

Baptists Offer Funds To Disaster Victims

The Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Fund will assist tornado victims in Pell City and Ragland who were not covered by insurance, according to an announcement Tuesday by Rev. Curtis Rush, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Eden.

Application for the funds may be made through Rev. Jimmy Coleman, pastor of Arbor Baptist Church in Pell City.

"We encourage people to use this service. We have millions of dollars in the bank and that's what it is there for," Rush said.

The funds will be distributed regardless of race, creed or color or religious denomination, Rush added.

Rev. Rush, Dr. George Bagley and Dr. Earl Potts, both associated with the Alabama Baptist office met Wednesday with local missions committees, Rev. Russell Estill of Ashville,

Chairman of the St. Clair County Missions Committee, Rev. Lee Gibbs, Associational Missionary and other pastors to finalize plans, and survey the needs in conjunction with the other agencies providing aid.

Rush said, "We take up where other agencies leave off to help with financial aid."

St. Clair Federal Seeks to Help Its Mortgagors

According to Ray Miller, Vice President of St. Clair Federal Savings and Loan Association in Pell City, figures are not yet available on how many homes and businesses financed by that institution were damaged in last Friday's tornado.

Mr. Miller said Monday that St. Clair Federal is working on obtaining lending money for repairs for its mortgagors and will curtail other lending activity to concentrate on emergency repairs and housing people who have been wiped out.

He commended local insurance companies for their speedy and competent service to the tornado victims.

Help Offered Owners Of Timber Land

Forest Ranger E. J. Riddle advised all timber landowners in St. Clair County who have timber in or near the path of the tornado which struck the county last Friday, Jan. 10, to check their holdings for damage.

Riddle also advised that the Alabama Forest Commission will be glad to assist the landowners in marketing this damaged timber.

Early salvage of this timber could be an important factor in the control of the Southern Pine Beetle.

...day

available to them." Blomeley said a "ballpark figure" for the damage sustained by Alabama Power, was "in the neighborhood of one to two million dollars."

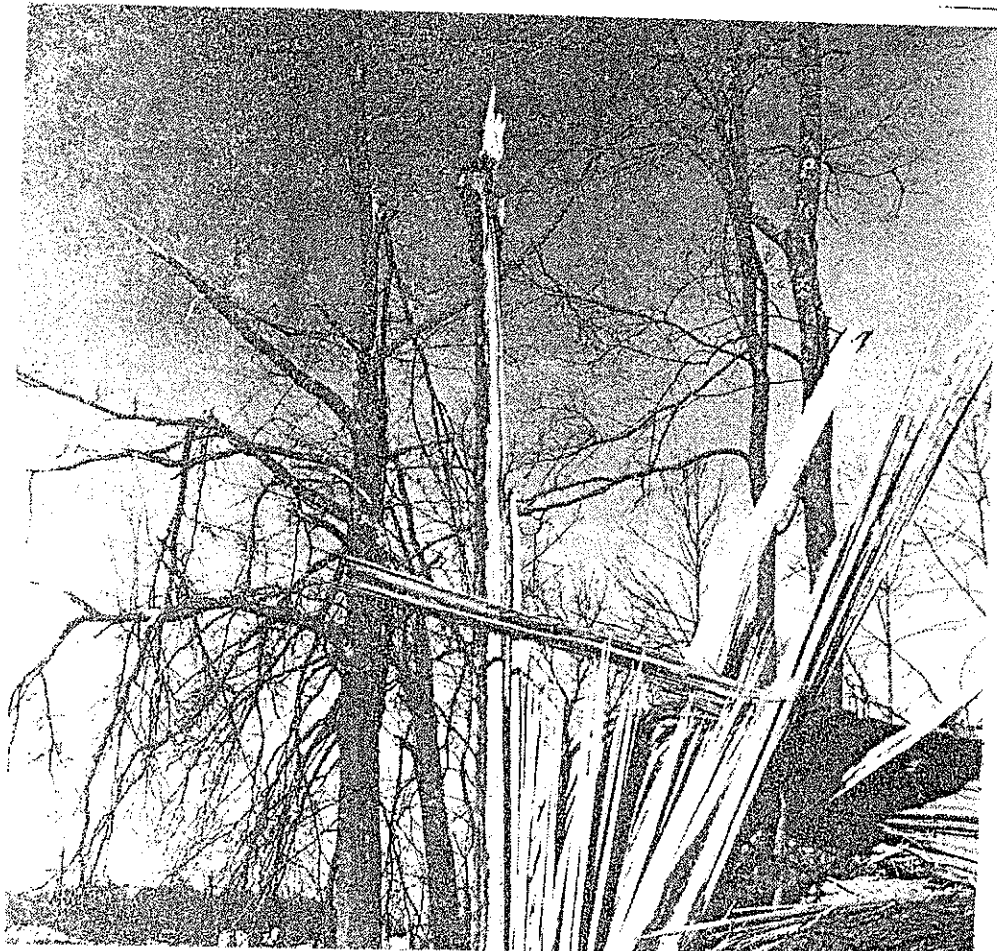
Crews from Tuscaloosa, Clanton, Childersburg, Birmingham, Oneonta, Gadsden, Anniston and Goodwater aided in the operation.

Local A.P. Manager George Williams added "we would like to thank all law enforcement personnel and other persons around Pell City for their fine cooperation. We also deeply appreciate the patience of our customers for waiting for us to get service restored."



Tornadoscape

Twisted tin wrapped around a desolate tree—this is just one of a thousand such scenes from tornado-stricken Pell City. Friday afternoon, a twister struck full-force through the downtown area, cutting the pictures of the edition. (News St



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area, cutting the heart out of the city. More pictures of the damage are inside today's edition. (News Staff Photo by Danny Ausbun)



Phone

(Continued from Page 1)

cuts into Birmingham into use and will eventually mean less strain on the 216 present Leeds-to-Birmingham circuits. Currently, those 216 circuits are flooded with the estimated 100,000 calls daily made from Leeds to Birmingham.

Moody exchange customers will have a choice of either private or two-party lines. The equipments now in use in the new building at Moody will be able to handle about 2,600 subscribers, Smith said.

Changing all 699 customers in Moody may take to six months, Smith said. Work will probably begin in the large trailer parks near the I-20 Ashville Road intersection, because of the large number of customers in that area, Smith said.

Generally, the telephone president said, everyone north of I-20 will be assigned a 640 number while those south of it will remain 699 customers.

penditures for the fiscal year 1974 totalled \$270,395,739, of which \$1,612,245 went to St. Clair County.

Wiley Parkman of the Montgomery VA office said the bulk of the money was \$129,217,971 in disability compensation and pension payments for Alabama veterans, including \$1,028,575 for St. Clair County veterans.

Other VA expenditures in St. Clair County for fiscal 1974, Parkman said, were for GI Bill and other VA education programs, \$501,894, and insurance and indemnities, \$81,776.

In announcing these figures, Parkman invited St. Clair County veterans to contact the VA office at 474 Court St., Montgomery, Ala., or their local service officer for information on any program, including the GI Bill.

The largest expenditure went to Jefferson County with \$64,338,790, almost three times as much as the next highest, Montgomery County, with \$24,649,904. The lowest amount for fiscal 1974 was received by Greene County with \$340,272.

Making up the \$270,395,739 total spent by VA in fiscal 1974 was the \$129,217,971 for compensation and pension, \$63,052,037 for readjustment and vocational rehabilitation, \$10,273,370 for insurance and indemnities, \$362,726 for direct loans, \$1,828,227 for construction and related costs and \$65,661,408 for RO and Hospital Operating costs.

the way it was" would be what he termed "free" money,

provided by the federal government. Mayor Nixon said that each person would be given an outright gift of \$5,000 and the businesses would be given a small loan of 5 per cent interest

program for all tornado victims began the weekend following the tornado, with any damaged family being given an application.

Local businesses and stores, where able, may open shops for people to chase groceries, buy clothing, plastic, nail terns, fuel, first aid supplies other items necessary for survival.

Bruno's, A&P, IGA, Center and Pell City (provided food items for the Cross and Salvation Army keep sandwiches and available to both victims without means for cooking rescue-clean up workers.

The Red Cross went in second phase of procedure on Monday, entailed casework for those suffered damages from tornado. The Red Cross hours from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for casework, seven days a week at the armory.

The Salvation Army set up in Pell City the night after the disaster, and provided sandwiches, hot stew, coffee drinks and baked goods for victims and workers.

Members of the Seventh Adventist Church in Pell City sent in a requisition for a disaster Winnebago in Montgomery and manned it during daylight hours, staying past suppertime, providing soups, sandwiches, fruit and cold drinks and goods for victims and workers.

Out-of-town glass companies came into Pell City the night after the storm, ready to set up commercial businesses in community buildings with glass — for protection from weather and looters. Saturday morning, glass being installed.

The Southern Baptist Convention set up a fund for disaster victims, which is being handled at the First Baptist Church. According

OBSERVER

St. Clair
County's Only
Home-Owned
Newspaper

dedicated to Community Service

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1975

ONE SECTION — EIGHTEEN PAGES

Federal Funds Expected

Governor Requests County Be Declared Disaster Area

Still reeling from the devastating effects of the first major disaster ever to hit this area, and faced with combined financial losses of over \$5 million in damage to buildings alone, the tornado-stricken towns of Pell City and Ragland are anxiously awaiting word from Washington this week after Governor George Wallace formally filed a request that President Ford declare St. Clair County a disaster area.

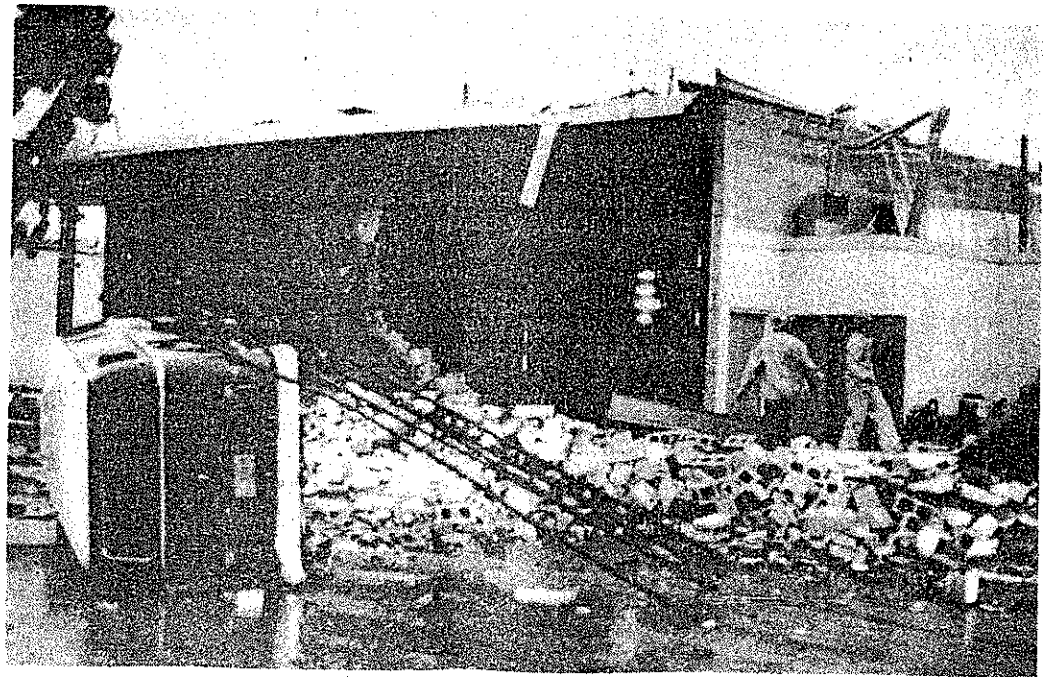
The disaster area designation is a necessary step toward obtaining much-needed federal funds and assistance for the area's disaster victims.

Governor Wallace reportedly filed the request Monday after official damage assessment was made by the respective mayors, along with county and state Civil Defense officials.

Congressman Tom Beville told the Observer Tuesday that his office had called the Federal Disaster Administration in Washington and that as soon as the necessary information is received, Washington would be ready to act.

Local businesses would then be eligible for Small Business Administration disaster loans, and families whose homes were destroyed would be provided temporary housing. Unemployment compensation and other financial aids would be available.

An Observer deadline time Wednesday morning, the Governor's request was still apparently bogged down in red



Scene Of Destruction

Scenes such as this were a common sight last Friday afternoon as Pell City citizens crawled out from under debris left behind by the worst storm in the city's history. The structure shown above is the Coosa Valley Telephone Company switching station located just off Cogswell Ave.

The overturned van pictured here, according to witnesses, tumbled several times in the air as the tornado ripped away at the walls of the nearby building. The wrought iron beam resting on the van was torn away from the telephone facility.

St. Clair Federal
Seeks to Help
Its Mortgagors

According to Ray Miller, Vice

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Commission Hears Report Of Tornado Destruction

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St. Clair Observer
January 16, 1975

The outgoing St. Clair County Commission met Tuesday for the last time at Ashville in one of the busiest sessions of its term and heard several reports concerning the status of federal aid for victims of last Friday's tornadoes which devastated Pell City and Ragland.

Wallace Wyatt, coordinator to Governor Wallace, told the Commission that he was assured by the Governor that aid would be forthcoming soon.

Wyatt said that all requests for federal assistance had to follow set procedures and that the Governor informed him that the state request for federal relief would be sent to President Ford without delay.

The Commission also received two estimates of damage done to the Pell City Courthouse by last Friday's storm.

An estimate submitted by RC and G Constructors of Birmingham put external and roof damage at \$36,127 excluding glass replacement costs, while Roy Williams of Ashville submitted a \$56,280 estimate. After a brief discussion, the Commission accepted the RC and G bid with the stipulation that Williams be utilized as liaison between the firm and the St. Clair Commission.

The Commission then heard a report submitted on behalf of St. Clair Civil Defense Director R. L. Timmons by County Clerk Lil Evans outlining the extent of tornado-inflicted damage in the county.

Ms. Evans said preliminary estimates placed the amount of total damage at \$5 million, while in depth estimates completed by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development tagged the figure closer to \$6 million. Ms. Evans also reported that present figures list 400 Pell City and 90 Ragland structures considered destroyed or severely damaged. She said help in the cleanup operation was coming from as far away as Cullman and that a dozen out of town industries were assisting in the efforts at Pell City and Ragland.

"All necessary paperwork has been completed for disaster aid. We now await word from Washington," she said.

Also heard was a request by a representative of the Wattsville Water Board asking that present water lines be extended to serve an additional half-

extension. It was noted that no revenue sharing funds would be available.

In other business, the Commission:

— Passed a resolution thanking all agencies and individuals who assisted in emergency efforts at Pell City and Ragland, on a motion from Commissioner J. B. Walters.

— Voted, on a motion from Bell, to draft a letter of appreciation for the recent efforts of Civil Defense Director R. L. Timmons.

— Passed, on a motion from James Ingram, a resolution thanking State Rep. Roy Coshatt for his service to the county and particularly for his efforts in bringing about the institution of the unit system in St. Clair.

— Heard a report from County Engineer Blake Livingston who said satisfactory progress has been made in the development of the Moody and Odenville Industrial Park sites.

— Passed, on a motion from Commissioner Reuben Tucker, a resolution commending Blake Livingston for his service to St. Clair.

— Approved, on a motion by Walters, an extra \$1,000 for the Sheriff's Department petty cash fund to be used for transportation expenses incurred during the upcoming Clinton Ray Rose Murder Trial.

— Voted, after hearing a report by Sheriff's Deputy James Murray, to make an emergency purchase of a new car for the sheriff's department. Two patrol cars were said heavily damaged by the recent tornado. The motion was advanced by Walters.

— Agreed to begin study of the grants-in-aid needs of the county for fiscal year 1976.

— Officially approved contracts drawn up by the St. Clair Hospital Board with St. Clair Ambulance Service of Pell City and Fowler Ambulance Service of Springville, on a motion from Walters.

— Voted to pay a \$38 medical bill for two county employees recently injured in an accident, on a motion by Bell.

— Voted on a motion from Walters to pay \$359 for abstracts on the county shop and airport areas prepared by St. Clair Abstract Co.

— Approved reimbursement of \$8.38 for expenses recently incurred by Dr. McClendon.

— Voted to pay, on a motion from Walters, \$194.59 to be paid for glass installed at the airport. The monies would be paid from the airport fund.

— Voted to pay a \$1,044 special assessment to the State Association of Commissioners.

— Agreed to make final payment for the painting of the Pell City Courthouse, in the amount of \$1,860, on a motion from Walters.

— Voted to pay the consulting firm of Stearne, Agee and Leach \$3,168 charged for the sale of general obligation reappraisal warrants.

— Voted to accept a \$17,000 grant for the creation of three new jobs. Jobs designated were two for the Highway Department and one to be created as a maintenance post. It was noted that job titles could be changed at a later date. The 100 percent grant was said designed to furnish work primarily for persons unemployed, underemployed or those who have exhausted their unemployment benefits. All applications for the three jobs must be submitted to the Anniston Employment Office.

— Voted to pay Probate Clerk Joy Thompson \$913.15 for preparation of the November voters list which contained 18,263 names.

— Voted to pay the Community Service Council of Birmingham \$1,677 based on a six cents per capita assessment.

— Voted to pay, on a motion from Ingram, \$475 for the installation of a new base under carpet being laid at the Pell City Courthouse and also to purchase a vacuum cleaner.

— Expressed application to County Chief Clerk and Treasurer Sue Wilson.

— Received a letter of appreciation from County Extension Chairman L. G. Pair and the extension office staff praising the Commission for repairs made recently at the Pell City Courthouse.

— Received an invitation

Also heard was a request by a representative of the Wattsville Water Board asking that present water lines be extended to serve an additional half-dozen families. On a motion from Commissioner S. E. "Gene" Bell, the Commission voted to provide \$7,383 for the

— Voted on a motion from Walters to pay \$359 for abstracts on the county shop and airport areas prepared by St. Clair Abstract Co. of Ashville.

— Received an invitation from Odenville Nutrition Center Director Margaret Farley asking the Commissioners to lunch with the senior citizens on Jan. 16.

City applies for \$350,000 in federal aid

Plans were finalized Friday for the city of Pell City to apply for some \$350,000 in federal aid to help pay for the extensive damage done to the city during the tornado that struck some two months ago.

Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon said the city would ask the government to help pay for the clean-up, repairing of streets, curbs and sidewalks and the repairing of utilities that were damaged during the storm.

The action by the city comes after President Gerald R. Ford declared St. Clair County a Major Federal Disaster Area two weeks ago, making Pell

City eligible for all governmental benefits provided under the law governing disaster declarations.

"Representatives have been in Pell City all week checking us as well as the board of education and the city of Ragland," Nixon stated. The team spent their week collecting figures and gathering all the data necessary to determine the city's financial position since the tornado.

A representative from the State Highway Department and one from the Army Corp of Engineers out of Mobile have been working with St. Clair

County Civil Defense Director R.L. Timmons in surveying the area. They, along with Timmons, have been surveying the situation in the entire county as well as Pell City.

Nixon said the grant was not a sure thing but the people who know "seem to think we'll get it."

The worst storm in the county's history struck on Jan. 10, destroying several residences and damaging heavily the business center of Pell City. The residential area of Coal City was also hit very hard and the city of Ragland recorded a death to add to the severe damage in the area.



St. Clair Observer
Jan. 16, 1975

Ragland High School Hard Hit



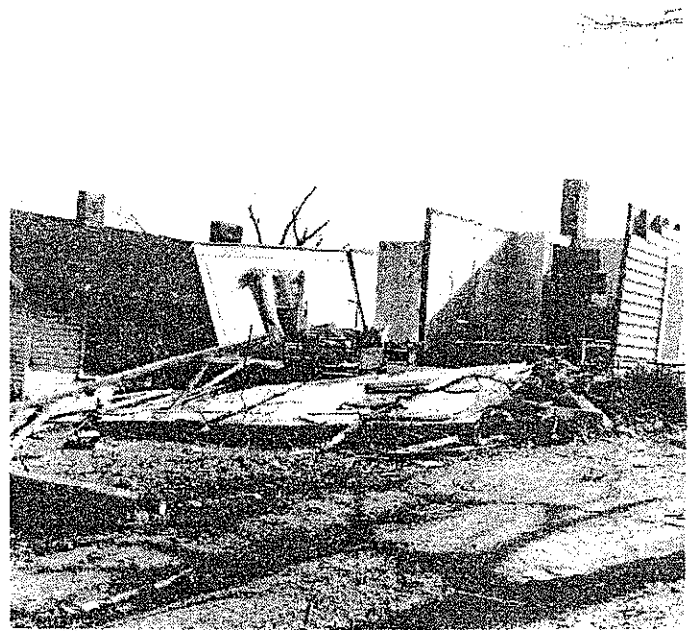
St. Clair Observer
Jan. 16, 1975

Mrs. Arthur Smith's House Hit

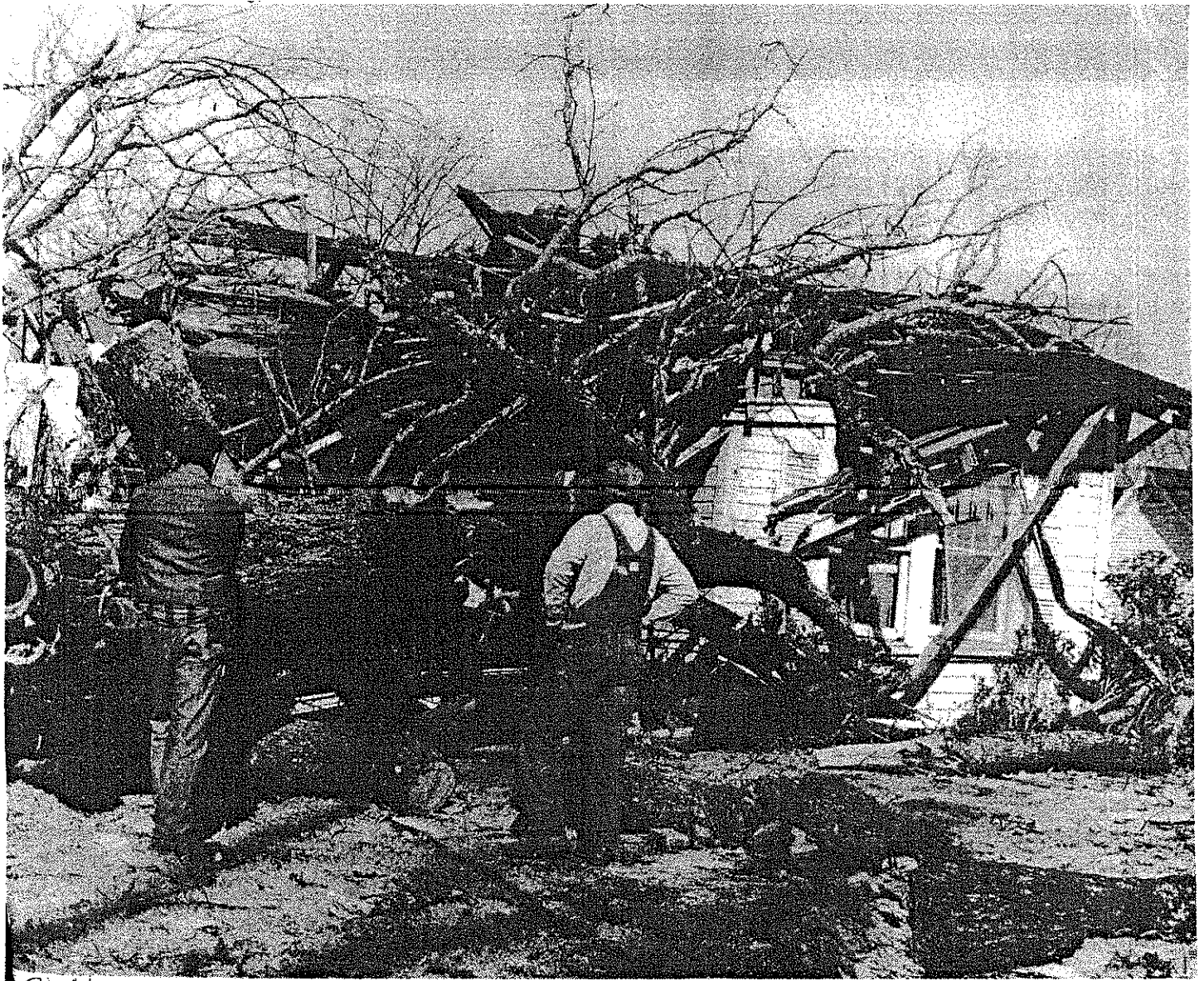


St. Clair Observer Pell City Jan. 16, 1975

PERRY'S STANDARD HAD A MESSAGE
...See Bob Cornett's Column One



St. Clair Observer
Pell City
Bob Rowe Home Destroyed
On 1st Ave South



*St. Clair Observer
Jan. 16, 1975*

Mrs. Roy Holladay's House Destroyed



*St. Clair Observer
Jan. 16, 1975*

Front Torn From Graysville Fabrics

front & back



St. Clair Observer
Jan. 16, 1975

Mrs. Roy Holladay's House Destroyed



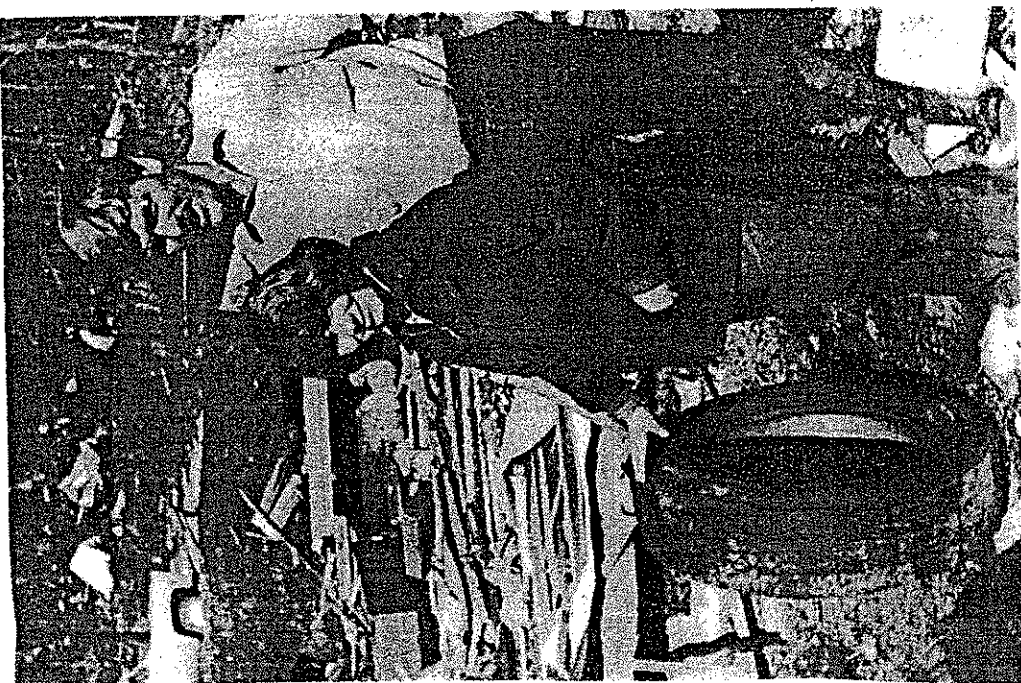
St. Clair Observer
Jan. 16, 1975

Front Torn From Grayville Fabrics



Remains Of Randy Bullard Trailer

Page 11 - OBSERVER, Pell City, Ala. January 16, 1975



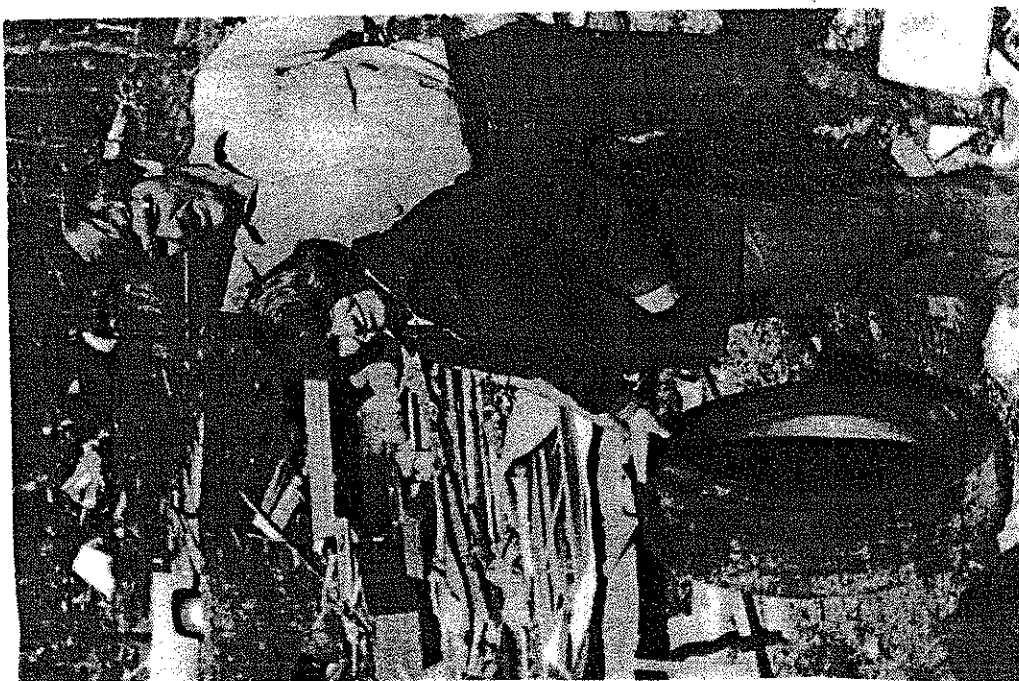
Freak Occurrence

Danny Mathis and Bobby Shockley of Odenville examine a tire which was found Saturday morning near Smith's Trailer Park in Pell City with a dried leaf stuck into it. Tornado-force winds are believed to have driven the fragile leaf into the rubber at high speed.



Remains Of Randy Bullard Trailer

Page 11 - OBSERVER, Pell City, Ala. January 16, 1975



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Rubble From Jan. 10 Tornado



Several Houses Were Destroyed



BY BOB CORNETT

* Human Needs First Concern Of These Dedicated Workers

BY AUGUST LEHE

Although cleanup operations continue to dominate the Pell City and Ragland disaster scenes, another side of the relief effort has gone largely un-

noticed in the wake of last Friday's tornado which devastated large portions of the two St. Clair communities. "We know that there are many more people who need

special assistance than we have seen so far," St. Clair Civil Defense Director R. L. Timmons, told the Observer Tuesday. "The problem is finding them." Timmons also conceded that the generosity of local citizens who took families into their homes may be partly responsible for the slow turnout of people now eligible for such items as food stamps and material assistance.

