



Nancy Butts and mother, Janet, 1102 North Broadway, with tree against front porch.—Photo by P. Michael Whye.

rendered useless junk in a matter of minutes.

Among her most prized possessions was a wrought iron railing her husband had made to surround the graves of the couple's two dogs at their home near Loveland. She kept the railing when she sold the acreage, brought it to Council Bluffs and had it stored in the

garage.

"My husband was an artist," she said. "We didn't have any children of our own, but we loved our dogs. He made that railing to mark the place we put them to rest."

As the storm passed and the reality of the situation began to sink in, Haszard realized she needed help.

"My husband didn't want me to work. He always said, 'If a husband can't support his wife, he shouldn't have one,'" she said. Haszard knew the tree would have to be removed from her yard and garage but said, "I didn't know who to hire or how to hire anyone."

"A lady down the street was charged \$2,500 to have one tree removed from her yard," Haszard said. "She had to go to the bank and borrow money to have the tree removed. My only income is the \$355 I get every month from the sale of our home in Loveland and I just couldn't afford to pay something like that."

With no relatives to turn to, Haszard called the mayor's office where she talked with Mayoral Assistant Randy Barratt. Barratt, in turn, contacted Jon Narmi, chairman of the Council Bluffs Tornado Task Force.

Narmi was able to find a contractor who agreed to remove the tangled stump from

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This tree shared its destructive power with house on both sides of it. 2240 Ave. H, left, and 2240 Ave. H, right, suffered from its splitting.—Photo by Steve Glowacki.