



## "We Were Lucky in the Park"

by Jim Brogan

Although reports coming out of the National Weather Service as late as Monday morning indicated that there were at least three funnel clouds following separate tracks through the Twin Cities during Sunday's storm, by early Monday afternoon it was clear that a single tornado had done all the damage.

In St. Anthony Park itself, although a large number of trees were either uprooted or snapped off five or ten feet from the ground, very few houses suffered significant harm, nor were any people seriously injured. Wendy Hanson, secretary for Bauman Insurance at Como and Hillside avenues, reported Monday noon that the company had already heard from about 25 policyholders.

"We have a lot of calls from people where trees are down," she said, but damage to buildings was relatively slight compared to what happened in Roseville.

"People are being terrific," she continued. "Very patient. They're grateful that it wasn't worse. We were pretty lucky in the Park."

St. Anthony Park Insurance reported about the same number of inquiries as Bauman and for

largely the same reasons. Roger Orken said he advised the callers to make what temporary repairs they needed, protect their property from further damage, save the receipts for their expenditures, keep a log of their time, and remain in touch with their insurance companies.

For those without insurance, or whose insurance does not completely cover the damages, the cost of repair is a tax-deductible item. Unfortunately, according to H&R Block representative Art Olson, they will never be able to recover as much from the government as they can from their insurance company because the reduction in tax liability is based on one's income-tax bracket and never reaches higher than 70 per cent.

If, for example, a person's taxable income amounts to \$25,000 to \$30,000 per year, placing him in a 32% tax bracket, he can only expect the government to reduce his liability by 32% of the amount of damage. Let's say the damage to the roof of his house costs \$6000, of which \$5000 is covered by insurance. Of the remaining \$1000 in repair costs, the government will reduce his tax liability by only \$320, leaving the other \$680 to come out of his own pocket.



Just after the storm passed Kathy McIntosh and son Andy came out to view the aftermath on Keston. Photo by Don Breneman.

## Trees, Homes Damaged

By Mollie Hoben

St. Anthony Park was directly in the path of the tornado that roared through the Twin Cities late Sunday afternoon. A swath of downed trees and damaged houses shows the route the storm took through the area, moving Northeast from Eustis and Bourne through north St. Anthony Park and across the southeast corner of University Grove.

Hardest hit spots were around the intersection of Doswell and Keston, along Doswell and Bourne from Keston to Eustis, at the intersection of Raymond and Dudley.

The speed with which the storm approached astounded many residents, and the sirens, they reported, seemed to go on at about the same time the storm hit. But those who saw the sky had no doubt a major storm was coming, even without the sirens.

Chris Furcht, 2253 Carter, was out walking with her baby and two dogs. "Suddenly the sky got incredibly dark," she recounted. She grabbed the baby, leaving the stroller on the sidewalk, and she and the two dogs ran the block to her home, making it into the basement just as the storm hit.

Millie Pearson, 1439 Grantham, said that the storm came so fast a girl riding her bicycle in front of the house dropped the bike and

ran to Pearson's door. "I grabbed her wrist and pulled her into the house just a second before the storm hit. When she caught her breath she asked 'can I come in?'"

There were no reported injuries in the neighborhood.

One of the most dramatic scenes of tree damage was at Bill and Ann Bulger's house, 2095 Dudley, where the tangle of felled trees hid the large house from view.

"In the front we lost two big elms, a maple, a basswood, a Norway pine, and an old spruce that was so tall I can't even tell you how tall it was," Ann Bulger reported Sunday night. "We can't begin to count the trees we've lost in back; we don't dare go back there because there are too many wires down."

The house also had roof and chimney damage from falling—and flying—trees. Bulger pointed out a large part of a maple tree in the back yard that had been growing in the front yard before the storm.

"It's sure going to be different without the trees," she said surveying the damage. "We've lived in his house with all these trees 25 years last week."

Tom Quinn, 2370 Bourne, had a cottonwood tree through his roof which left a large hole and did

major structural damage. Quinn moved into the house Feb. 1. When asked if he had called his insurance agent yet he laughed ruefully. "I am the insurance man," he said.

On Doswell, Liz and Truman Olson's house had a large tree leaning on its roof and the front porch had been sheared off the house, leaving the porch roof resting on the porch floor.

"We have a new style porch," said Olson ironically as he carefully watched two friends who were on his roof with saws working to remove the tree limb.

Olson's neighbor, Joe Erickson, 2407 Doswell, estimated he had \$3000 worth of damage, with many windows gone and damage to a roof beam.

At 1455 Gratham, James Maddock had two cars parked in the street, one a car borrowed that day to use while another car was to be repaired on Monday. While the car to be repaired sat unharmed in the garage, both cars in the street had to be towed away. One of the cars was "thrown into the middle of the street and the gas tank was torn out," Maddock said.

