

TEACHER: Brown  
DATE: 11/12/81

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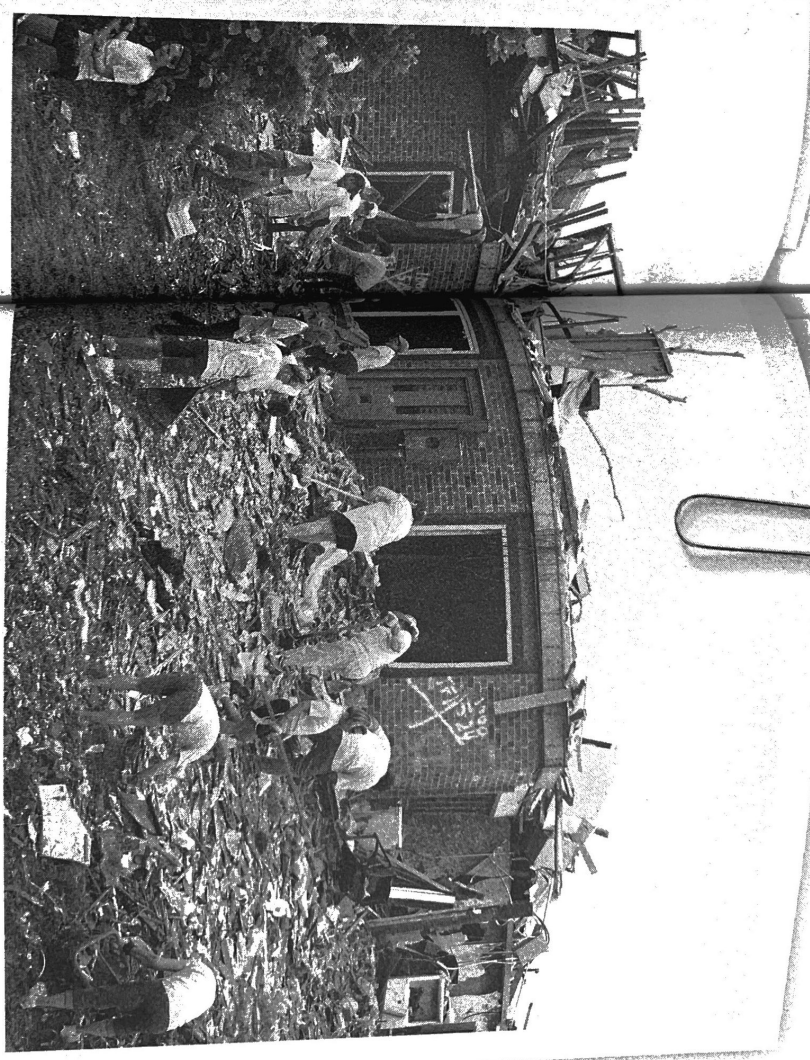
after receiving many emails from people from Joplin suggesting that I write about their city in the I Survived series.

I was fortunate to connect with a group of Joplin's elementary school librarians who agreed to be my guides to Joplin.

### Tornado Scars

One of these fine women, Ashley Tucker, helped organize my trip, and then drove me through the heart of the disaster zone. I could see few scars of the tornado's damage. Most areas had been almost completely rebuilt.

I visited some of Joplin's new elementary schools. They are among the most modern and beautiful I'd ever seen. Joplin students chose the colors on the walls. Perhaps most important: Each classroom has a tornado safe room. And each school doubles as a tornado shelter for the neighborhood.



### A Gift

Within five years of the tornado, there were actually more people in Joplin than before the disaster. The Satterlees' home was rebuilt, and the boys still feel lucky to live in Joplin.

Of course, those who lost family and friends still

grieve. The tragedy left scars, including many that cannot be easily seen.

Like many outsiders, I am amazed by the strength of so many people I met in Joplin. For me, perhaps nothing symbolizes that strength more than a

Above: Volunteers help a homeowner clean up and pick through wreckage. Rebuilding begins after the wreckage is finally cleared.