St. Clair Director of Pensions and Security Mrs. Betty Jackson, whose staff joined those of other relief organizations at Pell City emergency disaster headquarters at the National Guard Armory Friday night, said her staff was well aware of the problem.

"We know we haven't scratched the surface of this thing. We know we will have to help many more people before this is over, but so far only a few have used our services," she said discussing the referral service offered by her staff.

One of the principal organizations which members of Mrs. Jackson's staff have



PERRY'S STANDARD HAD A MESSAGE

...See Bob Cornett's Column One

James Perry sat smiling outside his service station on Highway 231 Saturday morning, unable to pump gas or do much of anything else because there was no power (like other service stations and virtually all businesses and homes as well in the Pell City area).

His station had sustained damage, mostly from flying debris, in the tornado the afternoon before. You didn't have to guess that James felt he was a lucky man. You were attracted to his station by the message on the portable sign out front. Much of the glass was broken on the sign but James had found room in one corner to spell out his message in neat rows of letters: "It Is Great To Be Alive."

It was a message that thousands of people in Pell City and Ragland could identify with—one that each and everyone had surely felt in his gut when the numbness from the area's first major disaster had begun its gradual wearing-

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Ragland Mauled By Twister Begins Road To Recovery

Continued On Page 9

Alabama's only tornado-related death occurred Friday night at Ragland when J. L. Phillips, operator of a service station and grocery located along Macedonia Road, was found buried beneath the ruins of the cinder-block structure, according to authorities.

The news that Pell City had been devastated by a killer tornado had barely spread Friday afternoon when word came that Ragland had been ripped by the same twister.

Although eyewitness accounts varied regarding the appearance of the storm, virtually all described the storm in awesome tones.

"I didn't see it coming and I didn't hear it like that,"

still and then a moment later the whirling started again and moved off towards Macedonia Road. I may be wrong, maybe it never touched ground like they say—all I know is some kind of funner passed right smack over the school building," Beckett told the Observer the day after the storm.

Whatever its exact nature, the twister managed to inflict 12 casualties, one fatality, and destroy or heavily damage 101 (the count as of Wednesday) structures valued at more than one and a half million dollars, according to Ragland Mayor Aubrey Watson who was on the scene directing relief efforts

for miles through the town with unusually heavy damage sustained at Ragland High School and in pockets along either side of Macedonia Road.

St. Clair Superintendent of Education George Eden estimated the damage to the high school to be in excess of \$250,000.

A spokesman for repair crews on the scene at the damaged school Monday estimated 60 days for completion of repairs.

"I personally don't think it will be open anytime this year, but I may be wrong," Mayor Watson said.

Despite Ragland's losses being put at one-third those

Friday night was attributed to the close-knit nature of the community, authorities said.

"Friends, neighbors and relatives just pitched in and opened their homes," Watson said. Three families were placed in units at the Ragland Housing Project.

"And that's one reason we're not even sure what our needs are here," Watson continued.

"Sooner or later these folks are going to need a place to stay and we need to know how many," he said.

"Just guessing, I would say that about ten or 11 families need immediate housing and another ten to 12 need some kind



Human Needs First

Continued From Page 1

referred the needy to is the American Red Cross.

Birmingham Area Director Mrs. Vee Shockley said Monday that the Red Cross is making effort to attend to such basic needs of the homeless as hot meals, box groceries and such requests as those for help in saving furniture and possessions of families whose homes were destroyed or heavily damaged.

"We know there are a lot more people we need to hear from and we just hope they take advantage of our services and man power while it is on hand," Mrs. Shockley said.

She also declined to predict exactly when the Pell City Red Cross Unit would cease operations.

In the first few days of the disaster, Mrs. Shockley noted a heavy demand for roll plastic used by victims to protect what little might be left of their possessions exposed to the elements.

Food stamps were also among the first items available to the stricken and local Food Stamp Supervisor Mrs. Kay Waid again noted a relatively low number of applicants. As of Tuesday evening, she said only 73 application had been received by workers on the scene at the Disaster Headquarters. Part of the Food Stamp staff worked throughout the weekend in the unlighted and unheated basement of the Pell City Courthouse to make both regular and emergency issues of the stamps.

"Some people who are eligible for the stamps probably don't even realize it as yet," Mrs. Waid said, "Even if they have never been eligible for the stamps before, if their losses exceed their resources they may be eligible for free stamps."

Other items which victims may be unaware of include temporary storage of personal property.

St. Clair County Red Cross Public Relations Director W. D. Jackson of Pell City advised victims to contact him, Mr. Timmons, Mrs. Shockley or

Mrs. Jackson to find out about the service.

"Folks just won't ask for what they don't think they can get and especially if they are presently being sheltered by friends. They still need to know that the help is here and they have every right to anything within reason that we have. If a family calls on us and asks for plastic to cover their roof or truck to come pick up furniture, some one will see to it that it is taken care of as quickly as possible," Jackson said.

Jackson said most of the credit for the exceptionally smooth manner in which relief operations have proceeded had to go to those agencies and individuals who came from as far away as Madison County to lend a hand.

Jackson's list included rescue squads from Harpersville, Clay County, Talladega, Anniston, Oxford, Etowah County, Shelby County, Rainsville, North Jefferson County, Madison County and Cullman County, along with St. Clair units Fire departments which arrived on the scene Friday night and stood by to fight tornado related fires and guard against gas line explosions included Montevallo, and Oxford.

In addition, the assistance of the Tri-County CB Radio Club was credited with strengthening sorely needed communications in the first few hours of the

disaster.

Police units which came to the help of St. Clair communities included those of Talladega, Calhoun, Jefferson and Blount Sheriff's Departments, and city units from Mountain Brook, Homewood, Vincent, Ohatchee, Southside, as well as Alabama State

troopers.

"And, of course, we can't say too much about the help rendered by the Birmingham area Red Cross, the Salvation Army and Pell City's National Guardsmen who left their homes around the State to serve the victims of the storm," Jackson added.



Head-On Crash Killed Athens Woman



Rubble From Jan. 10 Tornado





Ragland Service Station Where Fatality Occurred

St. Clair Observer Ragland Jan. 16, 1975

This was the scene Saturday morning at Ragland's Blacommun community where service station and grocery operator J. L. Phillips was pronounced dead at the scene Friday night when the building collapsed burying him under the debris. The tornado

generated winds also damaged the station's gas pumps, causing considerable quantity of gasoline to escape from storage tanks. A civil defense spokesman said Saturday guards would remain on duty until the danger of fire or explosion had passed.



St. Clair Observer
Jan. 16, 1975

Ragland Tornado Path

Although authorities agreed Pell City was worst hit by last Friday's tornado winds, it was not the only St. Clair community to suffer widespread destruction — as is evidenced by this scene at Ragland Saturday morning. Here a Ragland mother attempts to salvage family clothes as scenes of destruction lay all about. Fair

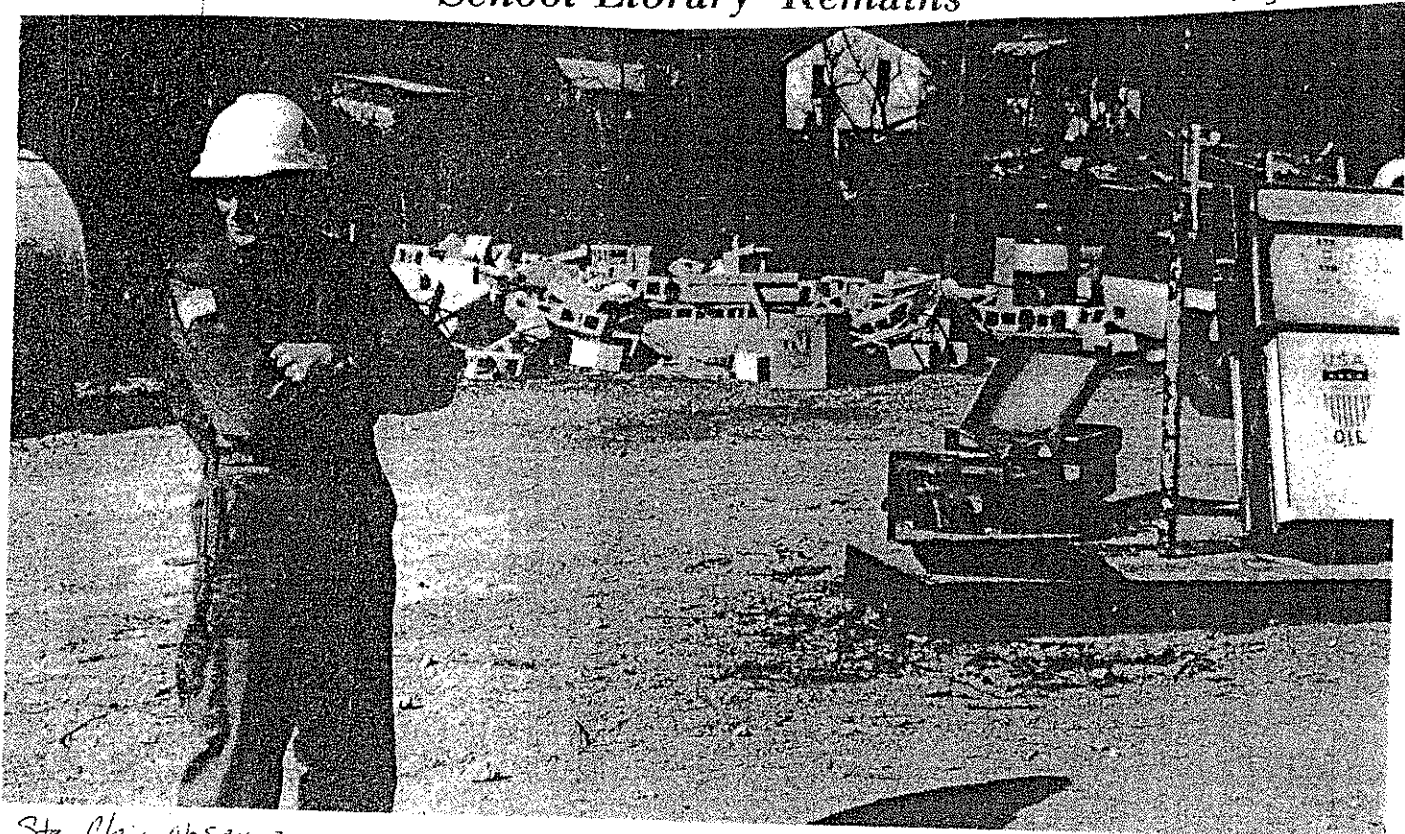
weather conditions on Saturday allowed many Ragland residents to begin the hard task of rebuilding in the aftermath of Friday's tornado which left one dead and 12 injured, three seriously, according to Ragland Mayor Aubrey Watson.



St. Clair Observer
Jan. 16, 1975

School Library Remains

Ragland

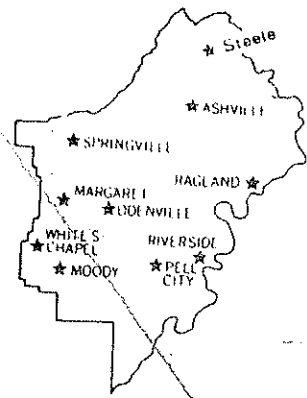


St. Clair Observer
Ragland
Jan. 16, 1975

Ragland Service Station Where Storm's

Only Fatality Occurred

NOT PAGE FRONT



ST. CLAIR

A Newspaper Dedicated to

VOLUME FIVE — NUMBER TWENTY-EIGHT

PELL CITY, ALABAMA - THU



Moments After Twister Struck

This was but one gruesome scene left in the aftermath of last Friday's tornado-spawned storm which ripped across the heart of Pell City, Ragland and outlying areas. The above picture was taken of the Top Dollar Store building (formerly Mays and Jones Department Store) on Pell City's Cogswell Ave. only seconds after the twister passed over the Pell City business district. Moments later, local citizens began combing the debris for signs of life as city and county law enforcement officers and emergency crews swung into action to rescue the injured and trapped.

Manning Disaster Headquarters-

Human Needs First Concern Of These Dedicated Workers

COLUMN 1

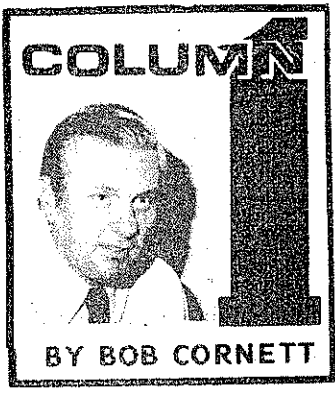
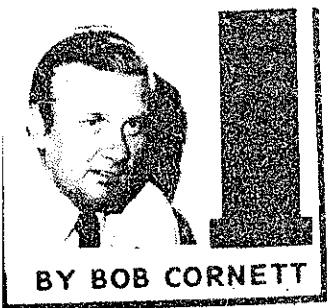


BY BOB CORNETT

BY AUGUST LEHE
Although cleanup operations

noticed in the wake of last Friday's tornado which special assistance than we have seen so far," St. Clair Civil

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off process. About a hundred yards to the south of Perry's station there were a number of people who would wholeheartedly echo that sentiment. People who had miraculously escaped with their lives when the buildings where they worked had exploded or come tumbling down on top of them, burying them in debris.

Jerome Goodwin and his son Ricky and two customers who had survived the explosion of Red's Menswear, virtually unscathed, certainly would agree.

Or Harvey Watson who, along with his son Gene, had had to tunnel his way out from under concrete blocks, boards,, ceiling beams and other debris at CISCO Auto Parts.

Or Joyce Stewart who was trapped in the Farm Bureau office next door.

Or Vada Vaughan and her employees at Vada's, downtown, where the roof also tumbled in.

Or countless others whose hearts stopped momentarily as they saw their businesses and homes ripped from around them.

The names mentioned are only a few who were among the hardest hit in the business community. To list the hundreds of others who had harrowing experiences and suffered an estimated total of \$3,500,000 in structure damage alone, would require space not available here.

Incredibly, in the face of the staggering devastation, St. Clair County Hospital officially lists only 27 tornado-injured persons who were treated at the hospital—only three of those with injuries serious enough to

require admission to the hospital. The rest were treated and released. No fatalities. (And only one fatality at Ragland, which also took a merciless pounding).

Perry's sign says it for us all. It's great to be alive.

The sign also says something about an almost indefinable spirit which permeated the area as soon as people were over the initial shock of the tragedy. A cheerfulness, if you will, and an undaunted determination to fight back on the part of the victims. And a compassion for

their fellow man which sent hundreds of people who were untouched personally by the storm racing to the aid of the victims—armed with chain saws to help clear the wreckage, or food or clothing or offers of shelter or just plain muscle to help clean up the rubble, sort out salvageable belongings.

Throughout the night Friday and on through the weekend, they came from miles around, anxious to help. Side by side they sawed up and cleared away trees felled across streets and crashed into houses.

Droves of individual volunteers joined the selfless members of rescue squads, National Guardsmen, disaster units, fire departments, amateur and citizens band radio operators, law enforcement officers, Red Cross and Salvation Army volunteers, Civil Defense workers, you name it. And, many of the local folks had already rolled up their sleeves and jumped into the task.

James Perry put up a new sign Monday. It bore another thoughtful message: "Three

Cheers For Our Helping Neighbors. We Thank You."

Alabama's famous Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant, who has been known to delve into the psychologies that motivate people, has an expression he uses to describe people whose true grit is being put to the test. He calls it a "gut check."

It occurs to me that The Man Upstairs has given the people of Pell City and Ragland a pretty good gut check. And at this point I would venture that they are getting pretty good marks.

OBSERVER

St. Clair
County's Only
Home-Owned
Newspaper

dedicated to Community Service

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1975

ONE SECTION — EIGHTEEN PAGES

Federal Funds Expected-

Governor Requests County Be Declared Disaster Area

Still reeling from the devastating effects of the first major disaster ever to hit this area, and faced with combined financial losses of over \$5 million in damage to buildings alone, the tornado-stricken towns of Pell City and Ragland are anxiously awaiting word from Washington this week after Governor George Wallace formally filed a request that President Ford declare St. Clair County a disaster area.

The disaster area designation is a necessary step toward obtaining much-needed federal funds and assistance for the area's disaster victims.

Governor Wallace reportedly filed the request Monday after official damage assessment was made by the respective mayors, along with county and state Civil Defense officials.

Congressman Tom Beville told the Observer Tuesday that his office had called the Federal Disaster Administration in Washington and that as soon as the necessary information is received, Washington would be ready to act.

Local businesses would then be eligible for Small Business Administration disaster loans, and families whose homes were destroyed would be provided temporary housing. Unemployment compensation and other financial aids would be available.

An Observer deadline time Wednesday morning, the Governor's request was still apparently bogged down in red



Scene Of Destruction

Scenes such as this were a common sight last Friday afternoon as Pell City citizens crawled out from under debris left behind by the worst storm in the city's history. The structure shown above is the Coosa Valley Telephone Company switching station located just off Cogswell Ave.

The overturned van pictured here, according to witnesses, tumbled several times in the air as the tornado ripped away at the walls of the nearby building. The wrought iron beam resting on the van was torn away from the telephone facility.

St. Clair Federal
Seeks to Help
Its Mortgagors

According to Ray Miller, Vice

Over Roadblocks-

Mayor Sorry If

Temporary measures, such as employment compensation and other financial aids would be available.

At Observer deadline time Wednesday morning, the Governor's request was still apparently bogged down in red tape channels.

The tornado ripped through Pell City at 4:10 p.m. Friday cutting a four block swath through downtown business and adjacent residential areas, damaging and destroying an estimated total of 240 houses and 50 businesses and causing an estimated \$3½ million in damages to buildings alone.

Ripping along Corner Avenue and wreaking a wide path of destruction through the Avondale Mills area, and for about three miles along the old Coal City Road, the twister then changed its course and minutes later plowed through Ragland where an estimated total of 101 structures were damaged or destroyed, causing an estimated 1.7 million dollars in financial loss.

Mayor Dill Nixon pointed out that total property losses in Pell City could run as high as \$7 million or more, noting that the \$3½ million estimate was for

Continued On Page 9

Governor Requests Disaster Aid

Continued From Page 1
building damages alone.

Almost miraculously, it seemed, there was only one fatality, that occurring when James Phillips, a 50 year old father of nine children, was killed as the tornado leveled a service station on the Macedonia Road in Ragland.

St. Clair County Hospital reported that 27 persons were treated for tornado-related injuries, 24 of those treated and discharged and only three admitted to the hospital with serious injuries. Twelve injuries were reported in Ragland.

The tornado roared eastward along Cogswell Avenue after having first hit residential areas along Dry Creek Road, southwest of town, where it destroyed several homes and damaged many others.

Employees ducked for cover, diving under desks, behind filing cabinets and spread-eagling on floors as windows were sucked out of business buildings and offices and walls came tumbling down, all along the business district.

On West Cogswell Avenue, the dental office of Dr. Bob McClung was destroyed and the building which houses the switching equipment of Coosa Valley Telephone Company was heavily damaged, exposing the equipment to rain which added to the delay in restoring telephone service.

In addition to the businesses, virtually every residence along 1st, 2nd and 3rd Avenues South were damaged, along with the First United Methodist, First Baptist Church of Christ and Seventh Day Adventist Churches, all the way to Highway 231 where the new Red's Menswear-Farm Bureau-Myers Real estate building was destroyed, plus the adjacent CISCO Auto Parts store.

National Guardsmen and law enforcement officers from surrounding towns, the roadblocks diverted all but essential traffic from the downtown area, effectively stemming the incipient looting, and reducing traffic congestion caused by curious sightseers.

Emergency headquarters were set up at the Pell City National Guard Armory, where Red Cross and Pensions and Security personnel, along with the Mayor, rescue squads, Civil Defense officials, and other disaster aid agencies began to function smoothly and efficiently.

The immediate needs of tornado victims were seen to and food and shelter provided. The Salvation Army also brought in mobile food units and worked throughout the weekend feeding victims and volunteer workers, along with Red Cross food vans.

By Saturday morning, cleanup operations were well underway and some power had been restored. However, many downtown businesses and homes in the heavily damaged areas did not have power restored until Monday.

The Red Cross, aided by National Guardsmen, prepared and served hot food at the Pell City Rec. Center, adjacent to the armory, and sandwiches and cold plates were served at the Armory. The Rev. Jimmy Coleman also set up a hot food service at Arbor Baptist Church across town, funded by the Southern Baptist Convention Disaster fund. Food is still being served at Arbor Baptist throughout this week.

Sunday night, an emergency shelter and food service was set up at the Pell City High School gym. But it seemed that most of the homeless victims were

Meanwhile, Coosa Valley Telephone company, aided by teams brought in by its owners, Continental Telephone, is doing a remarkable job of gradually restoring telephone service, in view of the damage to the buildings and complications caused by Sunday's rainfall. Emergency pay phone service was set up Saturday morning, and service has been restored to many businesses and residences as well.

Congressman Tom Beville sent this message to St. Clair Countians: "I am deeply concerned and my heart goes out to those people who lost their property and possessions. I am keeping closely in touch and am standing ready to do anything in my power to bring assistance to the Pell City and Ragland areas. I join you in thankfulness that no lives were lost except the one in Ragland and I extend my sympathy to

that family."

Civil Defense activities have been ably handled by St. Clair CD Director Bob Timmons, who along with Mayor Nixon, Councilman Paul Turner, State CD Director C. J. Sullivan, and CD official Cecil Hyde, conducted the survey Saturday to assess the damage and set the official estimate on losses incurred.

So, with a lot of help from its friends, and efficient governmental and disaster agencies, Pell City is recovering as well as can be expected from an unaccustomed tragedy.

And with the expected help from federal disaster funds, and from insurance settlements which have been swift and generous, according to some reports, the town will likely one day be as good as new again.

Meanwhile, a lot of people are mighty thankful they're alive.

The twister continued on through the Avondale Mills area, heavily damaging homes and churches, destroying mobile homes at Smith's Trailer Park and elsewhere. The path of destruction trailed along Old Coal City Road, leveling Fred Spradlin's grocery at the fork of the Coal City-Center Star roads, before heading for Ragland.

Pell City's Cogswell Avenue was knee deep in rubble and dazed merchants had barely recovered from the initial shock when some early looting began, causing Mayor Dill Nixon to order the downtown area tightly cordoned off with roadblocks. Manned by State Troopers,

being provided shelter by friends, neighbors and residences. Many of the homeless were elderly persons who were cared for by their children.

A beleaguered and weary Mayor Nixon, who observed wryly that "Everybody ought to have the experience of being Mayor of a town that had blown away," told the *Observer* Tuesday that about 75 percent of the power and gas service had been restored.

It was Tuesday before power was restored to The Peoples Bank, where damage to cables and wiring in the building's interior caused an unusual delay.

Over Roadblocks-

Mayor Sorry If Feelings Hurt

Pell City Mayor Dill Nixon told the Observer Tuesday he wishes to apologize to "anyone who might have had their feelings hurt about the road blocks" in the few days following last Friday's tornado, but stressed that he felt the roadblocks were absolutely necessary to protect downtown property from looters.

"I think that some of the personnel working at the roadblocks might have gotten a little rougher with people than we would have wanted them to," Mayor Nixon said.

"However, we felt we had to keep people out of the downtown area to protect the property of some of the merchants who reported to us that looting had started shortly after the tornado hit."

"If anyone had their feelings hurt, we apologize, but we felt that the only way to stop the looting was to keep people out," the mayor said.

Nixon also said he wishes to assure all local citizens that the city would get to them as soon as possible with its cleanup program.

"If they will just bear with us, we will eventually get it all cleaned up, but it's a big job and

it takes time."

The Mayor warned tornado victims whose houses were damaged to make sure they are dealing with qualified people when they hire someone to repair their roofs and to do other repair work.

"From reports we've had there may be some people who don't know what they are doing who are just jumping into this thing to make a fast buck," Nixon warned.

In other announcements, the Mayor said:

—If the area is declared a disaster area, as expected, by the federal government, a Small Business Administration office will be set up in Pell City to make loans to local businesses damaged in the tornado.

—If the disaster status is declared, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will bring in free-rent trailers as temporary housing for those whose homes were destroyed.

—People who want to store their furniture should contact County Civil Defense Director Bob Timmons at the National Guard Armory. Mr. Simmons

Continued On Page 9

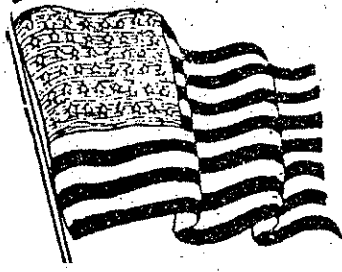
Mayor

Continued From Page 1

will arrange for a truck to pick up the furniture and take it to a new building in the Industrial Park for storage.

—People who still need clothing should check with the Red Cross at the Armory.

—Hot meals are still being served at Arbor Baptist Church at 12:00 noon and 5:30 p.m.



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THURSDAY M

—In light of \$5 million

'Disaster' title r

By LARRY CAMP

NEWS Managing Editor

As of NEWS press time Wednesday, the tornado-stricken areas of Pell City, Ragland and Coal City had not been designated "disaster areas" by President Gerald R. Ford, but State officials think it's only a "matter of time" before he does.

According to Billy Joe Camp, press secretary to Governor George C. Wallace, a telegram requesting the disaster area title was forwarded with statistical information on the area to President Ford about

noon Tuesday.

The disaster title opens a wide range of federal aid programs to victims of the tornado here which Red Cross and State Civil Defense officials estimate caused in excess of \$5 damage to homes and businesses.

"The Governor has been in close contact with the situation since the storm hit last Friday," Camp told THE NEWS. "He immediately ordered out National Guard troops and sent State Civil Defense Director C.J. Sullivan as his representative," Camp added.

Gov. Wallace said "We all

regret very much this terrible disaster which hit St. Clair County and particularly the Pell City and Ragland area. But, we are going to do everything we can to assist the people there in making the recovery I know they will make."

"I am told by those who represented me that the spirit of the people in Pell City and Ragland was tremendous and I'm sure that with a cooperative effort at the local, state and federal levels, we can relieve much of the suffering and loss," Wallace remarked. "We would

(See Disaster Page 7A)

Ragland buries its dead; lists \$2 million damages

By LOUIS MURO

News Editor

RAGLAND—St. Clair County's only fatality after the Friday afternoon tornado was buried here Monday as authorities estimated the cost of damages to some 88-90

homes, two businesses and High School at \$1,750,000.

Clean-up operations continued at Ragland High School and throughout the city this week with volunteer and city workers hauling away loads of debris from all parts of

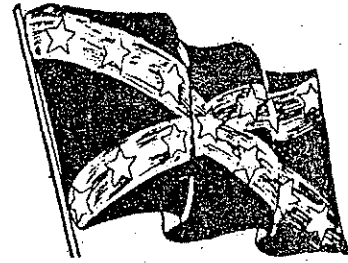
Ragland. Red Cross units, along with volunteers, were in the city providing shelter and food for the homeless.

While the clean-up and aid activity continued in the city, funeral services were held Monday for 49-year-old Ross Phillips, Jr., who was killed when the store in which he was in was struck by the tornado, causing the building to collapse on him. The services for Phillips, a self-employed pulpwood worker, were held at Gray's Chapel Baptist Church with interment in the Macedonia Cemetery. Rev. Greenwood and Rev. Kirk D. resided over the

Thanks,
Neighbor!



NEWS—AEGIS



WEEKLY TO BETTER SERVE YOU

JANUARY 16, 1975

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After damages— matter of time

Opinion

Miracles often do happen

By LARRY CAMP
NEWS Managing Editor

Reflecting on the events of Friday past, one is led to think about the lyrics to that old song which go something like "Miracles Happen Now and Then."



LARRY

CAMP



Because, if ever there was a miracle, the fact that no one in Pell City, and only one person in Ragland, was killed is a true miracle.

We've heard a lot of speculation in the aftermath of the twister which came calling at 4:10 p.m. January 10, as to why the loss of life was not greater.

"It could have been the time of day. It could have been because a lot of the younger people who live in mobile homes both work and had their children in kindergarten. It could have been because it was just about the time most people were not in those 250-odd homes that were seriously or totally demolished."

All those "could have been's" might very well be the reason only one person was killed in St. Clair County.

Disaster At 4:10 P.M.

Many times in times past we have all heard the adage: "You find out who your friends are when you get into trouble."

In light of the recent tornado which struck Pell City, devastating nearly 50 per cent of the main business and residential section of town, the City of Pell City and its residents really "found out who their friends were."

From virtually every surrounding county — and many not so close — rescue squads, fire departments, law enforcement agencies and individuals responded to our need for help.

This help was not solicited, it was given freely from the goodness of so many hearts. . . and it is greatly appreciated.

Help, in the form of chain saws, vehicles, emergency generators, doctors, food, money — you name it — has flooded into Pell City with the sole intent of helping a neighbor.

Groups and individuals from Shelby, Jefferson, Calhoun, Cullman, Madison, Dekalb, Blount, Clay, Etowah, Talladega and individual municipalities were on the scene rendering aid and helping clear the area within a matter of minutes and hours.

During the past week while clean up and utility crews continued their efforts, we have heard so many people speak of the "beauty" and goodness of our "neighbors."

Speaking on behalf of the residents of Pell City, Ragland and surrounding areas, THE NEWS would like to sincerely thank, from the bottom of all our hearts, these fine people who so unselfishly gave of their time and energies in our time of need.

As one local business has put it: "Three cheers for our friends. Thanks so very much."

c eremony.

The World War II veteran is survived by his wife, Nellie, two sons, Herston and Jerry; seven daughters, Mrs. Herbara Bowers, Mrs. Janice Pearson, Linda, Martha Gail, Patty Nell, Wanda and Becky Phillips; one brother, Austin; three sisters, Mrs. Thelma Campbell, Mrs. Cassie Campbell and Mrs. Willie Echols; and 10 grandchildren.

Ragland Mayor Aubrey Watson said the \$1,750,000 damage figure includes damage to the high school and homes but not to the industrial property. National Cement Co. was damaged but the extent of the damages is not known.

Watson said a "constant stream" of relief has come into Ragland since the storm, including the Red Cross. The

(See Ragland Page 9A)

Bulletin

Ragland High School will be open Thursday morning at the regular schooltime. Students will load under regular bus routes and will be taken to the school complex where there, they will receive further instructions. All students will be required to furnish own lunch. Milk will be furnished.

