

First Transylvania Tornado Hits

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Police Chief Quits Under Fire



This was a trailer home. Now a tornado-shattered mass, its debris is scattered 500 yards up the hill. Rev. Troy Stamey, his wife, and child resided here. They were at church when the storm struck.

Twister Damage Estimated At \$50,000 In Transylvania

Flipping and skipping tornado touched down in the Cherryfield section of Transylvania County Friday night, uprooting trees in its path and doing thousands of dollars in damage to a building and a trailer which was completely shattered.

The storm, the first real tornado known in Transylvania County hit a large utility building belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Lee on State Rd., devastating it, then cutting a swath through the trees, leaped over a mountain to return to earth on Ross Rd. where it demolished a trailer home, the residence of Rev. and Mrs. Troy Stamey and their young daughter.

Cal Carpenter, an accomplished meteorologist, told The Times "This was a real tornado, the first one that I've ever heard of in Transylvania. Oh, we've had storms which were called tornadoes, but they weren't really. They were just violent wind storms. But this is the real thing."

The Stameys, fortunately, were at church when the storm demolished their home.

The wreckage appeared almost unbelievable, with pieces of metal strewn for some five hundred yards, along with home furnishings, clothing, books, papers, groceries.



Rev. Troy Stamey After Storm

"I've never seen anything like it," Mr. Stamey said. A visitor came up carrying a Bible which had been carried for more than 100 yards up the slope. Amazingly, it appeared undamaged.

At the Lee's, the outbuilding had nothing left but the foundation.

Said Mr. Lee, "I had three hams and three shoulders in

the building, and I found them over across the creek on the hillside. "That'll give you an idea of the strength of this wind."

A heavy workbench, "which took four of us to move," was on the hillside. "That'll give you an idea of the strength of this wind."

In other areas trees were blown across highway 64 and

highway 276. Power was out for hours in the Cherryfield Section.

Mrs. Lee said the noise sounded exactly like a train roaring by as it swept away the utility house.

"It was frightening."

The damage trail indicates that the tornado entered from Pickens County, S. C., then played hopscotch across the county, flattening trees, unroofing one house, destroying a building and trailer, and knocking at least three trees over Highway 276 in the Pisgah National Forest. All roads were clear Sunday.

It left the county in Northwest Henderson County.

Total damage has been estimated at \$50,000.

Home Fire Victim Gives City Thanks

Brevard has shown that it really has a big heart, a resident who was burned out of his home last week told The Times Saturday.

Dave Kowal, a tracking station employee who has lived in the city since October of 1973, said good things have been happening to him since he lost all of his furniture in the blaze on S. Caldwell Street.

"The auxiliary of the Brevard Fire Dept. came over with food and clothing. Individuals came with food and clothing and we've gotten a few pieces of furniture. We've even got ten toys for our daughter Jennifer.

"And the folks up at the tracking station took up a collection and gave us some money. Everyone has just been wonderful to us."

The fire, in the early morning hours of Monday began "shortly after I awakened and the house was cold. I went downstairs to the stove and it felt barely warm. I kept a small container of kerosene a few feet from the stove which I used to light it when it went out.

Mrs. Douglas Lee, right, and neighbors looking over foundation building.

Aldermen Meet With Force

Brevard Police Chief James C. Rowe was fired on Friday morning by the Board of Aldermen.

The resignation of the officer was asked following a meeting of the board Thursday night with members of the police department, and was submitted by Mr. Rowe to be effective at noon Friday.

Mayor Charles Campbell who said "I didn't sleep a wink Thursday night," requested the resignation, and later made the following statement with a grim face:

"It is with deep regret that I accept the resignation on behalf of the City Council from Chief Jimmy Rowe.

"Chief Rowe has done an outstanding job for the city and its citizens and his services will be greatly missed.

"Mine and the City Council's appreciation and best wishes go with him in the future."

Mr. Rowe's resignation read: "At the request of the Board of Aldermen, I resign effective at noon today."

Chief Rowe had been chief of police for the city since May 10, 1965, a period of almost 10 years and one in which the police department saw its greatest period of growth.

Named to succeed Mr. Rowe as acting chief is Neugene Styles, who was a sergeant on the force.

The aldermen made him head of the department for a "probationary period of 90 days. Upon satisfactory service, Styles' appointment could be made permanent."

Dissension in the police department was given as the reason for Mr. Rowe's discharge.

"I have tried for months to settle this thing down," said Mayor Campbell, "but finally it built into a mountain, and the public became involved. I really loved Jimmy Rowe. We owe him a lot. And we're going to miss him."

