were sent on an Omaha train to Blair, where they were cared for in the C.M.T. hotel and in the homes of the citizens. The night was made all the more disagreeable by the rain, which fell on the homeless citizens in torrents, to gather additional force and make a second attack. Few thought, however, of seeking refuge from the elements, spending the night, especially the men, in looking for the injured. The women and children were sent to the school house and the other buildings which remained intact.

The darkness of the night was broken by brilliant flashes of lightning, which added to the impressiveness of the scene. The power of the storm appeared to have been irresistible, although its ravages were not plainly observed until this morning, when the sun revealed them in all their hideousness.

As the hours passed and the returns from the citizens as if every family in the town had suffered. After a systematic canvass had been made, however, it was discovered that those living in the northern portion had suffered most in casualties. It was there the storm had done its worst, although its force was almost as great in the heart of the town.

The storm undoubtedly came down from the northwest. Its first effects are reported from five miles northwest of the city, where the home of J. E. Hawkins was wiped into his barn. Lightning seemed anxious to supplement the cyclone in its destructiveness and added a bolt. It struck the barn, setting it afire and killing Mr. Hawkins, if the force of the wind had not ended his life previously. This morning his remains were found charred to a crisp and unrecognizable.

"Grandma" Noster, mother of Mrs. Hawkins, was badly injured internally and both arms were broken. It is not believed she can survive. Mrs. Hawkins was badly injured and her daughter had her back hurt. The house was razed to the ground, while not enough of the outbuildings could be found to fill the box of an ordinary lumber wagon.

Continuing its southerly course, tearing trees up by the roots, leveling fences, straggling barbed wire across the country and covering the earth with debris the cyclone next made its appearance at the home of A. B. Hopkins, half a mile northwest of Herman. Here it wrought the saddest havoc, the happy family of the farmer being slain outright, with one exception.

The bodies of Mr. Hopkins and his wife were found 100 yards north of the house in his orchard after the storm. They had been blown from the house by the wind, which, in its rotary motion, apparently whirled them out of its path as if angry at them for not having placed an obstruction in its way.

The body of Carrie Kelsio was found lying on a pile of debris near the former site of the house. Anderson Hopkins, the son of the owner of the farm, lay near in the last agonies of a terrible death. Back of the orchard a small sapling as if her life depended upon the tenacity of her grip, lay Ella Hopkins, an elderly daughter, with her face and head badly cut and her body bruised. Near her little Carrie Kelsio, grand-daughter of Mr. Hopkins, was sitting on a stump, dazed and motionless, as if she did not realize what had happened.

The wind played strange pranks around this house, apparently delighting in the destruction it was making. The trees in the orchard north of the house were torn up by their roots. Their tops pointed in a southwesterly direction as if they had been blown down by a wind coming from the northeast. To the west of the house the trees were blown toward the southeast, the wind apparently resuming its original course. Not an outbuilding was left standing. Bed clothing, wearing apparel, furniture and stock were scattered in every direction.

Having demolished everything about the Hopkins homestead, the death dealing cloud sped upon the town. It struck the first house, grand old place in the northwestern portion. This was occupied by Peter Christiansen. Hardly a vestige of the formerly comfortable cottage was left, it being carried away and smashed into such small fragments that Mr. Christiansen could not find even the lintel of one of his doors. Again the storm seemed to desire vengeance upon an unintentional obstructor. Not only did Mr. Christiansen lose his home in Herman, but the storm swept away his house and barn on his farm four miles west of the city, in what is known as Dane Hollow.

In the same yard with Mr. Christiansen was the home of Mrs. William Bree. She had seen the storm approaching and had taken refuge, with her daughter, Mrs. Louis Wachter, in the cellar beneath the front porch. Mr. and Mrs. Christiansen came and joined them, and it is to this destruction of their home that the latter two owe

their lives. The three house was torn from its foundation and twisted to the south, leaving the cellar and its occupants unprotected. Brick struck Mrs. Bree on the shoulder, while several flying missiles fell upon Mr. and Mrs. Wachter, bruising and cutting them quite severely.

Veering a trifle to the east, the wind passed between the Bree house and a dwelling across the street, leaving the latter unharmed, although it was only fifty feet away. Right on this street is where the storm spread. Striking the home of John Fitch on the corner of the street southeast of Mrs. Bree's home, it commenced the leveling process, its swath being two blocks in width. As if guided by a hand which believed in destroying everything possible, it backed up a trifle, crossing the back yard of the home of Mrs. J. C. Stokes, the first house on the west side of the main street which was injured. Only slight damage was inflicted here, however.