A time and date with Pell City and St. Clair 1975. At that time, a tornado struck the area business and resident

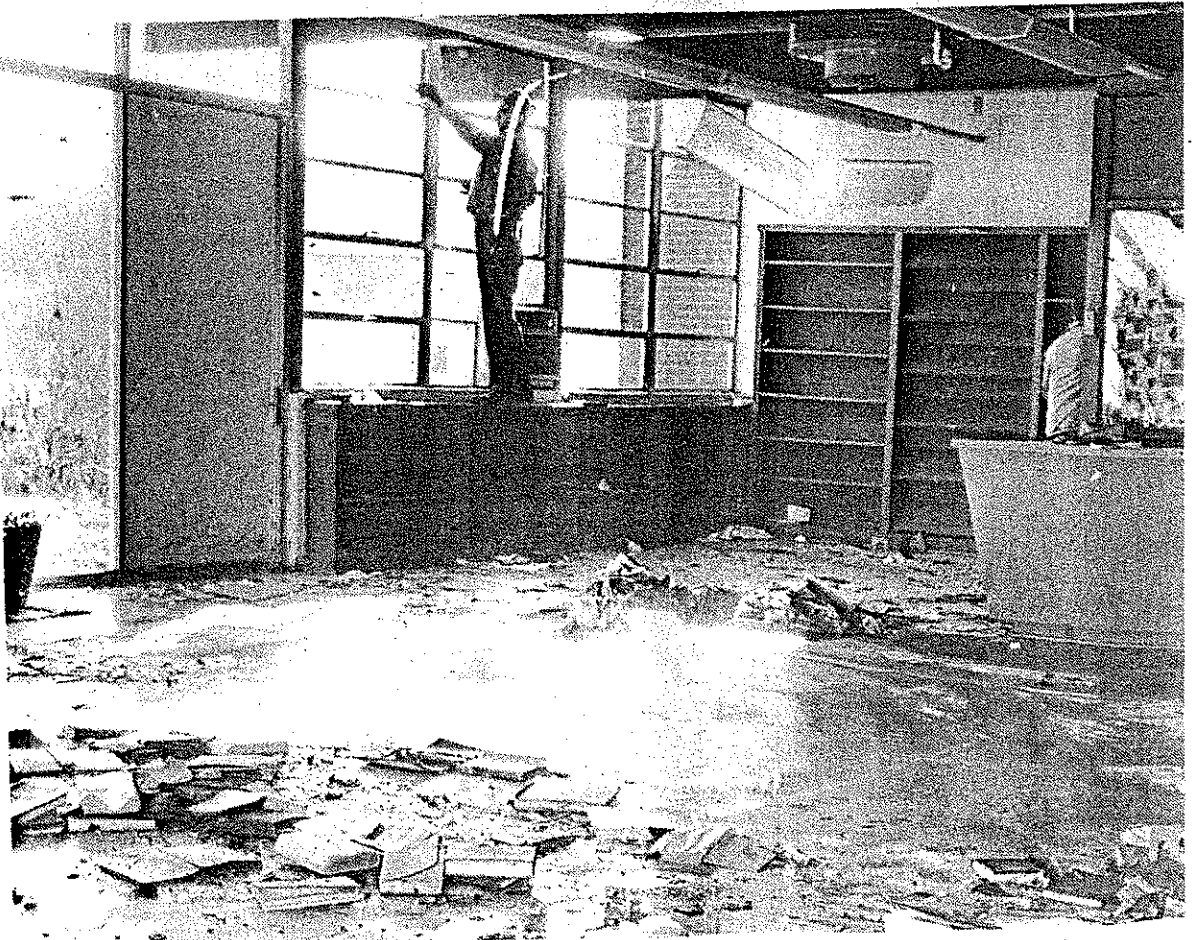
Sixty be hc

In the wake of the storm which struck Pell City and the Coal City area, 100 residences with damage. A number of families left homeless was considered 60 per cent of the homes damaged, an estimate by I. Jackson, Director of the Clair County Department of Pensions and Security.

Mrs. Jackson, in a report given on Monday, this figure included damage which were damaged point where electric be turned on or he

Services set up for Friday's storm coordinated by the the DPS, and City Director for St. Clair R.L. Timmons.

Immediate aid trapped by the storm



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me history in the lives of p.m., Friday, January 10, er in the form of a killer 0 per cent of the Pell City s, hitting hard in the Coal

City area and moving on to kill and devastate homes and schools in Ragland. The map indicates the path of the tornado through the Pell City area —hardest hit of any Alabama storm-damaged area—and a little photographic magic to show where the clocks stopped. (NEWS Photo by Larry Camp)

believe, however, that it "could have been by the grace of God" that the residents of St. Clair County were spared.

Fifty per cent of all the homes and businesses in the main section of Pell City are either laying in ruin or are seriously damaged . . . not to mention those areas of Coal City and Ragland which are damaged.

People are homeless, many are heartbroken. But for that one thing, if nothing else, we all must be thankful that the toll on human lives was not greater.

A hard, tough existence faces many persons in the Pell City area these next few months. But, already we can see the inner strength coming forth as people pick up the pieces and carry on.

Yes. You're perfectly correct. It is a terrible thing this disaster that has befallen our city and area.

But, we might point out that the strong have become strong by facing and overcoming obstacles which were placed in their way.

In short, we have had time to cry and bandage our wounds. Now, let's get moving toward rebuilding, planting new trees, sewing new seeds. And, with that one little item called "courage" and — by the grace of God — we will have a better Pell City, a better Coal City and a better Ragland. . . . TAKE CARE

cent said to ess in P.C.



istered by rescue workers,ulance drivers and St. Clairnty medical personnel, whoe assisted by doctors fromds, Oneonta and back upical doctors from the Redss.
he National Guard Armory Pell City became the ringhouse for all services toado victims, with the Redss setting up food services, l preparations to shelterneless victims.
ccording to Mrs. Veeeker, Disaster Director for l City for the American Redss, only one familynained overnight in the nory. She noted that othersnd shelter with friends and

relatives.
The DPS set up operations on a 24-hour basis in the armory, receiving offers of shelter, clothing, food and financial assistance for the Pell City people, and referring tornado victims to the proper sources to have their needs met.

According to Mrs. Jackson, the DPS received 25 offers for shelter for tornado victims from motels, and owners of rental properties. The list of persons offering clothing, food and financial contributions mounted to over 200.

The Red Cross maintained mobile units throughout the night hours to provide food and (See Homeless Page 9A)

NOTICE

Forest Ranger E.J. Riddle advises all timber land owners in St. Clair County who have timber in or near the path of the tornado which struck the county last Friday afternoon to check their holdings for damage. The Alabama Forest Commission will assist in the marketing of damaged timber and early salvage of this timber could be an important factor in the control of the Southern Pine Beetle.

SHERIFF'S ARRESTS

The St. Clair County Sheriff's Department reported 16 arrests last week. They included two carrying a concealed weapon, one public drunkenness, one non support, one peace warrant, one contempt of court, one driving while intoxicated, one false pretense, two enticing a child, two trespassing after warning, one issuing worthless checks, two no driver's license and one assault and battery.

ASHVILLE ARRESTS

The Ashville Police Department reported five arrests last week, including one public drunkenness, one drunk and disorderly, one old tag, one

Commission okays repair of damages

BY JENNA WHITEHEAD
NEWS Staff Writer

The last regular session of the outgoing St. Clair County commission members was a meeting dwelling on the tornado damages to Pell City and Ragland, action taken to repair county properties damaged by the tornado, and resolutions commending the services of persons who had assisted the outgoing administration during their term in office in providing services for this county.

In dealing with immediate, emergency repair work, the commissioners received estimates and prices for roofing the Pell City Courthouse from Perry Friday of RCG Construction Co. in Birmingham, and from Roy Williams, private contractor in St. Clair County. The commissioners also received a report from Sheriff's deputy James Murray on the tornado damage to two Sheriff's police vehicles, one a 1972 Chevrolet, and the other a 1974 Chevrolet.

contract with Vulcan Roofing Co. for repair of the courthouse roof at a figure of \$36,127, the low bid.

Friday, representative of (See Commission Page 9A)

(See Newsbeat Page 7A)

Council postpones Rec. center bids

In a light business session with the Friday afternoon tornado and its aftermath the primary topic, the Pell City Council Monday night announced that the opening of bids on the proposed Pell City Civic Center would be delayed until Tuesday, Jan. 28.

Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon said that in the wake of the recent tornado and the problems connected with it, the opening of bids would be delayed two weeks. The bid openings were originally scheduled for

showing the appreciation of the city to all those who aided during the tornado should be drawn up. He also said that the mayor and each member of the council should sign it.

The mayor and council agreed and said the proper resolution would be drawn up. City Attorney Billy Church addressed the council on the probable benefits if Pell City were declared a disaster area by the federal government. He said that in the event the governor does sign the

Moody has new phone exchange

Moody's new telephone switching center clicked into operation last week and the '640' telephone prefix came to Alabama.

Eventually, everyone north of I-20 will be changed over to the 640 exchange, easing the overcrowding of the Leeds exchange, said Carl Smith, Leeds Telephone Co. President.

As of Monday, there were only 10 or 12 subscribers with 640 numbers, Smith said, but 'now we're cutting some Leeds subscribers into that (new) office.'

Also on Monday, underground cables into Birmingham were put into use, Smith said. He hopes this will avoid rifle shot damage, which is high in the Red Diamond area.

Commis

RCG, presented the missionaries with a

drinks and baked goods for victims and workers.

Members of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Pell City sent in a requisition for the disaster Winnebago in Montgomery and manned it during daylight hours, staying well past suppertime, providing soups, sandwiches, fruit, hot and cold drinks and baked goods for victims and workers.

Out-of-town glass companies came into Pell City the night of the storm, ready to supply commercial businesses and community buildings with plate glass — for protection from the weather and looters. By Saturday morning, glass was being installed.

The Southern Baptist Convention set up a fund for disaster victims, which was being handled at the Arbor Baptist Church. According to Rev. Coleman, all persons who suffered damage may apply for the money which is being given by the Southern Baptist Churches.

Mrs. Jackson stated that persons who had received severe damage had indicated the possible need for future shelter, sbut requested none had been thus far.

The services to the homeless, the non-homeless but afflicted citizens and workers began immediately, and will continue as the long haul to restabilization continues.

money will be repaid by the State to Roe, who will repay the sum to the county.

— Upon receipt of signed contracts between St. Clair County Hospital and St. Clair Ambulance Service and Fowler Ambulance Service, the commissioners passed a motion approving the contracts, which provide for subsidization of the ambulance services.

— The commissioners passed a motion to pay the sum of \$3,168 to the firm of Sterne, Agee and Leach, which acted as agents for the county in the sale of warrants for property reappraisal in St. Clair County.

— The commissioners passed a motion to accept a \$17,289 grant from the Comprehensive Employment Training Act to St. Clair County. The grant, which is 100 per cent, will provide for three additional county employees. The positions set up under the grant are two laborers for the highway department, and one maintenance man for county property.

— The sum of \$913.15 to Joy Thompson for the preparation of the Nov. 5 election voting list was approved by the commissioners.

— For the sum of \$1,677.37, the commissioners to the Community Services Council in Birmingham, St. Clair County will receive assistance in locating and securing money for

hours," he explained. "But school central office had advanced information Friday or any previous wea alerts this school term. If disaster had occurred two h earlier while school was session or two hours l M during an athletic event, results would have b catastrophic," Morris ad

The principal noted volunteer help since the torn has been "beyond pectations." He said, "My h felt thanks go out to all of t who came to the school to as in moving books and mater from the school building. own personal estimate is through their efforts, se \$100,000 in materials v saved."

The biggest material loss t in the library, where some 2 books were destroyed, and gymnasium. Ragland had b looking toward accrediatat but the loss of books is a back.

Principal Grover Whaley Ohatchee was on the scene offer their athletic facilities Ragland. The basketb program will continue with games probably being play on the opposition's hoome flo

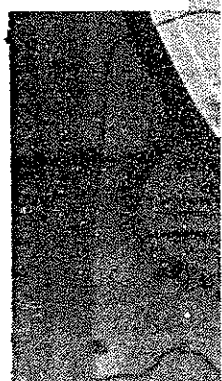
State representative Maril Quarles, Dr. James McClendon and Sen. Bob Weaver have surveyed t Ragland situation and he offered their assistance.

County's only fatality after the Friday afternoon tornado was buried here Monday as authorities estim ated the cost of damages to some 88-90 continued at Raglnad High School and throughout the city this week with volunteer and city workers hauling away loads of debris from all parts of

city providing meals and lodg for the homeless.

While the clean-up and aid activity continued in the city, funeral services were held Monday for 49-year-old Ross Phillips, Jr., who was killed when the store in which he was in was struck by the tornado, causing the building to collapse on him. The services for Phillips, a self-employed pulpwood worker, were held at Gray's Chapel Baptist Church with interment in the Macedonia Cemetery. Rev. Greenwood and Rev. Kirk n resided over the

Thanks, Neighbor!



What Was Once a Town, Now I

BY DANNY AUSBUN

Special to the News-Aegis

Two girls driving timidly down the freeway in a shiny new black car were obviously heading for Pell City to see the damage and get in everybody's way, but they didn't make it. A polite Guardsman, backed up by two state troopers turned them back, and I said 'Thank goodness.'

At first the damage wasn't much, just trees pitched around. But a block or so later, it was homes, bricks, lumber and people that had been upheaved by the monster winds; displaced, overturned, sent sprawling.

Pell City, on a warm Saturday afternoon, was digging itself out of the rubble caused by a disastrous tornado the day before. Yet, to me, it seems that it was a quiet, almost tranquil place filled with still pictures of what I can not see in my mind.

Inside the drugstore, a disheartened woman sits and looks at her cup of coffee. The reflection of the Salvation Army across the street surrounds her and the image is a strange one. Perhaps it symbolizes the organization's work.

Outside, on the street, glass is everywhere. At first, it seems that someone will cut their tires on it; but then I realize that no one is driving on the street.

A few people still are on the street along Cogswell, just as if this Saturday afternoon was like the rest of them. But awnings are sagging, signs askew and windows are boarded up. Two policemen slowly swagger down the street, billysticks in hand.

Beside the jailhouse, a church

bus is overturned. Thinking back, this seems to be to be the most telling remain of the wind's strength—this vehicle of several tons rolled on its side by the force of the tornado.

An old man, seeing my camera, stops to give me his version of what happened, answering my unasked questions of how long it lasted, where he was in the house and what it was like. I politely listened, then hurried on to take another picture. The time for those interviews was long past on Saturday afternoon; the clock demanded everyone get to

cleaning and clearing the debris away.

Curiosity-seekers clogged U.S. 231, making getting from one side of town to the other nearly impossible for those who urgently had to. Their glassy-eyed stares were typical of the disaster-viewer, and their slow driving and large numbers, while expected, were still revolting. This writer feels that these are the people who, if somebody were dying on the operating table, would crowd around to see, getting in the doctors' and nurses' way until the patient suffocates.

Trees were decorated with everything—that is, those trees that were remaining. Some had giant hands of corrugated steel newly-grown. Some had boards from the sides of nearby house hanging from their branches, while others had dirt-covered clothing on their leafless arms, as if out to dry.

Many trees fell victim to the tornado, too. Several were uprooted from the Courthouse grounds. They were pushed over, snapped off, bent over and decapitated in various sections of town. Usually, the same fate would befall all of the trees in an

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What was once a town, now rubble

BY DANNY AUSBUN
Special to the News-Aegis

girls driving timidly
he freeway in a shiny new
car were obviously
g for Pell City to see the
e and get in everybody's
ut they didn't make it. A
Guardsman, backed up
o state troopers turned
back, and I said "Thank
you."

First the damage wasn't
just trees pitched
down. But a block or so later,
homes, bricks, lumber
people that had been
moved by the monster
displaced, overturned,
scrawling.

City, on a warm Saturday
noon, was digging itself out
of rubble caused by a
furious tornado the day
before. Yet, to me, it seems that
a quiet, almost tranquil
filled with still pictures
I can yet see in my mind.
In the drugstore, a
frightened woman sits and
drinks her cup of coffee. The
son of the Salvation Army
surrounds her and
sings is a strange one.
Perhaps it symbolizes the
nation's work.

On the street, glass is
where. At first, it seems
someone will cut their tires
but then I realize that no
driving on the street.
Few people still are on the
streets along Cogswell, just as if
Saturday afternoon was
the rest of them. But
signs are sagging, signs
are sagging, signs
are sagging and windows are
shattered up. Two policemen
swagger down the street,
puffs in hand.
Near the jailhouse, a church

bus is overturned. Thinking
back, this seems to be to be the
most telling remain of the
wind's strength—this vehicle of
several tons rolled on its side by
the force of the tornado.

An old man, seeing my
camera, stops to give me his
version of what happened,
answering my unasked
questions of how long it lasted,
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what it was like. I politely
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over, snapped off, bent over and
decapitated in various sections
of town. Usually, the same fate
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area.
House damage ranged
almost negligible to
severe, and sometimes
extreme cases could be found
side-by-side. One house had
small part of the shingles and
roof blown away. Down
street, the whole roof and part
of the outside walls were
torn to the winds Friday
afternoon. The tornado showed
its fickle side, leaving the Ba
Association office untouched
but pushing a nearby church
off its foundation.

Chain saws, sounding
like huge hordes of honey bees,
were everywhere in the rubble
Saturday, one of the first
machines in the clearing of
numerous trees. Their gnarled
growls continued into the
night.

Taking to foot, wife at
side, it seems like a placid
journey through a bizarre movie to
down the former main street
of a small city, dodging only
pieces of glass and low-hanging
electric wires. It's like visiting
the zoo, always has
something to see, but instead of
animals, we get to see human
losses. I've always seen
newsreel-type pictures
tornado damage, and I've
never been to see houses leveled
by the winds. But I've never
seen the middle of a city so destr
by one, and the shock still
fresh in my mind.

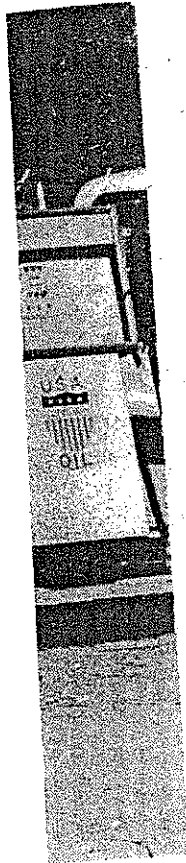


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Trailer Destroyed At Ragland



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*27 Treated At St. Clair Hospital

The St Clair County Hospital in Pell City reported that 27 people were treated for tornado-related injuries last Friday night and three were admitted to the hospital.

A hospital spokesman said that others were treated on Saturday for after-storm accidents or after-shock nerves, but that no others were admitted to the hospital.

Dr. M. G. Norrell said that he treated Della McGraw, a Coosa Valley Telephone Company employee at his clinic and made a house call on Mrs. Virgil Compton immediately following the tornado.

Those treated at St. Clair County Hospital included Doris Jackson, 47, Ragland; Doris Tollison, 41, Pell City; Eunice Ward, 39, Talladega; Bill Harper, 24, Birmingham; Steve Campbell, 23, Ragland; Lois Mize, 60, Pell City; A. D. Mathis, 48, Pell City; Arthur Ritch, 76, Pell City; Joe Dell Davis, 35, Ragland; Scottie Lovell, 41, Pell City; Hazel Kay, 41, Pell City; Gene Newman, 35, Pell City; Lisa Peoples, 13, Pell City; Danny Peoples, 10, Pell City; Kenneth Peoples, 12, Pell City; Donnie Peoples, 8, Pell City; James Reaves, 50, Ragland; Sue Reaves, 46, Ragland; Gwendolyn Threatt, 17, Pell City; Truitt Dorsett, 38, Odenville; Warren Gandy, 52, Pell City; Michael Kay, 9, Pell City.

The only three admitted to St. Clair County Hospital were Estelle Payne, 90, Pell City; Joyce Peoples, 31, Pell City and Nell Ritch, 74, Pell City.

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Jan 16, 1975

- OBSERVER, Pell City, Ala. June 5, 1975



Disaster Aid Checks Received

Ragland Mayor Aubrey Watson and City Clerk Martha H. Hancox (Photo at left) were happy folks last Friday as Ragland took delivery of a check for \$20,563 in Federal Disaster Assistance Administration grant funds which reimburse Ragland for local funds spent in the aftermath of the Jan. 10 tornado for cleanup operations. St. Clair Civil Defense Coordinator R.L. Timmons presents Pell City Clerk Bettie Scott, (Photo at right) with a Federal Disaster Assistance Administration check for \$80,593 Friday as Pell City received the first installment of grant funds which are expected to eventually total \$322,369. Pell City Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon said the \$80,593 represents funds already spent by Pell City in cleanup operations and emergency repairs in the aftermath of the Jan. 10, tornado. Additional funds he said, would be used for such items as street repair. Also presented Friday was a check for \$15,689 for county cleanup operations. Applications for additional funds for jail and courthouse repair are being prepared, Timmons said. (Photos By August Lehe)



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Continued On Page 8

Ragland Mauled By Begins Road To Re

Alabama's only tornado-related death occurred Friday night at Ragland when J. L. Phillips, operator of a service station and grocery located along Macedonia Road, was found buried beneath the ruins of the cinder-block structure, according to authorities.

The news that Pell City had been devastated by a killer tornado had barely spread Friday afternoon when word came that Ragland had been crippled by the same twister.

Although eyewitness accounts varied regarding the appearance of the storm, virtually all described the storm in awesome tones.

"I didn't see it coming and I didn't hear it like they say you're supposed to, but I know that one minute it was just raining and the next moment it was like the world was coming to an end," one Ragland woman recalled.

Ragland Head Football Coach Bobby Beckett, who sat watching the storm from just inside the Ragland High foyer, reported furious whirling winds whipping around the school.

"The next thing I knew it was

still and then a moment later the whirling started again and moved off towards Macedonia Road. I may be wrong, maybe it never touched ground like they say—all I know is some kind of funner passed right smack over the school building," Beckett told the Observer the day after the storm.

Whatever its exact nature, the twister managed to inflict 12 casualties, one fatality, and destroy or heavily damage 101 (the count as of Wednesday) structures valued at more than one and a half million dollars, according to Ragland Mayor Aubrey Watson who was on the scene directing relief efforts minutes after the storm hit.

Watson also noted that he had received only one report, from a "reliable" witness who actually saw a funnel cloud in the sky above Ragland.

The Mayor's office also announced Tuesday that Ragland's water "crisis" has ended and most sections of the city were again being supplied with safe drinking water.

Ragland authorities said the twister carved a zig-zag path

for miles through the town with unusually heavy damage sustained at Ragland High School and in pockets along either side of Macedonia Road.

St. Clair Superintendent of Education George Eden estimated the damage to the high school to be in excess of \$250,000.

A spokesman for repair crews on the scene at the damaged school Monday estimated 60 days for completion of repairs.

"I personally don't think it will be open anytime this year, but I may be wrong," Mayor Watson said.

Despite Ragland's losses being put at one-third those sustained by Pell City, Watson said the aftermath was no less terrible.

"Words like 'less terrible' don't make you feel any better when there's death and destruction around you," Watson said.

Watson estimated that of the more than 100 building devastated, six mobile home and five conventional home were a total loss.

Ragland's ability to get by without emergency housin

uled By Twister; To Recovery

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Ragland's ability to get by without emergency housing

Friday night was attributed to the close-knit nature of the community, authorities said.

"Friends, neighbors and relatives just pitched in and opened their homes," Watson said. Three families were placed in units at the Ragland Housing Project.

"And that's one reason we're not even sure what our needs are here," Watson continued.

"Sooner or later these folks are going to need a place to stay and we need to know how many," he said.

"Just guessing, I would say that about ten or 11 families need immediate housing and another ten to 12 need some kind of temporary housing," Watson said.

Temporary, rent-free housing may be among the federal benefits to be received if Ragland is declared a disaster area by the President, authorities said Tuesday.

Other benefits to be gained from such a declaration from the President might be low-interest loans for businessmen and residents who suffered losses, authorities said.

Continued On Page 9

Ragland Mauled

Continued From Page 1

Another side of the disaster at Ragland was told by Watson as he recalled the situation as it was in Ragland just after the storm passed through.

"We didn't know how much help we were going to get, until it started rolling in from all sides."

Ragland authorities said rescue units included the St. Clair Search and Rescue Squad and the Etowah County, Harpersville, Calhoun County and Piedmont Rescue Squads.

According to Ragland Police Chief D. R. Hasker, law enforcement volunteers poured in from the Ohatchee, Vincent, Southside, Springville and Moody police departments and from the Talladega and Blount County Sheriff's Departments.

"And these guys didn't come because somebody said they had to," Hasker said, "they were all volunteers and most had already worked a regular shift at home before coming to our aid."

"Ohatchee sent practically their entire police department

and put it at our disposal," Hasker said.

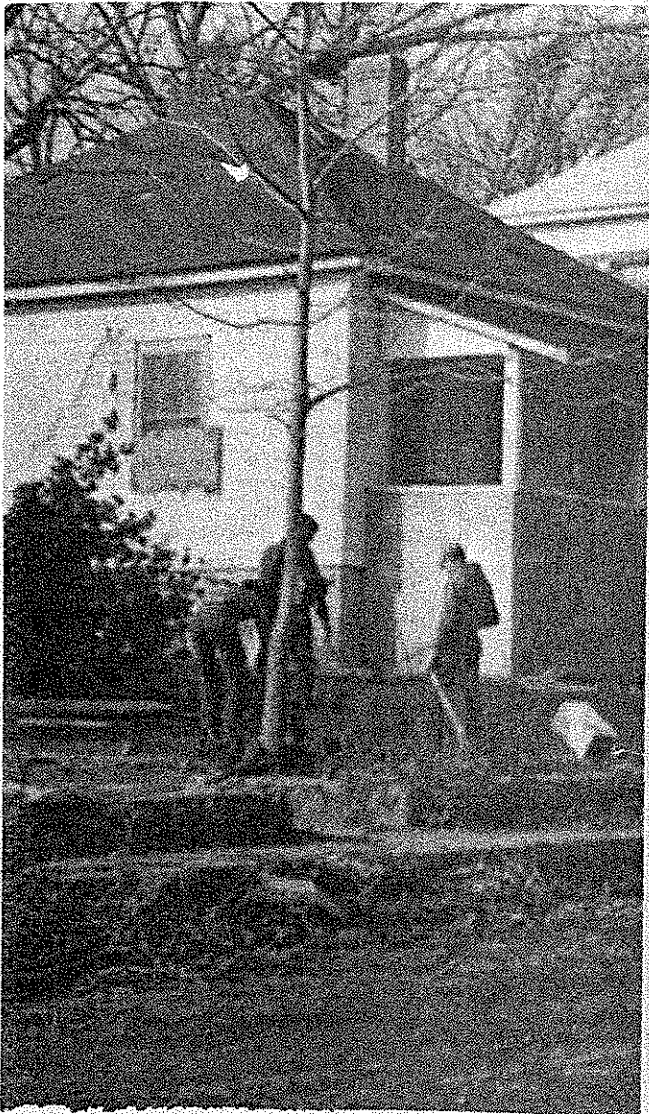
"In addition to these people, we were assisted by the Gadsden Ambulance Service, the Salvation Army, representatives of Georgia Craft Corporation, St. Clair County road crews dispatched by Dr. James McClendon and Commissioner J. B. Walters and the American Red Cross," Watson noted.

"We especially want to thank the Ragland police officers, clerks, and workers who performed their hearts out on next to no sleep throughout the past few days. And Alabama State Trooper James Norton who offered us his services early on," he said.

"I guess the list is really endless. Most of all the people of Ragland should be praised for their calmness and helpfulness. There was no rioting, no panic, and no storm-related crimes at Ragland," Hasker said.

"You can't let people like that and you can't heap too much praise on them either. Everyone just rolled up their sleeves and pitched in," Watson said.

Mennonites at



Picking Up Debris

BY JENNA WHITEHEAD
NEWS Feature Editor

The Mennonites — persons belonging to the protestant order began by Mennon Simmons in the 16th Century in Holland — came to St. Clair County to help clean-up and rebuild the damage caused by the tornado on Jan. 10.

Their arrival — totally unexpected — has proven to be a gift of God to persons who were uninsured, and without funds or the physical abilities to build back their homes. Their reasons for coming — varied on the personal level, but all reasons including one — to help a person begin their lives again.

The first group of Mennonites contained about 35 persons — women, young men, older men — farmers, contractors, students, carpenters, cattlemen and former educators — points of origin being Oklahoma, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Canada. Their transportation to Pell City was furnished at their own personal expense. Their requests for their services were shelter and food.

The first group which came

arrived on from Pennsylvania arrived on Monday, on a bus owned by a Mennonite who could not come at this time, and driven by another Mennonite who saw the need both to drive the bus and to spend time in helping his fellowman.

The Mennonites worked the first week in clearing debris, helping families to move furniture, tearing off damaged roofs and porches, tearing down walls, and then rebuilding damaged dwellings.

The first group from Pennsylvania left St. Clair County on Jan. 24, to be replaced by another group from Pennsylvania on the following Monday. The second group of workers included six families of Amish.

The group first came to Pell City following a survey of damages made by Rex Reese, an educator who agreed to become a coordinator for the Mennonite Disaster Service in Dec., 1974.

Following Reese's survey, the MDS headquarters put out word that workers were needed in Pell City, and people began to sign on to come and work.

The Mennonite Disaster Service was begun in the 1950's in Kansas following a disaster there. The spirit behind it being that which was found in the earlier history of the nation — helping a neighbor build a barn, or rebuild after a disaster occurred. From the beginnings in Kansas, the program has spread throughout the nation and throughout the world.

The people — with their religious beliefs which vary according to sects within the Mennonite faith — are strangers to this area of the country. The sects which believe in a very simple and self-reliant lifestyle dress differently, while other sects would be undetectable by their dress and lifestyles in any community.

The Mennonites from Pennsylvania and the Amish come

Rex and four young men belong to Mennonite Church. They continue to work with automobile machinery keeping it in advances in technology. current situation. "We grew up because of preference church and the beards of rebellion that way," said Alvin.

The Amish hand, growing according to Amish man's beard.

Getting the farm is a difficult come for a or a month to present workers disaster, Athens, Al Virginia, many MD

For those and many someone's farm needs, by someone.

contractor contractor businesses know that of the industry presents who are structures group trip education worthwhile classroom.

Reasons include the force of the

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—Unexpected, but welcome—

Men arrived in time of need

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Rex and Carole Reese, and four young men from Canada belong to the sect of the Mennonite Church which allows for continued education, automobiles, current tools and machinery and in general, a keeping in line with the advances brought about by technology, and with the more current styles in clothing.

"We grow our beards not because of our religion but because of our personal preferences; Members in our church and family thought that the beards were possibly a sign of rebellion, but we don't see it that way, and they don't now," said Alvin Kopp.

The Amish men, on the other hand, grow their beards according to custom. When an Amish man marries, he grows a beard.

Getting off the job or leaving the farm would seem to present a difficulty for the workers who come for a week, several weeks or a month, but it doesn't seem to present much difficulty to workers who came to this disaster, who have been in Athens, Ala., in Nelson County, Virginia, in Indiana and in on many MDS missions.

