

Grim Dig-Out Task Starts In Bradley, Rush Springs After Friday's Big 'Blow'

76 Houses Hit By Twister In Melon Center

Diagonal Path Lets Business Section Escape

Seventy-six houses in the south and east sections of Rush Springs were damaged by the twister, which roared through the area between 5 and 5:30 p. m. Friday.

The business section of the city escaped largely because of the funnel which swirled diagonally from the southwest.

An \$8,500 sheet metal barn owned by Laverne Summers, three-fourths of a mile south of Rush Springs was scattered over the city.

Sweeping northeastward it tore the roof off a service station opposite the city.

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Strong Winds Crack Hard At Mississippi, Arkansas As More Warnings Issued

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Three tornadoes tore at Arkansas and Mississippi Saturday in the third day of crushing twisters that have killed 18 persons.

One twister whirled through Booneville, Miss., killing one man, and two tornadoes cut a 20-mile swath of damage in North-Central Arkansas, injuring seven persons.

The twisters came on the heels of Friday the 13th tornadoes that killed 17 persons in West-Central Texas and Oklahoma.

Thunderstorms and hail hit parts of Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Louisiana.

Tornado warnings were issued for parts of Texas, Louisiana, Kentucky and Illinois by weather bureaus in Chicago, Washington, Dallas and New Orleans.

The Dallas station said tornadoes were likely in the area of College Station, Shreveport, Monroe, La., and Beaumont, Tex. Severe thunderstorms, hail and wind gusts up to 60 miles an hour were forecast for the sector.

The Chicago bureau predicted severe thunderstorms—and possibility of a tornado—for Eastern Illinois and Western Indiana.

Hailstones as big as golfballs plummeted on Springfield, Roodhouse and Manchester in Central Illinois during a heavy thunderstorm. Hundreds of windows were shattered.

Storms Forecast

Severe thunderstorms and possible twisters also were forecast for extreme Western Kentucky.

Fresh snow fell in Northwest and Central South Dakota, tying up traffic. Six passengers were reported stranded in a snow-stopped bus between Midland and Hayes.

The area of Bismarck and Mandan, N. D., had a 5-inch snowfall, one of the heaviest of the year.

The first tornado in the series hit Thursday at Carthage, an East Texas town of 5,000. Two persons were injured and 30 homes were damaged.

Then on Friday the tearing winds lashed Central West Texas and Southwestern Oklahoma. Thirteen were killed in Texas and three in Oklahoma.

Cellars Used

Warned of the approaching winds, many persons huddled in storm cellars while the twisters wrecked homes and farm buildings, snapped power and communication lines.

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Rumble Heralds Funnel

Some in Bradley compared the noise of Friday night's tornado to a rumbling noise, similar to distant thunder. Others thought it sounded like several jet airplanes passing overhead.

O. L. Harris, Bradley high school coach, likened the sound to several referees blowing their whistles at the same time.

F. B. Rayburn, who lives four blocks south of the intersection of State Highway 19 and the main street said he was in his barn milking when the tornado struck.

"I glanced out when it started raining," he said. "Before long the wind was blowing the rain along the ground until it looked like smoke."

There was considerable lightning. "I couldn't see any funnels although I did see the trees bending nearly double," said Mr. Rayburn.

L. C. Self who lives two miles east of Bradley said he had reached his home after visiting Lane's Grocery store which was leveled in the disaster.

"A sound resembling seven or eight jet planes flying overhead caused me to look back toward the disaster."

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We Saw

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Pitts busy getting their yard in shape for grass and a summer chore for Louis . . . Lt. C. W. "Mose" Adams, Lawton, formerly of Chickasha, displaying a series of cuts on one hand. "Had to

Mrs. Childress Dies In Storm; Three Injured

\$300,000 Loss Estimated For Bradley Area

With one death counted, a child in serious condition in a Lindsay hospital, and several reported injured, residents in Rush Springs and Bradley began the grim-faced task of picking up where they left off before Friday's tornadic storm.

