A

TORNADO PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

F = MAN

1. DATE AND TIME MON JUNE 19, 1978

2. LOCATION OR PATH (attach map) VCNTY STE ELIZABETH — STE ANNE — OSTENFELD

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

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.)

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.

Winnipeg Free Press, Man.
Circ. 138,822
June 21, 1978
CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

C1492

Families thankful to have escaped with their lives

By CECIL ROSNER

Jeanette Roy stood on the flattened ruins of her $55,000 house near Ste. Anne, Man., Tuesday and described how she watched a tornado rip her house apart.

While she, her husband and two children huddled in a corner of the master bedroom, the tornado blasted through the house and scattered furniture hundreds of feet in every direction, leaving nothing but a section of the kitchen standing. Miraculously, she said, the family escaped serious injury.

"First I saw the house lift, then the walls picked up and started to go. Trees, furniture, walls, everything started flying over us. I thought we were going to get thrown into the river," Mrs. Roy, 22, said.

The Roys moved into their new house six weeks ago and had it decorated with new furniture throughout. When the tornado had passed, their couch lay in the ditch of the nearby Seine River and many other furnishings were nowhere to be found.

Mrs. Roy required stitches to close a small gash on her elbow while her husband was kept in hospital overnight for observation of minor back injuries. Their children, aged 3½ and 1, escaped unhurt.

In his hospital bed in Ste. Anne Tuesday, Charles Roy explained how the tornado struck.

"We'd just finished feeding the kids in the kitchen when I looked out the window and saw the trees waving back and forth. Then I saw what looked like a big, brown tidal wave coming toward the house."

Roy said he couldn't believe it was a tornado at first. "I was looking for the funnel but I couldn't see one. It looked like it was about 200 feet wide at the bottom."

The Roys decided they didn't have time to run to the crawl space basement, so they took their children and headed for their bedroom and lay down in the corner.

"The wind hit the house and we could feel the pressure building up inside. Then glass started breaking everywhere. The walls just lifted and went over us. I remember being in the air for a split second, and we were thrown a bit."

When the twister had passed, the Roys went to their garage which was relatively undamaged, but fallen trees blocked the way to their car. Just then someone arrived in a car and gave them a ride to a relative's house.

Roy has no idea whether his insurance will cover the damage caused by the tornado. His family will stay at his parents' house until they decide how to reconstruct their life.

Despite the terrifying experience, the Roys were in cheerful spirits Tuesday. "We're just lucky to be alive," Mrs. Roy said.

Moments before the tornado hit the Roys' house it had swept through a field on the outskirts of Ste. Anne where it hurled a rail car through the air, killing one signal crew worker and injuring another. CN maintenance workers could give no estimate of the damage as they sifted through the strewn debris Monday.

Ovid Lafournaise was another resident who escaped with his life after the tornado scraped along the side of his house.

While Lafournaise gathered his wife and four children and headed for the basement during the tornado, his 81-year-old father attempted to close the front door. But the pressure inside the house was too great and the man succeeded only in cutting his hand in the effort.

While most of his home is still standing, the interior was destroyed as was a hay loft, barn and two sheds. The tornado also destroyed his chicken coop, killing more than 60 chickens.

"I don't know what we're going to do now," Lafournaise said. "You always know something like this can happen. But we'll rebuild in this area."

STORM DATE: MON JUNE 19, 1978 MAN

(59)

Canadian Press Clipping Service
481 UNIVERSITY AVE. TORONTO 2

Steinbach Carillon News
Manitoba
June 21, 1978 273
CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

Tornado hits three Southeast communities

by Wes Keating

The tornado struck one mile southwest of Ste Anne early Monday evening.

Steve Fortin saw it coming and hustled his wife and family into the car and headed for what he hoped was safety.

As the family watched, the dark funnel cloud touched down on the field across the road from their home and within seconds their house and yard was in a shambles. Front windows shattered, foot thick trees snapped off like matchsticks, a barn completely flattened, lawn furniture thrown 500 feet into the river.

Later, amid the wreckage of what had been their well manicured yard and farm home, Mrs Fortin talked of her daughter's graduation coming up Friday and the lawn party she had planned. A youth went about the yard finishing off chickens crippled by the storm.

The family was safe but what had been their home was lying in ruin. The front windows of their house had blown right out, their furniture was strewn about the living room and the wall of what had been a porch stood askew. The Fortin family was one of the fortunate ones, their home can still be salvaged.

Two houses down the road, a house was reduced to a single wall with the roof, still in one piece, in the neighbor's yard. A brick fireplace lay 50 feet from the house on the riverbank and shade trees in the front yard were twisted and broken.

One man died near Ste Anne when the CNR bunk car he was in was hurled into the air and splintered into a field. Another man injured in the same incident was reported to be in serious but stable condition in St. Boniface hospital Tuesday.

Dr Pat Doyle said another man treated at Ste Anne hospital was later transferred to St. Boniface and a Ste Anne man was in hospital suffering with a fractured shoulder while his wife had been treated and released.

Dr Doyle said the man was travelling alone on Highway 12 between the Trans-Canada Highway and the village when the tornado lifted his car and threw it several hundred feet. He was thrown from the car and suffered a concussion, broken shoulder and other injuries. He is presently at St. Boniface hospital.

The Ste Anne doctor said the man and wife he treated at the hospital were in their house about 1½ km from Ste Anne when the storm struck.

Their house didn't have a basement so the couple and their two children lay down on the floor. The house was completely lifted away but the parents received only minor injuries while the children escaped unhurt.

In all, about 10 people from Ste Anne and Greenland areas were taken to the Ste Anne and Steinbach hospitals. Most were treated and released.

The tornado followed a northeasterly path about 20 kilometers on either side of a line from Morris and moving towards Ste Anne.

In its wake it left extensive damage to an elderly persons' home in Greenland and to farms and homes in the area and almost total devastation at the community of Aubigny.

Witnesses said the tornado appeared suddenly about 5:30 p.m. giving the 100 residents of Aubigny little time to take refuge. At least 17 people were injured and had to be taken to Morris hospital. Most were treated and released.

Not one building in Aubigny was left untouched by the tornado. Damage was estimated in the hundreds of thousands of dollars and was heaviest around the church, which lost its bell tower and steeple. In the south and east part of town at least two buildings were completely flattened.

Many of the homes stand ruined, automobiles lie upside down in yards and gardens and the town's only store, bank and post office have all been severely damaged.

Mike Balshaw, supervisor on duty in the weather office during the storm, said there was more than one tornado during the course of the storm. Most tornadoes only last for about 20 minutes he said, and it was a series of recurring twisters that caused the damage and injuries in Aubigny, Greenland and Ste Anne.

He said he thought the weather watch system which was developed after a severe tornado hit southern Manitoba last year worked well considering the erratic nature of the storm.

Hydro spokesman Earl Mills said the storm caused serious problems in southern Manitoba and isolated troubles as far north as the Dauphin and Swan River areas. Hydro crews were on the scene immediately, he said, and all lines were back in service by 10 p.m. Monday.

Mr Mills said two 66,000 volt transmission lines, one north of Morris and another west of Ste Anne were still down late Monday night but crews had been working on them overnight and yesterday.

While the full extent of damage to telephone service wasn't known, a Manitoba Telephone spokesman said the area around the towns of Morris, St Malo, St Pierre and Ste Anne were without service Tuesday as a result of downed telephone lines.

The tornado struck within miles of the St Malo-Carlowrie-Rosa area where a tornado killed three people and caused property damage estimated at $300,000 last July. Experts labelled that tornado as one of the most violent on the continent.

That tornado, which came out of the northwest touched down in several areas including Carlowrie, Rosa and areas to the northwest. Its path was about five miles in length and usually several hundred feet wide.

In that storm, winds over 200 miles an hour levelled houses, hurled granaries thousands of yards, flattened crops, uprooted trees and ripped strips of asphalt off Highway 59.

Manitoba Municipal Affairs Minister Gerry Mercier said Monday he will have to wait for a report on Monday's storm before deciding what action the government will take. Premier Sterling Lyon visited the three communities hardest hit by the storm by helicopter Tuesday.

While the weather office monitored the progress of the storm, local volunteers also did their part to help. Amateur radio operators who are in the process of setting up an emergency measures system were in contact with towns like Lac Du Bonnet, Pinawa and Beausejour as well as Winnipeg so they could let residents know about the movement of the storm.

When the tornado struck, local volunteer firemen and dozens of other volunteers wasted no time to provide assistance to the RCMP and residents. An RCMP spokesman said his department would like to express their appreciation to the Ste Anne and Steinbach fire departments and to the residents of Ste Anne for their co-operation.

Hundreds of volunteers were on hand Tuesday at Aubigny, Greenland and Ste Anne to begin the massive clean up and restoration work.

14492

Cleanup at Greenland, Ste Anne well underway

by Tim Plett

"The volunteers really helped us to recover. We thank them very much," Pat Lafournaise of Ste Anne said Friday echoing sentiments shared by all those hit by last Monday's tornado.

Although it will be some time before repairs are finished and life is back to normal, cleanup was nearly finished by Friday at the tornado sites in Greenland and Ste Anne.

While cleanup and repair was being carried out those victims unable to continue living in their homes were staying with relatives and friends or in campers on their yards.

While the victims were generally in good humour at least one man was showing the strain of attemping to rebuild in the glare of publicity following the tornado.

Indicating he did not want to talk any more the man said all he wanted to do now was rebuild his home.

Gallows humor was also in evidence as one man wondered aloud what he had done to God to deserve the tornado.

All were gratified at the response of volunteers in helping with cleanup.

The Mennonite Disaster Service was instrumental in organizing volunteers at Ste Anne and also Aubigny, the third community hit. However, volunteer help at Greenland was organized primarily by the local church.

One of the sites in that community receiving the most attention was the Greenland Home for senior citizens.

Lloyd Wohlgemuth of the home's board, indicated Thursday the future of the home depends on whether or not the provincial government feels safety standards can be met in rebuilding the existing facility.

At present volunteers are making the building watertight to prevent further damage in the event of rain, he said.

If the building is repairable it will probably be repaired, Mr Wohlgemuth suggested. If not, it is possible a new home would be built, "we feel we want a home."

Of the 19 residents at the home when the tornado struck only three were injured and taken to Bethesda Hospital in Steinbach for treatment with none being admitted, it was indicated.