For those who live on a farm, and many most do, there is someone else at home to tend farm necessities — fathers, sons, brother, sisters — someone. For those who are contractors, or who work with contractors or in other businesses — the employers know that this practice is a part of the individual's belief, and presents no problem. For those who are students, the instructors generally consider the trip educational and more worthwhile than staying in the classroom.

Reasons for coming for many include the interest in seeing the force of the tornado which could

create such destruction, seeing another section of the country, meeting a new group of people, and learning.

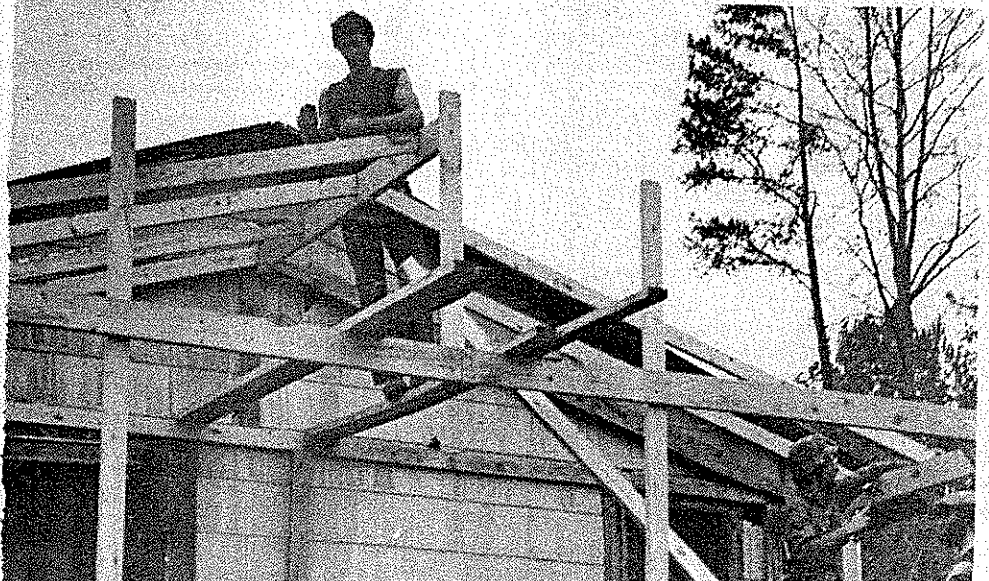
The greater number of workers through the Mennonite Disaster Service are men, but women are involved in the work. Women generally come in order to prepare the food and clean up the sleeping quarters and eating area. They work too in clearing away debris and in any capacity which they can handle.

The Canadian Mennonites, those in Pell City coming from Alberta, originated in Russia, coming to Canada in 1927. The other Mennonites and Amish came for the most part from Germany and Switzerland because of religious persecution.

The MDS, which has been in Athens since the tornado in April, 1974, will remain in St. Clair County until they have completed the task of helping persons rebuild their homes. Their services have been for the families who could not afford to rebuild, or who were physically unable to as well as financially unable to rebuild themselves. The work is a mission — a work in which their actions are speaking for the faith they believe in which they believe.



Carole Reese-Secretarial Work



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Picking Up Debris

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The Mennonites from Pennsylvania and the Amish come from the Pennsylvania Dutch country of Lancaster. They drive horses and buggies or wagons, have private schools or sometimes go only through the eighth grade in public schools.

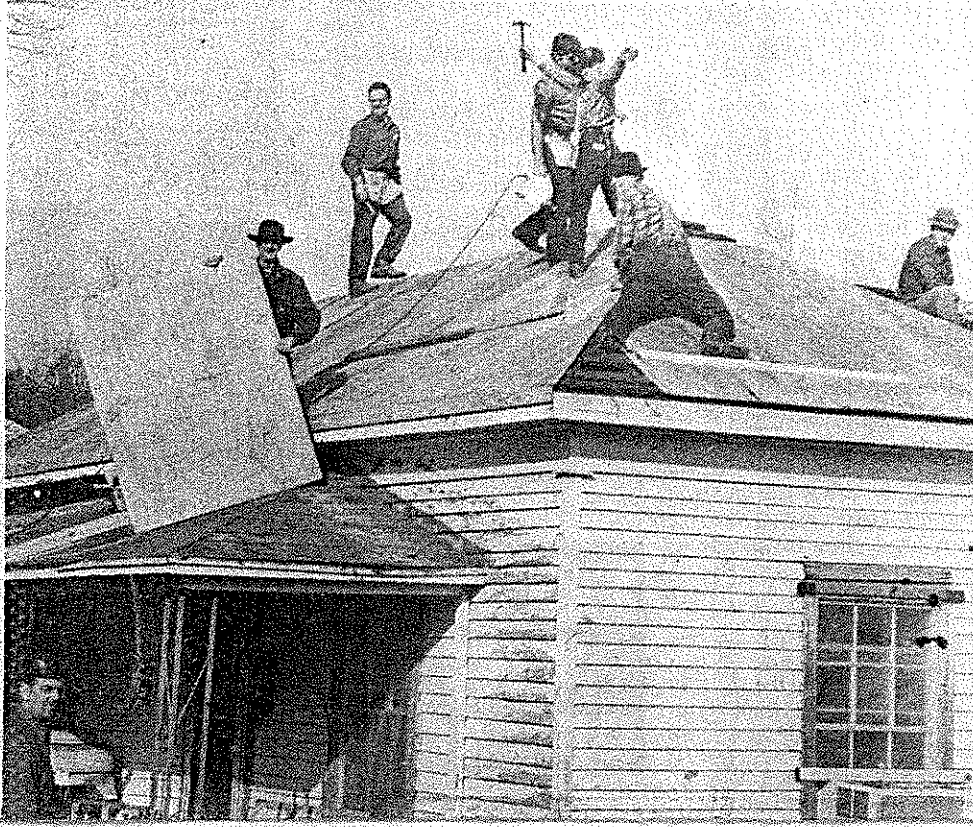
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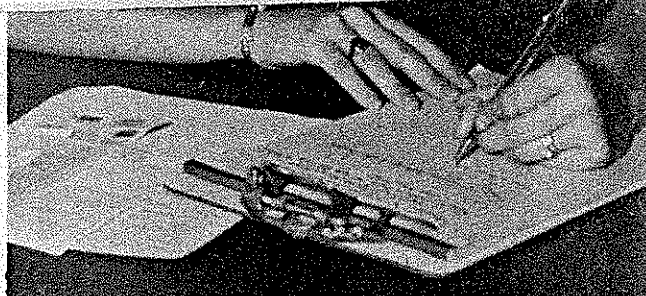
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Carole Reese-Secretarial Work



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The Amish, a strict sect of Mennonite followers, believe in a simple life, and a self-reliant life. The customs and clothing set them aside in 20th Century America as being a "different" group of people, and in following the beliefs of their sect, they are different. Most of the followers of the Amish do not believe in the personal use of machinery such as tractors, cars and machines. They light with gas lighting, farm with mules horses and plows, milk their cows by hand, use their horse and buggy for transportation, heat with wood and coal heat and stay together in their own community.

The farming methods used practiced by the Amish are simple, but effectual. Amish and Mennonite farmlands in Lancaster, are some of the finest in the nation, and their hard work pays off.

Of the stricter more conservative Mennonites in Pell City during these weeks, there are farmers who do not drive automobiles, but who do believe in the use of tractors, bulldozers and other mechanical equipment for labor.

Paul Shelley, a Mennonite minister and contractor in Brewton, Ala. on the other hand believes in the use of mechanical tools including trucks and cars.

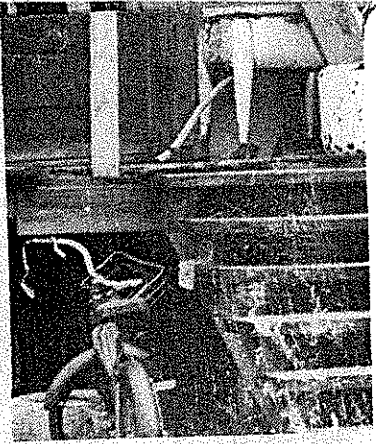
Cattlemen's Association, will head up a group of St. Clair Co, cattlemen when they attend the 32nd annual meeting of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association next Wednesday, February 12th, at the Governor's House Hotel in Montgomery.

E. Ham Wilson, executive vice president of ACA, says he expects more than 1,200 cattlemen and Cowbells from all 76 Alabama counties to attend the annual meeting.

Gov. George C. Wallace will be special guest of honor for the occasion which will feature the annual Cattlemen-Cowbells Governor's Luncheon. Jerry Clower of Yazoo City, Miss., noted nationally as one of the country's leading humorists, will be special guest speaker during the luncheon session.

During the morning sessions Wray Fine Finney, first vice president of the American National Cattlemen's Association, and Dr. Edward Uvacek, agricultural economist from Texas A&M University, will address the cattlemen.

Moderator of a panel discussion during the afternoon will be Dr. W.M. Warren, head of Auburn University's Animal Science Department. The panel will discuss "Alabama's Beef Industry — Today and Tomorrow."



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ST. CLAIR NEWS

NOW PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY TO BET

73RD YEAR-NO. 102

PELL CITY, ALABAMA

SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 2

—Tornado, Politics Dominated

1975 a historic year in

By LOUIS MURO
News Editor

1975 will have to go down as an historic one for St. Clair County.

It will be remembered primarily for one tragic night in January in which the dreams, hopes and lives of several county residents were temporarily shattered by Nature's vicious winds.

The tornado that struck Pell City, Coal City and Ragland on January 10 does not bear a name as its sister hurricane normally does. But it needs none. Anyone who had any experience with the storm and its aftermath will remember it always. January 10 is now a firmly imbedded date in the long and colorful history of St. Clair County.

While the tragic tornado was the big story in 1975, it was still a year for constant and everchanging news events. 1975 was a somewhat controversial year in political circles. It was a year in which strides were made, however.

In order to take a look back at exactly what happened in the county of St. Clair during the past year, THE NEWS offers this summary of news happenings. Today's recap will deal with events from January through June with the final part to be run in the following issue.

JANUARY

The year started on a somber note. The great strides that had been made in 1974 in preserving historical landmarks were quickly overshadowed when Southern Railway announced they were tearing down the old Pell City Depot the city's oldest landmark. The company had given Pell City one year to find a home for the depot but efforts failed and the landmark was destroyed.

The Alabama Telephone Training Center, the first of its kind, was established in Pell City with the help of Coosa Valley Telephone Company President Mrs. Jean Brandli and state vocational officials.

Mayor Bill Lee of Moody announced that the city would not annex any property without the consent of the affected landowners.

On January 10 at 4G10 p.m., the business and residential district of Pell City, Coal City and Ragland were struck by a tornado that caused some \$3.5 million in property damage and took the life of one Ragland man. Several business places in Pell City were either totally or partially destroyed and Ragland High School received considerable damage. Immediately after the tornado, rescue units from surrounding counties, the Red Cross and Civil Defense converged on the stricken area to provide aid for the homeless. It was reported that some 60 per cent of damaged dwellings left the

damages began. Soon the rebuilding process had started and Pell City began again going about its everyday business.

Meanwhile a new St. Clair County Commission was being sworn in. Chairman James S. Satterfield and commissioners Aubrey Washington of Springville and Charles Braswell of Ashville took the oath in Ashville while commissioners James Ingram of Pell City and H.T. "Buddy" Tucker of Odenville took the oath in the Pell City Courthouse.

The Alabama Public Schools and Colleges Authority announced an allocation of a \$500,000 to the St. Clair County Board of Education to go toward the building of a school in

ville won the low bid of \$1 pletion date.

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NEWS—AEGIS

TO BETTER SERVE YOU

DECEMBER 28, 1975

8 PAGES

10 CENTS PER COPY

ated The Headlines—

in St. Clair County

Asheville won the right to build the Pell City Civic Center with a low bid of \$603,305. They set a year as the eventual completion date.

FEBRUARY

The St. Clair County Commission held a special meeting in Asheville and agreed to approve a bill in the Legislature that would give the district attorney and the circuit judges an expense allowance totalling \$14,800. The bill later died because of lack of action by State Rep. Marilyn Quarles.

At the same meeting, the county highway union presented a list of demands to the commissioners that included a \$100

to the National Register.

Officials announced that a \$419,000 loan and an \$86,000 grant had been approved for the town of Riverside for the installation of a new water supply system.

The disaster office closed in Pell City, signalling an end to the tornado's aftermath.

Gov. Wallace made a long awaited appointment when he named Asheville native Wallace Wyatt as the new Probate Judge for St. Clair County. Wyatt, a former campaign coordinator for Wallace, was sworn in during ceremonies in the Asheville Courthouse. Wyatt's appointment filled the vacancy left when James S. Satterfield was elected chairman of the St. Clair County Commission.

The Pell City Council announced the awarding of bids totalling \$176,715 for a water tank and two new wells in the city.

The Asheville High School band returned from New Orleans with a third place finish in the "Greater Bands in Dixie" contest during the annual Mardi Gras celebration.

An appeals board reinstated Ms. Lil Evans to full duties as clerk in the St. Clair County Commission office after a complaint by her that chairman Satterfield had limited her duties.

The commission voted 3-2 during a special meeting to hire a clerk at a salary of \$800 per month. At the same meeting, the commission withdrew their motion recommending a salary increase for the district attorney and circuit judges.

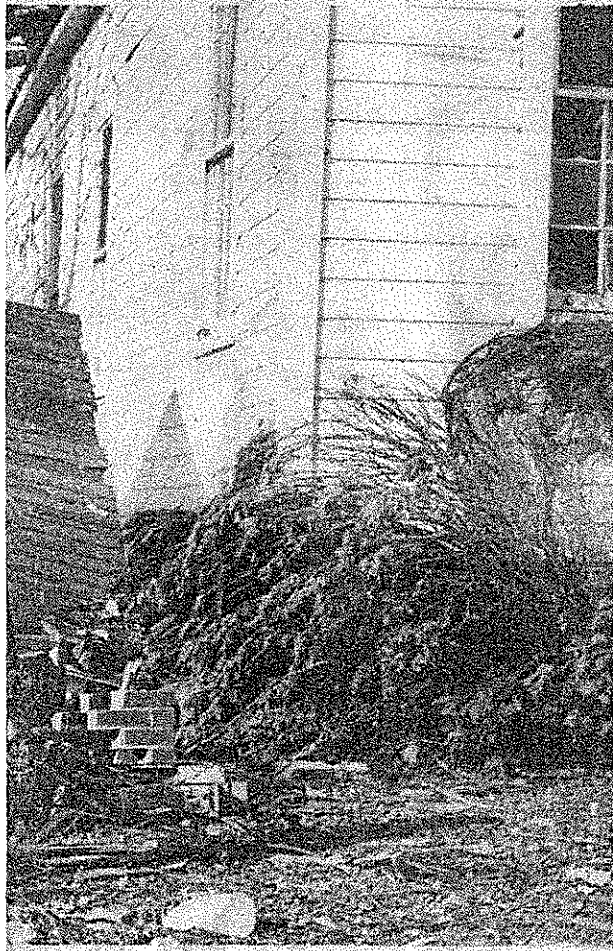
A group of concerned citizens in Pell City asked the Pell City Council to create a City School system separate from the St. Clair County Board of Education. The group cited the need for such a move and urged the city to pass a one-cent sales tax if necessary to fund the project. A joint meeting was held between the group, the council and the Board of Education on the matter. Later efforts by the group included providing a speaker, Ernest Newman of Guntersville, to fully explain a city system and how it operates. Newman cited several improvements that were made possible by the city system that would not have been possible under the county structure.

The Pell City Council gave the go-ahead to a sewer project for the Eden community.

The Moody City Council set rules and regulations for the police department and named Noel Washington chief.

MARCH

The St. Clair County Commission voted to allocate \$11,000 in revenue sharing funds to the Northwest St. Clair Water Authority (NWSCWA). This was followed up by an announcement by Gov. Wallace that \$50,000 would be made



... have been made in 1974 in preserving historical landmarks were quickly overshadowed when Southern Railway announced they were tearing down the old Pell City Depot the city's oldest landmark. The company had given Pell City one year to find a home for the depot but efforts failed and the landmark was destroyed.

The Alabama Telephone Training Center, the first of its kind, was established in Pell City with the help of Coosa Valley Telephone Company President Mrs. Jean Brandli and state vocational officials.

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St. Clair County officials immediately asked the federal government for federal aid but it was a long time coming. President Gerald R. Ford issued a temporary housing declaration the following week but stopped short of issuing a disaster declaration. This brought the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the city to provide temporary housing. A disaster survey team was brought in to view the damage as the full estimation of the



The Gloom Of January

It seems like only yesterday that Pell City was struck by a devastating tornado that almost levelled the town. The tornado which struck Pell City, Coal City and Ragland was without

question the big through the rub sites in the area

Moody. The money gave the Board \$750,000 of the needed \$1 million to build the facility.

After being extradited from Oregon, Clinton Ray Rose was found guilty of first-degree murder in the 1973 slaying of Gary Sitzler of Margaret.

The St. Clair County Commission learned during a regular meeting that their insurance covered only half of the damages done to county property during the tornado.

After eight bids were opened, C.D. Wilson & Sons of Ash-

per month se insurance pe clause and u Unemployn risen to seve The St. Cla they asked for The Henry) became the th

Sylacauga policeman arrested at restaurant in Riverside

A 23-year-old Sylacauga policeman was arrested early Christmas morning and charged with drunk and disorderly conduct after an

incident in a Riverside restaurant.

Police said Harold Ray Roach was released on bond from St.

Clair County jail after being arrested around 2 a.m. Christmas morning.

Further details on the arrest were unavailable.

INSIDE THE NEW

...1975 has been a very historic year for Clair County. See photo coverage of the news events on Pages 2 and 3.

...Jim Allen is named Man of the Year in agriculture.

...For anything you might need classified ads on Page 6.



m Of January 10

question the biggest news story in 1975. Here, a boy makes his way through the rubble of a fallen roof and a smashed car, common sites in the area after January 10. (NEWS Photo By Louis Muro)

per month salary increase, family insurance, a \$10,000 life insurance policy, an additional holiday, a cost-of-living clause and uniforms.

Unemployment figures revealed that the jobless rate had risen to seven per cent during January.

The St. Clair County Grand Jury issued a report in which they asked for a crackdown on the sale of beer to minors.

The Henry Looney home on Greensport Road near Ashville became the third structure in St. Clair County to be admitted

chairman Satterfield had limited her duties.

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Public Service Commissioner Jim Zeigler spoke in the Pell City Courthouse on the rising costs of electric bills. Zeigler charged the power company with being given a "blank check" with the energy cost adjustment Zeigler's visit was also designed to get interested persons to attend a public hearing in Montgomery on the subject.

Jobless figures for February revealed that unemployment had again risen to 7.6 per cent.

The proposed \$600,000 Civic Center was moved before it was built. The council decided to move the structure from U.S. 78 to a location in Cropwell. The move put the complex on the Lake while also providing more room for a park area. The council later voted to for matching funds from Coosa Resource, Conservation and Development (Coosa RC&D) for

(See 1975 Page 3)

THE NEWS

in a very historic year for St. Clair County. The photo coverage of the major events is on Pages 2 and 3.

was named Man of the Year in 1975.

If you might need check our news on Page 6.

James Moreland—

Odenville mayor pledges involvement with people

Odenville Mayor James E. Moreland, 45, was born in Odenville and had served on the Odenville City Council nine years.



Rubble From Jan. 10 Tornado



Several Houses Were Destroyed

—Helps the unak

Youth Squad plays large r

Tearing down and rebuilding — work that is going on still in many parts of Pell City. The tearing down and rebuilding of some of the structures damaged in the tornado of Jan. 10, is being done by private contractors and individual owners. For other households — those who were uninsured, underinsured and cannot afford to buy materials, hire labor and are physically unable to rebuild for themselves — the work is being done by the Mennonite Disaster Service, and for the past two weeks and until March 10, a group called the Youth Squad is playing a large role with the Mennonite Disaster Service in Pell City.

The Youth Squad, which is composed of seven males ranging in age from 18 to 23, was assembled during the summer of '74. It began on Sept. 10 in Akron, Pa. when the second Youth Squad in the 25 year history of the Mennonite Disaster Service was formed.

The group of males signed on for six months of service, assigned to work in disaster areas, sometimes as a follow-up crew — to rebuild houses in the weeks and months following a disaster.

As in Pell City, they work alongside Mennonites and Amish persons who come for a week, two weeks, a month or however long they can, to rebuild the homes and in part

the lives of virtually helpless persons. The service itself is a mission — a loving of fellowmen as was taught by Jesus Christ.

The Youth Squad is led by Amos Lantz, a 23 year old from Lancaster, Pa. who initially signed on with MDS for two years. His primary interest, when joining, lay with using his plane, a Cessna 182, to fly supplies for the MDS in Honduras, in Central America, where the MDS has volunteers working in disaster work.

Upon signing on for two years, however, Amos was asked to lead the Youth Squad for a period of six months, and that he has done. Prior to his mission work, he was in a roofing business for himself. He comes from an Amish family, he himself is Mennonite.

Along with Amos, the Youth Squad includes John Brubaker, 20 year old dairy farm worker from Lancaster, Pa.; Mel Hathaway, 18 year old carpenter's assistant from Hannibal, Mo.; Curt Fenton, 20 year old carpenter's assistant and college student from Philadelphia, Mo.; Dan Denlinger, 20 year old plumber from Lancaster, Pa.; Doug Jantzi, 19 year old college student from Silez, Ore.; and Ron Lapp, 19 year old carpenter's assistant from Kalispell, Montana.

The reasons for each one joining the Youth Squad vary, but each answered the newsletter put out by the MDS

requesting youth to volunteer for the six month program — if they were interested in travelling around the country, and working for six months in clean-up and construction for persons who were a unable to do so themselves.

The Youth Squad, after orientation in Akron, first went to Elmira, N.Y. to work in reconstruction in the aftermath of floods. Their next assignment was into Ontario, Canada to work in the aftermath of a flood there, then back to Elmira.

The next assignment was for Louisville, Ky. and then onto Stamping Grounds, Ky. where they spent a couple of months, completing exterior jobs, building a home, a garage and a Baptist Church. From Stamping Grounds, the Youth Squad moved into St. Clair County, where they have been involved in reroofing, re-windowing, and working on tearing down and rebuilding four homes — from the ground up.

Amos, who has coordinated the Squad's work with the MDS workers, R.L. Timmons, Civil Defense Director for St. Clair County, and local churches, discusses with homeless families the needs which a family has. Amos then draws up house plans, figures the amounts of material needed, the cost and presents the information to the owners and church groups who are helping families in the purchase of building materials where

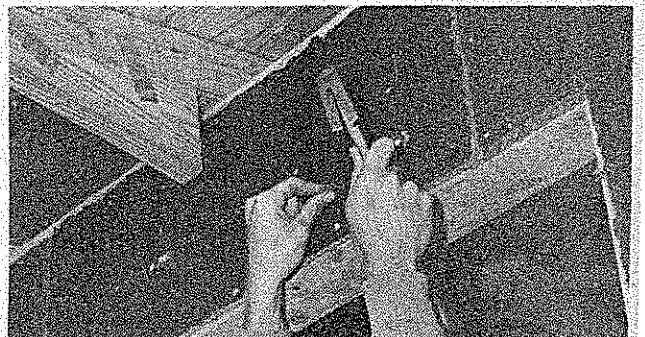
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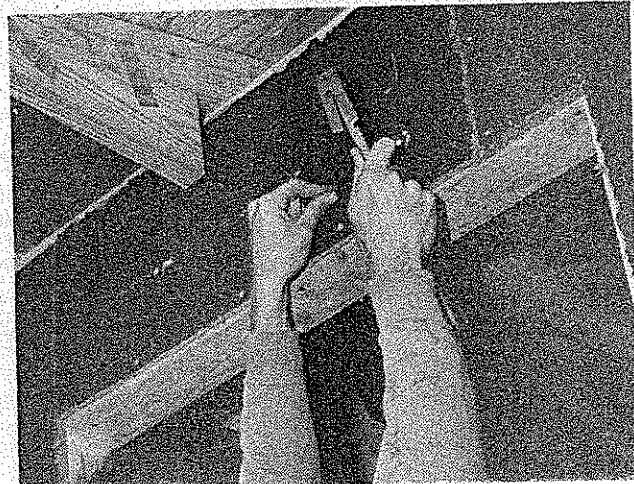
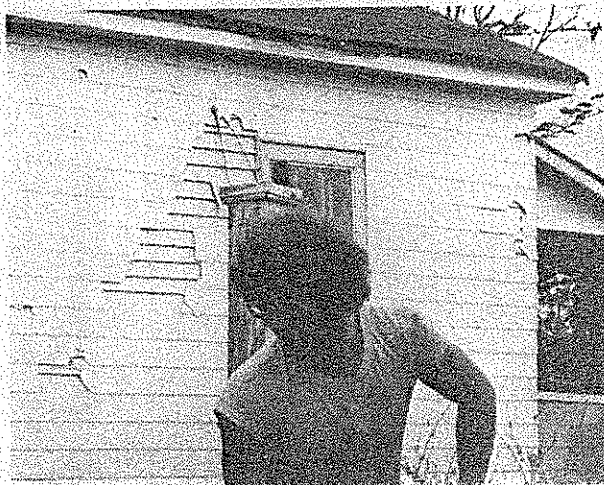
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necessary.
The Youth Squad, along with the other 21 MDS workers in the area at present, are staying at the Cooks Springs Baptist Camp. Their food, which is prepared in the morning and evening by female MDS workers, is being provided for by the United Methodist Church Disaster Relief Program, which is also working with the Mennonites in that they are purchasing building materials so that the MDS workers might accomplish their rebuilding program.

The Youth Squad members are paid \$20 per month, and are supplied by MDS with transportation. Their food and shelter are the only requests they make of a community.

The city of Pell City works with the MDS, in that once a house is torn down, the city removes the foundation with bull dozers and hauls away the debris. From that point, construction is handled by the MDS.

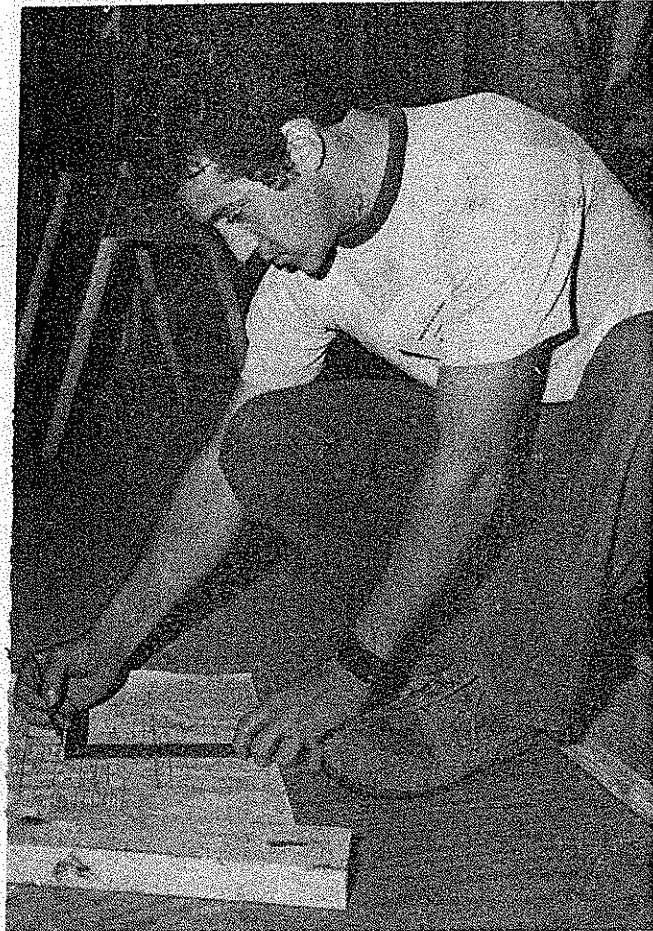
For each of the seven members of the Youth Squad, their time together has been a learning and growing experience — some in learning more about carpentry and construction, but mostly in learning how to live and work with six other people day in and day out — adjusting to another's way of performing the same task, and still working together.

At each site, according to Dan Denlinger, there is no set boss.

In rebuilding or tearing down, the most experienced person assumes the lead, and this changes from day to day.

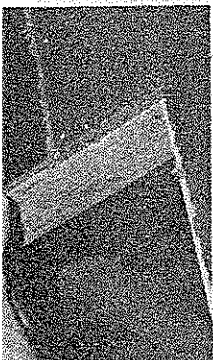
For the Youth Squad, their six month mission is a living and performing of their Christian belief, and for some of them, it is only the start of their service — as with Amos, and Ron, who has signed on for two years work in mission work through the Mennonite Central Committee Voluntary Service Program to work in hospitals, and possibly the beginning of two more years for John Brubaker and Mel Hathaway who may sign on for two years service in the future.

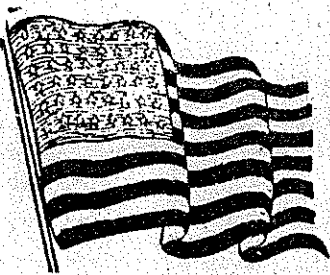
For the residents whose homes are being rebuilt, such as Mrs. Geneva Rich, the services of the MDS is the only way they could possibly move back into a home of their own — their services are truly a gift from God.



Amos Lantz- -Leader

BY
Jenna
Whitehead
Feature
Editor





102ND YEAR-NO. 4

BERVIL DAVIS
505 26TH ST NO
PELL CITY ALA 35125
C-1

CLAIR N

NOW PUBLISHED TWICE WEEK

ALABAMA

THURSDAY MORNING

—In light of \$5 million twis

'Disaster' title mo

By LARRY CAMP
NEWS Managing Editor

As of NEWS press time Wednesday, the tornado-stricken areas of Pell City, Ragland and Coal City had not been designated "disaster areas" by President Gerald R. Ford, but State officials think it's only a "matter of time" before he does.

According to Billy Joe Camp, press secretary to Governor George C. Wallace, a telegram requesting the disaster area title was forwarded with statistical information on the area to President Ford about

noon Tuesday.

The disaster title opens a wide range of federal aid programs to victims of the tornado here which Red Cross and State Civil Defense officials estimate caused in excess of \$5 damage to homes and businesses.

"The Governor has been in close contact with the situation since the storm hit last Friday," Camp told THE NEWS. "He immediately ordered out National Guard troops and sent State Civil Defense Director C.J. Sullivan as his representative," Camp added. Gov. Wallace said "We all

regret very much this terrible disaster which hit St. Clair County and particularly the Pell City and Ragland area. But, we are going to do everything we can to assist the people there in making the recovery I know they will make."

