

DEATH STALKS ON LEE STREET

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end women and children screaming—something I'll never forget. The first two persons that Mr. Current and I pulled from the wreckage were two children. They lived. I think.

All available ambulance units in the city were rushed to the tornado stricken areas immediately after reports came in from those places. Fire trucks rushed their assistance to the places.

Officers Go Into Action.

Chief of Police Mike D. Caffey summoned all city officers to the affected areas, while Sheriff Joe S. Phipps dispatched his force and Maj. Ralph L. Lewis' battalion of national guardsmen took charge of the damaged section to keep back the thousands of curious and anxious spectators. Headquarters company of the national guard, under the command of Capt. E. K. Patterson was the first to reach the Gorrell street scene and to establish a semblance of order. Battery "C" under the command of Capt. I. O. Wren, Battery "D" under Capt. E. L. Faulconer and the medical detachment under Capt. Norman A. Fox were rushed to the scene. The guardsmen were called out by order of Gov. J. C. B. Ehringhaus after Major Lewis had telephoned Raleigh.

Close on the heels of relieving agencies were the Greensboro Boy scouts, under the leadership of Frank Dix, council executive. The Boy scouts were instrumental in establish-



Waiting For the Dead and Injured

Above is shown a group of rescue workers awaiting the arrival of more of the injured in the tornado here last night.

ing order and picketing the stricken areas, blocking them to all traffic other than that in an official capacity.

Red Cross Busy.

The Greensboro Red Cross chapter rushed assistance to the areas and set up a clearing house for the purpose of providing rooms for the hundreds of homeless persons.

The Salvation army also rushed assistance to the scenes.

Little did the people of Greensboro ever suspect that a tornado would strike here. Inky black cloud formations could be seen in the western skies before 7 o'clock Thursday evening. The formations grew into one black mass. Toward the southwest the formation took on a peculiar aspect—it began looking as though a funnel would form.

Hail Comes First.

A bit of hail descended just a few minutes after 7 o'clock. A noise similar to an approaching freight train was heard coming from the west. Still nothing could be seen from the major business portion of the city. Then slowly—at first—then with seemingly growing speed a twister could be seen coming from a westerly direction. From a distance of a half mile it appeared to be several hundred yards wide at a point just above the ground.

Flash of Flame.

Just at the time the tornado struck the Gorrell street section, there appeared in the southern heavens a sustained dash of scarlet flame that seemed to illuminate the area. It lasted for possibly five seconds, a thing beautiful in its intensity. The tornado rolled through Gorrell street and out past the county home, out of the city—leaving dead and injured in twisted houses, business establishments and other places.

While the twister was fading out, taking probably three minutes from the time it struck in the 1700 block of West Lee street until it disappeared after leaving a state of desolation on Gorrell street, a violet hue appeared in the south—then faded swiftly.

Hail and rain descended then for several minutes. The skies overhead cleared in several minutes and the moon shone coldly.

Now Breaks.

The first indication to the general populace of the city that a major disaster had struck came when repeated trips by ambulance, fire and police units kept rushing to the southern part of the city. The first to think the first indications that a disaster was here, shrieked down West Market street, probably five minutes after the twister had disappeared. Then an ambulance followed. Traffic was virtually stopped in the city while help was rushed to the affected areas.

Among the first to get to the scene were state highway patrolmen under the direction of division commander, Lieut. Arthur K. Moore. They assisted in keeping highways cleared for emergency outlets.

Active rescue work continued throughout the night and into Friday. A continued search is being made today for bodies that may be crushed in tumbled frame and brick buildings which utterly collapsed. Tractors and workmen were being used to tear apart masses of debris in various sections.

National guardmen today are patrolling all streets in which damage was done and denying admittance to persons other than those present in official capacities.

Contributions Asked.

Contributions for the relief of sufferers, injured and homeless, are being asked by the local Red Cross chapter. Such contributions are receivable at chapter headquarters in old federal building.

Persons who were in the path of the tornado described the thing as "something ghastly." All emphasized that all colors of the spectrum could be seen in the twisting fury.

Arnold Matthews, of 113 East Lee street, was in a nearby pharmacy when the storm struck. Barely on the edge of the whirling death he witnessed a picture that he declared he would never forget. He described it as a mass of individual clouds that seemed to form again near Gorrell street after its initial intensity had struck far out West Lee street then skipped in haphazard abandon on through Five Points and South Elm street. He saw houses, porches and huge timbers fly through the air, houses turned upside down and smashed into each other, automobiles picked up and turned over as though they were children's playthings lifted by a giant hand. Young Matthews, 16,

years old, then rushed over to Gorrell street and assisted ambulance drivers carry tornado victims to hospitals in the area.

Find Haven In House.

Robert Withers, of 519 Bennett street, negro junior at the News-Record plant, was on his way to work—walking down Gorrell street—when the twister descended. Accompanied by his nephew he rushed into a house of a friend. They locked and bolted the door, crouched under a stairway while the roof was lifted from the house and all windows broken. The people in the house were not injured.

Another person reported that he was making a monthly report for his company. The first indication that a twister was approaching came when his house top was lifted from his residence.

Immediately after the people of the city were aware of the disaster they at once offered their assistance to police officials and others in helping relieve suffering. Particular praise was given negro citizens who contributed back-breaking work, along with many other persons, in lifting timbers and searching for victims.

Families Separated.

Along with persons offering assistance at city and county police headquarters came hundreds of anxious, awaiting word of relatives who were known to be in the stricken areas. Children separated from parents and parents separated from children all with the universal fear that the missing persons were killed, appeared at all agencies. Telephone and telegraph communication was strained to meet the demand for information.

Persons who were still on the streets still did not know the meaning of the ominous funnel-shaped thing that was coming nearer at express train speed. The roar became louder. House tops, large planks, signboards, masses of paper, huge strips or tin were among the things that could be seen lifted from the West Lee and Gorrell street scenes—seen even from a distance of one-half mile.

Emergency Work.

With the light of several burning residences on McAdoo avenue, just off Gorrell street, illuminated the scene, emergency units heroically worked to establish order and to save life and relieve suffering. At 8 o'clock rapid progress was being made in searching the wreckage for victims. A woman pinned under the timbers of a frame house on Gorrell street, in the tragic of the exact amount of property damage.

No estimate could be made today of the exact amount of property damage.

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