

Council Bluffs Parks Director Richard Downing.

He said some federal money will be used to replace trees.

Few businesses were left untouched by the funnels and officials estimated that 930 homes were damaged.

Curfews became the order of the night, and the ravaged area was cordoned off, slowing but not stopping the flow of onlookers — called “rubbernecks,” and “gawkers” by sweating workers.

Up to 220 law enforcement officers patrolled streets the night of the storm and early the next day. Mayor Hanafan ordered a 10 p.m.-to-7 a.m. curfew and requested National Guard Troops to join Iowa Highway Patrolmen to prevent looting.

By midnight, 100 guardsmen were on the streets, along with 40 Iowa State patrol officer and 75 to 80 Bluffs police officers.

Help poured in.

Cleanup crews came from Omaha in Sewer Maintenance Division trucks and front-end loaders.

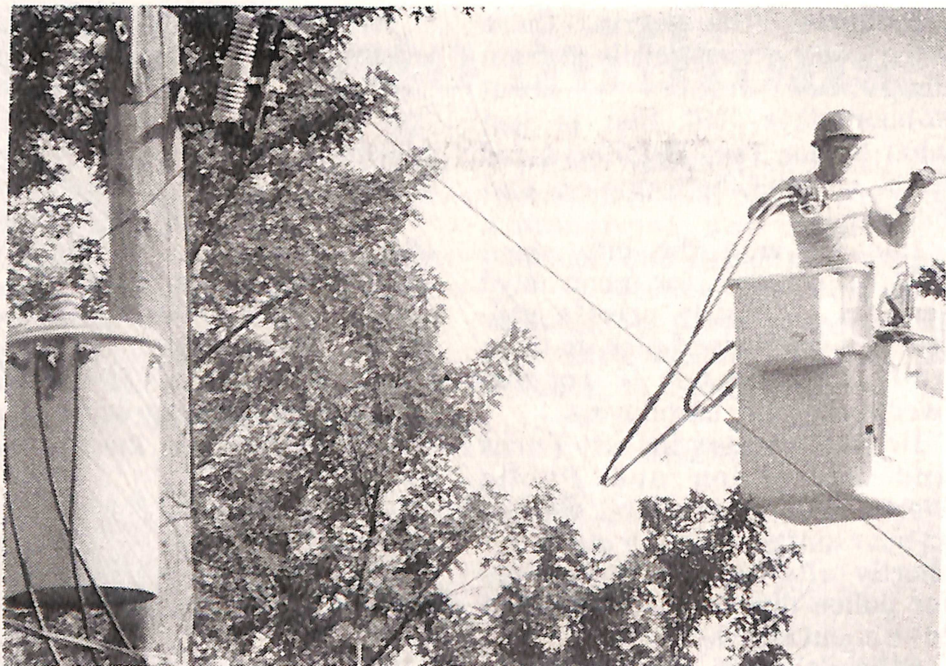
Amateur radio operators rushed in to bolster a damaged communication system and provide important links among workers in the field and control center at the Pottawattamie County Courthouse and security forces and emergency personnel.

Volunteers, many nameless, came to saw trees and drag branches from littered yards and U.S. Air Force personnel from the Strategic Air Command in Bellevue, Neb., were encouraged to help in the cleanup effort in lieu of their normal duties.

“What was once a city of trees is now a city of stumps,” Hansen said. “We can never remove the effects. We’ve lost a lot of the beauty of the city.”

As many as 30 percent of the area’s trees were thought lost; 8,000 in parks and public property alone.

Businesses were shut down by the blackout or to clean and repair and rebuild. Unknown



Cutting away some of the damaged limbs in Council Bluffs is Mark Alexander, Asplundh Tree Service, on one of the crews brought into the tornado ravaged area from Des Moines. — Photo by Steve Glowacki.



Guests at Heritage Inn, 3537 W. Broadway, had to pick up their belongings and head for the nearest undamaged motel. The motel refunded those guests that had to find other accommodations. — Photo by Kevin McAndrews.