"I am told by those who represented me that the spirit of the people in Pell City and Ragland was tremendous and I'm sure that with a cooperative effort at the local, state and federal levels, we can relieve much of the suffering and loss," Wallace remarked. "We would (See Disaster Page 7A)

Ragland buries its dead; lists \$2 million damages

By LOUIS MURO
News Editor

RAGLAND—St. Clair County's only fatality after the Friday afternoon tornado was buried here Monday as authorities estimated the cost of damages to some 88-90

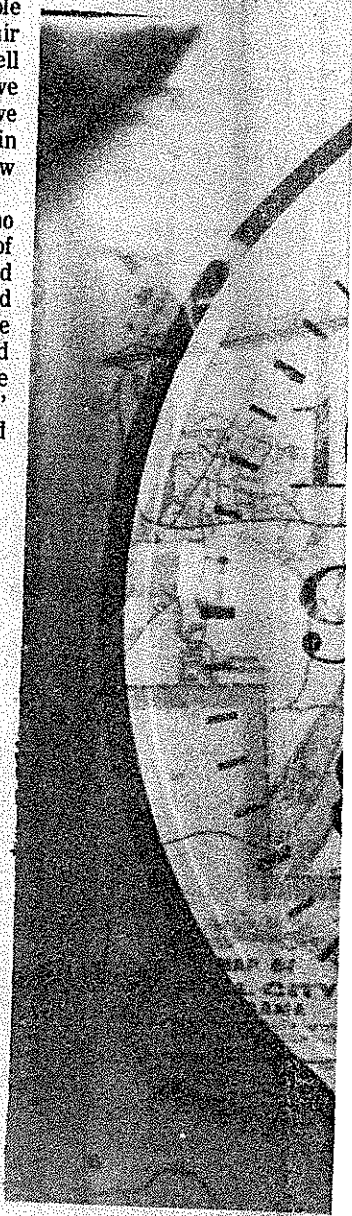
homes, two businesses and High School at \$1,750,000.

Clean-up operations continued at Ragland High School and throughout the city this week with volunteer and city workers hauling away loads of debris from all parts of

Ragland. Red Cross units, along with volunteers, were in the city providing shelter and food for the homeless.

While the clean-up and aid activity continued in the city, funeral services were held Monday for 49-year-old Ross Phillips, Jr., who was killed when the store in which he was in was struck by the tornado, causing the building to collapse on him. The services for Phillips, a self-employed pulpwood worker, were held at Gray's Chapel Baptist Church with interment in the Macedonia Cemetery. Rev. Greenwood and Rev. Kirk p resided over the ceremony.

The World War II veteran is



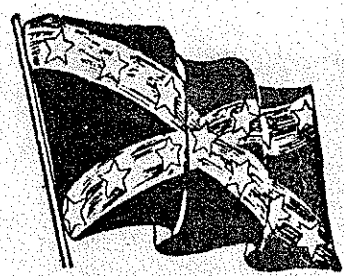
Thanks, Neighbor!

Many times in times past we have all heard the

A time and date which h

NEWS—AEGIS

WEEKLY TO BETTER SERVE YOU



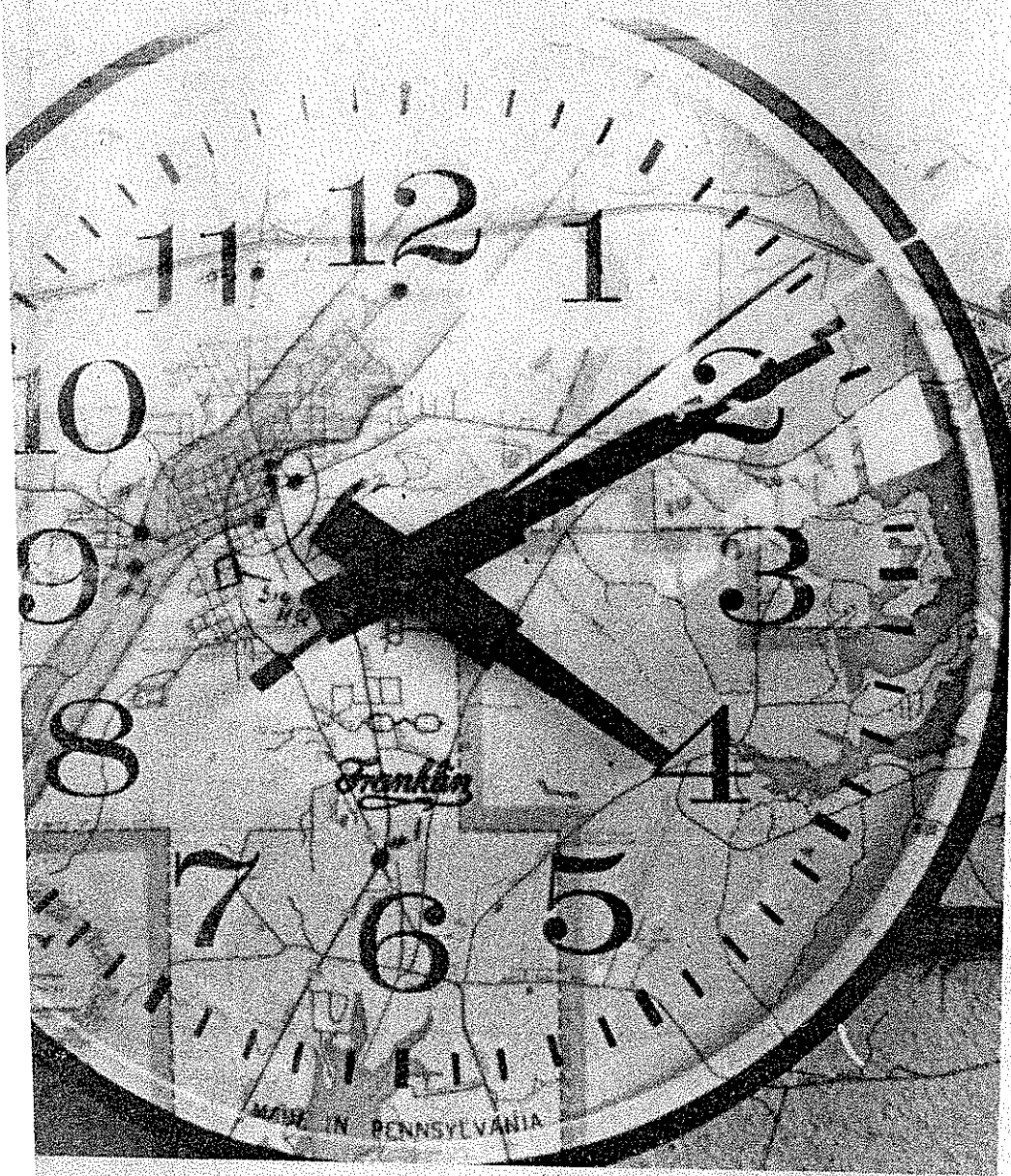
MORNING, JANUARY 16, 1975

18 PAGES

10 CENTS PER COPY

Twister damages—

matter of time



Disaster At 4:10 P.M.

...now become history in the lives of ... City area and moving on to kill and devastate homes and schools ... is 4:10 p.m., Friday, January 10 ...

Opinion Miracles often do happen

By LARRY CAMP
NEWS Managing Editor

Reflecting on the events of Friday past, one is led to think about the lyrics to that old song which go something like "Miracles Happen Now and Then."

★
LARRY
CAMP
★



Because, if ever there was a miracle, the fact that no one in Pell City, and only one person in Ragland, was killed is a true miracle.

We've heard a lot of speculation in the aftermath of the twister which came calling at 4:10 p.m. January 10, as to why the loss of life was not greater.

"It could have been the time of day. It could have been because a lot of the younger people who live in mobile homes both work and had their children in kindergarten. It could have been because it was just about the time most people were not in those 250-odd homes that were seriously or totally demolished."

All those "could have been's" might very well be the reason only one person was killed in St. Clair County.

We are a bit more inclined to believe, however, that it "could

from the goodness of so many hearts. . . and it is greatly appreciated.

Help, in the form of chain saws, vehicles, emergency generators, doctors, food, money — you name it — has flooded into Pell City with the sole intent of helping a neighbor.

Groups and individuals from Shelby, Jefferson, Calhoun, Cullman, Madison, Dekalb, Blount, Clay, Etowah, Talladega and individual municipalities were on the scene rendering aid and helping clear the area within a matter of minutes and hours.

During the past week while clean up and utility crews continued their efforts, we have heard so many people speak of the "beauty" and goodness of our "neighbors."

Speaking on behalf of the residents of Pell City, Ragland and surrounding areas, THE NEWS would like to sincerely thank, from the bottom of all our hearts, these fine people who so unselfishly gave of their time and energies in our time of need.

As one local business has put it: "Three cheers for our friends. Thanks so very much."

to the high school and homes but not to the industrial property. National Cement Co. was damaged but the extent of the damages is not known.

Watson said a "constant stream" of relief has come into Ragland since the storm, including the Red Cross. The

(See Ragland Page 9A)

Bulletin

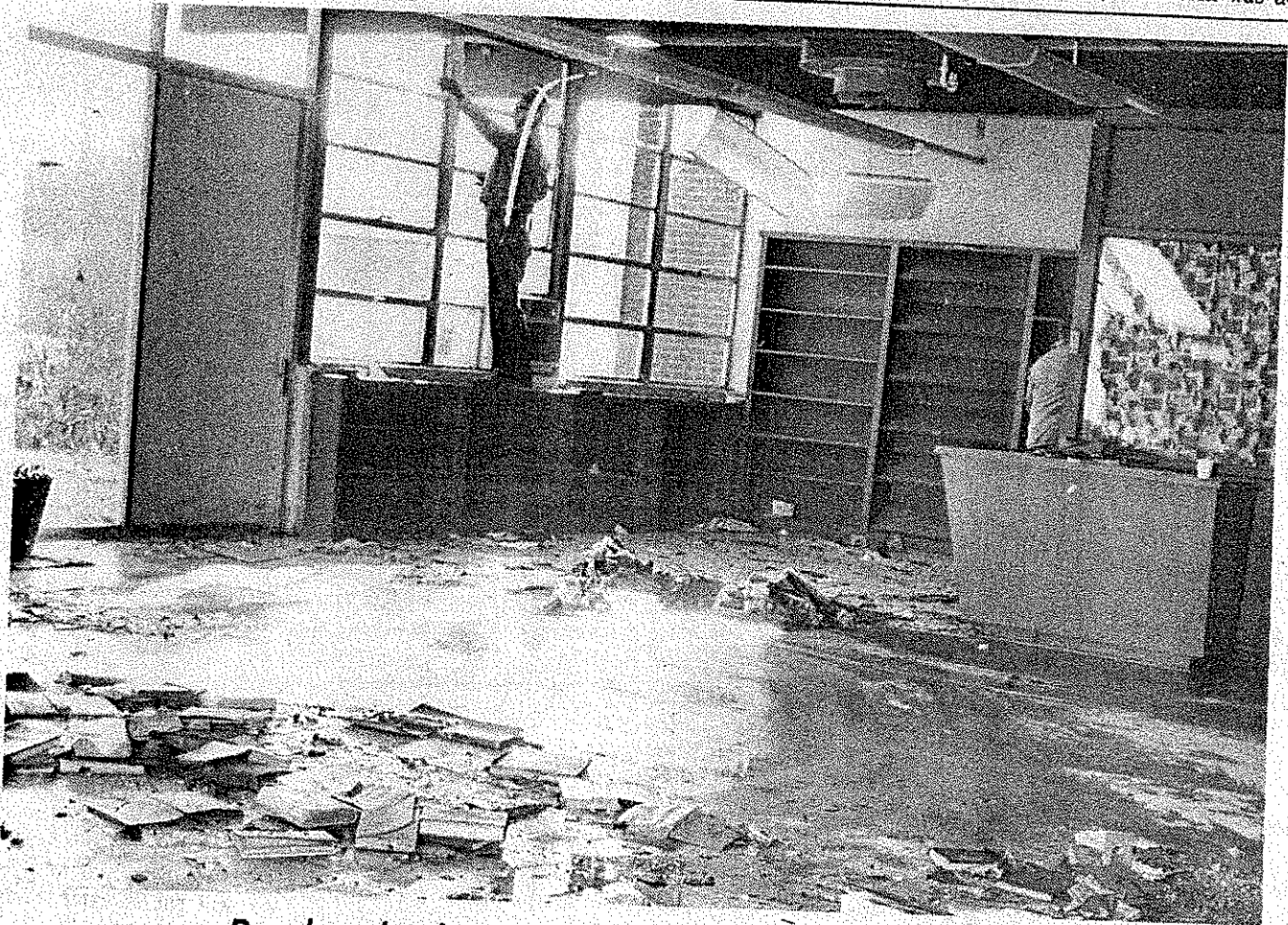
Ragland High School will be open Thursday morning at the regular schooltime. Students will load under regular bus routes and will be taken to the school complex where there, they will receive further instructions. All students will be required to furnish own lunch. Milk will be furnished.

In the wake of the tornado which struck Pell City and the Coal City area, leaving 2 residences with damage, the number of families left virtually homeless was considered to be 60 per cent of the number of homes damaged, according to an estimate by Mrs. Betty Jackson, Director of the St. Clair County Department of Pensions and Security.

Mrs. Jackson, in the estimate given on Monday, stated that this figure included residences which were damaged to the point where electricity could not be turned on or heat retained.

Services set up for the victims of Friday's tornado were coordinated by the Red Cross, the DPS, and Civil Defense Director for St. Clair County, R.L. Timmons.

Immediate aid to persons trapped by the storm was ad-



Ragland Library—2,000 Books Destroyed

—While cleaning up v

Tornado victims but, not all could

BY JENNA WHITEHEAD
NEWS Feature Editor

Each person who was in the vicinity of the tornado and high winds of Friday afternoon has a story to tell — where they were, what they did, how they reacted. For most, the story comes out readily, with a sort of excitement — the excitement of having come through the fracas intact. For others, such as Mrs. Emma Herren, who resided at 26th 9th Ave. North in the mill village, the story hasn't come out. She isn't talking much — in fact she doesn't bear much of the conversation going on around her. Mrs. Herren, who is 75, seems to "sit and study" a great deal.

Mrs. Herren was alone at the time the tornado struck, and were many other people. The roof was torn away in part, and that which remained was lifted up. The kitchen in the rear of the house was torn off. It was a terrifying time.

For Jan Eger, UPS girl, the storm was looking up from the center of the Pell City Steak House, where she moved for safety, and seeing her UPS truck coming in, seemingly through the front door into the building.

A mother in the mill village got worried about the high winds, lifted her baby from the sofa and dove under the bed in the bedroom — shutting off the living room. When she went back minutes later, the sofa was buried beneath debris.

For some of the customers in A&P, the storm meant rushing towards the front, and a flurry to get to their families, until urged back by manager Harold Edge. For one lady in front of A&P, the storm was spent in front of shopping carts in shelter from the storm — on the

Mrs. Betty Turner of Pell City Grocery was questioning why the lights had gone off, when the store awning collapsed and the sound of shattering glass came from all directions — the store was not greatly harmed, with the exception of the awning, which just bent down, and upstairs windows.

One lady was leaving Pell City Rexall Drug just as the winds came, and upon deciding to go back into the building, she had a struggle with her purse, which was being pulled by the winds. Hughell Goodgame was in the same drugstore, flattened out on his stomach when the storm struck, knowing that the glass would come any minute to rip the body.

O.B. Wright had just driven into his yard when the force hit, and he sat, unscathed, while his house was hit — in the middle of great destruction — his house fared well. Mr. Wright was on the hall floor praying.

At 4:10 p.m. or thereabouts on Friday, families were scattered — some at work, some at home, some involved with outside activities. The concern of each person was to find and touch the absent family members.

Julian Gossett, from Gossett's hardware on Cogswell Ave. jumped into his truck, and made the four block trip to his trailer to check on his wife and son. The truck went over trees, wires, telephone poles and debris. His trip home seemed long, but took only a few minutes. His trip back to the store — around trees, poles and debris — took considerably longer.

Rev. Jimmy Coleman, pastor of Arbor Baptist Church had three family members to locate. His daughter was at home, his wife was shopping at A&P, and

school. Three and one-half hours passed before he verified their safety. He had difficulty coming into the city, as security and roadblocks began immediately.

Persons on their way home from work, or those at work in places other than Pell City spent an eternity reaching the city, and Leland Gossett, St. Clair Ambulance Service, who heard about the tragedy en route delivering a palie East Endrom Moody to Hospital, made the trip back from the hospital in 18 minutes.

Speed laws were broken in reaching the area, and personal safety became a minor consideration.

The security provided for the safety of the citizens kept families from making contact, but eventually all connections were made, and the amount of property damage began to seep through. The actual horror of the disaster, however, took days for some. Some persons passed Friday night and Saturday, and broke down in tears on Sunday. Penetration of the magnitude of the wind force and the danger and the damage, as is common, has taken and will take a while to set in.

Friday night people wanted to stay close to home — for those with severe property damage, it was a matter of hanging onto what was left.

By 9 p.m. on Friday, the rains had stopped and the stars were shining. Saturday was bright and clear and beautiful — a fine day for surveying the damages. For some, Saturday was a time for picking up bits and pieces of all material goods they possessed. For others, it was a day for covering up holes and leaks against whatever the

ing up was order of the day—

ims all had a story...

ould voice the words

and one-half
fore he verified
had difficulty
city, as security
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their way home
those at work in
than Pell City
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nd Gossett. St.
ce Service, who
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back from the
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were broken in
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or picking up bits
all material goods
ed. For others, it
covering up holes
inst whatever the

seemed somewhat of a lark —
going to see what tragedy had
come down on others.
Sunday's cold and rain
brought no relief to the people,
but found those individuals,
rescue squads, county workers,
city workers, Alabama Power
Co. linemen, and Continental
Telephone Co. employees still
on the job, as they had been
since just after the tornado on
Friday evening, clearing up the
trees, taking away the debris
and restoring electricity,
telephone service, and gas —
trying to get households which
were not damaged back to
normal operations. Some of the
damaged homes can never get
back into normal operations.
Despite the rain and cold and
predicted lower temp-

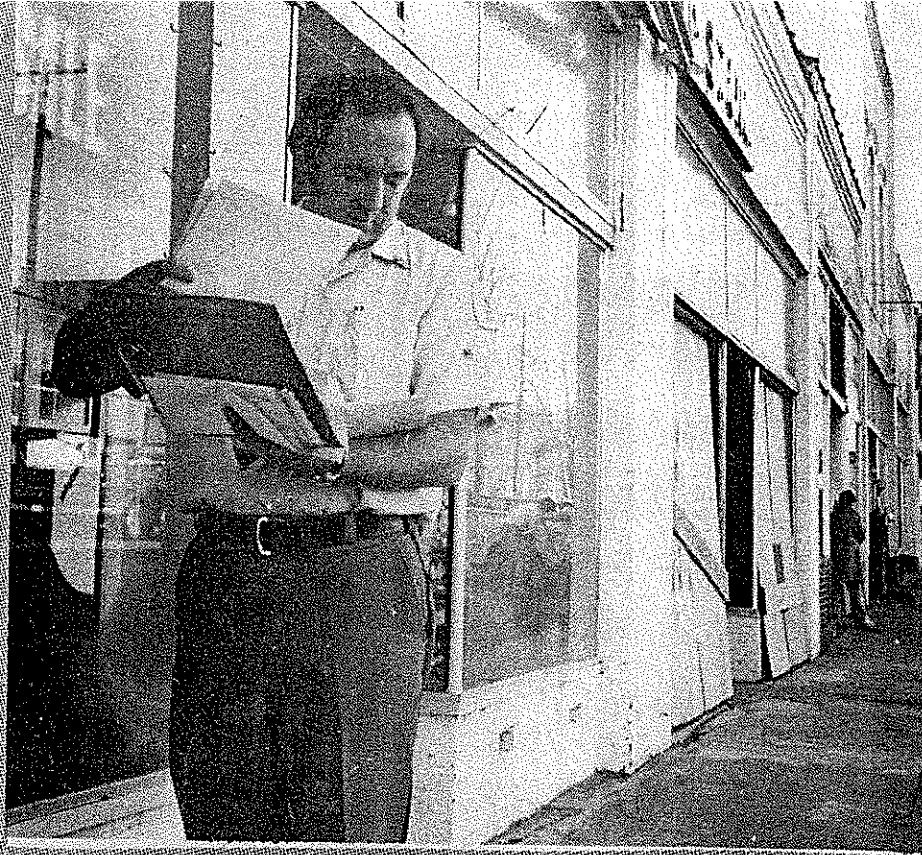
Thank you Lord

Thank you Lord
Is all we can say
After the terrible disaster
That happened that day.
The business' ruined
The homes torn down
The belongings all gone
Never to be found
The sick and the injured
The heart broken too,
It's all hard to believe
And it doesn't seem true

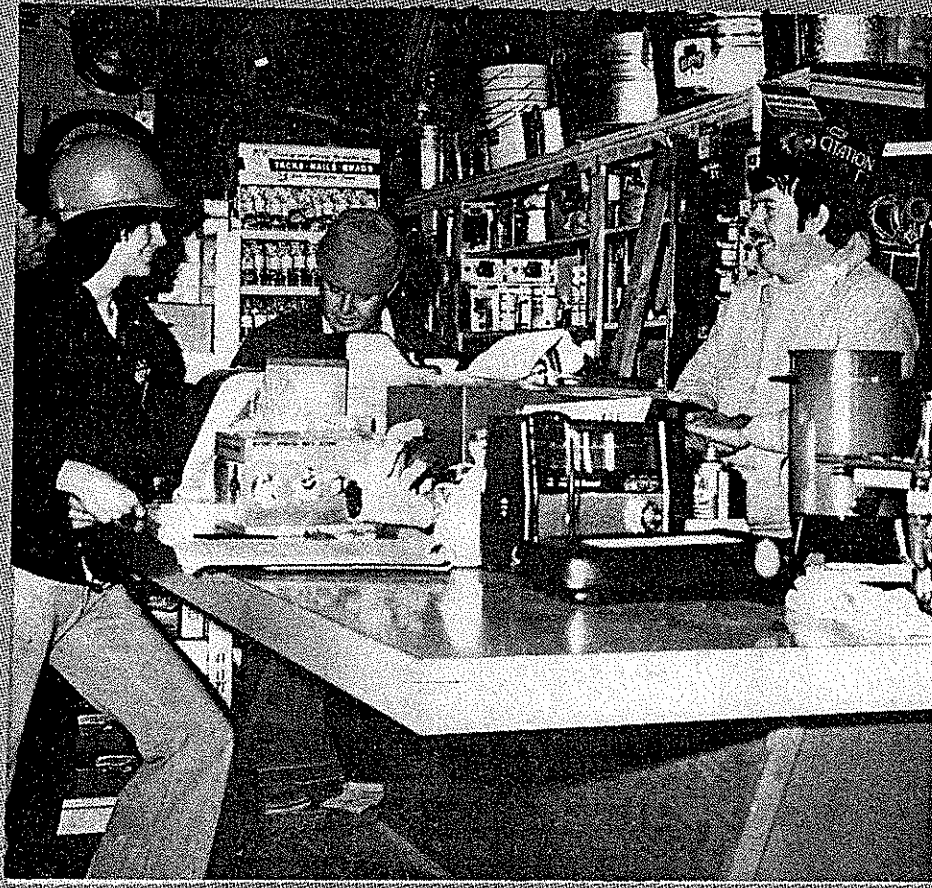
But I still say Thank You
To the heavenly skies
And if your really wondering
I'll tell you why,
Because Thanks to God that
Watches over above,
He spared all the lives of the
ones we love!

Lisa Abercrombie
13 years old
1-12-75





*Saturday Morning Neither Rain Nor Hail
Nor Sleet Snow Or Tornadoes*



Julian Gossett-Right

Saw, Joneses Layton On Dozer



Young And Old Aid Clean-Up



Picking Up Bits And Pieces

When disaster strikes—

There is always someone to help



Red Cross Caseworkers—Disaster Victims



Special Lines For
Disconnected Comm



Emergency Food Stamps Center

in 64p (State)—(12-74)

Consolidated Report of Co
f Asheville in
Business on December 31

Cash and due from banks (including
(a) U.S. Treasury securities
(b) Obligations of Federal Finance
Obligations of other U.S. Governme
Obligations of States and political s

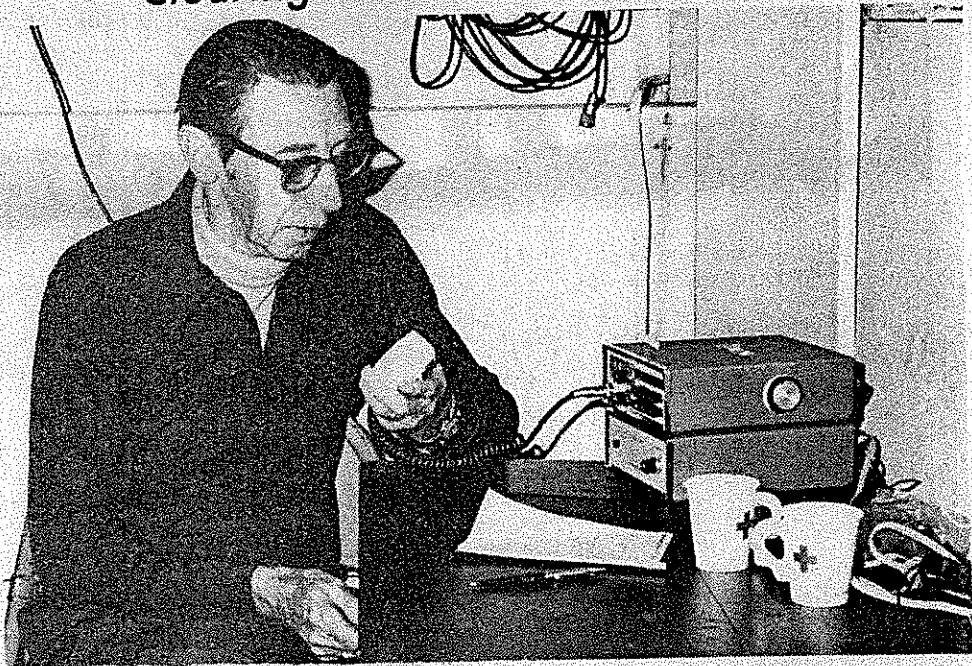
o help



Clearing Debris From Cogswell



ines For A
ed Community



HAM Radio Operators, Walter Spitzform

State Bank No. 61-255

PUBLISHER'S COPY

Report of Condition of " Ashville Savings Bank
in the State of Alabama and Domestic Subsidiaries at the close

Tornado dam



Pell City Homes Buried By Tornado



It Was A Sturdy House

RESCUE + SQUA
DODGE

orm

Form 64p (1

Consoli
of... Pe

damage in Pell City



Young Pell City Boy Surveys Damage

Form 64p (State)—(12-74)

State Bank No. 01-1570

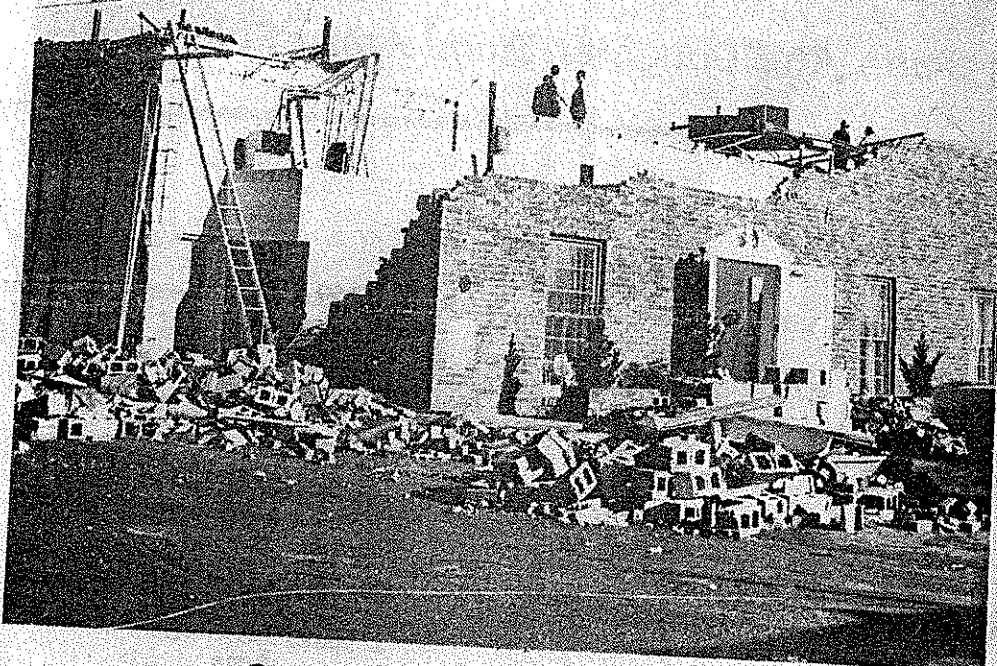
PUBLISHER'S COPY

Consolidated Report of Condition of " Union State Bank "

of Pell City in the State of Alabama and Domestic Subsidiaries at the close of

business on December 31, 1974

It Was A Sturdy House



Coosa Valley-Great Rubble



Picking Out Files—Papers

**AVAILABLE
SPACE FOR RENT OR LEASE**

**Consolidat
of... Pell C
business on**

1. Cash and due
2. (a) U.S. Treas
- (b) Obligation
3. Obligations of
4. Obligations of
5. Other securities
6. Trading account
7. Federal funds
8. Other loans
9. Bank premises
10. Real estate own
11. Investments in
12. Customer's liab
13. Other assets (a
14. TOTAL ASSETS

