



On North Washington, straight line wind damage. — Photo by P. Michael Whye.

## Life's possessions lost to storm

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Tears welled in her eyes and her lip trembled as Marjorie Haszard asked, "How do you put a price on 30 years of your life?"

That same question has been asked in one form or another many times by many people in Council Bluffs and the surrounding area in the past three weeks. Local residents are only now recovering from the immediate effects of the July 15 storm that turned their lives around.

Haszard, 57, was in the kitchen of her three-room home at 1418 N. Eighth St. on that fateful afternoon. As she looked out the window to the west, she saw the ground begin to heave around

the base of the huge cottonwood in her back yard.

"It never dawned on me that the tree was coming over. All of a sudden I saw all these roots," she said.

Haszard's husband, Jim, a structural iron worker, died 16 months ago after a three-year fight against cancer. The couple, who had no children, lived on a small acreage just north of Loveland where they had built their own home. After her husband died, she was forced to sell the acreage and move to a smaller house in Council Bluffs.

Haszard, who said she is still, after 16 months, "trying to accept the fact I will always be alone" clearly remembers the moment the tree fell.

"I was standing in the kitchen

looking out the window when the storm toppled the tree. Down deep, I really wanted it to hit my house," she said.

Instead, the tree split into two large segments, one falling relatively harmlessly into an area to the rear of the house used for a garden. But the second piece fell across her garage, destroying it, extensively damaging her car that was parked inside and destroying a van owned by her neighbor, Max Jones.

Also stored in the garage was what Haszard called "the accumulation of almost 30 years of married life." Having moved to a smaller house, she had been forced to store some of her prized possessions in the garage. As with the property of so many other city residents, it was

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