Across the street from Mrs. Stokes it struck a house where dinner had evidently been ready when the storm approached. The dishes were set and even today the dishes are still untouched. It was here that the Andersons lived. They took to a cellar, accompanied by Louis Clausen, which proved so poor a refuge that all were injured. Clausen so badly that he died several hours later after having been removed to Blair.

The rest of the citizens between Seventh and Second streets felt the full force of the storm. Across from John Fitch's place, west of West street, his barn was razed, not a single shingle being left. A little further south on West street the home of Mayor E. W. Burdell had the roof lifted off the eastern wing. It was switched around so the corners rested on the sides of the foundation, but the damage was slight, except to the contents, which suffered materially from the soaking they received in the big furnaces.

"Caney" West was injured. The remainder of the family went to the cave as soon as they saw the dark cloud approaching. "Caney" West did not think the cloud would strike Herman, so he remained in the house. When he saw it really intended to visit the little town he removed his shoes so he could wade to the cave. He was too late, however, as the wind caught him before he left the house. It carried him out through the window, which was broken by the wind for his passage. He was found by his brother later limping around in the yard in a dazed condition, trying to find his way back to the house. He had run a nail through his foot and was seriously injured about the body.

After passing west's house the storm veered to the east, and left the large school house and a couple of cottages opposite it unharmed. Then, as sated with destruction, it rose in the air and left the vicinity which it had ravaged so sorely.

SEARCH OF RICHMOND RUINS. Estimates of Number of Dead Still in the Cemetery Widely.

NEW RICHMOND, Wis., June 15.—No bodies were recovered from the tornado ruins last night, the work being abandoned on account of the heavy rain which fell during the greater part of the night and partly by exhaustion of scattering the ruins.

No organized movement looking to the recovery of the dead or the distribution of supplies has been inaugurated as yet, but order is beginning to show amidst the chaos and demoralization which has been prevalent since the storm.

Telegrams from all points of the country from San Francisco to Boston are pouring into New Richmond asking for the safety of relatives and friends. No official list of the dead and injured has been kept and replies to many of these inquiries will necessarily be slow. Many have been receiving offering financial assistance. The total amount thus far offered is about \$2,600.

The militia is patrolling what was the business section of the town and nobody is permitted inside the lines. It is expected that today the task of looking for the dead will proceed with greater success than yesterday. The number still in the ruins is variously estimated, some estimating something up to 100 and others being placed at fifty. O. W. Mosher, who has been at the head of relief work, says this morning that fully sixty-five children were still missing and a large number of adults as well. This estimate is generally considered too large. The working party expects to find anywhere from fifteen to twenty-five bodies in the basement of William's hardware store.

WILL ENTER WEST POINT. List of Candidates Who Have Successfully Passed the Examination.

WEST POINT, N. Y., June 15.—The following candidates passed their examination this afternoon as cadets: Lewis M. Adams, at large; Cornelius H. Bendel, California; Wynna Blair, Alaska; Everett W. Bowman, Iowa; Levy G. Brown, Mississippi; John D. Burnett, Jr., Alabama; Clinton M. Butler, Oregon; Valentine B. Campbell, Illinois; Earl H. Carr, Illinois; Truman W. Carrithers, Illinois; Paul W. Clark, Illinois; Henning F. Coley, Iowa; Owen G. Collins, Illinois; Amos M. Cooke, Colorado; William Y. Cowan, California; Ellery E. Farmer, Missouri; John C. French, Kansas; Arthur W. Fridge, Mississippi; Albert Gilmore, at large; Ulysses S. Grant, at large; G. G. Guise, Nebraska; Boyd A. Hill, Illinois; Charles S. Hoyt, at large; Mason W. Loomis, Illinois; George A. Lynch, Iowa; Clark Lynn, Illinois; Robert M. Lyon, South Dakota; Benjamin B. McCroskey, California; Charles B. Moore, Arkansas; Richard C. Moore, Missouri; William G. Motlow, Tennessee; George E. Nelson, Texas; William M. Nichols, Iowa; E. Owsley, Kentucky; Samuel M. Park, Texas; Frank Phillips, at large; Leo L. Sammelson, Texas; Ernest G. Scatter, Illinois; Leads S. Turtle, at large; Max C. Tyeer, North Dakota; Henry A. Young, Kansas; Andres Pone, Venezuela; Louis V. Glesias, Costa Rica.