For the time being, three residents are staying in Bethesda Hospital with the remainder in private homes where staff nurses are giving special care to those that need it, Mr Wohgelmuth said.

The response for volunteers to help with cleanup and repair at all the sites in Greenland hit by the tornado has been very good, he indicated and pointed out about 200 people had to be given dinner and supper at the community's church.

Most of the volunteers have been local people with some coming from western Manitoba, Mr Wohgemuth indicated and pointed out the local people have supervised the work themselves.

The Gospel Tract and Gospel Publishing building had its windows and doors broken by the tornado and part of the roof damaged.

The quirks of the tornado were also in evidence at the site as board member Harry Wiebe indicated it had deposited a metal ridge cap from a shed in the middle of a room, even though there was no such building nearby.

The following morning a small box of mouse poison was found lying on top of a wall from a neighboring building and even though debris was scattered throughout the building some loose tracts which had been lying on a table were undisturbed.

Poultry producer, Ed Warkentin was on holiday when the tornado struck, destroying one barn and damaging several other buildings.

With the help of volunteers

see **"Cleanup"** page 3

operations were moving again in the second barn by Thursday.

Mrs Frank Giesbrecht had made it to the safety of her basement when the storm struck, blowing off the roof and two outside walls. By Thursday the roof and outside walls were back on the structure. However, a living room chair has not yet been located.

A son-in-law supervising repairs called the response of volunteers "very heartening," saying there had been more volunteers than he could count.

There is no way to estimate how long it would be before Mrs Giesbrecht could move back into the house, he indicated, pointing out it depends on whether or not help keeps coming in.

Henry Kornelson was in his living room as the tornado circled his house destroying trees and a garden swing but leaving the building relatively untouched.

"We're sure thankful that our building was saved," he said Thursday. He went on to commend the volunteers who turned out to help with cleanup in the community but said he did not need help himself.

At Ste Anne

Ste Anne Area farmer Guy Perrin and his family had at least 20 minutes to get to safety from the time they saw the tornado approaching until it struck destroying a dairy barn and a shed.

Mr Perrin expressed gratitude to the farmers who helped him with cleanup calling the turnout "very good."

However, the tornado will leave him two to three weeks behind in his farm work, he indicated.

While the barn is being rebuilt he is keeping 25 cows in a neighbor's barn, Mr Perrin said.

Leopaul Lansard of Ste Anne who works for a roofing company will also be unable to work for a while as the tornado destroyed a machine shed on his yard and scattered a number of tools.

A number of volunteers from the Mennonite Disaster Service had helped with cleanup but by Friday Mr Lansard had hired men helping rebuild the machine shed and repair his house which had windows broken and part of the chimney knocked down.

He and his family were able to make it to the basement just in time, Mr Lansard said. "The whole house was shaking like a leaf."

Along with the damage to the house and the destruction of the machine shed the tornado sucked clothes out of the house and scattered them some distance, Mr Lansard indicated.

Saying it will take a while to get back to normal, Mr Lansard said he now wants to just rebuild and get back to work.

"It was quite an experience but I wouldn't want to repeat it."

By Friday cleanup was just about finished on the yard of grain farmer Terry Vincent who was working in the field when the tornado struck, destroying several buildings.

Cleanup was carried out with the help of about 10 volunteers from the Mennonite Disaster Service, Mr Vincent said.

By Friday Ovide and Pat Lafournaise had a ready-built home on their yard to replace their old home, destroyed by the tornado.

The new house will be ready to move into when the basement is complete, they indicated. In the meantime they and their six children will be staying in a camper on the yard.

Along with the house, two sheds, a hayloft, a chicken coop were destroyed.

The Lafournaises were helped in cleaning up by approximately 30 volunteers — most from the Mennonite Disaster Service but also other people from the area, including one councillor from the RM of Ritchot.

Following the tornado they would not have known where to begin cleanup and repair without the help of the volunteers, Mr Lafournaise said.

Indicating they were rather discouraged immediately after the tornado, Mr Lafournaise said they were now feeling better.

Canadian Press Clipping Service
481 UNIVERSITY AVE TORONTO 2
CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

Steinbach Carillon News
Manitoba
June 28, 1973

FROM: INTRODUCTION TO CANDIAN BUSINESS by ALLYN and BACON LTD. Published 1981

~~AUB~~ ST. PIERRE MAN

INCIDENT:

Arsenic Storage

In June 1978, a tornado touched down briefly in a small town in southern Manitoba. Fortunately, it did not damage a dilapidated storage shed containing 300 tons of arsenic trioxide—a deadly chemical formerly used for killing rats and insects before it was banned by the federal government a number of years ago. Some of the material had been stored there for 20 years.

There was fear, even prior to the tornado, that the chemical could be dangerous. The one-storey frame-building housing the chemical was old and insecure. At one end of the building the wooden siding could easily be forced open. On hot days fumes could be seen rising from the building.

The company which owned the material did not feel it was responsible for removing the chemical. The company's general manager said that the banned chemical had been in the firm's inventory when he bought the firm and that the change in government regulation was what made it unusable. He indicated that the ideal solution was to transport the chemical and store it in an old missile silo in Idaho. The cost of this, however, was estimated at between $60,000 and $80,000, a very large amount for a small firm.

Just prior to the tornado, the provincial minister of mines, resources and environmental management had indicated in the legislative assembly that the government was planning to see that the arsenic was moved but that it was an extremely complicated situation.

The issue had been under discussion by the village council, the provincial and federal governments, and the company for six years. A company representative said he had a "five-inch stack of letters" from various provincial and federal governments.

A councillor of the town said the villagers were angry because they felt the company and the federal and provincial governments were "first considering who will get stuck with the bill" rather than considering the safety of the community. The townspeople weren't optimistic about the province's plans to have the arsenic removed. "We've heard that so many times before. What we want now is action, not more promises."

Questions:

1. Who is responsible for the situation?
2. Should action be taken? When?
3. What should the company do?
4. What should the provincial government do?
5. What should the federal government do?
6. What should residents of the town do?

They live in fear of arsenic

By Patrick Flynn
Tribune Staff Writer

ST. PIERRE — Eugenie Garand worries about tornadoes, and with good reason.

She lives in southwestern Manitoba, the province's most tornado-prone region.

Even worse, her house is about 15 feet from a run-down warehouse that holds enough deadly arsenic powder to kill every rodent in the country.

And the way Mme. Garand sees it, the residents of St. Pierre would fare no better than its rodents if a violent tornado — like the one that flattened Aubigny last week — roared thorugh town and destroyed the old warehouse.

St. Pierre was hit by last Monday's twisters, but damage wasn't extensive. Mme. Garand wonders about "the next time."

"I thanked God that tornado didn't take that thing away the last time," Mme. Garand said Tuesday.

"I was worried that day. I thought we were all finished. I wondered how many people would be poisoned."

The deadly arsenic trioxide — all 300 tons of it — has been at the centre of a bureaucratic entanglement for the last six years, when the St. Pierre village first asked the province to have it moved.

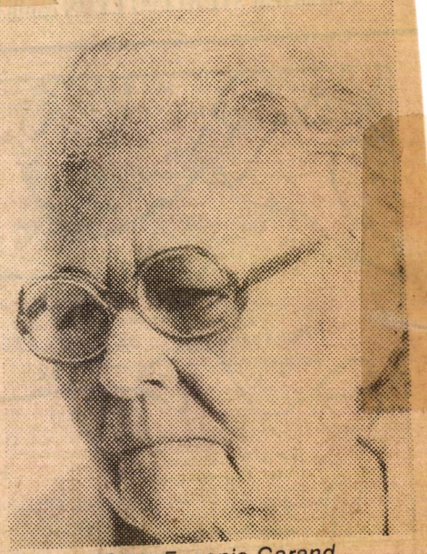
Both federal and provincial government officials agree the chemical could be hazardous to the community. And Poulin's Exterminators of Winnipeg — owner of the building and the arsenic — has warned that the chemical powder could poison drinking water, or produce toxic fumes if ignited in a fire.

But nobody, it seems, has wanted the responsibility of ridding the village of its deadly albatross.

Mines Minister Brian Ransom said Monday the provincial government is planning to move the arsenic, but admitted "it's an extremely complicated situation."

Movement of the chemical, used for killing rats and insects before it was banned several years ago, is against federal regula-

See ARSENIC, Page 5



Mme. Eugenie Garand

Canadian Press Clipping Service
481 UNIVERSITY AVE. TORONTO 2

Winnipeg Tribune, Man.
Circ. 100,949
June 28, 1978
172
CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE



St. Pierre councillor Denis Gregoire stands in front of old warehouse containing the arsenic.

Arsenic worries town's residents

(Continued)

tions.

A Poulin official said the best solution would be to transport the chemical and store it in an old missile silo in Idaho. But that might cost up to $80,000, too much for the firm.

"Can you believe it?" St. Pierre councillor Denis Gregoire asked Tuesday.

"In the last six years, we've attempted every possible approach to have it moved out of here. But there it is."

He accused the provincial and federal governments of "passing the buck consistently."

"If it's so deadly that it's unsafe to move to some concrete compound in the middle of nowhere, then why is it safe enough in a populated village?"

Coun. Gregoire said villagers are angry because they feel Poulins, and the federal and provincial governments, are "first considering who will get stuck with the bill," rather than considering the safety of the community.

He complained that the building — a one-storey wood frame structure — is old and insecure. At one end of the building, wooden siding can easily be forced open, a situation that might lead to vandalism, he said.

Worse still, he says that "children can enter it. Then what would happen?"

"There could be a fire, or a child will get in there and there'll be a disaster. And whose fault will it be?"

Mr. Gregoire isn't optimistic about the province's plans to have the arsenic removed in the near future.

"We've heard that so many times before. What we want now is action, not more promises."