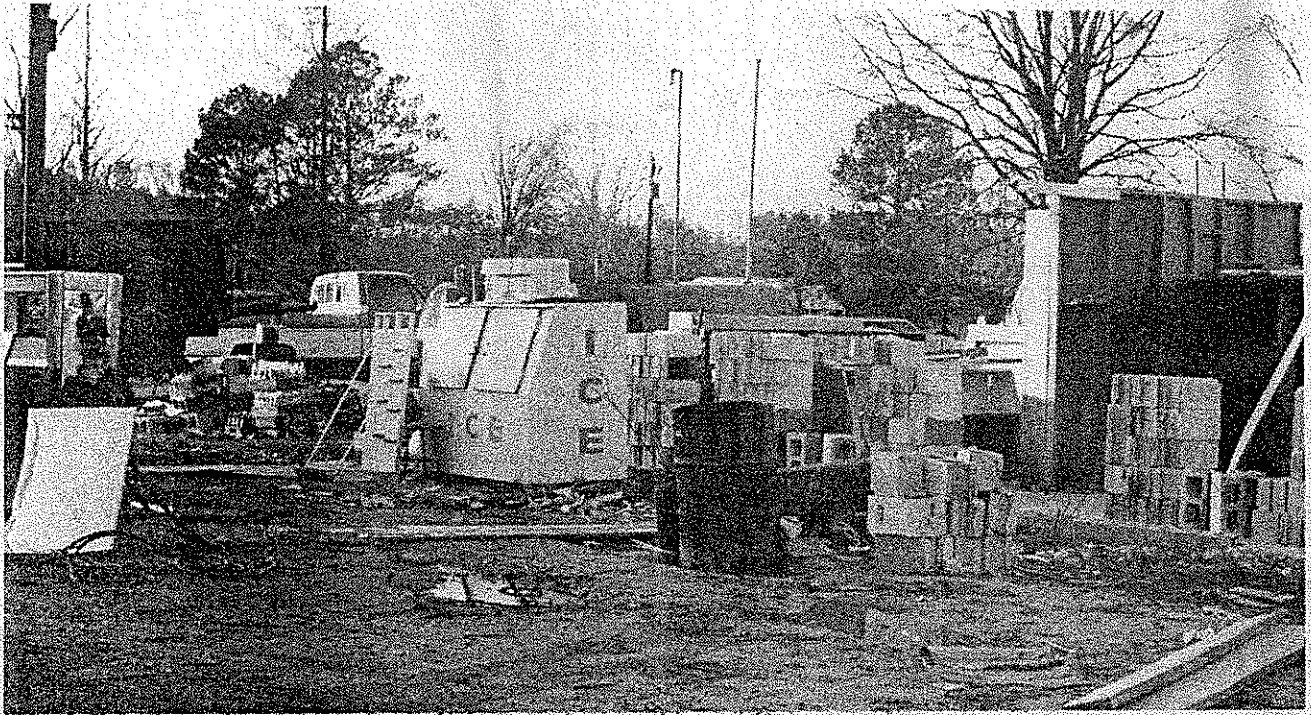
15. Demand deposits
16. Time and savings
17. Deposits of United
18. Deposits of States
19. Deposits of foreign
20. Deposits of comm
21. Certified and offic
22. TOTAL DEPOSIT
- (a) Total demand
- (b) Total time an
23. Federal funds purch
24. Other liabilities for b
25. Mortgage indebtedne
26. Acceptances executed
27. Other liabilities
28. TOTAL LIABILITIES
29. MINORITY INTER

- R E S**
30. Reserve for bad debt
31. Other reserves on loan
32. Reserves on securities
33. TOTAL RESERVES

34. Capital notes and debent
- (specify interest rate)
35. Equity capital, total
36. Preferred stock-total
- (No. shares outstan
37. Common stock-total
- (No. shares authori
38. Surplus
39. Undivided profits
40. Reserve for contingen
41. TOTAL CAPITAL ACC
42. TOTAL LIABILITIES,

1. Average of total deposits
2. Average of total loans for
3. Unearned discount on ins
4. Standby letters of credit

Disaster scene



What Once Was A Store on Coal City Road



The Remains Of A Trailer On Coal City Road

s at Coal City



Remains Of Smith Trailer Park



Lois Smith And Daughter Stand Amidst Ruins

durin
Pla
rain
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These people gave of themselves—

Rendered their services



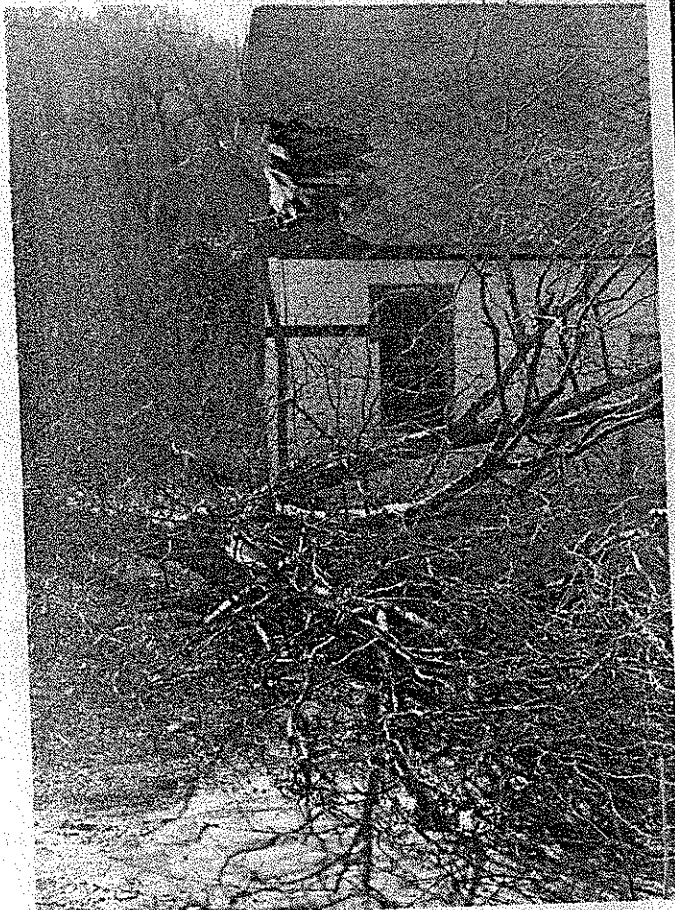
Salvation Army- Major Delaney



Seventh Day Adventists



Tornado damage at Ragland



Wind Blown Tree And Battered House



Sign At RHS-Bought By Students



Form 64p (State)-(12-74)

Consolidated Report of
of... Springville
business on December 31

1. Cash and due from banks (incl



One Of Many Structures Roof-Less In Ragland



Clean-Up Continued At Ragland High School

State Bank No. 65-5

PUBLISHER'S COPY

Report of Condition of "Bank of Springville" in the State of Alabama and Domestic Subsidiaries at the close of December 31, 1974.

ASSETS
 Name (unreported debits)

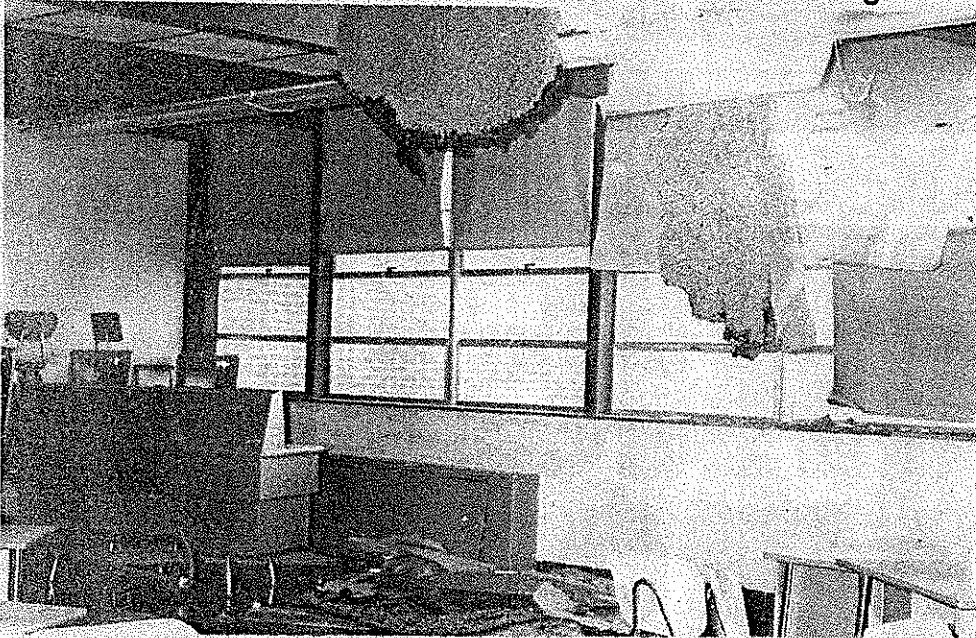
DOLLARS		Cts.
362	200	50
XXX	XXX	XX
		1

Wind Blown Tree And Battered House

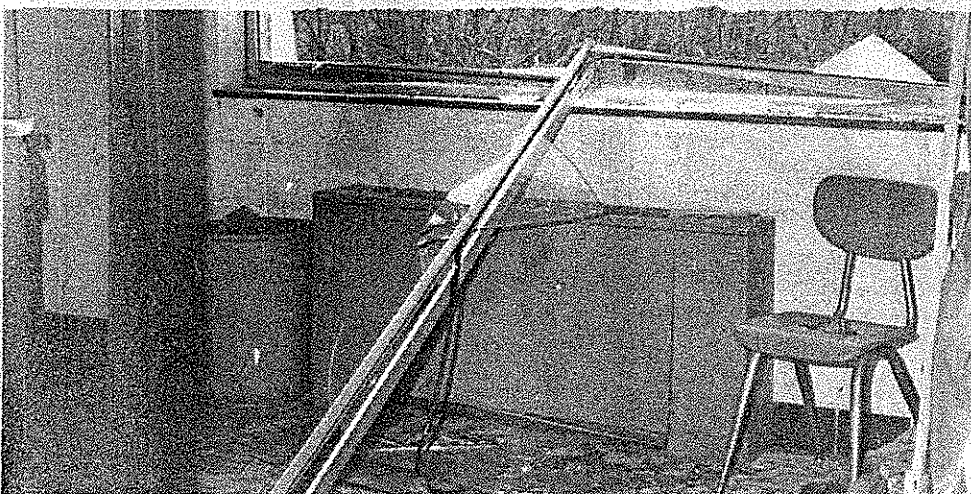


Sign At RHS-Bought By Students

Ragland Family Begins The Job Of Rebuilding



Damaged Classroom At Ragland High School



Teacher's Lounge At Ragland Took Brunt Of Storm

Form 64p (State)-(12-74)

**Consolidated Report
of ... Springville ...
business on Decer**

1. Cash and due from ba
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8. Other loans.....
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10. Real estate owned of
11. Investments in subsidi
12. Customer's liability t
13. Other assets (item
14. TOTAL ASSETS

15. Demand deposits of
16. Time and savings de
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- (b) Total time an
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26. Acceptances execute
27. Other liabilities.....
28. TOTAL LIABILIT
29. MINORITY INTE

R E

30. Reserve for bad del
31. Other reserves on li
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- (No. shares ou
37. Common stock-t
- (No. shares au
38. Surplus.....
39. Undivided profit
40. Reserve for cont
41. TOTAL CAPITAL
42. TOTAL LIABILIT

1. Average of total d

Continued From Page 1—

1975: A Year Of Triumph

sources of help came from the Mennonite Disaster Aid Service. So rapid was Pell City's recovery that many officials privately expressed the opinion that a disaster declaration was, in part, stalled because of the tireless work and sacrifice of people who refused to "give up and wait for help." Thanks to a great deal of sacrifice, hard work and luck, many "horror stories" were never written.

The looting that almost automatically follows disasters in many cities was nipped in the bud by prompt action on the part of local officials and volunteers. And a night of raging fires that accompanies many such storms luckily never came, since ravaged water lines had plunged Pell City water supply to dangerous levels. The long list of the dead and wounded was, thankfully never written.

As bad as it was and as long as it will be remembered by those who lived through the nightmare of the worst single disaster in Pell City history, the fortitude of the city was perhaps best summed up the very next morning on a sign in front of James Perry's Standard Station. It read: "IT IS GOOD TO BE ALIVE."

Although the tornado that struck Pell City and Ragland on that fateful Friday in January was perhaps the story of the decade, as far as St. Clair citizens are concerned, it was certainly not the only important news item of the year.

January, 1975 was also a month of unprecedented political developments as a new county commission was sworn in. Instead of the customary joint ceremony, the county was somewhat surprised to learn that three commission members—Chairman Shirley Satterfield, Commissioner Aubrey Washington and Commissioner Charles Braswell—were sworn in together by Etowah County Probate Judge Wiley Hickman, while Commissioners Buddy Tucker and Commissioner

King and Jim Ruple formally asked the City of Pell City to begin a study leading toward the eventual formation of an independent Pell City school system.

The Looney Log House near Ashville was named to the National Register of historic sites.

Notable events during the month of March included:

--The joint decision by the City of Pell City and the St. Clair County Commission to build a lakeside park complex with matching funds from the Coosa Resource, Conservation and Development (RC&D) Association.

--A vote by the St. Clair County Commission to allocate \$11,000 in revenue sharing funds to the Northwest St. Clair Water Authority.

--Ragland High School finally reopened its doors to students who had been forced to attend classes in various community structures following the Jan. 10 tornado.

--The St. Clair County Commission voted pay raises for county roadworkers and courthouse employees.

--President Gerald Ford issued the long-awaited county disaster declaration, in the wake of the Jan. 10 tornado.

During the month of May:

--It was discovered that unidentified thieves had broken into the Pell City Courthouse offices of probate judge, tax collector, tax assessor and circuit clerk, causing considerable damage and escaped with an undetermined amount of cash taken from the probate office safe.

--The St. Clair County Commission, by a 4-1 margin, voted to layoff six courthouse employees. The move promptly resulted in a lawsuit filed jointly by Probate Judge Wallace Wyatt, Tax Collector Ed Hollis, Tax Assessor Mike Harvey and Circuit Clerk Norman Smith. Birmingham Circuit Judge Leigh Clark ruled in favor of the elected officials.

--Three county schools--O.D.



Scenes

Scenes like the one above were a common sight following the assault of the most powerful tornado in the history of the county. This gruesome picture was snapped amid the ruins

of the county. Commission Chairman Shirley Satterfield's right to act as county purchasing agent, ruled that Satterfield's earlier suit against the commission was without merit.

--Alabama Metal Forming Corporation in Pell City became the target of non-union workers' "wildcat strike" and, later, a National Labor Relations Board appeal.

--Pell City achieved a "first" by hosting the 1975 Jr. Babe Ruth State Tournament.

During August:
The Moody City council voted

During the month of
--District Attorney Robinson formally from office citing a State Rep. Marilyn Q pay-raise bill as reason for move.

--President Gerald R. Ford declared St. Clair a disaster area in the wake of Hurricane Eloise.

--The Town of Ashville celebrated its bicentennial with a spectacular event that included

umph And Tragedy



Scene Of Destruction

a common sight following
wreckage in the history of Pell
snapped amid the ruin and

the county.

During the month of October:
--District Attorney Charles
Robinson formally resigned
from office citing inaction of
State Rep. Marilyn Quarles on a
pay-raise bill as reason for the
move.

--President Gerald Ford,
somewhat unexpectedly
declared St. Clair County a
disaster area in the aftermath
of Hurricane Eloise.

--The Town of Ashville kicked
off its bicentennial celebration

wreckage at Smith's Trailer Park on Old Coal City Rd.
(PHOTO BY AUGUST LEHE)

appointment to the office by
Gov. Wallace.

--The Town of Steele held a
special bicentennial celebration
which featured the creation of
the "Steele Hall of Heroes" - a
listing of all Steele residents
who have served in U.S. armed
forces during past wars.

--The Town of Ashville
announced that it would donate
20 acres of land to Ashville High
School for the construction of a
new football stadium and
athletic complex.

--The Greater Pell City
Chamber of Commerce. in

citizens.

--A new Alabama State
Department of Public Health
regulation requiring the
purchase of special radios by
local ambulance services
threatened to bring ambulance
service in St. Clair County to a
halt by year's end.

All in all, it was a year of
triumph and tragedy, of
bicentennial celebration, and a
return to normalcy for many
county citizens. A year that will
not soon be forgotten.

St. Clair News Aegis

The St. Clair News Aegis is successor to The Pell City News, 1908, and The Southern Aegis, est. 1873. Entered as second class mail at the Post Office in Pell City, Alabama, as The St. Clair News-Aegis in 1944. The Pell City News was established as "Progress" later under act of Congress, March 8, 1879. The Pell City News and The Southern Aegis merged "The Pell City Progress" Member Alabama Press Association, National Editorial Association. Advertising rates on request. Classified and legal advertising must be paid in advance.

Edmund Blair

Publisher 1939-72

Printed every Sunday and Thursday at 1811 1st Ave. So., Pell City Alabama 35125.

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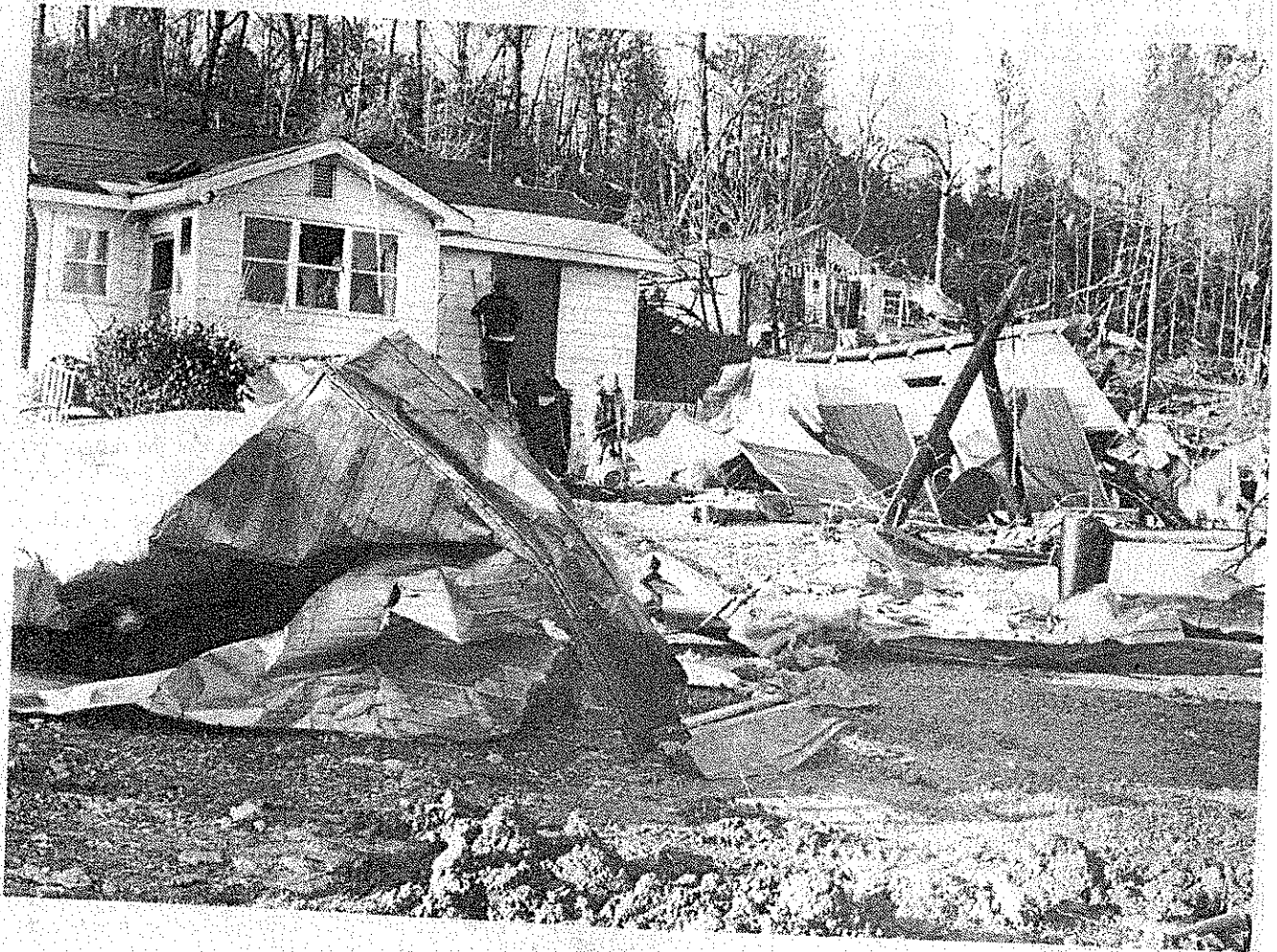
Feature Editor

Advertising

Advertising

Classified

In St. Clair County One Year \$6.30, Out of County, One Year, \$10.50. Two weeks notice required for change of address. Give Old and New Address when you desire change.



Lois Smith Home—Before

Rec
thre

—Before and after—

Construction of Pell City Six months after tornado



Stores Along Cogswell Ave. —Before





Lois Smith Home—After

*Photos
by
Louis
Muro*

INSTANT COPIES



*Fast, Courteous
Service
While You Wait!*

- ★ Letters
- ★ Documents
- ★ Forms

Copying By A.B. Dick

ST. CLAIR NEWS-AEGIS

Hwy. 231 S.

884-2310

Pell City



Stores Along Cogswell
Ave.—After

CONFIDENCE

*Our Purpose
Is To Guide You*

We take care of all the arrangements, expertly, with earnest consideration for the family's wishes.

Our thoughtful attention is given to every necessary detail. You can have confidence in our experience.

KILGROE FUNERAL HOME

ELMORE'S

2108 COGSWELL AVE.
PELL CITY, ALABAMA



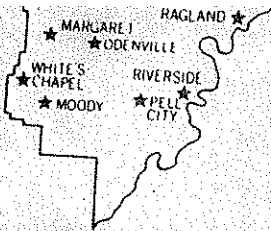
BLUE LUSTRE CARPET SHAMPOO

Deep cleans and brightens colors. Restores that soft plush feel to carpeting! Use in your carpet shampooer, or...

RENT ELECTRIC SHAMPOOER
\$2.50 PER DAY WITH PURCHASE
OF BLUE LUSTRE

ELMORE'S

OPEN: 9:00 til 6:00 Mon. thru Thursday
9:00 til 6:30 Fri. & Sat.



ST. CLAIR

A Newspaper Dedicated

VOLUME FIVE — NUMBER TWENTY-EIGHT

PELL CITY, ALABAMA



Moments After Twister Struck

This was but one gruesome scene left in the aftermath of last Friday's tornado-spawned storm which ripped across the heart of Pell City, Ragland and outlying areas. The above picture was taken of the Top Dollar Store building (formerly Mays and Jones Department Store) on Pell City's Cogswell Ave. only seconds after

the twister passed over the Pell City business district. Moments later, local citizens began combing the debris for signs of life as city and county law enforcement officers and emergency crews swung into action to rescue the injured and trapped.

COLUMN 1



BY BOB CORNETT

James Perry sat smiling outside his service station on Highway 231 Saturday morning, unable to pump gas or do much of anything else because there was no power (like other service stations and virtually all

Manning Disaster Headquarters

Human Needs First Concern Of These Dedicated Workers

BY AUGUST LEHE
Although cleanup operations continue to dominate the Pell City and Ragland disaster scenes, another side of the effort has gone on.

noticed in the wake of last Friday's tornado which devastated large portions of the two St. Clair communities.

special assistance than we have seen so far," St. Clair Civil Defense Director R. L. Timmons told the Observer Tuesday. "The problem is finding the victims."

Thank you also for the...
Allen and Tom Beville...
Hers would not have...
found it had not...
The problem is finding the victims."

to Community Service

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1975

ONE SECTION — EIGHTEEN PAGES

Federal Funds Expected-

Governor Requests County Be Declared Disaster Area

Still reeling from the devastating effects of the first major disaster ever to hit this area, and faced with combined financial losses of over \$5 million in damage to buildings alone, the tornado-stricken towns of Pell City and Ragland are anxiously awaiting word from Washington this week after Governor George Wallace formally filed a request that President Ford declare St. Clair County a disaster area.

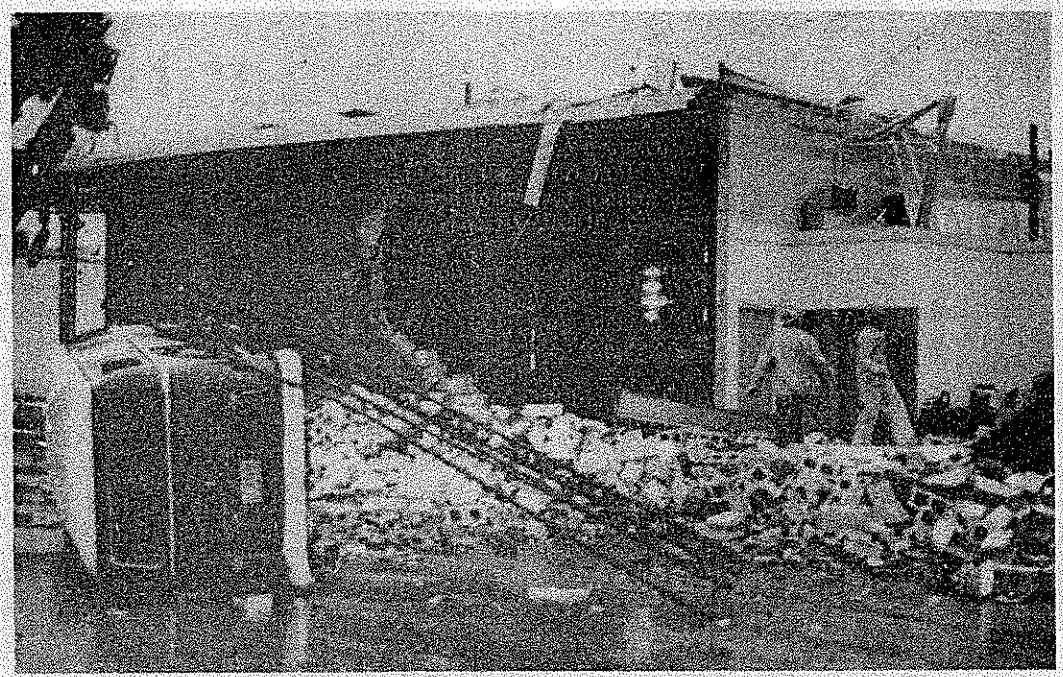
The disaster area designation is a necessary step toward obtaining much-needed federal funds and assistance for the area's disaster victims.

Governor Wallace reportedly filed the request Monday after official damage assessment was made by the respective mayors, along with county and state Civil Defense officials.

Congressman Tom Beville told the Observer Tuesday that his office had called the Federal Disaster Administration in Washington and that as soon as the necessary information is received, Washington would be ready to act.

Local businesses would then be eligible for Small Business Administration disaster loans, and families whose homes were destroyed would be provided temporary housing. Unemployment compensation and other financial aids would be available.

At Observer deadline time Wednesday morning, the mayor's request was still apparently bogged down in red tape. Citizens who look toward their homes that were ripped through by the tornado.



Scene Of Destruction

Scenes such as this were a common sight last Friday afternoon as Pell City citizens crawled out from under debris left behind by the worst storm in the city's history. The structure shown above is the Coosa Valley Telephone Company switching station located just off Cogswell Ave.

The overturned van pictured here, according to witnesses, tumbled several times in the air as the tornado ripped away at the walls of the nearby building. The wrought iron beam resting on the van was torn away from the telephone facility.

**St. Clair Federal
Seeks to Help
Its Mortgagees**

According to Ray Miller, Vice President of St. Clair Federal Association in

Over Roadblocks-

Mayor Sorry If

BY MRS. J. L. HENRY
Mrs. John Bryant and Mrs. Abner Crow were hostesses for the January meeting of the Asheville Garden Club, which met at the Asheville Civic Center

The refreshment table was covered with a hand embroidered linen cloth and coffee was served from an elegant

silver service. The hostesses did themselves proud on dainty sandwiches, cakes and other teatime treats. Red, white and blue accents were used, carrying out a patriotic theme.

Someone thoughtfully provided a white blooming amaryllis. After all who can imagine a garden club meeting

without fresh flowers?

As I came in, before the meeting started, someone was telling a tall tale about disappearing characters, moving objects and being tapped on the shoulder when no one was there. I admit I felt underprivileged because I don't live in a haunted house but no self respecting

ghost would inhabit a house only 25 years old. Never one to feel underprivileged for long at a time, I'm changing all that. You see, I live on a ghost ROAD and I'm going to have more ghosts and more STATUS than anybody. The old, abandoned road to Whitney runs smack through my front yard (which



What's Left Of Red's

This hillside-view of what was left of Red's Menswear building on Highway 231 North in Pell City shows a Saturday morning salvage operation in progress as store owners, employees and volunteers remove the remainder of the store's merchandise for storage. Also

destroyed in Red's building were the adjoining Farm Bureau and Myers' Real Estate offices, along with CISCO Auto Supply next door.

Don't Miss FASHION WORLD'S

may account for it being pure chert.)

Many varied and interesting characters traveled this road (or bogged down in it.) Perhaps that accounts for somebody taking one of each pair of my husband's socks and putting my instant coffee in the refrigerator. Now I ask you, would I do a thing like that?

No doubt some friendly ghost stopped by for a cup of coffee and finding only instant, put it on ice to show his disgust. If I'da known he was coming, I'd have perked a pot.

Someone said it was rumored that one of our members got married. We have several eligible ladies so wedding bells may ring again. Mrs. Dodd Cox, Horticulture Chairman, reminded us to buy only quality nursery stock, and not fall for bargains. (Aw, Cm'on, Fannie, you know how much fun it is to hunt for bargains,') but sometimes a bargain is not a bargain.

Mrs. Swindall, Conversation Chairman, said smelling violets can numb the sense of smell. (who'd a — thought it? Sweet Violets!) Mrs. Swindall cautioned against fertilizing at this time or removing mulch. Spring is not YET.

The program on American Heroes was given by Mrs. Joseph Creitz. Polly had prepared an interest center, draped in red, white and blue bunting. She displayed pictures of Washington and Lincoln, whose birthdays we will soon note, along with other American Heroes and books pertaining to the American scene. She mentioned characteristics of heroes that gardeners would do well to emulate.

For those laid up with the "Epizooty," I offer my condolences and (in case you can't get a doctor), I pass along some home remedies. Oleum ricini is a time honored remedy though I fear castor oil by any other name would taste as bad. Honey

and vinegar are a panacea for whatever ails you, according to Vermont Folk Medicine. Hoarhound candy is supposed to cure sore throat. A mustard plaster to your chest may blister but may help to cure the miseries. General recommendations are, go to bed, take aspirin and drink liquids.

I had my husband call the druggist to ask if aspirin deteriorated with age. (He didn't tell him we'd had it 15 years, so I insisted he buy a fresh box of 12 tablets, which, hopefully, will last another 15 years. (I must clean out that medicine chest.)

I trust I'm not liable for practicing medicine without a license. I'm only telling you what was told to me.

Many of our members were absent due to illness but those present for the January meeting were: Mrs. Grace Blaxton, Mrs. John Bryant, Mrs. Dodd Cox, Miss Gussie Cox, Mrs. Joseph Creitz, Mrs. Abner Crow, Mrs. Ira Davis, Mr. J. L. Hendry, Mrs. Fred Ritchie, Mrs. Duncan Skilling, Mrs. Rober Snyder and Mrs. John Swindall.

The February meeting will be February 20th at 6:30 p.m. at the Ashville Civic Center. This will be a covered dish dinner and we will have our gentlemen friends as guests. The featured speaker will be Mr. Les Pair, County Extension Chairman. Our telephone committee is doing a fantastic job but please mark your calendar anyway, in case you are out when they call.

Perform a death-defying act.

