Cook, Luther Halls Ruined by Storm; Emergency Quarters Set Up in Gym

Wagner College suffered the greatest financial loss of any single organization on Staten Island during the weekend gale which ravaged the Eastern seaboard from Maine to Virginia.

According to estimates released by college authorities to the Wagnerian, more than $60,000 in damages resulted on the campus because of the near hurricanes.

Luther Hall (whose students, all with one exception, were away for the Thanksgiving holidays), had its roof blown off and front walls buckled. Cook Hall was almost completely destroyed by the portion of the Luther Hall roof which fell on it. The covering of Cunard Hall was blown off along with numerous shingles from Trinity Hall and private homes on The Hill.

Police and firemen were reportedly called to help extricate Art Finn and his wife who were erroneously believed trapped in their apartment when the Luther roof caved in it. After the rescue crews had worked for several hours, it was discovered that Finn had taken his wife to his family's home for the weekend.

No Injuries

Fortunately, no injuries have been reported so far due to the storm damage. The gale, according to eyewitnesses, reached its peak on the hill between 2 and 5 P.M. Saturday.

Luther Hall, hardest hit of all the campus buildings, started losing its roof about 8 o'clock. It was not until 4 o'clock that a violent gust of wind tore off an entire section, battering it across the street and smashing it on Cook Hall and Vets Village.

All but three rooms on the top floor of Luther were uncovered, and the wall facing West Campus was pushed outward by the force of the wind, bringing a fear that it would collapse.

The central apartment of Cook Hall was completely demolished; clothing, furniture and books were all lying in a tangled mass. The mimeographing office, however, to all appearances, escaped damage.

Brother, Can Ya Spare A Room?

By Sabine Mancini

The Wagner Administration has been working feverishly to provide emergency accommodations for the 20 "displaced persons" who formerly occupied storm-battered Luther and Cook Halls.

Every effort is being made to minimize the hardship imposed on the unfortunate ex-barrack dwellers by placing them, if possible, on the campus.

Most of the students, approximately 65, are being housed in the gymnasium. According to Dean Morrison, "martial law" will prevail so that the more diligent students may study, undisturbed by radios and other distractions.

President Gets 8

Eight men will be placed in President Langsam's home. Other students will occupy the quarters vacated by the two recently-departed members of the Administration, Professor Kleinmop and Mr. Stots.

If necessary, any remaining students will be accommodated in the homes of obliging faculty members.

The Administration has told students that Luther Hall is expected to be ready for partial occupation within ten days and that the gale-swept dormitory, which blew its top, should be completely repaired in a month.

This issue of the Wagnerian is a "storm extra."
The next issue will be out Dec. 8.

Work on the roof of Cunard Hall made bare by the 92 mph winds that ripped across the campus, got underway Monday morning. The fate of Vets Village and Cunard Hall is still in doubt, according to the authorities who say that the main problem is roofing Cunard and repairing Luther Hall. Luther's roof is expected to be replaced next week, and it is hoped that the entire restoration project will be completed by the end of the Christmas Holidays.

With Luther Hall in the background, minus its roof, ravaged Cook Hall is shown.

Front and rear views of what used to be Cook Hall.
Results of the Storm

Emergency quarters in gymnasium.

Vets Village took a beating.

This Is It ... We’ve Been Hit!!

The Morning After
The Day Before

By Ted Lovington

In the chilly quietness of Sunday morning, the towers and parapets of Wagner were drenched and etched against the sky. The road sweeping up to Luther Hall was lifeless, as if the very breath of the wind had been sucked out of the building at the height of the great storm.

There was no frost but the driving 85 mph wind had whipped the leaves off the trees, leaving only the skeletons of the trees against the sky. Even the smallest plants were torn out of the ground by the wind.

Slowly, workers were threading through the wreckage to disassemble the damaged windows. Some of the windows were even missing, leaving only a few scattered in the air.

Tornado Roofing

Sections of twisted roofing had been torn from Cunard Hall, and racing along the low grass a long coil of wire lay like a couchant snake. At the height of the storm the thundering wind had searched the crevices and crannies, plunging through gaps and ripping up in savage bursts. Workers saw how futile it would be to try to rescue anything during the mad storm, and the wet clattering of charged wires kept them back in the safety of the Ad Building.

The winds had whipped across the flat face of The Hill and scouring the small settlement of Wagner College. Now, the metallic luster of the distant Narrows, that widened into the sun-glazed sea, looked calm and gentle, giving no hint of the fury that broke loose on that gray Saturday morning and storms like a million demons up the forested banks of the sleeping hill.

Students Notified

Residents of Luther and Cook Halls, home for the Thanksgiving holidays, were notified by telegram that their campus housing facilities had been destroyed by the weekend storm.

Many of the dorm students, however, did not receive their notices either because communication lines were down or because students failed to notify the registrar’s office of their new addresses.

The Day Before
The Morning After

By Louise Kelso

“I heard a crash, but I didn’t give it a second thought.”

That was the reaction of Ralph Jacobson, sole occupant of Luther Hall when the howling winds tore off its roof.

“I continued to read ‘King Lear.’”

Jacobson, a freshman, said, “But after a while I noticed that Cook Hall was in complete ruin and it was going to fly.”

“I dashed over to the Ad Building to tell Ken Johansen about the trouble. It was then that I saw that the roof was off. Luther.”

Spending the weekend here to help decorate the bookstore, Johansen, a senior, gave his report of the storm.

“There was one terrific gust of wind,” he said, “and suddenly I saw the roof of Luther Hall coming off in pieces.”

Gangway, Boys

Some of the students and John- sen ran over to the Hall to see if there were any residents in the dorm that needed aid. When they got there, the first thing they did was to shut off all power as a necessary precaution against fire.

“The next thing we thought of,” he continued, “was to shut off the water so that no pipes would blow.”

Another first-hand account came from John Shellhart, a junior and a resident of North Hall.

President's Oust "D. P."

Social activities at Wagner College have been blown away by Luther Hall’s roof. Ken Johnson’s “Deep Purple” dance has been postponed. The fate of gym classes and the chapel program is still in doubt, and the basketball team will hold its practice sessions in Cromwell Center.

The storm forced delays in the full schedule of weekend events, and it will not be held at all.

The Varsity Players’ production of "Cagey" has been cancelled, it was announced by Nicholas Moss, director.

Cagers Bounced As Season Starts

Last Saturday’s big win literally made the Wagner basketballers ‘orphans of the storm.’" Because the gymnasium has been converted into a huge bedroom, Coach Herb Satter has taken his team to Cromwell Center, three miles from the college, for daily practice sessions.

The Seahawks open their season tomorrow night by playing the “dancing Maroons of Rosemoor College, W. Va., in the New Dorp High School gym.

Wagner will play with a club of three veterans of last year’s 19-6 upset of Captain Ray Dooley, Larry Sweeney and Sonny Bosley. The other starters are Don Gromisch, Jay Kole, and the past two years’ Bob Mahala, outstanding freshman prospect.

Carry Clothes

At Luther, Shelf and Johnson and others helped to take all the clothing out and transport it to the calm of the Ad Building.

"Coming over from North Hall, I was nearly hit on the head by falling tin from Cromwell," Shellhart told Viub. "I was nearly hit, but because facts never require opinions," he added.

Martin Vimb, manager of the Guin-den, noticed the Cromwell roofing whipping in the wind at 3 P.M.

"I opened the door and saw the tar covering rippling," Viub said. "There was a tremendous noise and wind, and I thought for a moment the building was going to come down on me, I closed the door, but quick!!"