STORM DATE:
SAT, JUNE. 10/78

Canadian Press Clipping Service
481 UNIVERSITY AVE. TORONTO 2

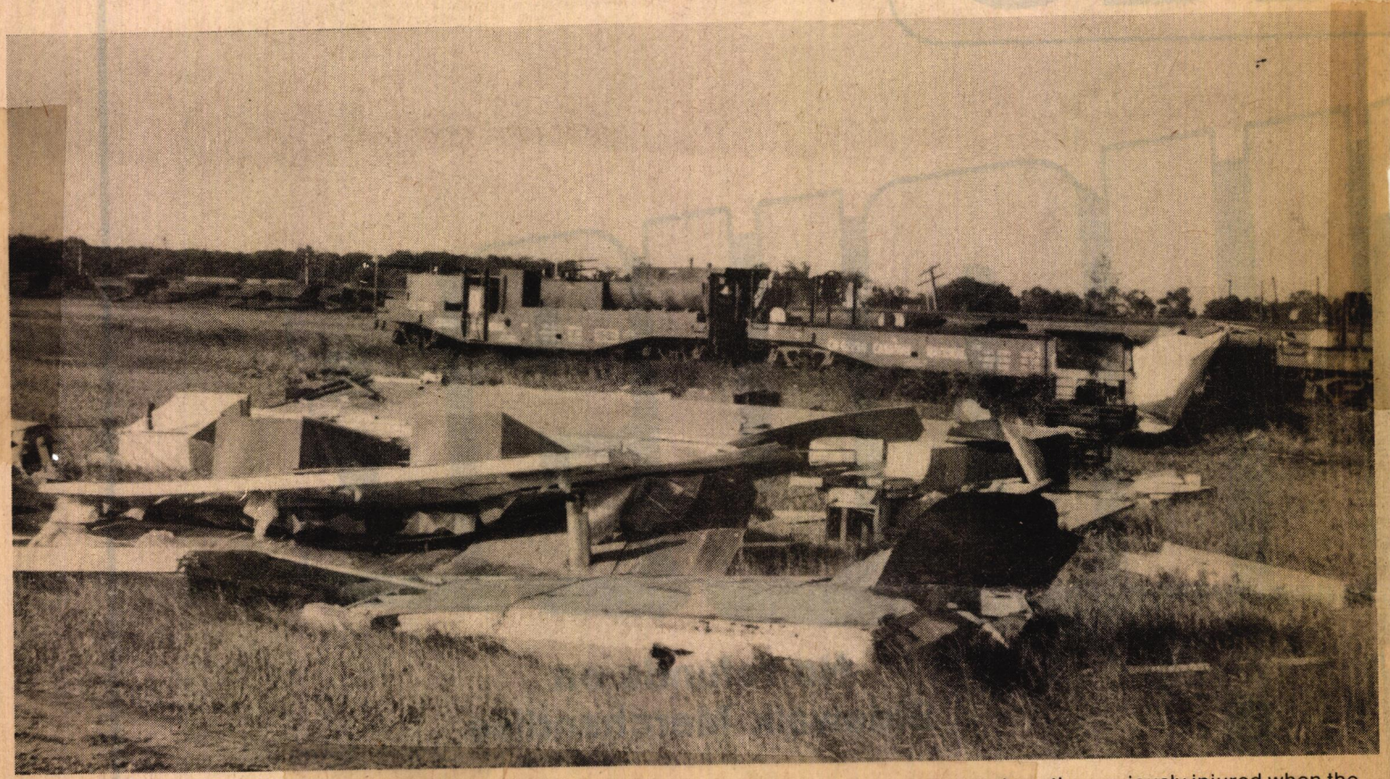
Steinbach Carillon News
Manitoba
June 21, 1978

CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE
271

F1492 T5

At Ste. Anne

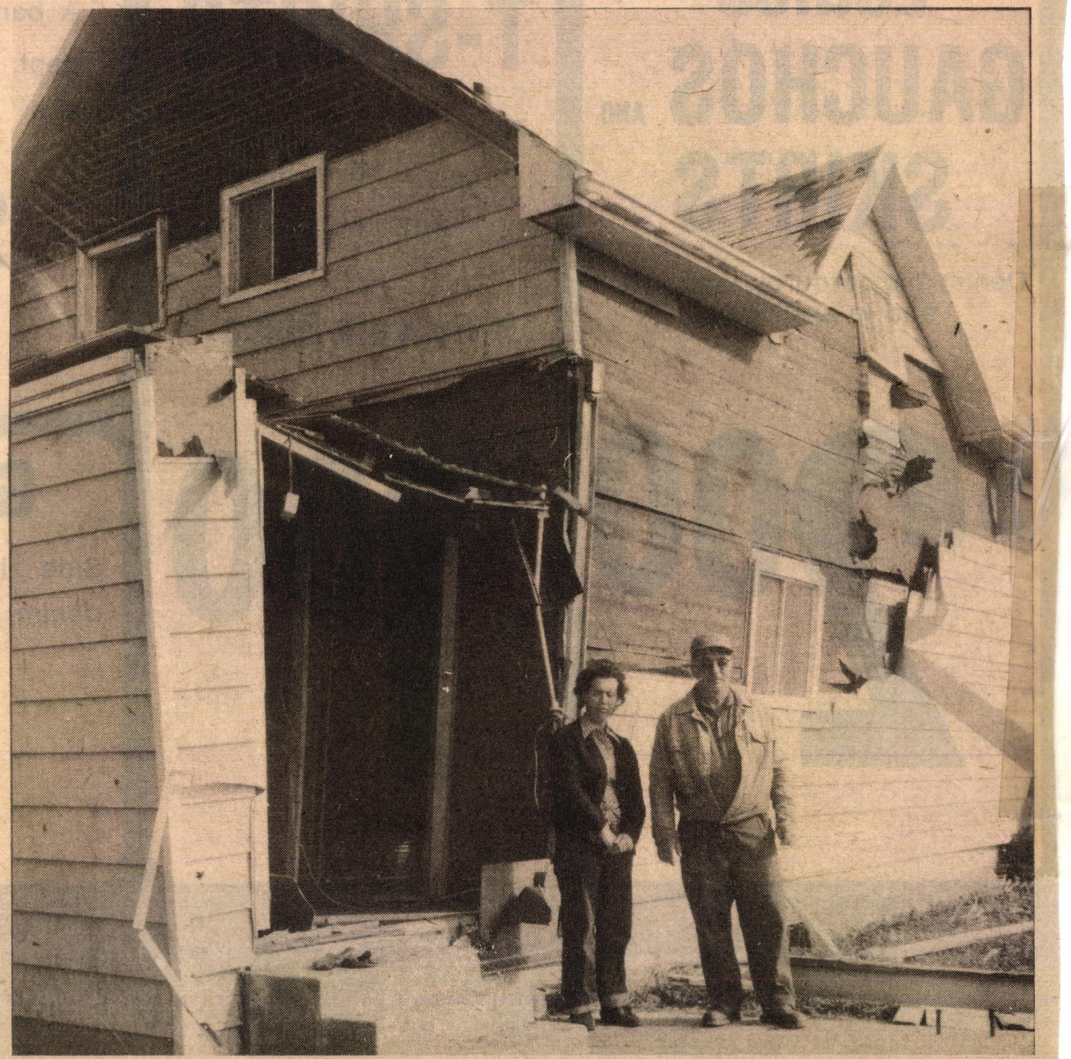
First fatality of storm



Scattered debris was all that remained of this CNR bunk car in which one man was killed and another seriously injured when the tornado struck the Ste. Anne area.



Manitoba Hydro crews wasted no time attempting to restore service after the storm subsided and spent all night replacing the dozens of poles snapped off by the tornado.



The twisted wreckage of the home of Mr and Mrs Ovide Lafournaise who took shelter in their basement when the tornado struck.

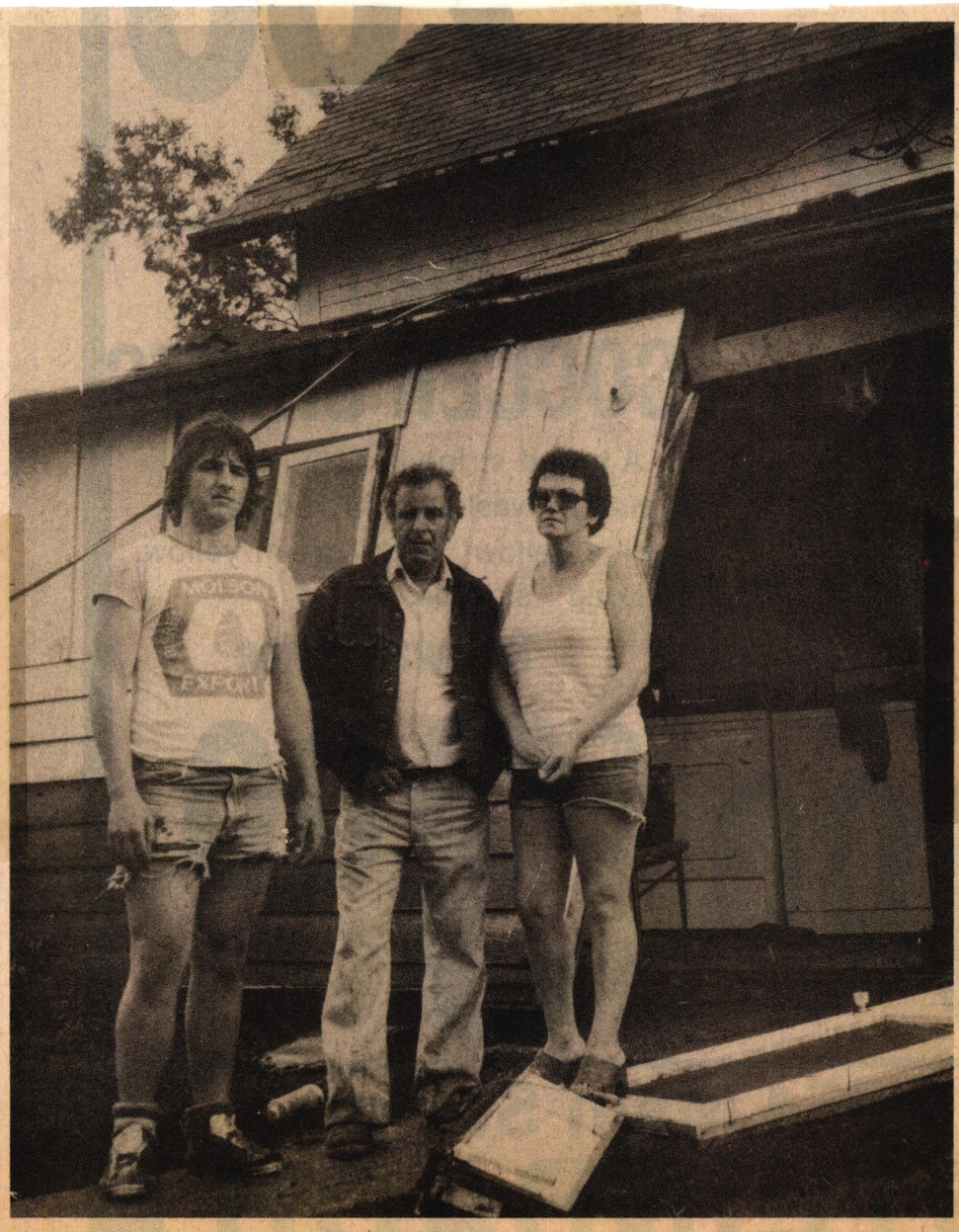
STEINBACH
CARILLON
NEWS
MANITOBA
JUNE. 21/78

STORM DATE:
SAT. JUNE. 10/78

STEINBACH CARILLON NEWS
MANITOBA
JUNE. 21/78.

