

## Woman Dashes Into Closet To Escape Wrath of Storm

Always a thing of sweeping horror and destruction, finding its victims helpless before its onslaught, a tornado in Greensboro—a city accustomed to little more than zephyrs in comparison—struck even more sickening helplessness into the hearts of the people caught in the trail of spotted ruin left by this city's first.

The experience and reactions of Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Walker, of Bane street, as related to a Record reporter, gives an intimate glimpse of scenes which, with gruesome waste, mixed the ridiculous and tragic, such scenes as were frantically enacted under the wind-tipped rooftops of hundreds of Greensboro citizens last night.

Neither of the Walkers had any experience with tornadoes. Mrs. Walker, a native New Yorker, had always regarded them as a remote element of the somewhat wilder west.

Both of them were in one room of their upstairs apartment when the storm struck last night. Their window lights were suddenly shattered by the thrusting fist of the elements and the room a whirlpool of confusion.

When Mr. Walker, stunned by the tornado's intrusion looked about for his wife she had suddenly vanished from the room. He called and there was no answer. He called again, terrified, and there was still no answer. He raised his voice as much above the screaming wind as

he could and in a few seconds that seemed like hours the door to a closet in the room opened and the fear bleached face of Mrs. Walker looked out. In a voice that croaked its first words after a temporary paralysis she called to her husband. "Come in here," she said.

With no reason in mind, but acting in desperate impulse Mrs. Walker came out of the closet and went to her husband. They stood in the center of the room, clasped tightly in one another's arms until the blow which did little more damage to their quarters was over. Neither sustained any injury.

### FHA Will Offer All Assistance

J. L. Suter, state director of the federal housing administration, stated Friday that state headquarters of the FHA here would be glad to assist any of the persons or firms that lost their property in the tornado which struck here Thursday night to rebuild through insured loans.

While no special provision under the FHA is made for sufferers in just such an instance as has happened here, Mr. Suter pointed out that loans for rebuilding could be secured through the regular plan of FHA insurance.

DUNLAP WINS.

PINEBURST, April 3.—(AP)—George T. Dunlap, Jr., the defending champion, and A. C. Gilles, of New York, today won semifinals in the North and South amateur golf tournament and will meet tomorrow for the title. Dunlap defeated Art Lynch, Mamaroneck, N. Y., 4 and 3, and Gilles won from W. E. Stockhausen, Philadelphia, on the 22nd hole.

## GEORGIA DEATH TOLL 25 TODAY

Cordele Counts 18 Dead; Tornado Takes Lives of 39 In All Southeast

CORDELE, Ga., April 3.—(AP)—Cordele today began to clear wreckage left by vicious spring storms which killed at least 39 persons yesterday in a haphazard tour of destruction across the southeast.

Or the 10 or so communities scourged by tornado winds, this town of nearly 7,000 population suffered the most. Eighteen were killed, about 500 injured and property damage roughly set at \$1,250,000 was done as a twister smashed 300 buildings in its two-mile drive through two residential sections.

After centering its fury here at dawn, the storm pursued an erratic course north and east, inflicting widespread damage but failing to take many lives until it descended in full force at Greensboro, N. C., early last night.

Count 25 Dead.

Georgia counted 25 dead today. North Carolina stood next with a death list of 11 while along the fringes of the storm area Florida, Alabama and South Carolina reported one fatality each.

Yesterday's tragedies brought the southeast's 1936 storm deaths to 85. Seventeen persons perished in disturbances centering in northwest Florida some weeks ago.

Other areas reporting deaths from wind included Tignall, in northeast Georgia, three; Sasser, Ga., one; Goode, Ala., one; Danburg-Pine-Hill community, Georgia, one; Hampton, S. C., one and Leesburg, Ga., one.

Lightning attendant on severe rainstorms which drenched the entire southeast claimed a life at Apalachicola, Fla., and another at Bald Springs, Ga.

Others Damaged.

Communities reporting extensive property damage with injuries, but no fatalities included Vidalia, Ga., Concord, N. C., Washington, Ga., Lincolnton, Ga. At Concord loss of electric power forced temporary shutdowns in several large textile mills.

Miss central Georgia town set itself to the gargantuan task today of rehabilitating one-sixth of its area.

Twin threats of disease and water pollution added to the problems facing combined relief agencies of the federal government, city and county.

More than 1,000 persons, both white and negro were homeless.

Relief workers and convicts slowly dug away the wreckage in the stricken area, three blocks wide and two miles long.

Hospitals were crowded. Hotels were pressed into service by medical officers. Not a room was available in town.

Typhoid and tetanus vaccines in wholesale quantities was rushed into the city. All injured persons were treated with the anti-toxin. Every one who had not received typhoid vaccine, whether injured or unhurt, was urged by Dr. C. C. Bowdon of the state health department to be inoculated at once.