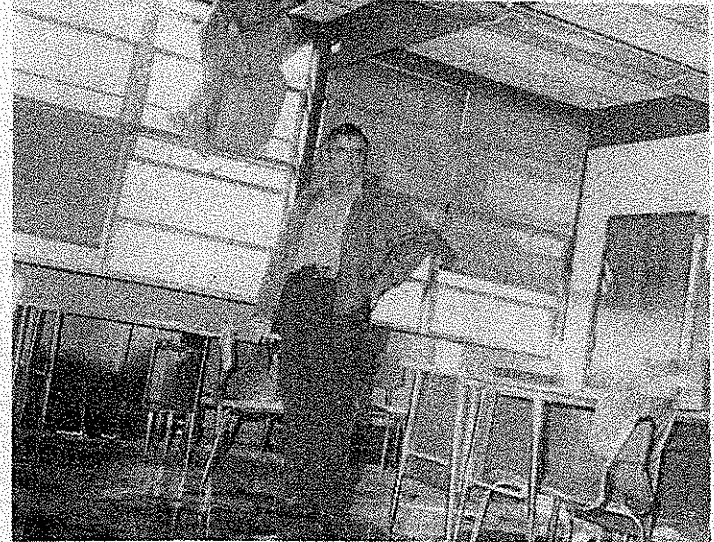
Have regular medical check-ups.

Give Heart Fund
American Heart Association



Back to Work For Vada

Mrs. Vada Vaughan poses in front of her store — Vada's — on Pell City's Cogswell Avenue Monday morning, just before going back to the gigantic task of cleaning up after the roof fell in on her — literally — last Friday. Mrs. Vaughan and several employees escaped injury when the roof tumbled in during the tornado, causing severe damage to the store and its merchandise.



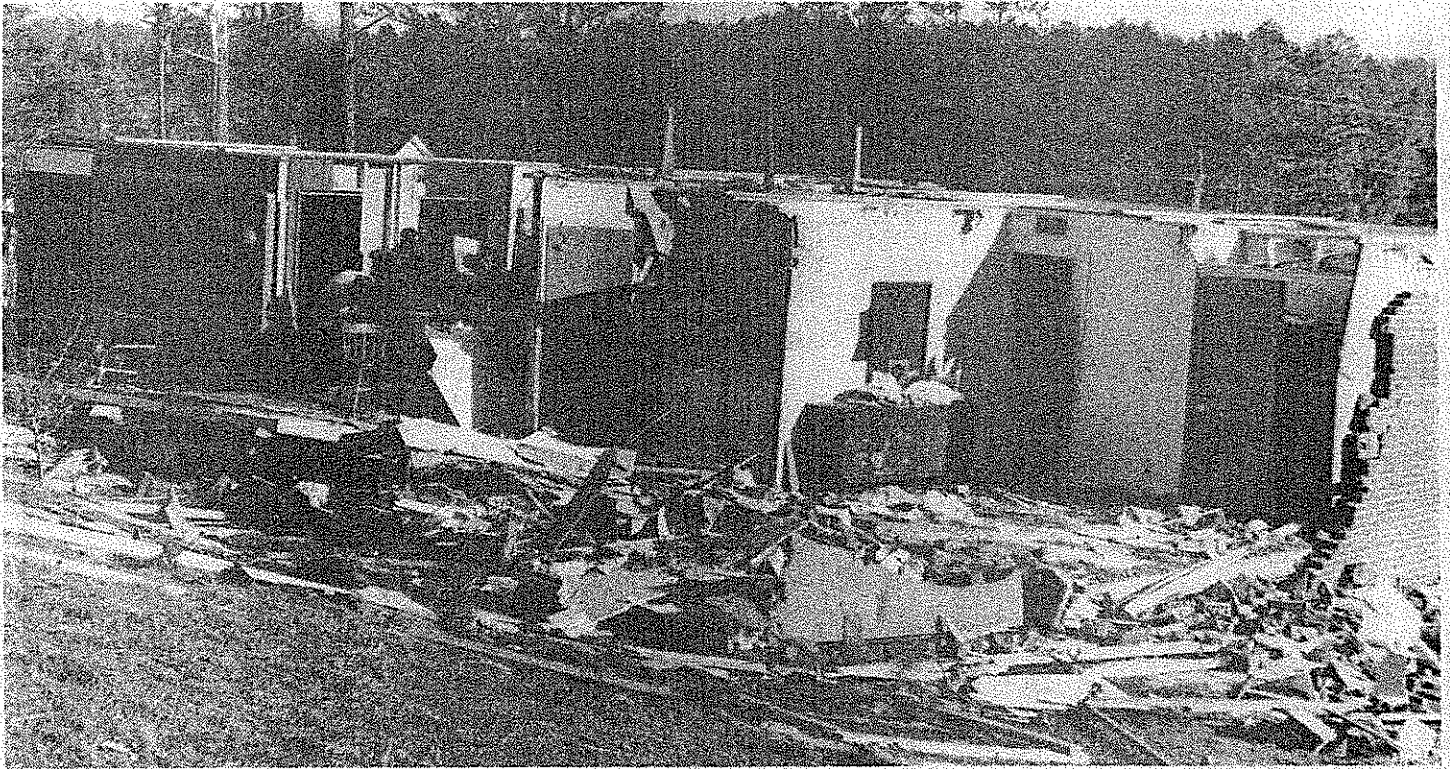
Duran Damage

O. D. Duran Junior High Principal John Slovensky surveys a part of the damage the school suffered in the tornado, estimated at \$250,000. Slovensky said it is indefinite when classes will begin at the school again. The tornado ripped huge holes in the roof of the building causing extensive damage to the school, as well as supplies and equipment.

Form 64p (State)--(12-74)

State Bank No. 11 255

Consolidated Report of Condition of "Ashville Savings Bank" of Ashville in the State of Alabama and Domestic Subsidiaries at the close of business on December 31, 1974.



Miraculously, No Injuries

Miraculously, Mrs. J. B. Towery escaped injury when Friday's tornado left her home in Pell City's Pinewood Subdivision looking like this. Mrs. Towery, alone at the time the tornado struck, said she heard an awful roar in the distance, "A sound like I've never heard before." She ran for the garage, fell down on her way, then decided she wouldn't have time to make it and returned to the house where she lay in a hallway. When it was over, the force of the

tornadic winds had blown her shoes off her feet, but when neighbors came running to check on her, she was unhurt. Mr. Towery, a Fort McClellan employee, had not returned home from work when the tornado hit. Mrs. Towery said she had been hearing the tornado watch reports all day on her radio, and knew what it was when she heard the roar. The Towery home is one block off Dry Creek Road.



Cleaning Up The Rubble

City of Pell City employees cleaning up the rubble of Friday's tornado, were working their way westward along Cogswell Avenue

included McKee's Barber Shop, the Greyhound Bus Station (C&H Amusement Co.), H&R Block, Sherric's Beauty Salon, Bunt Appliance Co. and St. Clair Gas Co.

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\$6 million. Ms. Evans also reported that present figures list 400 Pell City and 90 Ragland structures considered destroyed or severely damaged. She said help in the cleanup operation was coming from as far away as Cullman and that a dozen out of town industries were assisting in the efforts at Pell City and Ragland.

"All necessary paperwork has been completed for disaster aid. We now await word from Washington," she said.

Also heard was a request by a representative of the Wattsville Water Board asking that present water lines be extended to serve an additional half-dozen families. On a motion from Commissioner S. E. "Gene" Bell, the Commission voted to provide \$7,383 for the

the grants-in-aid needs of the county for fiscal year 1976.

— Officially approved contracts drawn up by the St. Clair Hospital Board with St. Clair Ambulance Service of Pell City and Fowler Ambulance Service of Springville, on a motion from Walters.

— Voted to pay a \$38 medical bill for two county employees recently injured in an accident, on a motion by Bell.

— Voted on a motion from Walters to pay \$359 for abstracts on the county shop and airport areas prepared by St. Clair Abstract Co. of Ashville.

— Agreed to pay, on a motion from Ingrams, \$41,949 for a Caterpillar front end loader.

from Ingram, \$475 for the installation of a new base under carpet being laid at the Pell City Courthouse and also to purchase a vacuum cleaner.

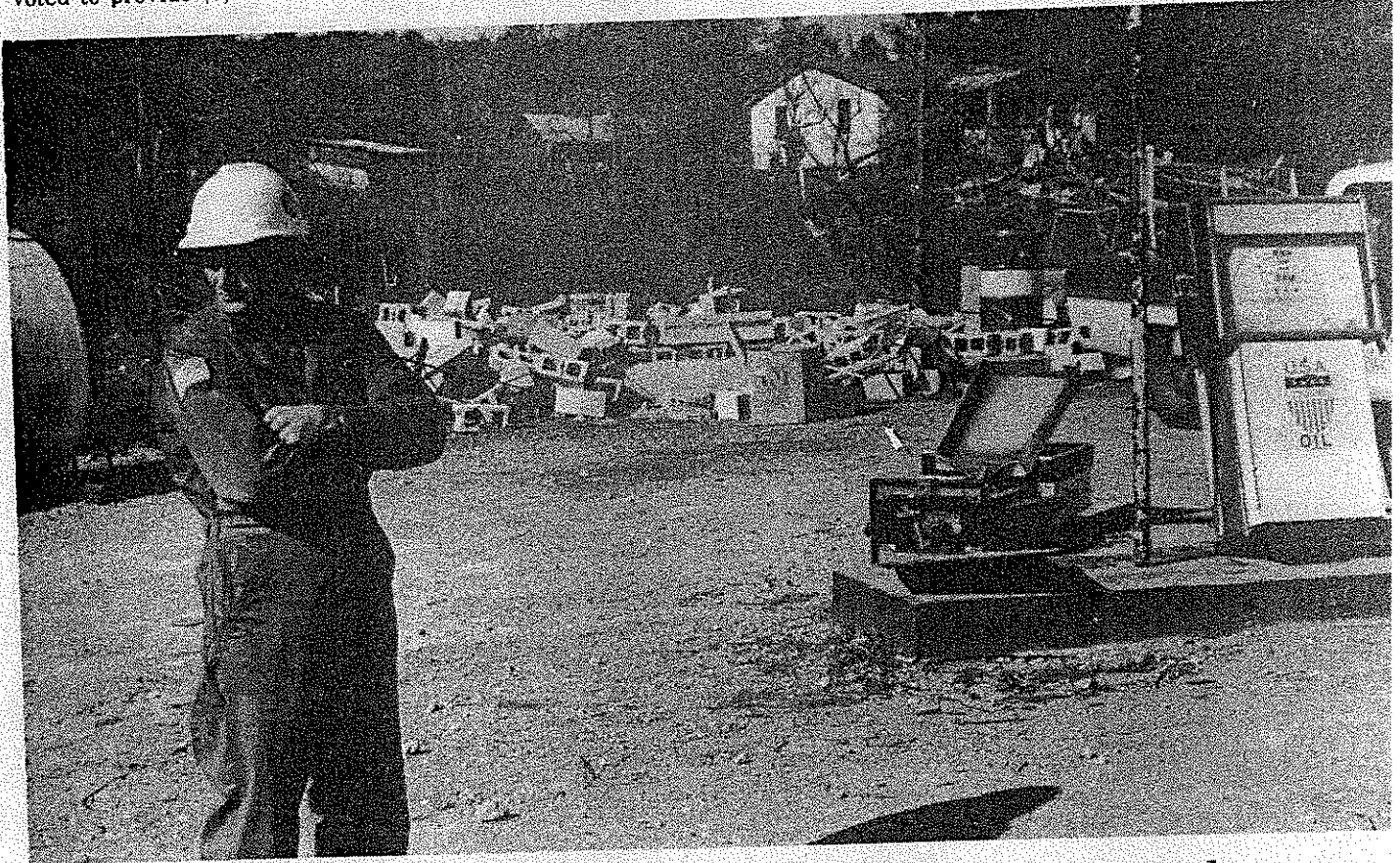
— Expressed application to County Chief Clerk and Treasurer Sue Wilson.

— Received a letter of appreciation from County Extension Chairman L. G. Pair and the extension office staff praising the Commission for repairs made recently at the Pell City Courthouse.

— Received an invitation from Odenville Nutrition Center Director Margaret Farley asking the Commissioners to lunch with the senior citizens on Jan. 16.



Trail



Ragland Service Station Where Fatality Occurred

This was the scene Saturday morning at Ragland's Macedonia community where service station and grocery operator J. L. Phillips was pronounced dead at the scene Friday night when the building collapsed burying him under the debris. The tornado-

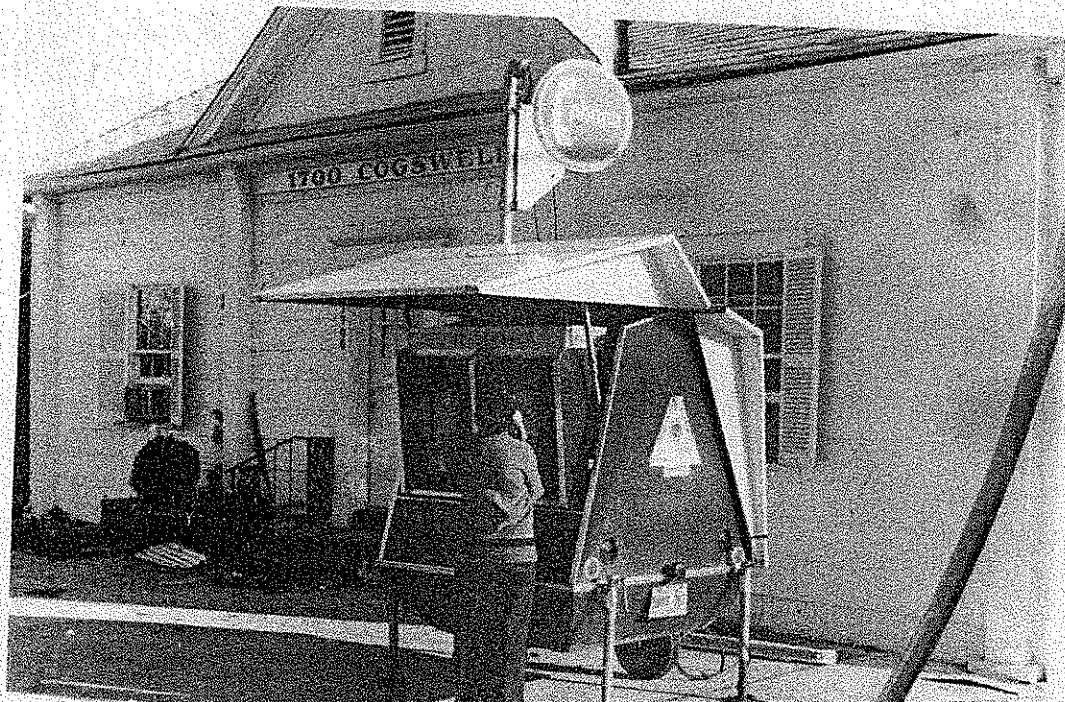
generated winds also damaged the station's gas pumps causing considerable quantity of gasoline to escape from storage tank. Civil defense spokesman said Saturday guards would remain duty until the danger of fire or explosion had passed.



Widow Injured

Mrs. Lois Mize, 57, was injured when her house (above) was wiped out by the tornado in Pell City. Mrs. Mize said she was trying to get under her bed when a two-by-four struck her in the

head causing a wound that required six stitches. A widow, Mrs. Mize is employed at M & B Metals in Leeds.



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GOLDEN '75

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Peace, Chrysler,
Fashion Blanche
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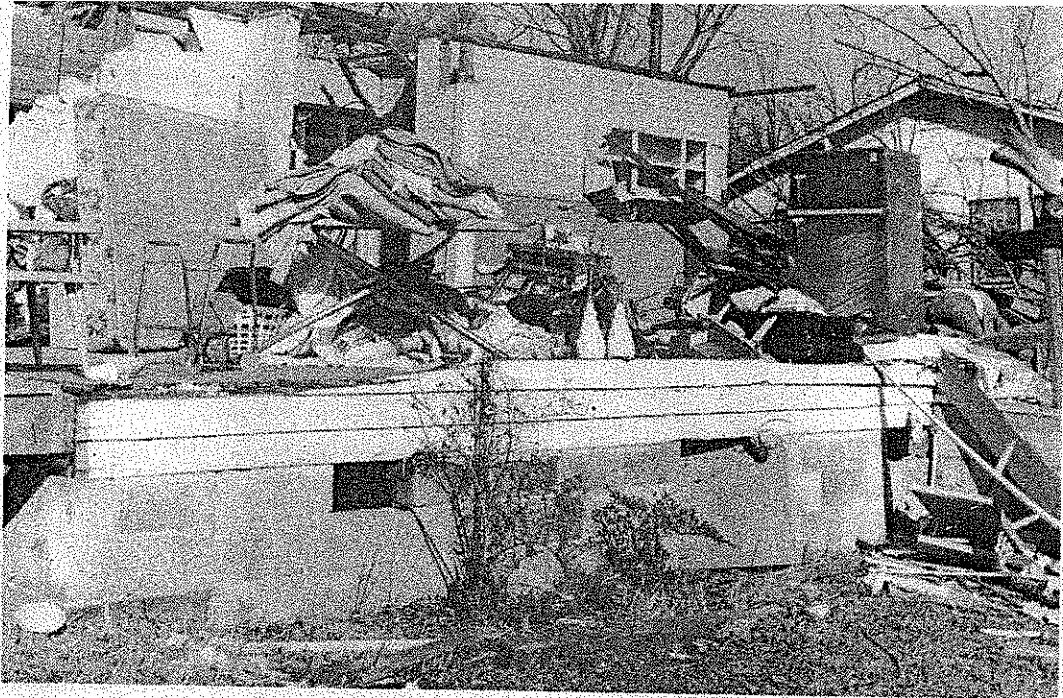
PEAT

25 LB. BAG

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PER BAG

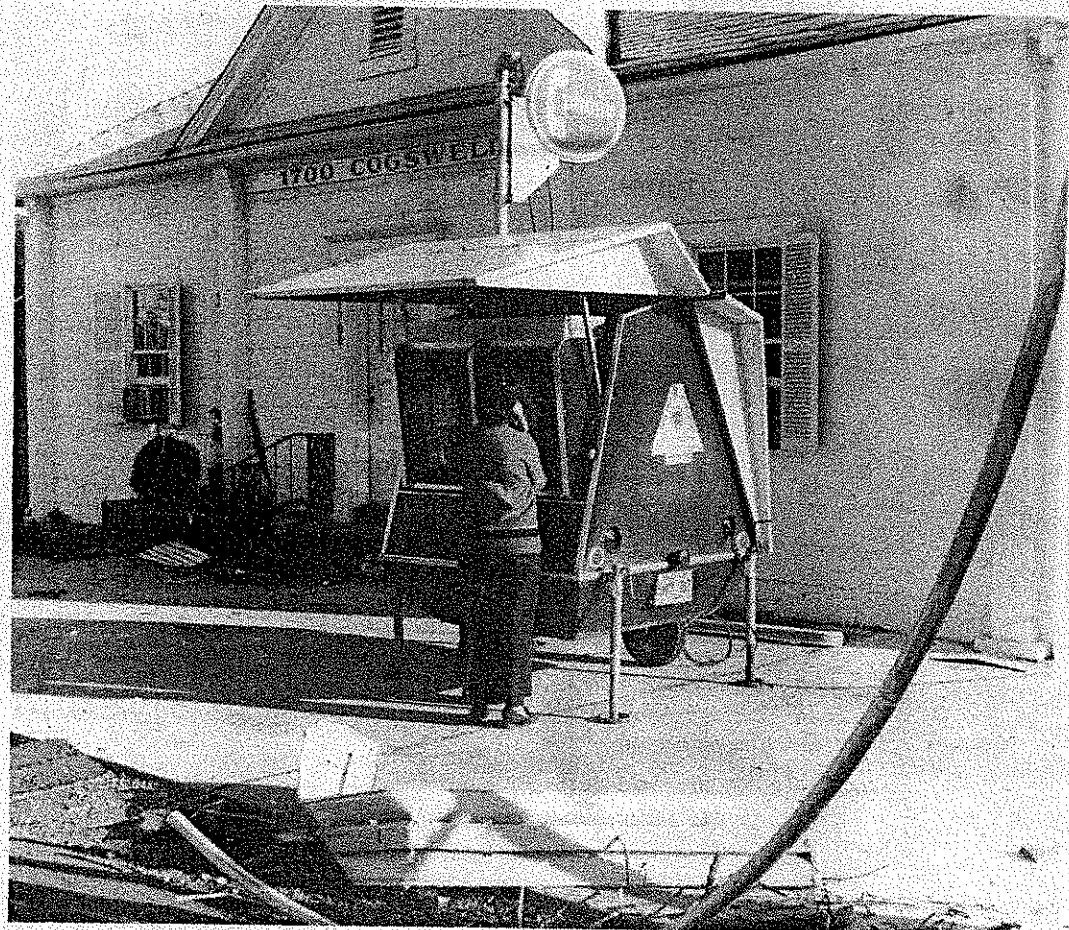
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STAYMEN WINSAI
JONATHON, J.H. H
RED HAVEN, BELLA
GEORGIA, KEIFFER-OI



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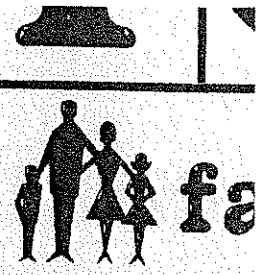
head causing a wound that required six stitches. A widow, Mrs. Mize is employed at M & B Metals in Leeds.



Emergency Telephones

Despite heavy damage to the building housing much of their equipment, Coosa Valley Telephone had installed this portable emergency pay telephone unit by mid morning Saturday.

Cogswell Avenue. Service to businesses and home phones was gradually reinstated, some as early as Saturday, thanks to round-the-clock



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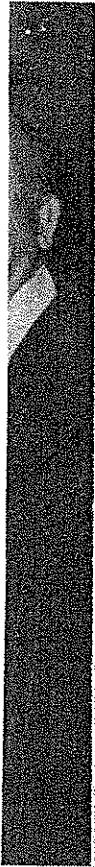
JUST TO NAME A

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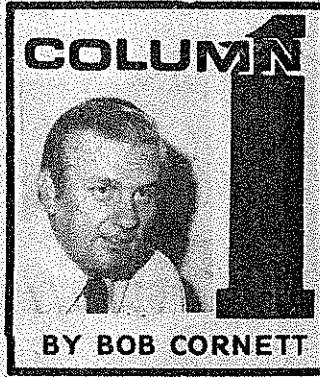
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GRAPES

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Continued From Page 1

off process.

About a hundred yards to the south of Perry's station there were a number of people who would wholeheartedly echo that sentiment. People who had miraculously escaped with their lives when the buildings where they worked had exploded or come tumbling down on top of them, burying them in debris.

Jerome Goodwin and his son Ricky and two customers who had survived the explosion of Red's Menswear, virtually unscathed, certainly would agree.

Or Harvey Watson who, along with his son Gene, had had to tunnel his way out from under concrete blocks, boards, ceiling beams and other debris at CISCO Auto Parts.

Or Joyce Stewart who was trapped in the Farm Bureau office next door.

Or Vada Vaughan and her employees at Vada's, downtown, where the roof also tumbled in.

Or countless others whose hearts stopped momentarily as they saw their businesses and homes ripped from around them.

The names mentioned are only a few who were among the hardest hit in the business community. To list the hundreds of others who had harrowing experiences and suffered an estimated total of \$3,500,000 in structure damage alone, would require space not available here.

Incredibly, in the face of the staggering devastation, St. Clair County Hospital officially lists only 27 tornado-injured persons who were treated at the hospital—only three of those

require admission to the hospital. The rest were treated and released. No fatalities. (And only one fatality at Ragland, which also took a merciless pounding).

Perry's sign says it for us all. It's great to be alive.

The sign also says something about an almost indefinable spirit which permeated the area as soon as people were over the initial shock of the tragedy. A cheerfulness, if you will, and an undaunted determination to fight back on the part of the victims. And a compassion for

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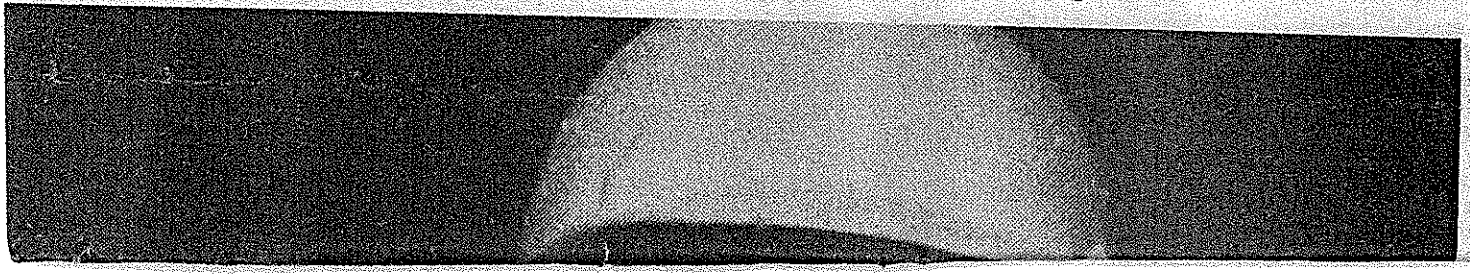
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Mrs. Roy Holladay's House Destroyed

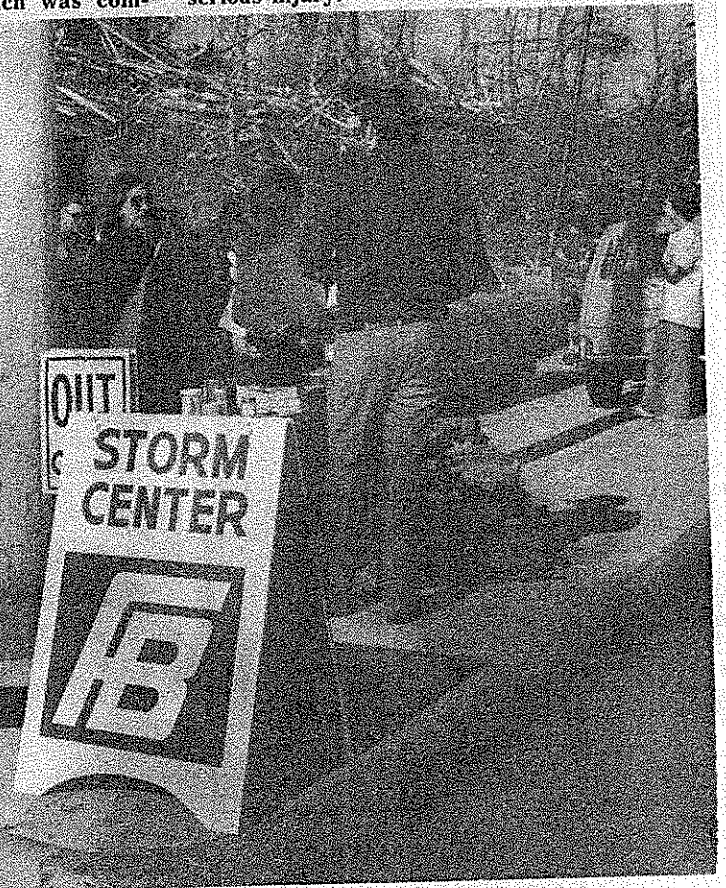


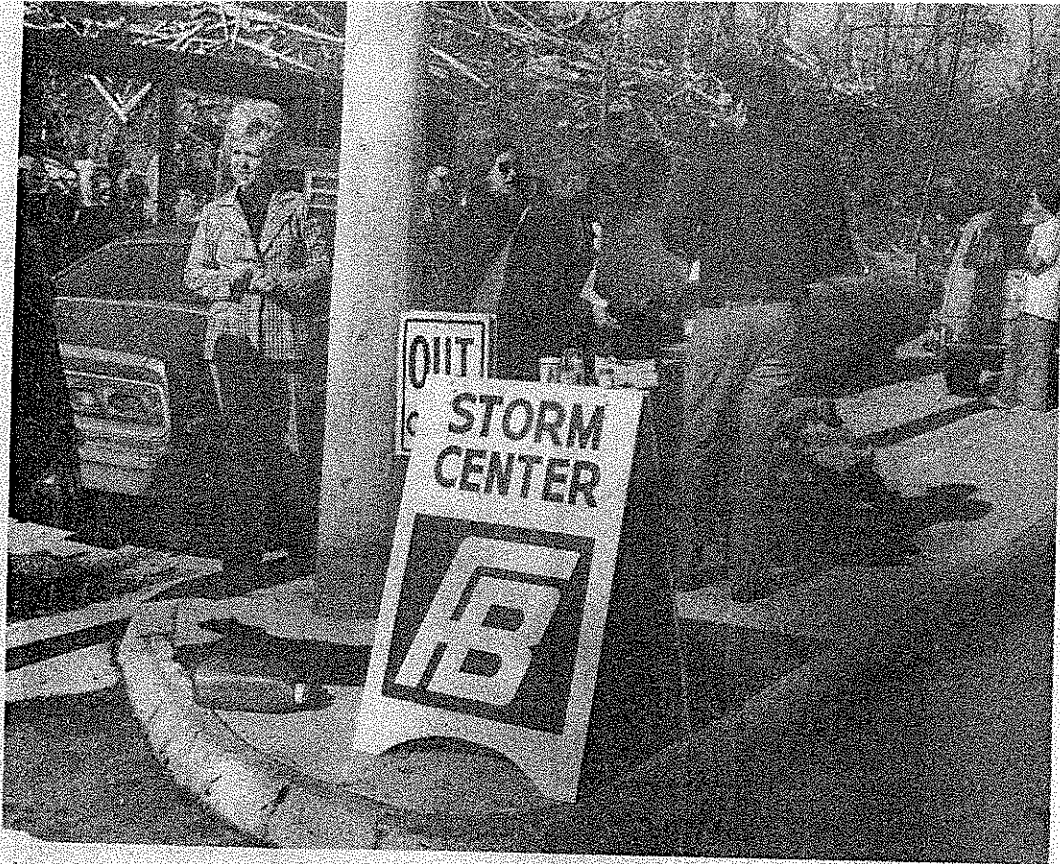


Salvage Operation

Friends and relatives of Red's Menswear owners pitched in Saturday to help salvage merchandise from the store which was com-

pletely destroyed by the tornado. Miraculously, two store employees, and two customers escaped serious injury.