STORM DATE:
SAT. JUNE. 10/78

Tornado Photos by
Wes Keating, Tim Plett, Eugene Derksen Rick Derksen



Steve Fortin, his wife Denise and son Claude fled in their car when the storm approached their home near Ste. Anne.

STEINBACH CARILLON NEWS
MANITOBA
JUNE. 21/78

STORM DATE:
SAT. JUNE. 10/78



Bags of fertilizer left stacked on a foundation were all that was left of the steel storage shed at the Ste Anne elevator.

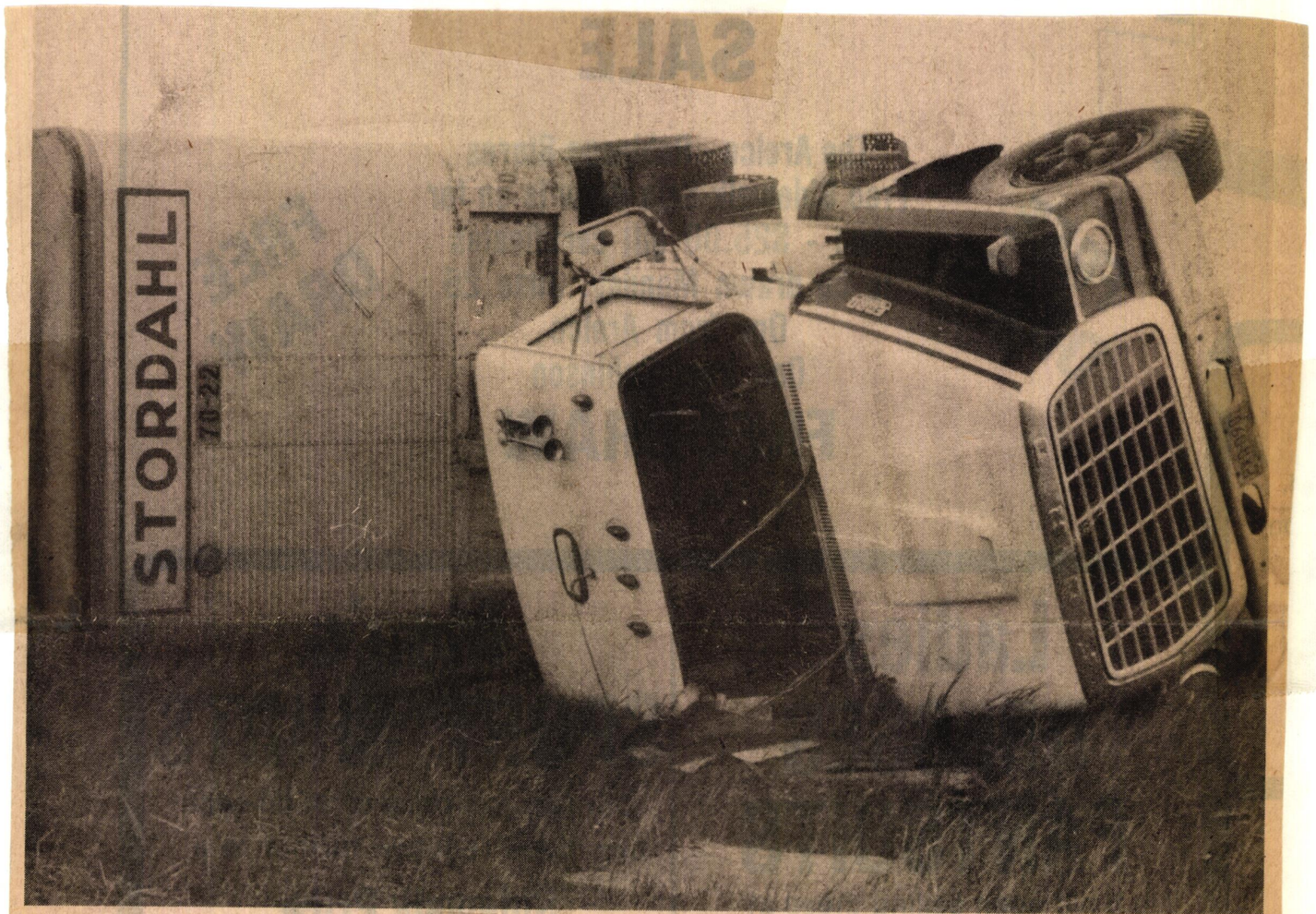
STEINBACH CARILLON NEWS

MANITOBA

JUNE. 21/78

STORM DATE:

SAT. JUNE. 10/78



Penners' transport driver Farley Fries miraculously escaped injury when the tornado lifted his semi-trailer and dropped it on its side at the intersection of the Trans-Canada Highway and PTH 12.

STEINBACH CARILLON NEWS

MANITOBA

JUNE. 21/78

STORM DATE:

SAT. JUNE. 10/78

Carillon feature Fourth Section

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1978

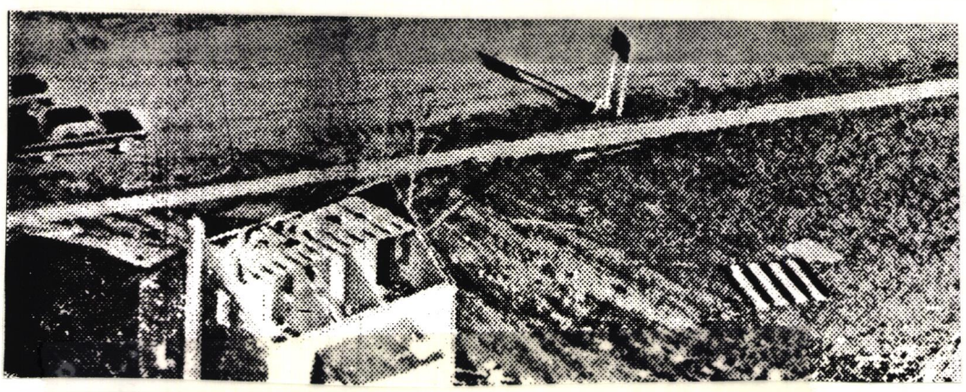


Homes lifted completely off their foundations, flattened buildings and scattered debris were left in the wake of the tornado which hit Ste. Anne area.

Winnipeg Tribune
Sat. June 24 '78
Storm Date: Mon.
June 19 '78

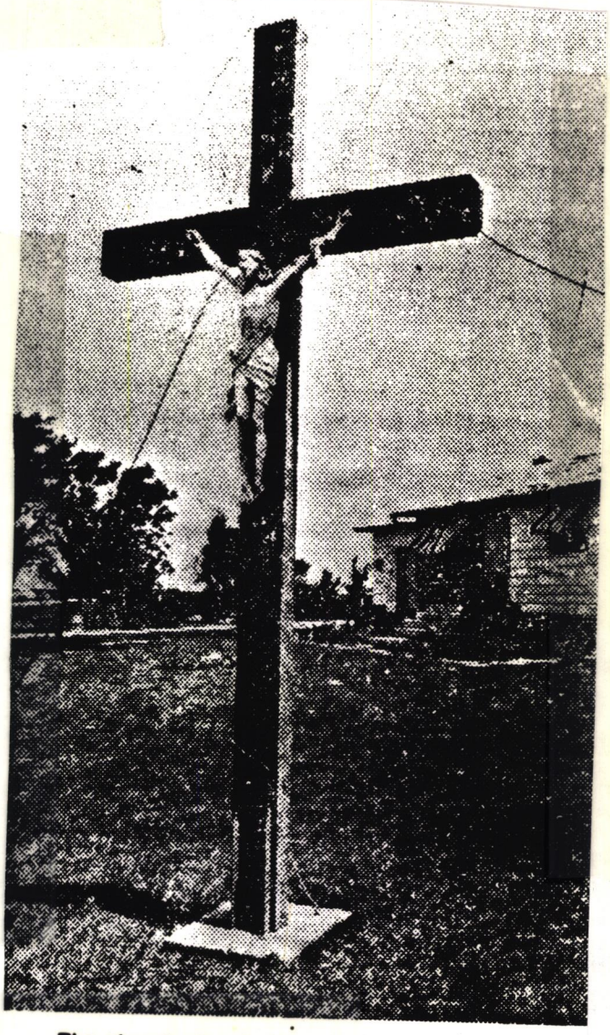


The terrible effect of the storm is shown here where a building was literally flattened and trees were stripped bare as the twister roared through Greenland.





Annette Enns ponders the cleanup at her father's home in Aubigny where hardly a building was left untouched.



The church steeple in Aubigny was torn off and winds ripped hydro lines loose, draping one of them across this crucifix.

STORM DATE:
TUES. JUNE. 20/78

Canadian Press Clipping Service
481 UNIVERSITY AVE. TORONTO 2

Steinbach Carillon News
Manitoba
June 21, 1978
272
CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

F1492 TS

At Greenland

Home, implement dealership wiped out by tornado



The Greenland Home suffered extensive damage in the storm but no serious injuries were reported.

STEINBACH CARILLON NEWS
MANITOBA
JUNE. 21/78

STORM DATE.
TUES. JUNE. 20/78

CARILLON **feature** Third Section WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1978



The Irvin Warkentin New Holland dealership in Greenland was completely devastated by the tornado.

