

Y. AUGUST 4, 1949

Hard Gale Thursday Wrecks 60 Barns, Damages Other Buildings; Total Loss May Prove \$100,000 in LaMoure County

A terrific gale, roaring to about 50 miles an hour or more in some places, at shortly after midnight of last week, blew down or wrecked some 60 barns in LaMoure county, wrecked the Elmer C. Lind farm house in Greenville township near Verona, wrecked or partially wrecked other farm buildings, uprooted or broke over many trees, causing damage which may reach \$100,000 in LaMoure county alone.

The storm was characterized by

Boxcar Blown 16 Miles

A freak of the storm came, when a lone boxcar on a siding at Glover was blown onto the main NP track, then thru Glover village, next onto the Northwestern track at Oakes, thru Oakes, finally stopping about 1 mile north of Ludden, when it came to an uphill section of track. No damage was done. The boxcar was blown about 16 miles.

the headquarters office at LaMoure of the North Dakota Farmers Mutual Tornado & Cyclone Co. as a "hard, straight wind, with violent gusts".

Heavy Dickey County Loss

After roaring across LaMoure county, the storm, seemingly in two general paths, tore across Dickey county, inflicting much damage there, especially in the Monango area, where both farm houses and barns and other buildings and trees were either demolished, wrecked or badly damaged.

The storm apparently arose north of Edgeley in one path, and north of Grand Rapids in another path, doing much damage over both paths.

Mem. Park Trees Hard Hit

Many fine, noble trees in historic Soldiers Memorial Park near Grand Rapids, were uprooted, broken off, or bent and snapped over or off. Estimates of the trees badly damaged in the park alone range from 100 up.

Other trees along the James river in the general Grand Rapids area suffered.

Some of the park trees broken over or uprooted were more than a foot in diameter, while scores of sturdy, heavy branches were broken or twisted off from the main trunk.

The park auditorium was not damaged, its rounded roof and trees north of it evidently operating to break some of the force or ward off full force of the wind.

The storm appeared to be marked by what might be termed "whirlpools" of wind, judged from erratic courses taken by flying debris.

Lind House Badly Wrecked

In the immediate general LaMoure area, the only outstanding case of damage to a farm dwelling was on the Elmer C. Lind farm 4 miles north and 3 miles west of Verona.

Here the wind tore the roof completely off from the 1½ story dwelling and down to the upstairs floor, depositing the shattered roof several rods to the east and southeast. It blew the east end of the dwelling loose, leaving a gaping crack, while the west side of the house was damaged by flying timbers or debris.

Other damage on the Lind farm included:

One barn 32x48 with 18-ft. lean-to totally wrecked, with timbers scattered; another barn 26x36 caved in; 2 garages badly wrecked; 2 wooden granaries wrecked, and two steel grain bins badly damaged; steel-tower windmill and a windcharger blown down, boxcar granary moved about 35 feet; trees damaged.

Phone Service Disrupted

The storm blew down 6 poles of the NW Bell Telephone Co. main toll line south of the Verona-Oakes junction, disrupting 17 talking circuits, one radio circuit and one telegraph circuit. Repairs were made about 5 p. m. Thursday, however.

Damage in LaMoure City

Damage in LaMoure city included pushing 65-ft. light poles at the night baseball park into leaning positions, blowing down some park fence, slight damage to sheds and out-buildings, and considerable damage to trees around town. Some trees were broken over and many sturdy branches were snapped off or broken over, with tree branches and twigs littering lawns and streets.

Rain falling at LaMoure accompanying the storm was checked at .74 inch by Andrew Remick, official U. S. weather observer at LaMoure.

Rail Washout Near Litchville

Rain of about 5.65 inches in the Litchville area tore out a culvert and left a 12-ft. gap in the roadbed of the Fargo-Marietta branch of the NP railroad about ½ mile east of Litchville. Many fields were flooded near Litchville by the deluge.

Firms Report Many Losses

The N. D. Tornado Co., with headquarters here, received some 250 loss claims from the general storm area in LaMoure and Dickey counties, (about \$60,000 of its own in LaMoure county); and the First State Agency of LaMoure reported receiving about 80 loss claims, including some 24 crop loss claims.

Some damaged farms had little or no insurance.

Some hail losses are reported. Smaller loss claims range from \$25 to \$200 and \$300—while big losses running into several thousands and dollars result from destruction of barns and other farm buildings.

Several crop losses from hail and wind effects were reported to the LaMoure county AAA office.

HARD GALE THURS. WRECKS 60 BARNs

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Some Detailed Damages

In a survey by The Chronicle from sources available, the following losses on various farms of owners or tenants come to light:

Albert Smith—Barn blown down.

Leo Riddle—Barn down.

Paul Smith Farm—barn down.

Ole Hanson—Coal shed and chicken house down.

Finch farm—hog-house wrecked and house porch damaged; several trees blown down.

George Fenno—Barn partially wrecked.

John Hildahl—Barn down.

Quick work saved two cows and five calves from endangered building. Another cow not in saved bunch was hit by debris and received a leg fracture, necessitating butchering it to salvage the meat.

F. W. Busche—Barn badly wrecked, roof taken off.

Garfield Anderson—Barn and machine shed blown down; granaries and garage damaged.

Barns down—on Sig C. Sandness, Fred Larson, Ole Torgerson, Charles Kocher, and Delmer Gordon farms.

Foster Gordon—Machine shed down, barn twisted.

Barn blown down on old Tom Torgerson farm—tenanted by Gerhardt Busche.

Barns down on old John Wilson farm, Elias Olson, and Bratland farms.

Lee H. Stewart—Shed blown down.

D. Randall—Barn down.

F. A. Ferch—Garage demolished, car and truck in garage damaged.

Nick Quinlan—Barn down.

Peter Ketterling—two-year-old barn demolished.

R. A. Holen—Barn blown down and other damage.

Ed Ketterling—Barn down.

Furley Carrington—Two barns badly wrecked.

Ed Ubben (Dickey county)—Hoghouse demolished and machine shed wrecked.

Carl Larson (Dickey county)—barn wrecked.

See Grand Rapids news for damage in GR community.

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