The storm was over as quickly as it came up, but while it lasted the noise was like trains or airplanes going past, according to many residents.



Alley between Doswell and Chilcombe. Photo by Don Breneman.





Intersection of Raymond and Dudley. The Bulger house is hidden behind a wall of trees. Photo by John Hunt.



Tree landed against this house on Hendon. Photo by John Hunt.



Photo by Nancy Haley.

## After The Storm



St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church lost several large elms. Photo by Nancy Haley.



Looking across Keston from the Hopp home, 1351 Keston. Photo by Don Breneman.

### Continued from page 1

Two of the Bulgers' teenage children were alone in their house when the storm hit. "All of a sudden the wind came up," Barb Bulger said. "We ran into the basement and it sounded like ten 747s flying one foot over our heads. I thought sure the house was gone."

Audrey Erickson said to her husband, "It's an airplane." "No it isn't," he yelled and pushed her down the basement stairs, stumbling down after her.

Clare Markland, 2117 Hoyt, was gathering up her cat Charlie and heading for the basement when he leaped out of her arms and dashed down the stairs. She followed and immediately after she heard "an incredible noise."

A visitor from California at Mrs. Bert Miller's house said "I was more scared than I've been in an earthquake."

There were some close calls. Another visitor at Millers went out to move her car. "I had my keys in my hand when I heard the roar, so I went back in and the storm hit. A tree fell right where I was going to put the car."



# Cleaning Up: Neighbors Help One Another

by Mollie Hoben

When the storm that hit parts of St. Anthony Park and the University Grove had passed, residents came out of their basements to see what damage had been done.

Within minutes the streets were filled with people surveying their houses and yards and checking on their neighbors. Small groups of people gathered in the streets, comparing stories, estimating damage, and offering help to each other.

Soon the sound of chain saws began up and down the streets. Everywhere residents were sweeping, pulling branches off things, and starting to cut up trees that blocked sidewalks, doors, and streets.

Residents who escaped damage went out to help others.

Bill Lorimer, 1433 Raymond, brought his chain saw to the area at Raymond and Dudley. "It missed us," he said, "and I figure it's a there-but-for-the-grace-of-God situation, so I thought I'd see what I could do to help."

On Keston near Bourne Hal Dragseth, 2285 Gordon, was using his chain saw to work on a tree that had fallen across a retaining wall and into the street. "I just picked something no one was working on and started in," he said.

At about 8 p.m. Paul Haeg and some friends were helping cut up a large elm that was filling the street on Bourne between Eustis and Keston. They had been out with their chain saws since soon after the storm passed. "We've been up and down Doswell, and into the Grove, helping get trees out," Haeg said.

At Mrs. Bert Miller's house, 1372 Keston, where several downed large trees almost hid the house from view, a stream of neighbors stopped by to check that Mrs. Miller was safe.

Carla Beach, a visitor from San Diego at Miller's home, reported that police and fire squads arrived almost immediately after the storm passed to ask if they were safe. "I'm sure that wouldn't happen in San Diego," Beach commented.

Bill and Donna Teeter, 1351 Keston, were at their lake home over the weekend. They returned home at 9 p.m. Sunday to find that their neighbors, Don Breneman, Chuck Shock, and Stew McIntosh had cleared away the fallen branches that had been blocking the driveway and door. "We wouldn't have been able to get in without their help," Teeter said.

On Bourne, Mary Mergenthal waved her arm toward all the people busily working on both sides of the street. "There are



The pile of trees and brush across Doswell went down as neighbors worked to open the street. Photo by Nancy Breneman.

people here from all over who've come to help. They're wonderful."

Residents on Buford and Chelmsford were keeping watch on a standing tree that was burning from a downed wire lying across it. They reported that a stream of people in cars had been driving by, "being absolutely dumb." As a man with a camera around his neck began pulling some branches out of the middle of the intersection, people yelled at him, "Live wires! There are wires in there," and he looked up with a startled expression on his face.

City crews were in the area quickly after the storm, beginning the task of removing trees blocking streets. At about 5 p.m. Walter Jensen, a city forestry supervisor, was coordinating efforts at Como and Doswell where a large elm in front of the St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church was spread out in the street causing one-lane traffic on Como. Jensen said that about 30 men were already working in the area.

The crews had been working since 6:30 a.m. on the city's east side cleaning up after strong winds there Saturday night.

"We were just pulling in (to the Como garages) when we were called here," Jensen reported. "I had called my wife and said I'd be home in 10 minutes. But I just now called her back and said it looks like we'll be here all night. She's bringing me dry clothes and boots."

On Monday morning four crews of 7-8 men each were in the neighborhood. A foreman estimated it would take a week to pick up downed trees on streets and boulevards and take down trees too damaged to leave standing. He was unable to estimate the total number of trees lost to the storm.



The Haugen front yard on Keston. Photo by Don Breneman.