STEINBACH CARILLON NEWS
MANITOBA
JUNE. 21/71

STORM DATE:
JUES. JUNE. 20/78



Farm machinery was thrown around and machine sheds were reduced to rubble when the tornado struck at Greenland Monday.

STEINBACH CARILLON NEWS
MANITOBA
JUNE .21/78

STORM DATE:
JUES JUNE.20/78

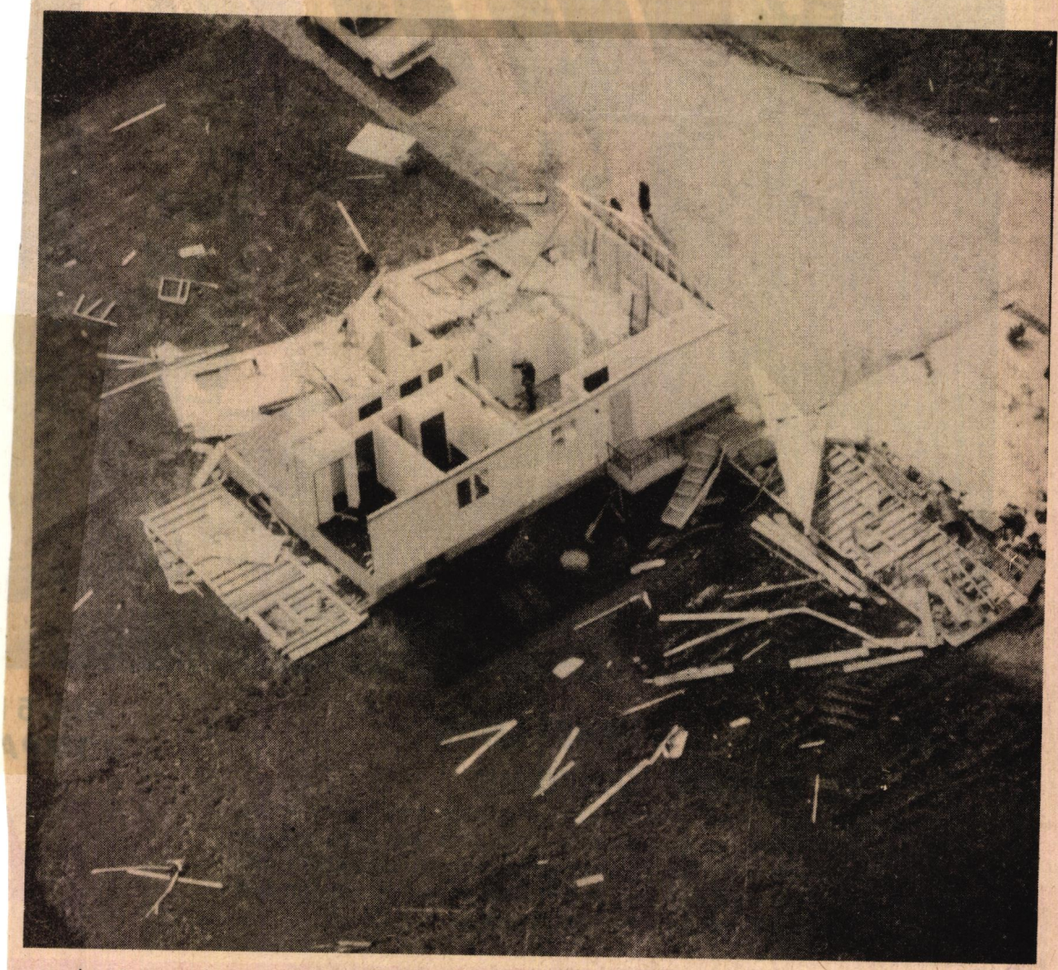


A 15,000 pound combine was dumped over by the twister.

STEINBACH NEWS
MANITOBA

JUNE. 21/78

STORM DATE:
TUES. JUNE. 20/78



Just two outside walls of the Frank Giesbrecht home at Greenland remained standing after the storm.

STEIN-BACK CARILLON NEWS
MANITOBA
JUNE. 21/78

STORM DATE:
TUES JUNE. 20/78



Clean-up operations at this Greenland area farm began Tuesday morning with volunteers on hand to help move feed and help repair buildings.



This twisted metal sign was the only thing left standing at the New Holland dealership.

Canadian Press Clipping Service
481 UNIVERSITY AVE. TORONTO 2

Toronto Star, Ont.
Circ. 488,917
June 20, 1978
CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

MAN 30

Tornado leaves one dead drops one unhurt

Special to The Star

AUBIGNY, Man. — A 75-year-old pensioner had the luckiest escape of all when a tornado swept through part of southern Manitoba, killing one person and injuring at least 19 others.

Emile Pelland found himself unscathed in his neighbor's garden after being tossed out of his living room.

But the late afternoon twister flattened most of the buildings in the small community of Aubigny about 19 miles (30 kilometres) south of Winnipeg as it swept northeast from the town of Morris.

Killed was 21-year-old David Waller, of Portage la Prairie. He was in a Canadian National Railways bunk car on a siding which was lifted and dumped back on the tracks.

A Californian couple were seriously injured when their car was lifted off Highway 75. They were reported to be in "guarded condition" after being transferred to St. Boniface Hospital, Winnipeg.

Housewife Peggy Garrett who lives at St. Agathe, only a few miles from the 300-strong predominantly French-speaking community of Aubigny, watched helplessly as the tornado headed for her home yesterday.

"It was coming straight at us," she said today. "Then it switched and turned east.

"It all started with hail stones, the size of golf balls."

STEEPLE FELL

Mrs. Garrett said she was told the post office and general store at Aubigny were flattened by the tornado, the church steeple overturned and the priest's residence destroyed.

Manitoba Premier Sterlin Lyon was visiting the disaster zone today.

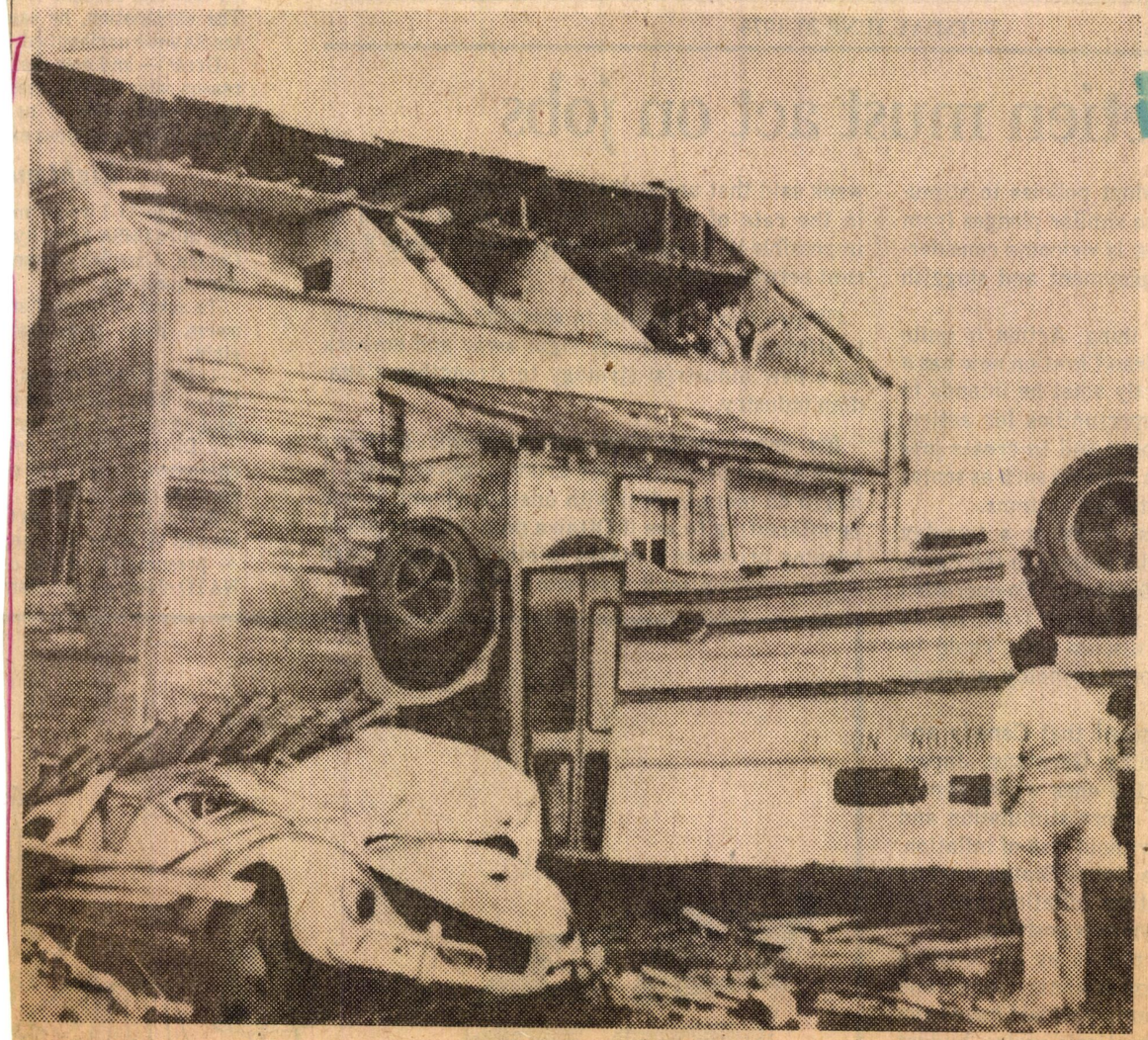
Jack Murray, the mayor of Morris, about 6 miles (10 kilometres) to the west, was one of many people who went to the community to try to help.

SAFE LEFT

"The village had services, a store, post office and caisse populaire," (credit union) said Murray. "But that's all gone now. The only thing left of the caisse populaire is the safe."

The tornado carried a bus more than 200 feet (60 metres) before it was dumped less than 10 feet (three metres) from the side of a house.

Many residents escaped injury by hiding in basements as the houses above them were destroyed.



—CP photo

TORNADOS SWEPT Manitoba last night, killing one man and injuring many. Overturned school bus was carried about 200 feet before being dumped — it was empty at time — by tornado that nearly destroyed Aubigny. Flying debris wrecked a car and toppled a church steeple.