At the Thursday night meeting attended by four of the city's five aldermen, patrolmen of the police department told the city fathers that it had to be Rowe or them, the mayor said. Aldermen present were — See Seven, Page 3A

Brevard Music Center Festival Opens July 4

Brevard Music Center's annual festival will open July 4 and extend through August 17.

Approximately one show per day will be presented during the 45 day period.

Included on the concert schedule is a block-buster musical comedy, four established operas and an operetta.

"Amahl and the Night Visitors", a one act play by Menotti, will open the opera season on Saturday, July 5. Originally written for television, the play will be featured as part of the opening pops-opera presentation.

Mozart's "Magic Flute" will be presented on Friday, July



AT THE SCENE — Looking over Greenville Highway area for road broadening to relieve traffic congestion at Brevard Elementary School, are, left to right: Buddy Melton, School Principal Richard

Voso, D. O. T. Right of Way Agent Charles Dillingham, Mayor Charles Campbell, Asst. District Highway Engineer Ed Edwards, and Commission Chairman Bill Ives.

State To Begin Road Broadening At Schools

The state has promised to begin doing something about the hazardous and congested traffic situation at the two new Brevard schools "given three or four dry days to allow the ground to dry out some."

So said Ed Edwards, assistant to the district engineer of the N. C. Department of Transportation:

"We can't work in that

mud." Plans are to widen the road and construct left-turn lanes both at the site of the new elementary school on Greenville Highway and on North Broad Street at Fisher Road where the new middle school is located.

Right-of-way for broadening at the elementary school was secured on Thursday afternoon when Edwards, D. O.

T. Right-Of-Way Agent Charles Dillingham, Mayor Charles Campbell, Property Owner Buddy Melton, Commission Chairman Bill Ives, Superintendent of Education Harry Corbin and other officials went to the scenes of the proposed work.

Mr. Melton signed the right-of-way, donating the land needed for the construction.

At the same time, it was decided to extend the sidewalk from where it ends about 150 yards short of the school property on Greenville Highway to the ditch bordering the school property.

The school will construct a sidewalk from the ditch to the school's covered walkway. This would allow children to walk to school in safety.

The sidewalk will be built using city labor and sidewalk forms, with the materials to be furnished by the Board of Education.

A sidewalk will be built along Fisher Road from N. Broad St. to the school, according to Board Chairman Ives, who announced the arrangements.

Camping Gear Stolen At Coon Tree

A St. Andrews College student, working on a degree project in Pisgah National Forest, reported that \$200 worth of camping equipment was stolen from him at Coon Tree Campground on Sunday.

The student, Milton Rand, is offering a \$30 reward for return of a tent, sleeping bag, a down-filled jacket, and a backpack. "There'll be no questions asked. I just want the equipment back."

He reported to the U. S. Forest Service and the Transylvania sheriff's department that he left the camping gear set up after spending Saturday night at the campground. He was gone for about four hours, he said, and returned to find the equipment stolen.

Anyone with information is requested to contact The Times.

Local Officers Solve \$10,000 Payroll Theft

A \$10,000 payroll robbery in Buncombe County was solved Sunday by local sheriff's and city investigators with the arrest of two persons.

Sheriff's Investigator Hubert Brown reported that he and City Detective Tink Siniard had arrested two young men, Orville Patrick Ryan of Rt. 1, Tryon; and Danny Arthur Lawter, Bat Cave, and charged them with forgery.

Mr. Brown was holding as evidence almost \$10,000 worth of checks intended for employees of the Swannanoa plant of M. Lowenstein and Sons Co.

The checks had been sent in a steel box from the Lowenstein plant in Rock Hill, S. C.

One of the checks had been cashed at a local service station, Mr. Brown said. "There are others around that have been cashed."

A representative of M. Lowenstein was expected in Brevard late Monday morning to aid in the investigation, Mr. Brown said.

Mr. Brown said that around \$8,000 of the more than \$10,000 in checks had been recovered.

major roles.

In making the announcement, Artistic Director Henry Janiec and Opera Director John Richards McCrae indicated the production schedule again includes a variety of works for every taste, and large-cast shows which enable the Music Center to spotlight its resident and guest singers.

All productions are built and staged by staff and students of the Music Center with orchestral accompaniment by the Brevard Music Center Orchestra.

The opera season continues with Gounod's "Faust" on Friday, August 2 and concludes with Johann Strauss' immortal operetta "Fledermaus," on Friday, August 16.

As in past years, a majority of opera roles will be taken by students and staff of the Music Center with guest singers occasionally appearing in