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TORNADO PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

1. DATE AND TIME July 8, 1984 1700 CDT

2. LOCATION OR PATH (attach map)
3.5 miles E of Sperling, Man.

3. PATH LENGTH ☐ NOT KNOWN ☐ <1 mi; ☐ 1-4 mi; ☐ 5-10 mi; ☐ 11-50 mi; ☐ LENGTH IF >50 mi

4. PATH WIDTH ☐ 5. TORNADO PART OF SQUALL LINE? ☐ YES; ☐ NO; ☐ UNKNOWN:

6. ANY UNUSUAL COLORATION? ☐ YES; ☐ NO; ☐ UNKNOWN

7. ANY UNUSUAL SOUND? ☐ YES; ☐ NO; ☐ UNKNOWN

8. IF ANSWER TO 6 OR 7 YES, ELABORATE;

9. LIST ANY ASSOCIATED PHENOMENA (Such as hail, vivid lightning heavy rain, no rain, etc.)
- rain
- hail

10. TOTAL DAMAGE ESTIMATE $

11. TOTAL DEATHS

12. TOTAL INJURED

13. TOTAL HOMELESS

14. LIST ALL REFERENCES

15. SUMMARIZE REMARKS PERTAINING TO (a) FUNNEL; (b) INTERESTING OR CAPRICIOUS EVENTS.

b) Machine shed destroyed, shingles torn off barn, 7 steel granaries destroyed, part of house not removed.

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Sperling River Post

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Lighting bolt claims life

Mr. Lyle Johnston of Morris, age 38, was killed instantly when struck by lightning on July 12 at approximately 9:30 p.m. The mishap occured while he was unloading a truck at the Roland waste disposal site. The truck had a flat tire but a spokesperson for the Morden Detachment of the R.C.M.P. reports the investigation did not indicate that Mr. Johnston was in the process of changing the tire or that he had attempted to change the tire.

Miraculously escaped tornado's fury

by Evelyn Rose

A young man miraculously escaped injury when a tornado swept across the Franz Dewey farm three and one half miles east of Sperling on Sunday July 8, at about 5:00 p.m.

As the twister roared across the farm yard it demolished the machine shed in which 18 year old Christian Dewey had sought shelter from the ferocious wind, rain, and hail.

Christian told the Post he had just finished talking to his mother on the telephone when the door of the shed began opening under the pressure of the wind. He tried to force it shut but was unable to do so. Suddenly both front doors blew wide open, the power went off and the building started buckling. "As the building kept falling, I knew I had to get out," he said.

After the storm the front wall of the machine shed on which the telephone had been hanging, and the telephone, were found about 50 feet from their original location. The telephone cord had been severed.

Some debris fell on him, Christian said, but it wasn't heavy and he was able to lift it off and escape from the crumbling building.

"I tried to get back to the house," Christian continued, "But the hail was hurting my face and the wind was pushing me back." He said the wind pushed him back against a tractor which was standing outside the machine shed. He managed to open a door and climb into the cab which offered some protection even though two of the windows had already been

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Christian Dewey was warned of the severity of the storm by his mother via telephone. He later sought refuge and escaped injury in the cab of this tractor, when the machine shed in which the telephone was located began to give way to the violent winds of the storm.

Photos by Evelyn Rose

broken by the storm.

As Christian was sitting in the tractor he said he was watching the house, hoping it wouldn't blow away, and thinking of all the work and money it would take to rebuild.

Mrs. Dewey said she had told her son not to go outside but he had gone anyway. When she saw him go into the machine shed she called him on the telephone and told him to stay where he was. She, along with her daughter Lucia and two children she was taking care of, then went to the basement for refuge.

The next time Mrs. Dewey came up out of the basement to check on the storm, the shed was down, "I thought he was dead," she said.

As soon as the storm subsided, Mrs. Dewey prepared to go out and look for her son but just when she was ready to go out, Christian walked in.

Although the damage to the Dewey farm was extensive, Mrs. Dewey said it seemed like very little when compared to the life of her son.

In addition to the loss of the machine shed there was considerable damage to the house as well as the loss of seven steel granaries and one wooden one, severe crop damage and the removal of shingles from the roof of the hog barn.

A portion of the roof on the west side of the house was wrenched off and lay on the ground. The attic, which was exposed to the elements, contained a layer of mud and dirt. Shingles were ripped off the remaining part of the roof and windows smashed.

One twisted granary was found about one half a mile away, another about a mile, while other granaries had been torn apart and the debris scattered throughout the field east of the Dewey farm site.

Mr. Dewey, who was in the United States at the time of the tornado, did not learn of the disaster which had struck his home until Tuesday morning when he telephoned.