Had the storm struck two hours later, the death toll might have been appalling. Two substantial brick schools were demolished. City officials said 2,000 children would have been endangered.

Half of the destruction was in the most select residential section. The rest was in the negro area where flimsy houses were smashed like so much cardboard.

HOLC Will Help Its Mortgagees

All persons having loans through the Home Owners Loan corporation whose property was damaged by the tornado in Greensboro last night are asked to communicate immediately with the HOLC offices in the new postoffice building.

Tornado insurance is carried on all HOLC mortgaged property and the office here wishes to assist property owners in making temporary as well as permanent repair work.

FARMER ARRIVES HERE.

Capt. Charles D. Farmer, head of the state highway patrol, was an early morning visitor in Greensboro to direct the work of the highway patrolmen and to assist in the work being done by relief and emergency workers. He inspected the areas that were struck by the tornado.

## Hospital Patients Tell Of Tornado Experiences

The idea of being ready to be discharged from a hospital would be welcomed by practically any patient, but not in the case of Mr. and Mrs. William Wilson, of 807 1-2 South Elm street, and their family of three children.

And the reason is that they have no home to which they can return. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, patients at the clinic hospital, were in an apartment building over the Coble and Starr Motor company on South Elm street when the tornado hit Greensboro last night, and almost like a flash of lightning the building crumbled, leaving only the lower remnants of the construction.

Mr. Wilson, a carpenter by trade, told a Record reporter today that he was getting ready to retire for the night when a sudden bolt struck the building. With the first sound of the shattering glass he leaped for his one-year-old daughter, Susie Bell, and as he grasped her in his arms the building collapsed.

Mrs. Wilson stated that the tornado struck with such lightning force that she, almost unconscious of what she was doing, grabbed for the other two children, William, Jr., age three, and Mary Hazel, age five—and then came "a black streak."

The Wilsons were all stationed at the clinic hospital today, homeless, and not seriously injured. Only the one-year-old child, Susie Bell, was seriously injured. Mr. Wilson sustained a gash across the head that required several stitches and body lacerations, but hospital officials stated that he would be ready to be discharged during the afternoon. The two other children escaped with only bruises and injuries of a minor nature, and Mrs. Wilson sustained only a leg injury.

The Wilsons were pinned under the mass of brick for 30 minutes before firemen, who were immediately called to the stricken area, dug them out from the debris.

"The Wilsons were all living," Mr. Wilson stated. Mrs. Wilson asserted that last night she had no hopes for any of the group to survive.

Varied were the experiences of the other tornado victims, several of whom were seriously injured.

Alfred White, age nine, of the Bessemer community, who is suffering from compound fractures and

other serious injuries, is still in a critical condition. In Alfred's case he was at home with his father when the tornado struck, lifting their house and sailing it a couple hundred yards through the air before it collapsed. Alfred's father was carried to St. Leo's hospital, and Alfred to the clinic. His condition is regarded as being very critical. Mrs. White, mother of the child, was in Charlotte to attend a funeral at the time.

E. C. White, Jr., another young boy of the Bessemer section, is also in a critical condition, suffering from a fractured leg and other injuries.

"A white man lifted the roof off me and two negro men pulled me out," Mrs. W. A. Adams, 74-year-old resident of 300 Gorrell street, commented Friday at the clinic hospital. "But I feel all right now."

Mrs. Adams was on the second floor of her residence when the snarling tornado welded a severe blow to Gorrell street residents. "I saw a dark cloud, but that was all," she said. But Mrs. Adams escaped with only minor injuries, suffering mostly from the shock.

"I certainly am thankful to be alive," commented Mrs. Elizabeth Dunlap, of 1028 West Lee street, who was being treated at the clinic hospital for a side injury sustained when brick from a chimney in her residence struck her Thursday night.

Mrs. Dunlap and her three children, Irene, age 12; Mildred, age 15, and Ola, aged 28, were entered at the hospital Thursday night, but the three children were released Friday.

"The first I knew was when the door flew open. That's all I remembered until they brought me to the hospital," Mrs. Dunlap stated. "I don't know how badly the house was damaged."

As for Rudolph Johnson, four-year-old son of Mrs. W. R. Johnson, who was killed in the crash, he was anxiously waiting the arrival of his mother at the hospital Friday. Rudolph was in a house at 406 Gorrell street when it collapsed, killing his mother and slightly injuring his two brothers, Roger, age five, and Carlton, age two.

## Policemen Remain On Constant Duty At Tornado Scene

Some members of the Greensboro police department have been working 24 or more hours in a stretch at or near the areas struck by the tornado Thursday night.

