

THE McCOOK TRIBUNE

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McCOOK, RED WILLOW COUNTY, NEBRASKA,

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1935

FLOOD WATERS ARE RECEDING

Tornado Costs Three Lives; Damage Great

No estimate of the loss can be given, but damage to highways, railroads and private individuals will run into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Telephone communication west of Culbertson was broken off early Thursday. Unconfirmed reports placed damage and loss of life high in Stratton, Benkelman, Parks, Max, Trenton and other villages in that section. The entire valley is a virtual lake.

The Willow was running high over the banks north of here, Curtis and vicinity received more than 3 inches of rain.

To the east, Willow creek went out by the school house, going over the highway and cracking the bridge.

South of town fills on the bridges, on highway 183 were totally washed away. The river was running to a height of 27 feet over the old channel. The river was receding at 4 o'clock.

Debris, houses, buildings and hundreds of head of stock were swept down the river by the torrent. The Middleton, Nichols and Watkins homes were totally wrecked. The occupants were saved. The pastime dance hall was also swept away, and four houses cracked upon the bridge. Attempts to save them were futile.

Stranded on a bridge in the middle of the torrent are Pete Van Horn and I. S. Pate. The men have been on the main span of the bridge over 183 since early Friday morning. They were safe at 9:00.

BULLETIN

In this time of need, it requires that every citizen obey orders to the fullest extent. Please cooperate with public officials. This is a time when calmness and common sense are needed. **LET'S ALL DO OUR PART.**

Scattered reports here have been heard of the 12 people who were swept away in the house of Charles Miller, jr., located a mile south of Perry. It broke away at 3 o'clock. In the two parties were Dale Miller, Fred Swanson, Mrs. Charles Miller, jr. and six children, Nels Neilson and Claude McKillip, Little hope is held out for them.

McCook is isolated. Road, rail and telegraph communication is down in all directions. Telephone communication can only reach as far as Indianola to the east. There is no other communication, altho attempts are being made to wireless a flash out to the radio stations.

The water tank at the light plant collapsed late Thursday hitting the building. The building crumbled in the center. John Herman, Paul Wilson, Bob French, and Mike Worske reached the bank safely. Between 34 and 37 men are still reported at the plant. Attempts are being made to get a line to them, a previous effort going down with the wires.

BULLETIN

Some marooned people at Perry are known to be alive. People with field glasses can aid officials.

KNOWN DEAD

Mrs. Franz Zander, 30, two Zander children, one and three years of age.

A tornado hit nine miles north of McCook about 4 o'clock this afternoon. It was reported to have struck North Platte. Injured: Mrs. Albert Rathe, Mrs. Stratton and 7 day old baby, Mrs. Polfus and three children; three of the Ben Doyle family; Eileen Polfus; Mrs. Ella Rothe and two children, Florence and Gladys; and Franz Zander. Ten persons reported injured at the Otto Cashen place.

Places demolished: Henry Cashen, Ross Poore, Mrs. H. Lepper, Art Koetter, Mike Moore, Phil Moore, Ed Steinke, Robert Kennedy, Sam Burchett, Chas. Schaeffer, Tom Real, Chas. Spaulding, Wm. Koetter, Mm. Eifert, Geo. Scott, Merritt Quick and Fred Unger and Ralph von Riesen.

BULLETIN

Water users are asked to conserve. Use water sparingly.

The utmost caution must be used with candles and lamps. **PLEASE BE CAREFUL.**