WINNIPEG FREE PRESS, MAN. JUNE 20, 1978.

35

1 DEAD, 23 INJURED AS TORNADO FLATTENS PARTS OF MANITOBA

By DEBBIE SPROAT and ANDY BLICQ

A tornado that ripped through southern Manitoba Monday evening has left one man dead, at least 23 people injured and massive property damage in its wake.

Mike Balshaw, supervisor on duty in the weather office during the storm, said that although damage to life and property was extensive, the weather-watch "worked very, very well."

He said weather warnings went out well in advance and the tornado sightings in most cases allowed one to two hours' notice to towns and villages in the path of the twisters.

RCMP have identified the dead man as David Waller, an employee of Canadian National Railways who was in a bunk car of a work train on a siding near Ste. Anne when the tornado lifted the car into the air.

Waller is believed to be from Portage la Prairie, where his parents live. Another man injured in the same incident is in serious but stable condition at the St. Boniface hospital.

Dr. Pat Doyle of Ste. Anne, who visited the scene of Waller's death, said the bunk car was apparently hurled into the air and "splintered across the field."

He said it was thrown "a fair distance" but it was hard to estimate exactly how far, because there were so many pieces.

Doyle said three other people were also treated at the Ste. Anne hospital. One man was transferred to St. Boniface hospital and is in serious but stable condition, suffering from a concussion, broken shoulder and other injuries.

The doctor said the man was travelling alone on Highway 12 between Ste. Anne and the Trans-Canada Highway when the tornado lifted his car and threw it several hundred feet. He was thrown from the car.

Doyle said he also treated a man and his wife who were in their farmhouse about 1½ km. from Ste. Anne when the storm struck. Their house didn't have a basement, he said, so the couple and their two children lay down on the floor.

He said the house was completely lifted away, but the parents received only minor injuries while the children escaped unhurt. The wife was released from hospital after treatment for a small laceration while the husband remains in hospital with a fractured shoulder.

Of the 19 people taken to Morris hospital from the Aubigny area, a man and a woman have been transferred to St. Boniface hospital, where they are reported to be in guarded condition.

It is believed the couple were travelling north on Highway 75 in a station wagon with California plates when the tornado hit.

Seven other people were detained at Morris hospital. One is in fair condition while the other six are in good condition.

Reports from Aubigny indicate three-quarters of the predominantly French — speaking town of 100 was destroyed or damaged by the high winds. A church steeple was toppled, the Credit Union heavily damaged, and a store and post office flattened.

There were also reports of extensive damage to an elderly persons' home in Greenland, near St. Anne, and to farms and residential property in various areas of southern Manitoba.

Balshaw pointed out that there was more than one tornado during the course of the storm. Most tornadoes "live" for about 20 minutes and it was a series of recurring twisters that caused the damage and injuries.

He said he thought the weather watch system, which was developed after a similarly severe tornado hit southern Manitoba last year, worked well considering the erratic nature of the storm.

"There are limits to what we can do with it (weather watch)," he said.

—Continued

See TWISTER page 6

Hydro spokesman Earl Mills said the storm caused serious problems in southern Manitoba and a large number of isolated troubles as far north as the Dauphin and Swan River areas. However, he said, Hydro crews were on the scene immediately and all lines were back in service by 10 p.m.

Mills said two 66,000-volt transmission lines, one north of Morris and another west of St. Anne, were still down late Monday night. The lines had been isolated, he said, and crews would be working on them overnight and today.

While the full extent of damage to telephone service won't be known until later today, a Manitoba Telephone System spokesman said the area around the towns of

CONTINUED

Morris, St. Malo, St. Pierre and St. Anne are "without service as a result of downed telephone lines."

Crews are expected to begin repairs as soon as the wind subsides. There were no major reports of damage in Winnipeg but lines running to about 50 homes in the city are down.

The tornado struck within miles of the St. Malo — Rosa — Calowrie area of southeastern Manitoba, where a tornado killed three people and caused property damage estimated at $300,000 last July. Experts labelled that tornado one of the most violent on the continent.

In that storm, winds over 200 miles-an-hour cut a swath six miles long and a mile wide, levelling houses, hurling steel granaries thousands of yards, flattening crops, uprooting trees, hurling trucks and graders and ripping strips of asphalt from Highway 59.

That storm was the worst since July 17, 1958, when a twister struck the nearby town of Vita twice in one day. Another tornado hit Vita June 18, 1955, injuring 30 people and causing thousands of dollars in property damage.

Officials say about five or six tornadoes strike in Manitoba every summer, most of them relatively mild. There is danger of a tornado every time there is a severe thunderstorm.

Manitoba Municipal Affairs Minister Gerry Mercier said Monday he will have to wait for a report on the storm before deciding what action the government will take. Officials of the Emergency Measures Organization weren't available for comment.

Storm date:
Mon June 26/78

Canadian Press Clipping Service
481 UNIVERSITY AVE.
TORONTO 2

316

Steinbach Carillon News
Manitoba
June 28, 1978
CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

H1492

Quick decision on tornado aid urged

Manitoba Liberal Senator Gil Molgat has urged the provincial government to move quickly in deciding whether or not to provide assistance to the victims of the tornado which struck Aubigny and the Greenland - Ste Anne areas last Monday evening.

At the moment, the federal government is waiting for the province to request assistance. If the net damages total $1 million or more, federal aid would be automatic, upon provincial request, Senator Molgat told The Carillon Monday after touring the tornado sites. He further indicated it would be his guess the damages are such the province would get federal aid.

If there is to be no government aid now is the time for fund raising because in six months it would be difficult to raise money for the relief of the victims, he suggested.

"It's urgent a decision be made by the province," the senator said, even if no assistance is forthcoming the province must make a decision.

Senator Molgat continued to urge the province to assess damages on an individual basis and not a general assessment of net damages.

While some people had total insurance coverage other had insurance on their home but not other buildings on their property, others had no protection against wind damage, others had no coverage at all, he pointed out.

If the province simply assesses total damages and deducts insurance coverage it will do no good for those with no insurance or limited coverage, Senator Molgat indicated.

The senator also cautioned victims against signing off their insurance claims too quickly, pointing out some damage will not be discovered for some time.

He commended the Mennonite Disaster Service for doing "a superb job," noting around 3,000 person days of volunteer labor will have been logged by the organization before cleanup and repair is complete.

Further, he noted the postive moral effect of a Mennonite group working in a French-speaking, Roman Catholic community such as Aubigny and suggested it could only improve the relationship between the two ethnic groups in the province.

La Verendrye MLA Bob Banman said a decision on provincial assistance would probably be made early next month.

Elswood Boles has been appointed to deal with the municipalities and assess damages, the Conservative cabinet minister indicated.

The province is making the assessment to find out the total property damages and just how much of it was insured, Mr Banman said.

The government cannot make a decision on assistance before the net cost is assessed. The government should not have to provide assistance that can and should be provided by private insurance companies, he suggested.

He does not think the net value will exceed $1 million, Mr Banman said. For instance, the volunteer help provided by the MDS, "which did such a fantastic job," cannot be assessed, he said.

Disaster brings out Mennonites

Peter Calamai

AUBIGNY, Man. — If disasters come from hell, then the Mennonites come from heaven.

You'll have a tough time convincing the three score French-speaking families in this rural Manitoba community of the contrary.

Like most Canadians, the residents of Aubigny had never heard of the Mennonite Disaster Service . . . until June 19 when their farming village was ripped apart by a tornado which also sideswiped two other southern Manitoba communities, killing one person.

The heaviest damage was here, 30 kilometres south of Winnipeg, with one third of the homes and the only store destroyed, another third damaged along with the church.

So it was here the Mennonites turned out in force the next morning; at least 350 arrived from miles around, ready with trucks to begin the clean-up.

Today the material work is not yet done; a cacophony of power tools, hammers and cement mixers greet a visitor who drives across the Red River and through brillant yellow fields of mustard into town.

But the spiritual mission which is the Mennonite's driving force has been completed. The people of Aubigny are reborn.

"This is a real serving of Christ; they have been an example to us," says Father Lionel Thibault, pastor of the Roman Catholic parish.

Father Thibault sits in his battered study—plywood over a shattered window, bowls to catch drips from a dishevelled roof—and marvels again at the obedience and organization of the Mennonites.



"You'll have a tough time convincing" . . . These Aubigny residents that the Mennonite Disaster Service didn't come from heaven as they survey the damage left in the path of a June tornado.

Perhaps the disaster was beneficial to his flock, he muses, because they were all untouched by the suffering of others before, cushioned by their own affluence. When they heard about a far-away disaster they might have a token donation, but they wouldn't care.

Yet the Mennonites in North America do care. They care enough that since 1950 they have been sacrificing their own time, energy and money to extend help to neighbors in distress, even neighbors on another continent or behind the Iron Curtain.

"We're not there to make people into Mennonites, believe me, but we are trying to improve people's belief in Christianity," says Syd Reimer, co-ordinator for the Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) at Aubigny.

Reimer epitomizes the spirit of servanthood that has made the MDS a revered legend among agencies as the U.S. Red Cross, the National Guard and Canada's Emergency Measures Organization. A highly-successful insurance salesman in southern Manitoba, he was the closest available official in the grassroots MDS organization when a flood killed 234 and did more than $80 million damage to Rapid City, South Dakota, in 1972.

Reimer went as co-ordinator, even though he'd had no experience with such a major project; so did 1,500 unpaid volunteers, including nearly 300 from Manitoba, which has the heaviest concentration of Mennonites in Canada. Ontario and the other three Western provinces also have MDS organizations.

MDS is not merely a cleaning outfit to get a community ship shape, Mennonites insist, but a group which transmits courage to victims by its example of selfless giving.

Syd Reimer and his Manitoba brethren were challenged to prove this concept once again last month ... with a disaster in their own backyard. Three communities were struck by the June 19 twister, causing millions of dollars of damage.

But the province of Manioba has surplus finds only for flood damage; federal disaster aid— if offered—won't come until a damage assessment is complete at the end of this month.

"By the time the governments have finished assessing, we'll have rebuilt the whole town," says Reimer.

Perhaps a bit brash, but the experienced workers from as far as 50 miles away did work so rapidly that they cleaned up some damage before insurance adjusters had inspected.