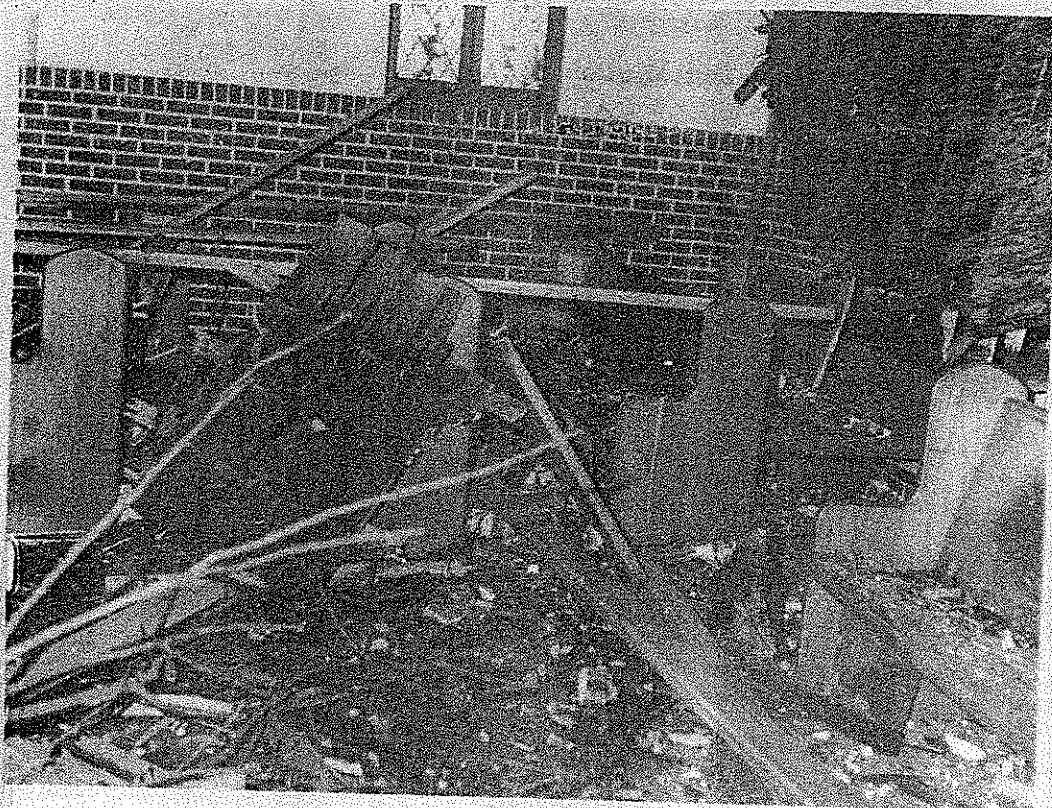




Sidewalk Claims Service

Mrs. Gertha Lovell (left) and fellow Farm Bureau Insurance agent Jim Shigley, their office destroyed by the tornado, set up business on the sidewalk to handle policyholders' claims

Saturday. The Farm Bureau office was in the Red's Menswear building on Highway 231 north in Pell City. The entire building was demolished



Church Damaged

The Pell City Seventh Day Adventist Church interior looked like this Saturday morning after a giant tree crashed through the roof during

Friday's tornado. Volunteers were on the job early to clean up and repair the damage, however.



KEN RANSOM OPERATED "HAM" RADIO
... Assisted By Wife, Shirley

Amateur Radio Operators Fill Emergency Gap

Ken Ransom of Riverside was among the dedicated workers—and their numbers were legion—in the aftermath of the Pell City tornado, performing a much-needed service.

Mr. Ransom, who is Civil Defense Communications Officer for the county and ex-officio head of the 20-member Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) in St. Clair, set up shop with his amateur radio at the Pell City National Guard Armory.

He performed the role of emergency radio communciator to Birmingham for the Red Cross, arranging for supplies, etc., and handled health and welfare traffic, delivering messages to local

Dothan, while he was working with a weather watch in South Alabama over the weekend, and also to Chattanooga and Atlanta.

"Our St. Clair County organization is trying to secure permission from the Forestry Service to place a repeater on the fire tower on Beaver Mountain, near Ashville.

"So far," he said, "we haven't been able to do that, but it would be a big help to us in these emergency situations."



Mr. Bill Alex
Pearline Alverson
Andrews, Mrs. L.
Mrs. Dessie Barb
Bowman, Mrs. J.
Mr. Franklin I.
Sabrina Dunan
Columbus Falkner
Miss Deborah P.
Olma Hankins,
Hannah, Mrs. G.
Mrs. Jack Hend
Clarence Howell,
Hubbard, Mr. Kell
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William Pearson,

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Operators Fill Emergency Gap

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Other local RACES members participating in the service were Wheeler Partain and Walt Spitzform, both of Pell City.

"We appreciate the help we have had from amateurs in Birmingham, Anniston, Gadsden and Talladega," Ransom said.

He said that a repeater on Cheaha Mountain, owned by the Calhoun County club had retransmitted messages as far as

Good Neighbor

Club Holds First

Meeting For Year

The first meeting of the new year of the Good Neighbor Homemakers Club met January 7 at the Pell City Recreation Hall.

Miss Aileen Puckett gave a very lovely demonstration on "How To Make God's Eye." All of the members present made one. We would like to thank Miss Puckett for the time that she gives our club.

A lot of our members were out the flu, we hope they will be

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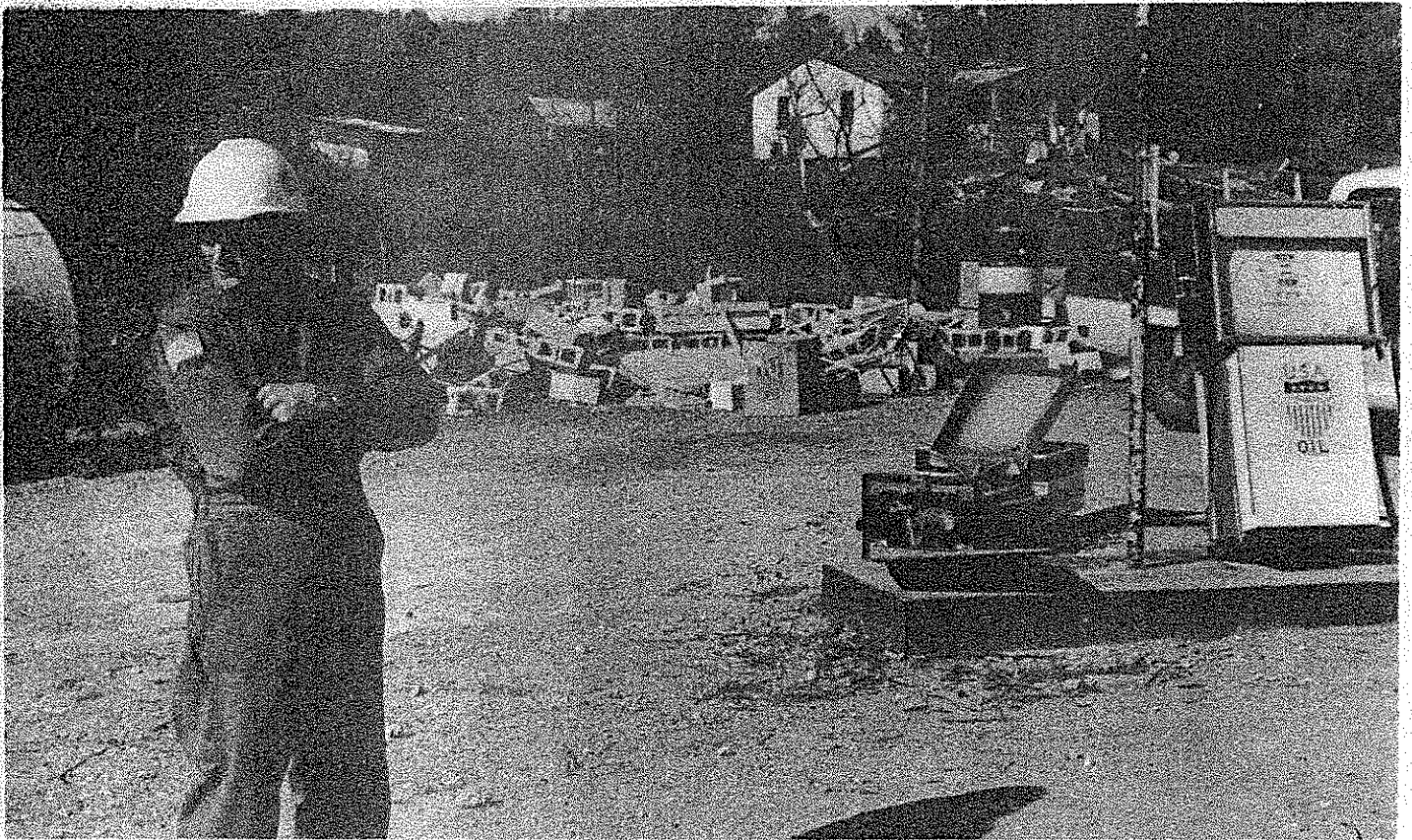
One Of The Following

7 1/4 % FOR 4 YEAR
(\$10,000 MINIMUM)

6 1/2 % FOR 2 1/2 YE

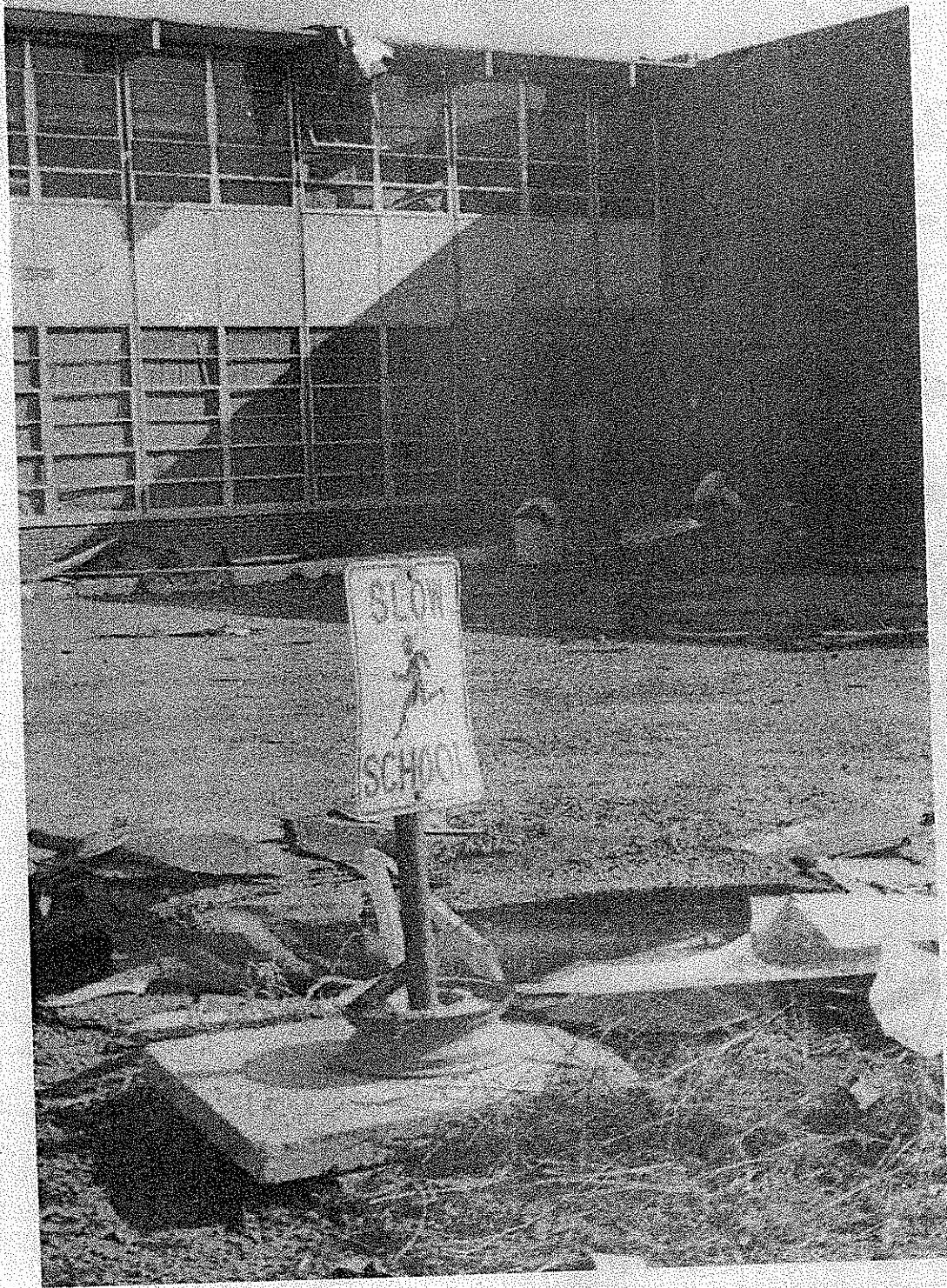
Help Fight Cancer

Twister Wreaks Destruction At Ragland

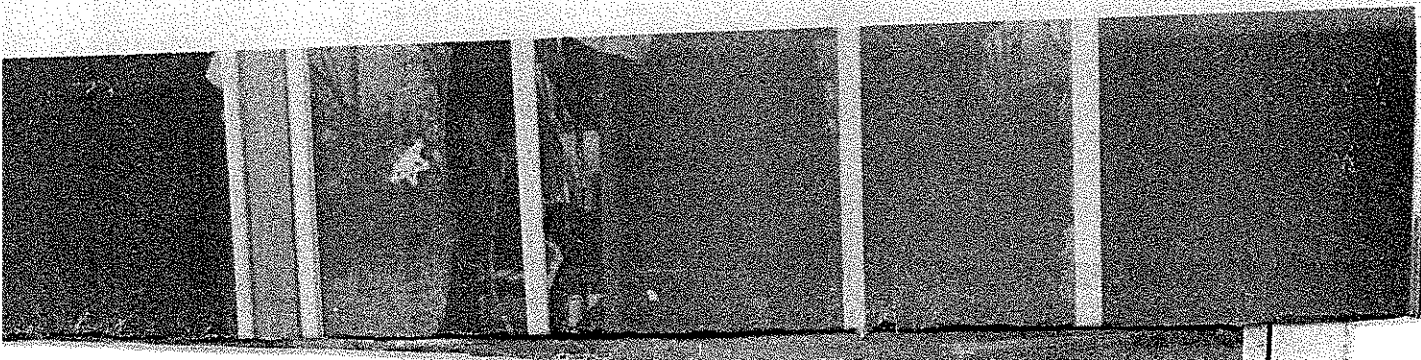


*Ragland Service Station Where Storm's
Only Fatality Occurred*





Ragland High School Hard Hit



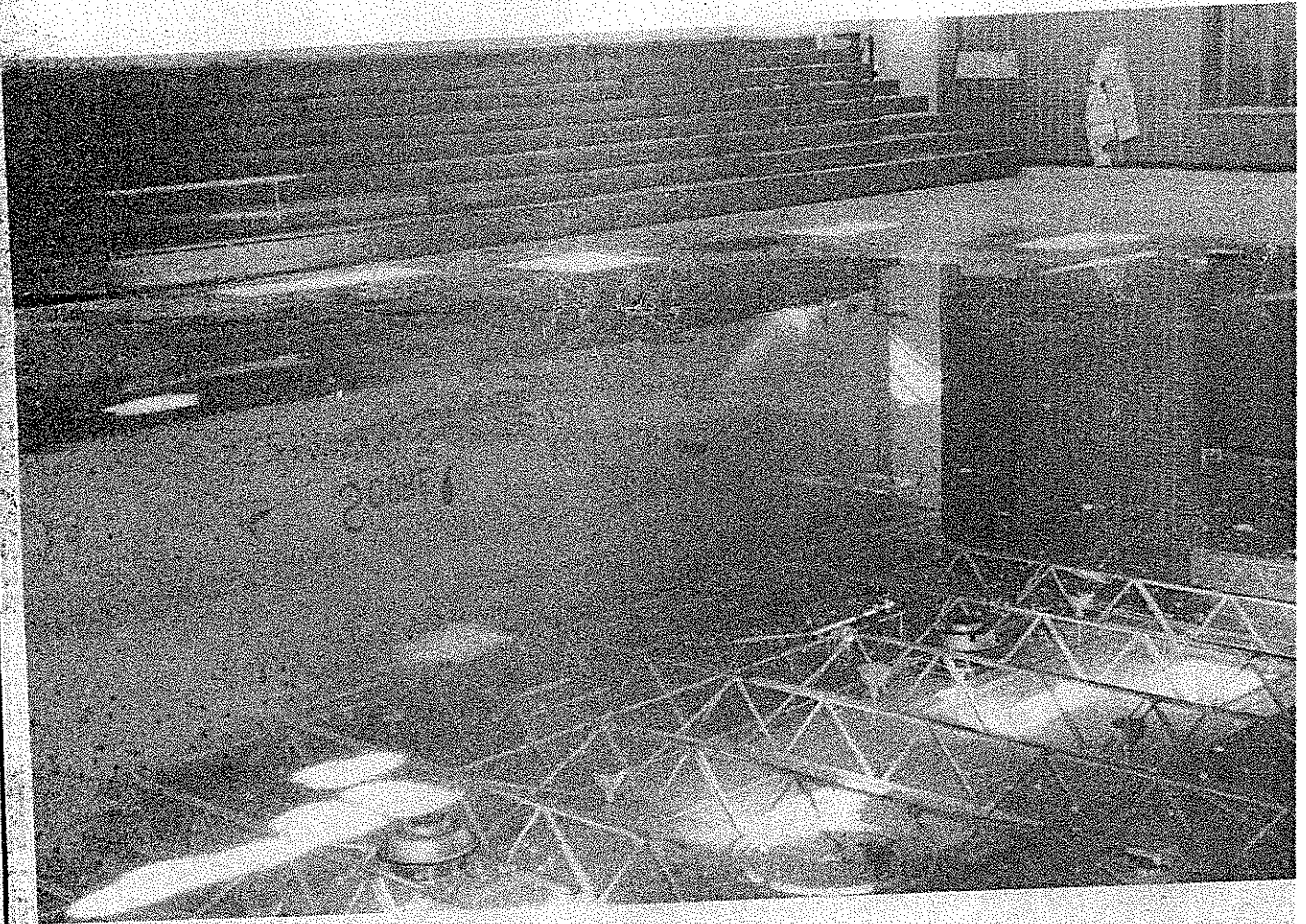


School Library Remains

ck — With Lots Of Help



Only Fatality Occurred

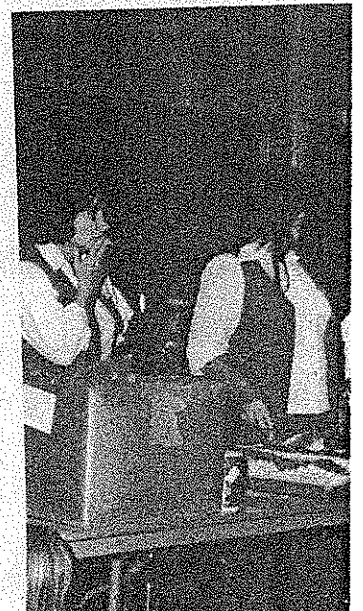


High School Gym Damaged

Pell City Struggles Ba

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Mrs. Arthur Smith's House Hit

Governor Requests Disaster Aid

Continued From Page 1
building damages alone.

Almost miraculously, it seemed, there was only one fatality, that occurring when James Phillips, a 50 year old father of nine children, was killed as the tornado leveled a service station on the Macedonia Road in Ragland.

St. Clair County Hospital reported that 27 persons were treated for tornado-related injuries, 24 of those treated and discharged and only three

National Guardsmen and law enforcement officers from surrounding towns, the roadblocks diverted all but essential traffic from the downtown area, effectively stemming the incipient looting, and reducing traffic congestion caused by curious sightseers.

Emergency headquarters were set up at the Pell City National Guard Armory, where Red Cross and Pensions and Security personnel, along with the Mayor, rescue squads, Civil

Meanwhile, Coosa Valley Telephone company, aided by teams brought in by its owners, Continental Telephone, is doing a remarkable job of gradually restoring telephone service, in view of the damage to the buildings and complications caused by Sunday's rainfall. Emergency pay phone service was set up Saturday morning, and service has been restored to many businesses and residences as well.

Congressman Tom Beville sent this message to St. Clair Counties: "I am deeply

that family."

Civil Defense activities have been ably handled by St. Clair CD Director Bob Timmons, who along with Mayor Nixon, Councilman Paul Turner, State CD Director C. J. Sullivan, and CD official Cecil Hyde, conducted the survey Saturday to assess the damage and set the official estimate on losses incurred.

So, with a lot of help from its friends, and efficient governmental and disaster agencies, Pell City is recovering as well as can be expected from an



Remains Of Randy Bullard Trailer

Human Needs First

Continued From Page 1

referred the needy to is the American Red Cross.

Birmingham Area Director Mrs. Vee Shockley said Monday that the Red Cross is making effort to attend to such basic needs of the homeless as hot meals, box groceries and such requests as those for help in saving furniture and possessions of families whose homes were destroyed or heavily damaged.

"We know there are a lot more people we need to hear from and we just hope they take

Mrs. Jackson to find out about the service.

"Folks just won't ask for what they don't think they can get and especially if they are presently being sheltered by friends. They still need to know that the help is here and they have every right to anything within reason that we have. If a family calls on us and asks for plastic to cover their roof or truck to come pick up furniture, some one will see to it that it is taken care of as quickly as possible," Jackson said.

Jackson said most of the credit for the exceptionally

disaster.

Police units which came to the help of St. Clair communities included those of Talladega, Calhoun, Jefferson and Blount Sheriff's Departments, and city units from Mountain Brook, Homewood, Vincent, Ohatchee, Southside, as well as Alabama State

troopers.

"And, of course, we can't say too much about the help rendered by the Birmingham area Red Cross, the Salvation Army and Pell City's National Guardsmen who left their homes around the State to serve the victims of the storm," Jackson added.

Baptists Offer Funds To Disaster Victims

The Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Fund will

Chairman of the St. Clair County Missions Committee, Association

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Freak Occurrence

Danny Mathis and Bobby Shockley of Odenville examine a tire which was found Saturday morning near Smith's Trailer Park in Pell City with a dried leaf stuck into it. Tornado-force winds are believed to have driven the fragile leaf into the rubber at high speed.



Wrecked Office

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Horrible Aftermath Of Pell City



Cogswell Avenue Destruction

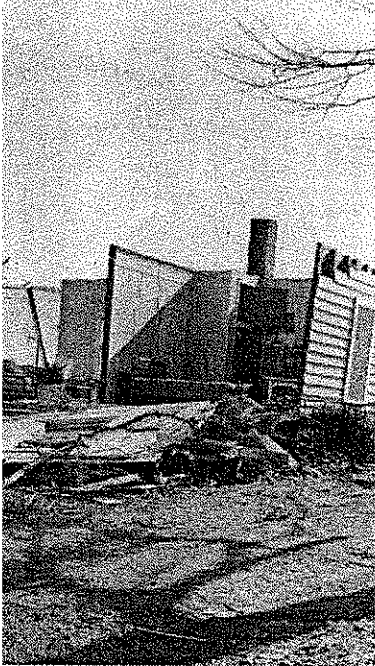


Bob Rowe Home Destroyed
On 1st Ave. South



Furniture Store Windows

Dell City's Worst Disaster



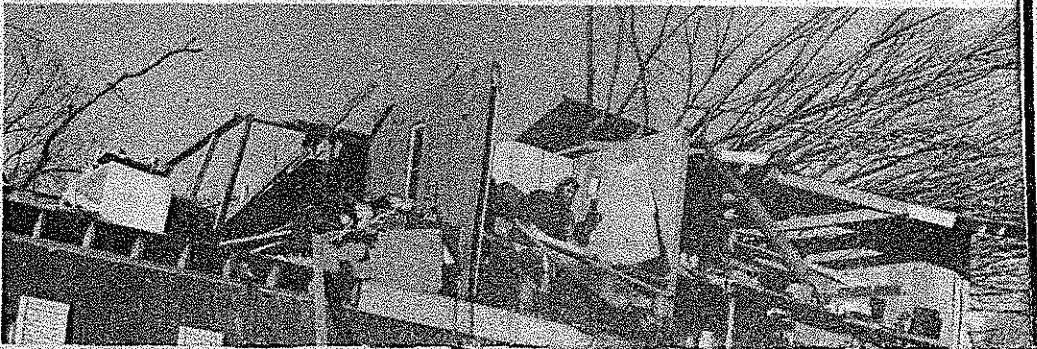
Home Destroyed
Ave. South



Remains of Mobile Homes
At Smith Trailer Park

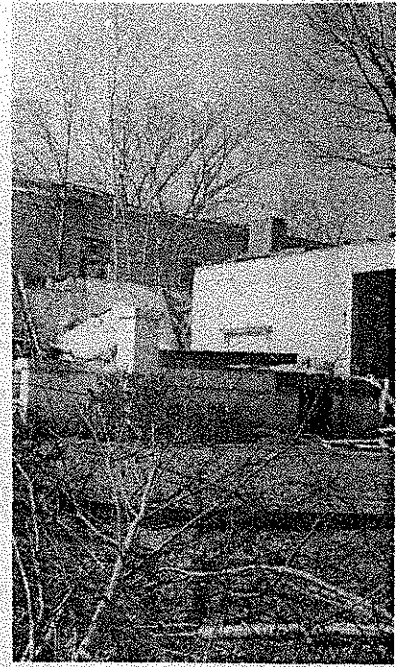
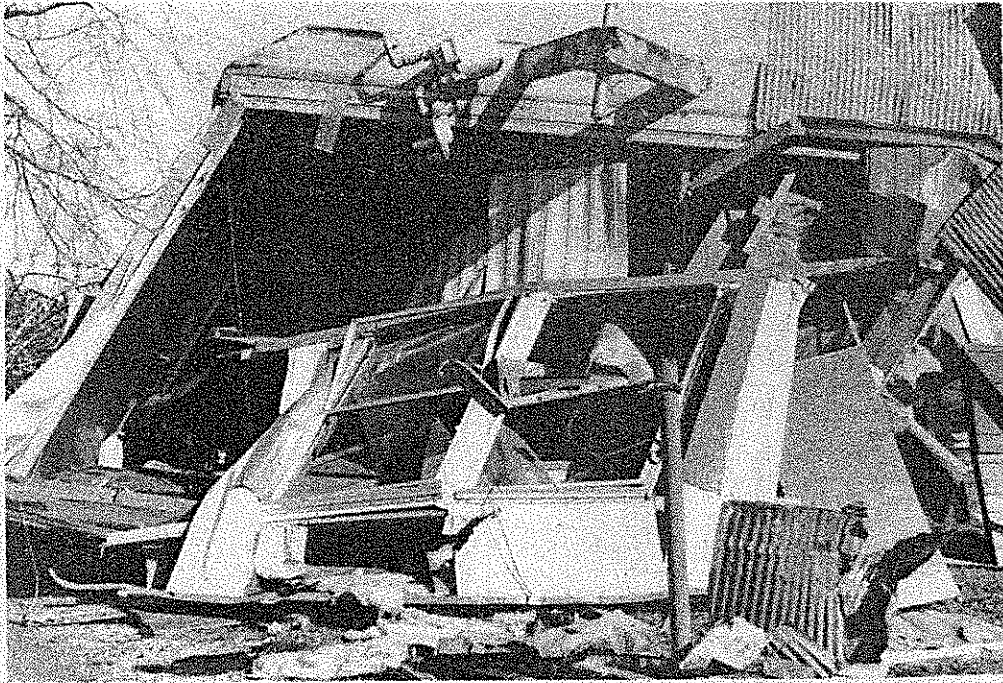


Shattered Windows



Front Torn From Graysville Fabrics

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Mobile Home Smashed



Pell City Curb Market Wiped
Out By Crushing Winds

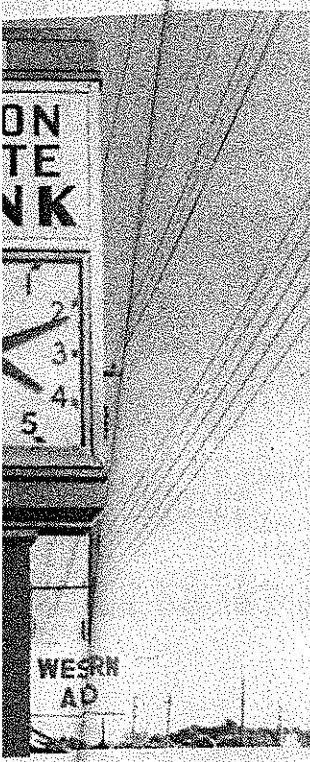
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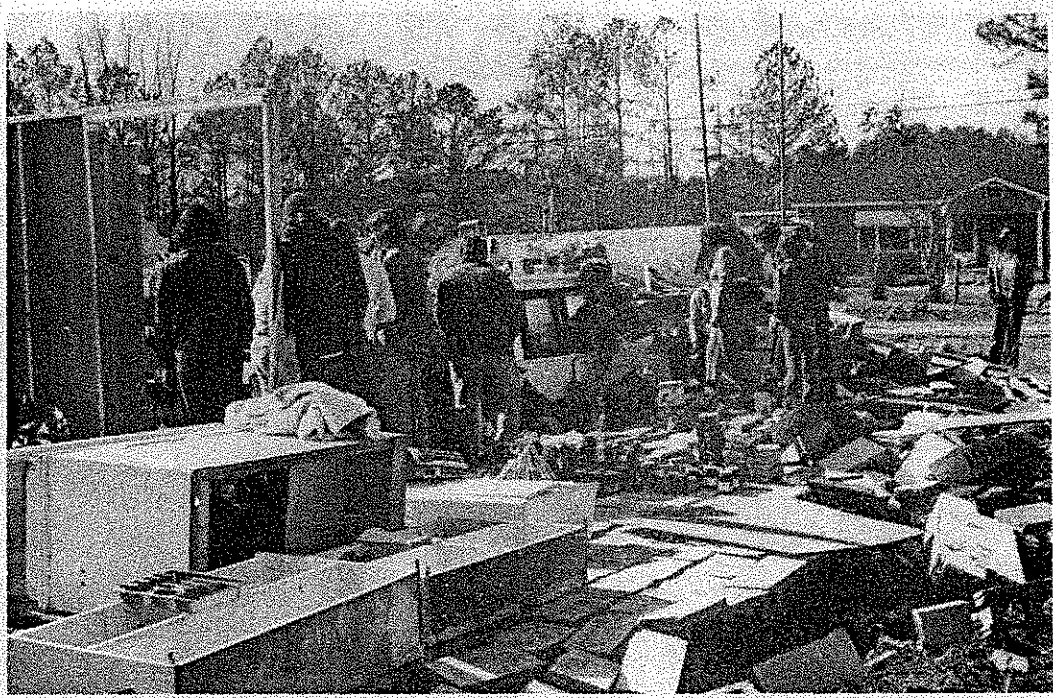
Remains Of Home



McClung Dental Office
Left In Shambles



Clock Marks
Time Hit



Spradlin Grocery Leveled
On Old Coal City Road