Mrs. N. C. Childress, about 60, of Bradley, was the disaster's victim.

She died of injuries received when the home of her son-in-law, Claude Coon, was demolished.

Mrs. Childress was baby-sitting in the Coon home when the storm struck the southeastern Grady town of nearly 300 people. Her young granddaughter, Merlene Coon, was seriously injured and taken to a Lindsay hospital.

Claude Ingram, 14, and Bonnie Ingram, 13, were injured slightly.

Damage in the Bradley area is expected to total nearly \$300,000. Six homes and four business buildings were leveled by the twister. At least five and possibly

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more houses were damaged. Four buildings in the business district were also damaged.

One recent model car was reported to be demolished and several older models were heavily damaged.

The town was without communication and power facilities Friday night. A telephone exchange, located in the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Marshall was destroyed when the latter's home was leveled. Power lines were strewn across the main street of the town.

Mr. and Mrs. Marshall escaped injury when they sought shelter in a storm cellar.

The devastating storm struck shortly after 6:15 p.m.

Apparently the postoffice and grocery store operated by Fritz Badertscher was the first building to be leveled. It was located on the south side of State Highway 19 near the west edge of the community.

Taking a diagonal path through the town the funnel swept across the highway where it demolished the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Patterson.

Mrs. Patterson was in the kitchen preparing the couple's dinner. She had called her husband to eat. He stepped into the kitchen as the storm hit the house.

This was the only room of the house which was left standing. Mrs. Patterson was suffering mild shock and her husband sustained

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Nights Give 7 Kills

pounded a munitions and supply center in Northwest Korea last night. Anti-aircraft fire burst about the big planes.

Far East Air Force did not say whether any Superforts were hit. It did not identify the Red planes as to type.

Target Area

The target was 10 miles southwest of Sinanju near the Red's main rail and highway route from Manchuria to the front.

Ground fighting dwindled to a few patrol actions last night and this morning.

South Korean troops on the eastern front clashed five times with North Koreans yesterday and killed or wounded 17 Reds.

The Air Force disclosed that a secret radar gunsight had stepped up the deadlines of the Sabres against the Russian-built MIGs. Friday and Saturday, the Sabres shot down a total of nine MIGs, probably destroyed three and damaged three, the Fifth Air Force said.

One of the six downed Friday was No. 12 for Col. Royal N. Baker making him the top-ranking U. S. ace. Saturday he decided after 125 strikes to fly no more combat

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Revenue Office Sets Extra Hours

Worried taxpayers who were scurrying to beat the March 15 deadline have gained a reprieve.

C. E. Douglas, senior internal revenue agent here, said Uncle Sam will be satisfied if all income

District Court Starts Monday

A 42 case civil term docket will open Monday in district court. Criminal docket will start on

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The home of A. A. Perry, a retired merchant, was ripped apart in the storm. A stone building containing a grocery store operated by Cecil Lane was leveled.

One of the last buildings to be hit was the Bradley high school.

Frank Foley, superintendent, estimated the damage to it would be in excess of \$50,000.

The roof was ripped off the gymnasium and the cloudburst-like rain flooded the gym floor.

Roof on the remainder of the building was damaged and added to the necessary future repairs.

Majority of the window panes in the building were broken. A frame school lunchroom on the east side of the stone structure was not touched.

Confusion prevailed for a while shortly after the storm passed the community.

Chickasha Daily Express

Apr 02, 1953.

BRADLEY FOLKS TORNADO LOSS PAID IN FULL

The people of Bradley have gotten all their insurance money for the recent tornado losses in that little city. Grady Harris, who represents the insurance companies who had the losses in Bradley reports that all the losses have been paid. Four insurance policies were paid complete loss coverage and six policies which did not have a total loss were paid partial losses.

The Bradley storm occurred on Friday afternoon and early Saturday morning. Mr. Harris, as the representative of his insurance companies, was on the site and by Saturday noon he had all the losses adjusted. The last of the losses have been paid off within the last few days and every resident was well satisfied with the amount he received.