The two last named were admitted under provisions of a joint resolution of congress. When you want to smoke a 10-cent cigar try Otto Wurl's "Silver Wreath"—union made—you can find no better on the market.

and after years of waiting. That came out his life from the house of the being he valued most. The storm carried away his house, leaving the cellar open to the world, but the occupants were secure from harm. He is homeless today, but his cellar will remain and a new home will rise on the site of the old one, as John says he intends to retain the cellar as long as he lives. He had \$1,000 cyclone insurance on his house and contents. As scarcely a vestige of either remains he will ask the Phoenix Insurance company to pay his policy.

Returning to the main street and concentrating his force, the storm scattered the lumber from the yard of the Crowell Lumber company to the four winds, although they seemed to have been concentrated into one for the time being. The cottage of D. W. Pipher, local agent for the Standard Oil company, lost its roof, and the oil company's building to the south of the cottage was lifted from around the two heavy tanks and blown across the country to remain unidentified. The pipes around the tanks were bent into coils, having the appearance of having been wrapped around a gigantic spool.

Opposite the office of the Standard Oil company, the homes of Dr. Clark and D. W. Harter were visited. The roof of the rear wing of the Harter residence was torn off and the side of the house badly marred by flying pieces. The wind blew the windows out of Dr. Clark's house and the rain did the rest during the night, coming in through the damaged roof and soaking everything within.

The last house struck in the southern portion of the town was occupied by S. J. West. It was switched around so the corners rested on the sides of the foundation, but the damage was slight, except to the contents, which suffered materially from the soaking they received in the big furnaces.

"Caney" West was injured. The remainder of the family went to the cave as soon as they saw the dark cloud approaching. "Caney" West did not think the cloud would strike Herman, so he remained in the house. When he saw it really intended to visit the little town he removed his shoes so he could wade to the cave. He was too late, however, as the wind caught him before he left the house. It carried him out through the window, which was broken by the wind for his passage. He was found by his brother later limping around in the yard in a dazed condition, trying to find his way back to the house. He had run a nail through his foot and was seriously injured about the body.

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Big Auction Sale!

THE STOCK OF GOODS FORMERLY BELONGING TO GEO. TOURTELOT, KNOWN AS THE DEPARTMENT STORE

CONSISTING OF

DRY GOODS

Boots and Shoes, Ladies' and Gents' Furnishings

Hats, Caps, Toys and Notions,

Will be sold at Public Auction to the highest bidder, as ordered by the United States Court.

The Sale Is Now In Progress

And will continue each afternoon and evening until the entire stock is sold. This is an exceptional opportunity for the people of Plattsmouth and vicinity to buy what goods they need AT LESS THAN WHOLESALE COST.

Do not miss this grand opportunity, as this stock of goods will positively be sold, Regardless of Prices.

Three Sales on Saturdays--10 a. m. and 1 and 7 p. m.

D. O. DWYER, H. H. INMAN, Salesman. Trustee in Bankruptcy.

PHIL THIEROLF, Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Wines and Liquors.

Plattsmouth, Neb., June 5, 1899. I beg to inform my friends and the public generally that I have engaged in the Wholesale Liquor Trade and am now able to supply patrons in any quantity—from one pint to twenty-five barrels.

Have just imported some fine old French Cognac Brandy. Also the genuine Rhine Wine for strictly medicinal purposes.

As I handle nothing but first-class goods and sell at lowest prices, it will pay you to buy your Whisky, Brandy, Wine, etc., from me.

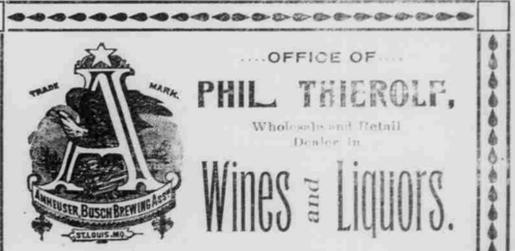
Do not forget that this is the time to order your case Beer and that this is the only place in the county where you can get the genuine ANHEUSER-BUSCH BEER. Give me a call and be convinced.

PHIL THIEROLF, Agent for Yellowstone (Kentucky) distillery and Anheuser-Busch Brewing Ass'n, St. Louis.

A Strong Blow in Iowa. CARSON Ia., June 15.—A cyclone struck about three miles north of this place late last night. Beginning at the A. B. Perkins farm, it blew off part of the roof of the barn, blew down several trees and taking a northeast course, struck the farm of John Throp. Totally destroying two large barns, blowing down a windmill, corn cribs and scale shed and destroying a large grove near the house. Trees a foot through were twisted out by the roots. Several head of hogs were killed and some cattle injured. The house stands alone and was but little injured.

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