The experienced supervision of someone like farmer Jake Dueck in pouring cement floors was all the more appreciated here because construction workers in Manitoba are on strike; it took the building trades unions two weeks t mount a volunteer effort.

"They're overcautious that they won't be taken advantage of; we're not overcautious. We know that some people are taking advantage of us but there will always be abuse if you want to reach the people really in need," says Reimer.

A few hours in the bustle of Aubigny produces mutterings about one resident who makes long-distance calls on the MDS telephone, another family which horns in on free meals for the workers and homeless and a few families demanding more remodelling than mere repairs.

The Mennonites also have their internal differences; as many as two dozen distinct groupings exist among the 250,000 in Manitoba and a few refuse to work with those considered less strict.

Yet testimony to the impact of the peaceable Mennonites— MDS spang from their WWII experience as conscientious objectors—is the presence working here of Ukranian farmers from Carlowie, a tiny community which saw the gathering of the Mennonite clan after a tornado a year ago.

When the next disaster strikes, say residents like store owner Paul Bouchard, the people of Aubigny will be there, shoulder-to-shoulder with the Mennonites Disaster Service.

Canadian Press Clipping Service
481 UNIVERSITY AVE. TORONTO 2
332
Medicine Hat News, Alta.
Circ. 11,976
July 13, 1978
CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

The NEWS
Vol. 14 92

Storm date:
June 19, 1978

Canadian Press Clipping Service
481 UNIVERSITY AVE
TORONTO 2

MAN

368

Steinbach Carillon News
Manitoba
July 12, 1978

CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

1492

F112

Quick cleanup made in tornado disaster

WINNIPEG – Families in three southern Manitoba communities saw the care and labor of 30 years smashed in 30 seconds when tornadoes touched down late afternoon on Monday, June 19. Many barely escaped with their lives by taking shelter in basements or lying on the floor; one person was killed.

In Aubigny, a small Roman Catholic community, 39 families were affected; every building was touched. A comparable amount of damage was done to an area around Ste. Anne, another French Roman Catholic community, and nearby Greenland, a Mennonite farming community.

Assistance came immediately from police, volunteer firemen, and volunteers from the community.

Syd Reimer, vice-chairman of Mennonite Disaster Service in Canada, happened to be in the vicinity when he heard the news of the tornado at Aubigny. He immediately drove to the community and contacted a local group. They formed a committee, assisted in some immediate care, set up headquarters at the community hall, and sent out a radio appeal for volunteers. At 9 p.m. the appeal was aired on Radio Southern Manitoba, a Mennonite-owned station, and a few minutes later the phones began to ring.

On Tuesday, 250 volunteers and a fleet of trucks were on hand to clean up rubble, gather scattered debris from the fields, and repair houses and barns. Most of the volunteers were farmers. They came from all over southern Manitoba, from the western community of Portage la Prairie to Steinbach in the southeast.

The Red Cross interviewed families Monday evening to find out what was needed. Their efforts centered on the immediate physical needs of the victims. Women from the community and other volunteers cooked meals in the community hall. Hydro crews worked round the clock and by some time Tuesday restored service. Ben Thiessen, a worker at the Eden Mental Health Centre at Winkler, spent a day talking to victims.

Two days later, MDS volunteers began assisting in clean-up in the Ste. Anne-Greenland area, where tornadoes struck a little later and therefore the news got to MDS later. By Friday, MDS had organized more than 500 volunteers for Aubigny and Ste. Anne clean-ups.

Reimer says the people are taking the disaster very well. "In the last few days the smiles have been much bigger, because people are getting help in repairing the damage."

He says MDS will be active in the two areas for about a month. MCC has committed some funds to purchase materials and assist a few families who did not have insurance.

Canadian Press Clipping Service
481 UNIVERSITY AVE.
TORONTO 2

The Daily Graphic
Portage La Prairie, Man.
Circ. 3,865

CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

June 29, 1978 197

c1492

Report from the Legislature

by Lloyd Hyde, MLA

Shortly after the House adjourned at 5:30 p.m. Monday for the supper hour, word quickly flashed into Winnipeg that two tornadoes had just struck south-eastern Manitoba, killing one man in the village of St. Anne, demolishing the village of Aubigny, and injuring dozens of other Manitoba citizens, after causing untold damages to property and crops likely exceeding a million dollars or more.

After inspecting the area early Tuesday morning by helicopter, accompanied by Industry and Commerce Minister Bob Banman, and Emerson MLA Albert Driedger, Premier Sterling Lyon thanked God in the Legislature that the loss of life had been limited to one unfortunate CNR railway employee. The Premier praised chairman Syd Reimer and the 150 Mennonite disaster service volunteers who were in the disaster areas within an hour, assisting the injured, consoling the unfortunate citizens who faced the tornado, finding accommodation for the homeless victims, and bringing order to the communities with the all out efforts and help of the RCMP, Hydro workers and telephone staff. Premier Lyon congratulated the area residents for their "co-operation and pluck" in dealing with this most unfortunate disaster.

Liberal Lloyd Axworthy charged in the House it took officials of the Emergency Measures Organization 16 to 20 hours to react after the Monday night storm. Axworthy said EMO could not be contacted after 5 p.m. and the telephone operators could not locate EMO officials. Premier Lyon said he was not aware of the Axworthy allegations and as well stalled efforts by NDP leader Schreyer re provincial relief until the losses had been determined.

Canadian Press Clipping Service
481 UNIVERSITY AVE.
TORONTO 2

106

Ottawa Journal, Ont.
Circ. 74,063
June 28, 1978
CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

J-1492

Language is irrelevant

Sirs: — I refer to the photograph and cutline "Twister wreaks havoc" (Journal, June 20) "... Hardest hit was Aubigny, where about three-quarters of the predominantly French-speaking town of 100 was destroyed or damaged by the high winds ..."

I cannot see any connection between a tornado and the French language or any other language for that matter. The issue here was the threatened lives of human beings and the loss of their possessions. The language they happened to speak is irrelevant in that context.

Ottawa. I. CZEMPIEL.

Canadian Press Clipping Service
481 UNIVERSITY AVE. TORONTO 2

Winnipeg Free Press, Man.
Circ. 138,822
June 28, 1978

91

Fallen statue of Jesus gazes on resurrection of Aubigny

C1492

By TED ALLAN

AUBIGNY, Man. — A plaster statue of Saint-Antoine, with a baby Jesus cradled in its arms, stands on the front lawn of the Roman Catholic church here staring serenely toward the northeast, as though noting the track of the tornado which shattered this quiet hamlet a week ago.

The statue, felled from the church steeple, which is now a neatly piled stack of bricks beside it, is the only suggestion of tranquility in the centre of Aubigny these days.

The town is a cacophony of hammers ringing on rooftops, circular saws screaming through two-by-four studs, trucks rumbling to dumps with debris and bulldozers scraping up the remaining rubble.

"It's just like the work bees I remember on the farm as a kid in the thirties," said a retired Winnipeg businessman, one of about 100 volunteers in the town Tuesday completing restoration work.

"There's a real feeling of caring and community here. It's more alive than many cities I've seen."

The repair was about 90 per cent complete Tuesday, with the rest of the work consisting mainly of rebuilding homes and structures that were destroyed, Syd Reimer, of the Mennonite Disaster Service, said.

The only casualty remains a cat that hasn't been found since the tornado ripped through the area on the evening of June 19, injuring about 20 people, destroying 15 major buildings, including eight houses, four barns, three sheds, the general store and the Caisse Populaire. The latest damage estimate, taken back to Ottawa by Senator Gil Molgat, who was here Monday, is about $3 million for Aubigny and Ste. Anne combined.

Any vistor to the aftermath expecting lives in disarray and an abiding sense of violation won't encounter either in Aubigny. Tuesday, one needed to look no farther for the character of the village than Phil's General Store, where 10 men and two boys had almost finished building a new roof, or the kitchen in the Salle Normandin Hall, where volunteer members of the Catholic Women's League were preparing an enormous country lunch for the workers.

Still, there are eerie artifacts of the storm that underscore the awesome destructive power and capriciousness of tornadoes.

It's path through the community of 150 people, most of whom live on adjacent farms, starts on the eastern bank of the Red River on Alfred Landry's

Rebuilding of Aubigny almost completed

property about a mile south of town.

An old, heavily wooded farmyard along a rolling flood plain, it looks like a terrible frieze of some Mekong Delta scene in the Vietnam war, something subjected to intense, low-level saturation bombing. An aged copse of huge river elm is imploded into a massive, horizontal tangle, as if still recoiling from the storm.

The farm machinery and the farm

—Continued

See REBUILDING page 4

outbuildings are fractured and strewn in piles of gray siding and pretzeled metal. A bay horse stands motionless in the shade of one mound, staring fixedly.

"It's very sad," a disaster service worker noted. "Those trees must have been 70 to 90 years old and can't be evaluated in the damage. You can't buy those from a nursery."

Though not a drop of rain fell during the passage of the storm, the southern and western sides of houses and outbuildings are blackened and impregnated with silty groundwater sucked up by the twister. The grit is embedded deeply into the wooden siding.

"The ground became real hard after the storm," a local farmer said. "Like we'd had a drought. All its moisture was taken away. It seemed baked. Fortunately, we've had rain almost every day since and the crops weren't damaged."

CONTINUED

The irony of the Aubigny tragedy is that the tornado managed to hit the village at all. Scarcely more than the junction of two rural roads, Aubigny seemed to act as the crosshairs of a gunsight for the twister.

Instead of continuing its route northeast from the Landry farm, it swung due north to cleave the town before resuming its track. A variance of 100 yards east or west and it would have missed entirely.

All about the destruction in the village, pastoral scenes of seasonal normality abound. The lush, tender-green crops stretch away to the eastern horizon, testifying to the fecundity of the Red River Valley. And, down in the river itself, a tableau of polled Herefords stands knee deep in the shallows, tails languidly switching flies.

Though Saint-Antoine's, the spiritual centre of the community, is boarded up and may have to be razed because of structural damage, the fallen crosses in the tiny graveyard behind the church have quickly been repaired. And the spiritual integrity of Aubigny's citizens remains intact.

"Our people are happy and positive," Father Lionel Thibeault, pastor of the church, said. "Something like this does not defeat them. Their faith is strong."