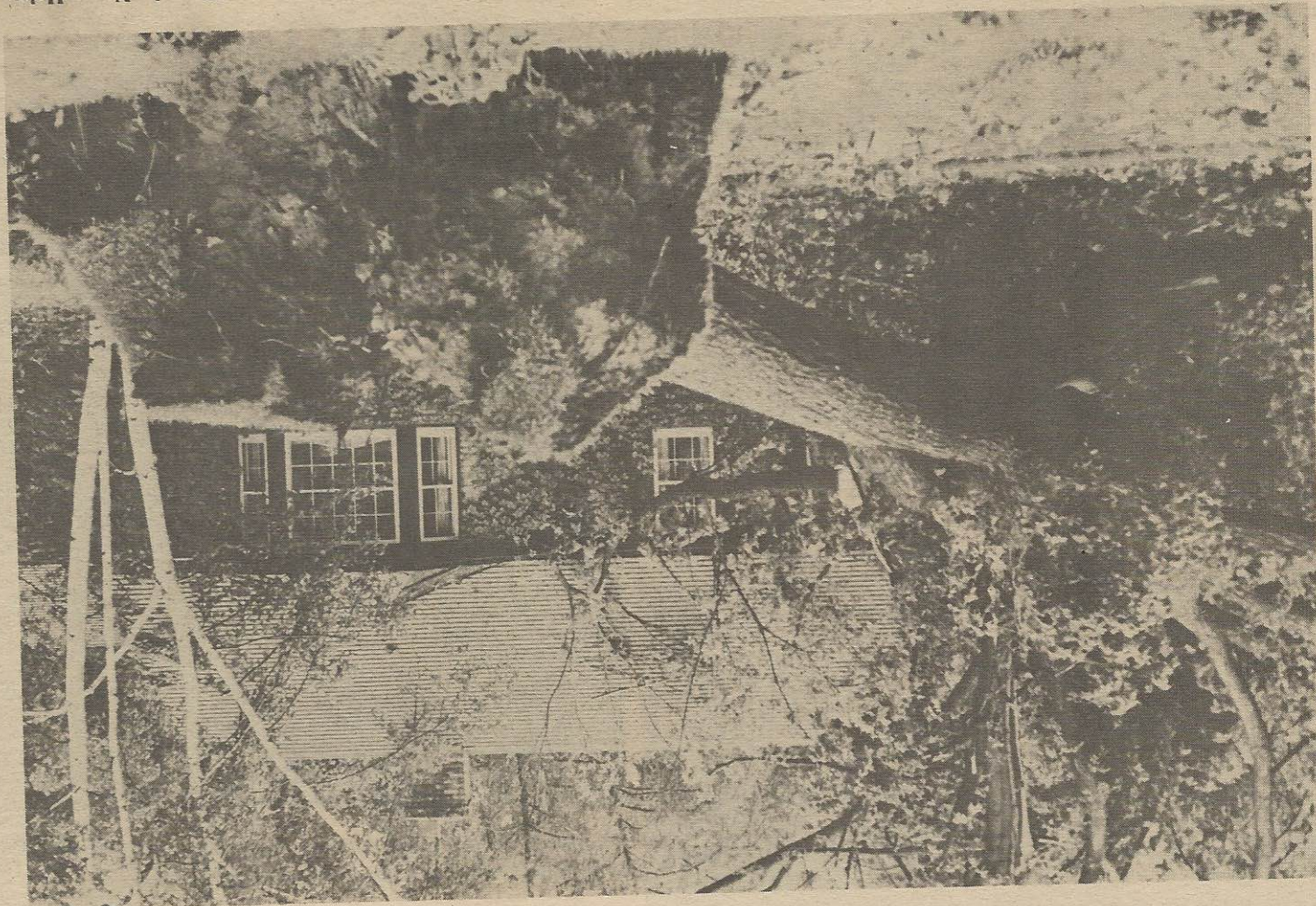
Chain saws were in heavy use as residents began to work through the tangle of fallen trees. Photo by Nancy Haley.



# Park Bugle

SPECIAL EDITION  
JUNE 17, 1981

Photo by Nancy Haley.



## Tornado Hits St. Anthony Park



Photo by Don Breneman.

### To Our Readers

The *Bugle* presents this Special Edition in order to give its readers the most complete picture possible of the tornado that struck St. Anthony Park Sunday afternoon, June 14, 1981.

Coverage such as this is possible because of the generous financial support *Bugle* readers give their newspaper.

The *Bugle* currently is conducting its 1981 Development Campaign. If you appreciate this Special Edition and the *Bugle's* regular coverage, you can show your appreciation by contributing to the *Bugle*.

Contributions should be sent to the *Bugle* 2380 Hampden, St. Paul, MN, 55114; they are tax deductible.



**Park Bugle**

2380 HAMPDEN AVENUE  
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55114