The officers who went on duty at 1 o'clock Thursday were still serving at 1 o'clock this afternoon. Those officers who were off duty at the time the storm struck here were immediately summoned to duty by Police Chief Mike D. Caffey. Practically every man on the force was present in the stricken areas immediately after the disaster.

Patrolmen tired, sleepy and weary, this afternoon were still maintaining their posts to protect the storm-torn sections from looting, to keep the curious spectators out and to aid in removing any additional bodies that may be located.

National guardsmen who were called out last night were still on the scene this afternoon, as were state highway patrolmen and county police officials.

## Two Break-ins Are Reported Locally

Two break-ins Thursday night were reported at the city police department Friday morning, the first at Best Drug store, 1104 Asheboro street, and the other at the A. and P. store, several doors away.

Each place was entered through a rear entrance, probably by the same party or parties. Taken from the drug store were several dollars in sales tax pennies and four cartons of cigarettes. From the A. and P. store \$8 in cash and 18 cartons of cigarettes were stolen. The break-ins were investigated by Detectives R. L. Myers and J. M. Taylor and fingerprint Assistant Allen Brewer. The break-ins were not in the areas hit by the tornado Thursday night.

## Realtors Offer Sufferers Help

Any property owner who has a house for rent in this city may receive the services of any local realtor without charge. It was announced today by Frank Hutton, president of the Greensboro Real Estate board. This offer is being made by the real estate board to aid those left homeless by the tornado in finding a place to stay.

Any person with residence property for rent may list it with any local realtor and every effort will be made to place the property with those made homeless by the tornado who are seeking rental property. No cost either to the owner or the renter will be involved.

## Great Smoky Park Will Be Dedicated

WASHINGTON, April 3.—(AP)—The national park service was told today that North Carolina is ready to dedicate the Great Smoky mountains national park in that state and Tennessee.

Meeting with Arno B. Cammerer, national park chief, the North Carolina park commissioner reported the state had cleared up all details in the way of formal opening of the park. W. E. Neal, of Marion, chairman of the North Carolina commission, said it was hoped arrangements could be made to dedicate the park this summer but this eventually depended upon Tennessee which had not acquired all the land for the portion of the park in that state.

## PRAISE GIVEN CITY FIREMEN

Department Is Commended For Efficient Service At Scene of Tornado

Many local citizens commented admiringly on the splendid part played by the members of the Greensboro fire department under the active leadership of Chief Frank D. Shaw not only in fighting the fires which developed in the wake of the tornado but also in rescue work. Many instances of people being rescued from wrecked buildings by local firemen came to light. They worked bravely and effectively, contributing in very large measure to the handling of an extremely precarious and difficult situation in the community.

In such activities the Greensboro firemen were disinterested of physical comfort as well as peril to life and limb. At 2 o'clock Friday afternoon it was learned that many members of the fire department had not had a moment's sleep since some time prior to the tornado visitation.

Other Cities Aid. Members of fire departments from a number of neighboring cities also came to Greensboro, entirely at their own volition, and rendered very effective service in fire-fighting and life-saving. Among the departments thus represented are those of High Point, Winston-Salem, Burlington, Durham, Raleigh, Asheville and Graham. Offers of assistance were received from the fire departments in many other cities.

Tribute to the efficient and untiring service rendered by the staffs of Greensboro mortuary establishments was paid by many who had opportunity to observe the effective manner in which seemingly innumerable ambulance calls, many of them involving emergencies of highly serious nature, were answered.

State Fire Marshal Sherwood Brockwell, of Raleigh, is here conferring with Fire Chief Shaw and other officials and giving assurance of the desire of the state to assist in every possible way in the stricken area.

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## Funeral Service Held Today For Gen. Willie Jones

COLUMBIA, S. C., April 3.—(AP)—Funeral service will be held today for Gen. Willie Jones, said to have been the oldest Democratic party official in the United States, who died here yesterday.

The 85-year-old treasurer of the state Democratic organization died at the United States Veterans' hospital. He had been the party treasurer since 1876, when he was appointed by Gen. Wade Hampton during the red shirt upheaval. General Jones broke his leg in a

fall last week at his apartment. He entered the state militia in 1874, and retired in 1915 with the rank of major general. He commanded the governor's guard 15 years, was 12 years colonel in the second South Carolina regiment and led the second South Carolina volunteer infantry in the Spanish-American war. He was a native of Hillsboro, N. C.

PICARD LEADS FIELD. AUGUSTA, Ga., April 3.—(AP)—Tall Henry Picard, Hershey, Pa., professional and an outstanding favorite in the field, shot the first nine holes today in 35, one under par, to take the lead in the \$5,000 Augusta national invitation golf tournament, featuring the annual comeback of Bobby Jones.