

"Everything just went crazy; we couldn't see more than 10 feet," Royer said.

The trio ran to a small shelter where Davis and Lustgraaff held on to the sides and Royer to the bench for dear life. Meanwhile trees snapped and smacked to the ground.

"There was a lot of noise out there; we just kept thinking, 'we're dead; we're dead,'" Royer said.

Everything when dark and the air pressure was so great their ears felt "like they were going to explode." Royer said for a time he attempted to turn his head to see what the wind was doing, but he couldn't move it against the force of the wind. Royer's ears hurt for the next three days.

Lustgraaf said that as the tornado passed through he heard a loud hum, not the roar of a train, he had heard tornadoes made.

Royer's place under the bench quickly turned muddy, but he couldn't move.

"It seemed to last all day — like going into slow motion, it lasted forever," he said.

When the rain did slow down, the three saw pieces of trees swirling through the air. "We were very lucky the trees around us didn't go down," Royer said. The three couldn't have put themselves closer to the path of the tornado. Later estimates put the shelter an estimated 50 to 75 feet from the path of a tornado.

"You could see the path it took," Royer said. Several trees in a line would be down, followed by top branches to several trees, then more trees would be uprooted. "It went up and down like a roller coaster."

When the wind subsided, the golfers started to run for the clubhouse, but started in the wrong direction. When they oriented themselves, the going was rough. "Every two or three steps, we had to jump over a tree or go around one; it was a complete mess...big trees had

snapped like toothpicks," Royer said.

Lustgraaf agreed. "It (the golf course) looked like it was totally destroyed; I didn't think they would be able to fix it," he said.

Although the darkness hid the tornado as it passed near the shelter, Lustgraaf said he saw a funnel cloud after it passed.

The experience was exhausting. When it was over, the cart shed had been moved off its foundation, several shelters were

destroyed, 20 to 30 sections of split rail fence were lost as well as \$20,000 in revenue for the two weeks the course was closed to golfing.

The biggest loss, however, lay in the many beautiful hardwood trees destroyed. About 80 trees were lost, either broken off, uprooted or badly ripped apart — many were 100 years or older, according to Bitz. Many more were disfigured when large limbs were ripped off.



Susan Newberry of Council Bluffs used a pair of bolt cutters to remove a damaged awning from a building at 116 E. Broadway. Newberry is remodeling the building and had planned to open an art gallery there by mid-August. In spite of the storm and the damage to the buildings, she will still open the gallery.—Photo by Jon Leu.