By Jan Schultz
The Imperial Republican

An Imperial couple and their son and daughter-in-law from Elsie got a first-hand look at the devastation in New York City from Hurricane Sandy.

John and Joan Osler of Imperial were on a vacation trip with Scott and Debbi Osler to several East Coast sights, concluding it early this week in New York City, arriving there Sunday.

That was the day before the hurricane hit in New York after taking a stormy path up the coast.

The Oslers' daughter, Susan Hanson of Elsie, said she received a text from her brother Tuesday that they were all okay.

They were in a downtown Manhattan hotel, just four blocks from Times Square and had power at that time. They were comfortable indoors, Hanson said, but was told it was dangerous outside.

The first part of their trip took them to sights in Washington D.C., followed by stops along the Civil War battleground areas including Gettysburg.

After a stop in Philadelphia, three days were planned in New York City before their Oct. 31 flight home.

Never having been to New York City before, Hanson said her parents were looking forward to seeing the sights.

While that didn't all happen, she said their hotel concierge was able to arrange a drive-by sightseeing tour Sunday with a friend in his Tahoe.

They were able to drive by Central Park, Ground Zero and Wall Street, but were unable to get out. They also drove by Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty but heavy mist ahead of the storm blocked their views.

Hanson was hopeful the Oslers would be able to get back home Wednesday on their scheduled flight.

But, with thousands of flights out of the East Coast cancelled this week, that remained to be seen.