

Iowa Power and Light employee Bill Frakes of Des Moines, cuts away tree limbs to prevent them from interfering with the power lines and transformer box. — Photo by Dan Koenig.

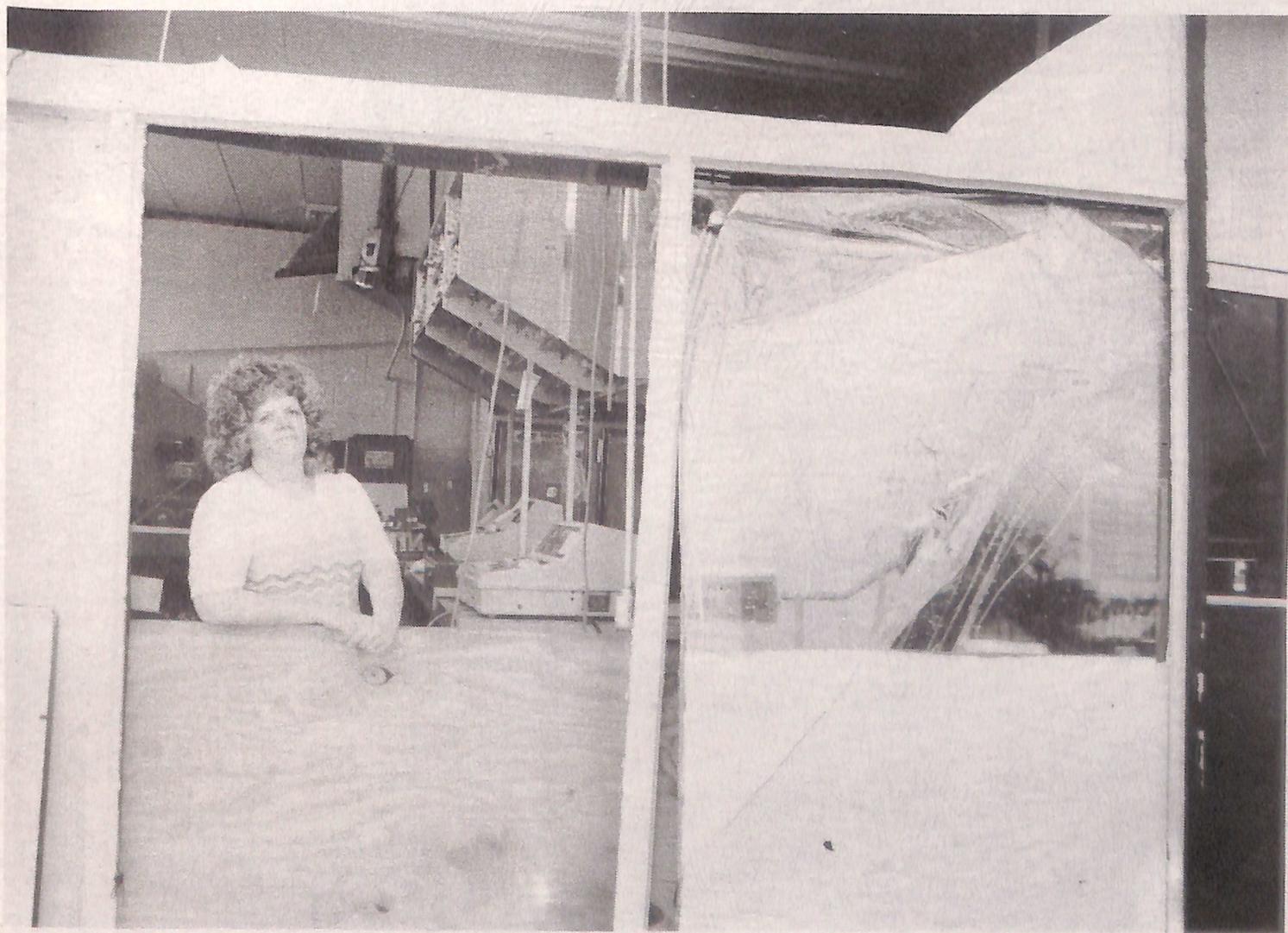
in which they'd been playing when the storm hit.

Lightning struck a nearby tree, sending a branch crashing onto Ragaller, 16, as he made his way back for three remaining children. Hurt and unable to breathe, cut by flying glass, he freed himself and crawled toward the children, yelling at them to stay under the playground equipment.

They all escaped serious injury.

"These kids were scared and they were helpless," Ragaller said later. "I just figured somebody had to help them."

Few in Council Bluffs will forget where they were on July 15, 1988.



Business went on - although not as usual, at J&R MiniMart, 400 N. 16th Street, Friday evening. Roberta Miller conducted sales of cigarettes and slowly warming soda pop and beer

from the storm damage front door. — Photo by Steve Glowacki.