

HEAVY DAMAGE BY CYCLONE IN MONTEVALLO ON TUESDAY

Twister Struck In Residential Section of Southside Making Havoc of Two Churches And More Than 25 Homes

Montevallo suffered property damage of many thousands of dollars Tuesday at noon when a roaring and violent cyclone ripped a path a block wide and half a mile long right through the middle of a Southside residential section of town.

More than 25 homes sustained damages in varying degrees from broken windows and twisted roofs to complete destruction. Fortunately, no lives were lost, and personal injuries were reported in very few instances. The worst hurt was a Negro workman, Claud Eddins, who was caught under the wreckage of Mr. Bob Reid's chicken houses. He was rescued a few minutes after the storm passed.

The path of destruction extended from Cassie Blankenship's home on Selma Street, where it first struck, in a northeasterly direction to R.H. Brown's place. Passing on out of town and up the Spring Creek valley, many trees were blown down and minor damage to property was recorded.

Electric light and telephone facilities of the entire town were paralyzed by the storm's heavy damage to wires, poles, and other outside equipment. It was several hours before service was restored.

A check-up Tuesday afternoon revealed the following homes damaged or destroyed:

- Cassie Blankenship, house and all contents completely destroyed and scattered everywhere.

Nobody Seriously Hurt

- J. N. Baker, house demolished.
- Zion Baptist Church (Negro) completely demolished.
- W. M. Davis, house badly wrecked, windows broken, porch blown away, and contents ruined by mud and water.
- George McConatha, house badly damaged, porch blown down.
- Yancey Conway (Negro), house damaged.
- J.A. Love, house and contents seriously damaged.
- Montevallo Episcopal Church, completely destroyed.
- Presbyterian pastor's home seriously damaged.
- W. D. Carpenter, home slightly damaged.
- R. E. DeSear home, slightly damaged.
- Arthur Dean home, occupied by Deans and Doyles, completely demolished and contents wrecked.
- The McKibbon house seriously damaged. (Occupied by Luther McCaughy, Tucker, and Jim Glasscock.)
- Dr. F. B. Pearson home, slightly damaged.
- R. A. Reid home, slightly damaged; garage and chicken houses demolished; many chickens killed.
- Paul Rogan, house and contents practically ruined.
- The Horn home, seriously damaged. (Occupied by Rev. and Mrs. D. Z. Wooley and Mrs. L. C. Horn.

- C. S. Day home, seriously damaged.
- Mrs. Watson's home, seriously damaged.
- R. H. Russell home, seriously damaged.
- Murray Fancher home, seriously damaged, front blown in.
- M. P. Jeter home, slightly damaged, garage destroyed.
- J. W. F. Garner home, slightly damaged.
- Chester Chism home, roof damaged, porch torn away.
- R. H. Brown home, slightly damaged, chicken houses wrecked.
- Methodist home, slightly damaged, servant house destroyed.
- Booth's Store, on Selma Street, roof damaged.
- Mr. Maddox's car, parked in front of Day home, seriously damaged.

Residents of practically all the homes in the storm area were in the buildings when the twister struck, and the fact that no lives were lost nor serious injuries sustained is indeed miraculous.

The debris left on the scene, with trees and wires blown down and twisted, formed a tangled mass of disorder which will require many days to clean up.

Volunteer workmen pitched in at once to clear the streets which were blocked by the wreckage of all kinds. The Boy Scouts performed prompt and valiant service in the stricken district throughout the afternoon and into the night.

SEEING A CYCLONE

The editor of The Times and the "devil" had a box-office view of the cyclone Tuesday as it ripped its way through the residence section of town.

If we could find words to describe accurately what we saw, it would be a great scoop indeed. But description is impossible.

We are sorry we saw it. Ever since the big storm in Chilton County in 1932 we have been scared to death every time the wind blows in March and April. Now it is going to be worse since we saw one of the things in operation.

It is a mystery how people can survive through such terrible forces of twisting wind and flying debris.

But it is quick work. It was about two or three minutes Tuesday from the time it struck Cassie's until it lifted from the earth at Chicken Brown's.

We rushed immediately into the area at Paul Rogan's, expecting to find suffering victims everywhere. We would not have been surprised to find the most horrible conditions. In fact, we expected it.

Fortunately, we came first and at once upon the immediate scene of the only person seriously hurt in the whole affair. It was the Negro, Claud Eddins, who was crushed beneath the wreck of Mr. Reid's chicken houses. We moved a whole saw-mill of lumber and got him out, all within a few minutes after the wreckage piled upon him.

Let's Help Our Colored People

Everyone knows, of course, that the Negro Baptist Church in Montevallo was demolished in the storm of last week. The building is almost a complete loss and an entirely new building will have to be built. The members of the church cannot build alone and they need all the help and cooperation we can give them. A number of people already have said voluntarily that they wanted to help rebuild the church house. All of us want to help, of course. The

colored people believe in us, as we believe in them, and they feel that they can depend upon us for help. Certainly we shall not fail them. Surely everyone will be ready to give liberally to this cause when an appeal is made. Let us do our best for them.

This appeal has the endorsement of our local pastors and other leading citizens of the community. The appeal was endorsed by resolution of the Civic Club Wednesday.