Winnipeg Free Press: Tues July 11 '78
Storm Date: Monday June 19 '78

Building strikers help reconstruct town hit in twister

By CECIL ROSNER

AUBIGNY, Man. — Striking building trades workers from Winnipeg arrived here Monday morning to assist in the reconstruction of houses damaged in last month's tornado.

The volunteer workers, including sheet metal employees, plumbers, electricians and carpenters, were assigned jobs by the disaster relief committee which is still co-ordinating the reconstruction work from the town hall.

"I think it's just a tremendous gesture by these guys," said Thomas Liddle, whose house was hit head-on by the twister and received about $40,000 damage. A group of sheet metal workers, who are normally unaccustomed to carpentry duties, were busy working on the north wall of his house which was severely damaged.

Liddle expects his house to be reconstructed in about two months. In the meantime, he is living in another house in the town and has most of his furniture stored behind his house.

He and his family escaped injury by heading for the basement when they saw the twister coming. He also opened as many windows as he could in an effort to neutralize pressure in the house, he said.

A few yards from Liddle's house is the town church, which was badly damaged and had its steeple torn off by the tornado. No work has begun on the church and relief workers are reportedly still debating whether it is worthwhile repairing it.

Most of the other houses in the town which had partial damage are on the road to being fully repaired, while houses which were levelled are beginning to be replaced completely by contractors. Virtually every structure in the town had some form of damage as the tornado moved through in a northeasterly direction.

Liddle said most of the residents affected by the tornado will receive some compensation from insurance companies. He said he knew of only one case where a family was ineligible to receive compensation because their policy did not cover wind damage.

Total damage to the town has been estimated at more than $2 million, and federal government assistance has been promised.

The town has set up a disaster fund which will assist all those affected by the June 19 tornado. Cheques can be sent to the Aubigny Disaster Fund at the Aubigny Caisse Populaire, and official receipts will be issued.

Winnipeg Tribune: Sat. June 24 '78
Storm Date: Monday June 19 '78

WG TRIB. JUN 24/78

Emotions also need mending after twister

By Patrick Flynn
Tribune Staff Writer

Houses, garages and fences aren't the only valuables being mended in Aubigny these days.

Teams of community health workers now are helping residents of the tiny southern Manitoba village, ravaged last Monday by a violent tornado, cope with the storm's more subtle side-effects — emotional stress.

Dr. Ted Gupton, president of the Psychological Association of Manitoba, said Friday mental health workers from several organizations were sent into tornado-devastated areas shortly after the disaster.

And, he added, they found a need for their services.

'They become vulnerable'

"When people experience acute states of crisis . . . they become vulnerable to some process of mental deterioration," Dr. Gupton said.

The forms of mental anguish stemming from such a crisis such as Monday's tornado are numerous, he explained — everything from repression of feelings, depression, acute anxiety and possible phobias.

A near brush with death, fear of losing a loved one, and the trauma of losing one's home can have lasting adverse effects on victims' mental health, he said.

Syd Reimer, an official of the Mennonite Disaster Service, said some children have become "uncommunicative" as a result of the disaster. "They've just clammed up."

In disaster area quickly

Dr. Gupton said the association, which represents Manitoba psychologists, was pleased to find professionals were already working in the disaster areas when it began making inquiries after the victims' emotional states.

Groups of workers were sent from the Eden Community Health Centre in Winkler, the Community Mental Health Project in Steinbach and the Mount Carmel Clinic. Two Winnipeg psychologists also went to the areas.

"We (the association) were concerned psychological intervention might be needed there and not provided," Dr. Gupton said. "But it is, and these people (who have been offering counselling) really deserve a pat on the back."

MAN

STORM DATE: MON JUNE 19, 1978

Canadian Press Clipping Service
481 UNIVERSITY AVE. TORONTO 2

Leader Post
Regina, Sask.
Circ. 67,540

282

CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

July 11, 1978

Striking workers help

P-1492

Striking Manitoba building trades workers arrived in Aubigny Monday to assist in the reconstruction of homes damaged in the June 19 tornado.

The volunteers, including sheet metal workers, plumbers, electricians and carpenters, have been assigned jobs by the disaster relief committee co-ordinating the reconstruction.

Total damage to the town has been estimated at more than $2 million, and federal government assistance has been promised.

Virtually every structure in the town, about 30 kilometres south of Winnipeg, had some form of damage as the tornado moved through it in a northeasterly direction.

The town has set up a disaster fund, handled through the Aubigny Caisse Populaire, to help those affected by the tornado.

MAN



Steinbach Carillon News
Manitoba
June 28, 1978

CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

* * * * *

H1492

Canadians are a wonderful breed of people. Their hearts seem to be almost as big as their country which stretches from sea to sea.

When the Red River went on a rampage in 1950, destroying millions of dollars worth of property, Canadians from coast to coast answered the call for help and more than enough money poured into a relief fund.

And last week, when part of this southeastern community was struck by a tornado, the appeal for help was overwhelming. What better good neighbour policy could anyone devise!

Canadian Press Clipping Service
481 UNIVERSITY AVE.
TORONTO 2

Winnipeg Tribune, Man.
Circ. 100,949
June 28, 1978
CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

173

E1492

Storm damage assessor named

Elswood Bole, former executive director of the now-defunct Metro Winnipeg Council, has been appointed to assess damage resulting from the June 19 tornado and storm, Premier Sterling Lyon said Tuesday.

Mr. Lyon emphasized in the Legislature that no decision has been made on whether any government compensation will be available to the victims of the storm which swept through southeastern Manitoba, and badly damaged the town of Aubigny.

The government does not expect Mr. Bole to file his report until next month, Mr. Lyon said.

Then the government will be in a position to determine if the area qualifies for federal disaster relief.

Canadian Press Clipping Service
481 UNIVERSITY AVE.
TORONTO 2

Winnipeg Free Press, Man.
Circ. 138,822
July 3, 1978
CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

174

Aubigny disaster fund set up

E1492

A disaster relief fund has been established to aid victims of the tornado that swept through the tiny southern Manitoba community of Aubigny June 19, destroying or damaging about 75 per cent of its houses and buildings.

Adele Vermette, of Aubigny, said contributions to the fund will be received by the Aubigny Credit Union, which will issue receipts.

Canadian Press Clipping Service
481 UNIVERSITY AVE.
TORONTO 2

Winnipeg Tribune, Man.
Circ. 100,949
June 29, 1978

168

CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

B1492

Striking tradesmen volunteer aid to Aubigny

By Murray McNeill
Tribune Labor Reporter

Striking construction workers have volunteered to help Aubigny-area residents rebuild homes damaged or destroyed in last week's tornado.

The workers, who are included in the province-wide strike that began May 1, include electricians, carpenters, plumbers and pipefitters, sheetmetal workers and sheeters and deckers.

John Bergen, business manager for the Carpenters Union, said Wednesday officials from the five trade unions are asking members not manning picket lines to volunteer their services to the Aubigny work.

Mr. Bergen said the project is still in the planning stages, and it's not yet known how many volunteers will be available.

Union officials have already contacted the Mennonite Disaster Service, which has been supervising volunteer workers in the area since the tornado hit June 19, he said.

A spokesman for the disaster service confirmed Tuesday that the trades unions have offered their services, and that their help would "certainly be appreciated."

Frank Dyck said although repairs to the estimated 60 homes and buildings that were destroyed or damaged are already under way, "there'll certainly be work for them (the tradesmen)."

Mr. Dyck said repair work has been delayed while building owners await approval of their insurance claims.

He said the disaster service will be contacting the union people to let them know when volunteers can be used, and how many would be needed.

Meanwhile, negotiations between the Carpenters Union and the Labor Relations Council of the Winnipeg Builders Exchange are scheduled to resume Friday.

At that time union officials are expected to make a counter-offer to the provincial contractors' latest contract proposal, which was presented last Friday.

Earlier this week George Akins, president of the Labor Relations Council, accused the union of obstructing negotiations.

Canadian Press Clipping Service
481 UNIVERSITY AVE
TORONTO 2

Winnipeg Free Press, Man.
Circ. 138,822
June 29, 1978

177

CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

Aid offered to Aubigny

G1492 .

Striking building and construction trades workers in Winnipeg have offered to go to Aubigny, Man., to help rebuild homes damaged or destroyed in the tornado last week.

Leo Desilets, president of the Manitoba-Winnipeg Building and Construction Trades Council, who visited the devastated community Wednesday, said he had offered the services of tradesmen, electricians, sheet metal workers, carpenters and plumbers, to the Mennonite Disaster Service.

"As soon as the wheels start turning, we'll be out there — maybe starting some time next week," he said.

Most of the workers have been on strike since May 1. "Since we're not working we, decided to help," Desilets said.

The tradesmen will only work on private homes, he said. Many of the people affected by the tornado had little or no insurance, he said.

Desilets said he had had discussions with the business agents of the four striking unions before going to Aubigny. He added that the cost of transportation of workers to the town would be handled by the unions.

Canadian Press Clipping Service
481 UNIVERSITY AVE. TORONTO 2

Winnipeg Free Press, Man.
Circ. 138,822
June 23, 1978 82
CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

Warning issued after tornado struck

C1492

By ALLAN WILSON

A tornado warning was not issued by the weather office until 5:50 p.m. Monday, at least 25 minutes after it swept through the town of Aubigny, Man.

Mike Balshaw, officer in charge of the Winnipeg weather office, said a tornado warning is not issued until one has been sighted and confirmed.

Since the tornado only formed a few kilometres away from Aubigny the town was hit well before the tornado warning was issued.

He said "prediction of where a tornado will occur is not possible in advance."

The weather office has not evaluated the effectivness of its warning in Monday's tornado yet but Balshaw said a few people were interviewed in the storm area, and some said they had heard the earlier warnings.

Other areas were hit by the tornado after the tornado warning has been issued, he said.

—Continued

See WARNING page 4

Warning came 25 minutes late

CONTINUED

Two other warnings had been put out during the day as part of the weather watch program which has been in operation here since May 1.

A severe weather watch, the first in the series of three warnings, was issued at 1 p.m.

It said severe thunder storms could occur between 4 and 10 p.m. Monday.

"We hope if there is a warning out people will watch."

The weather watch program has 1,750 registered watchers throughout the province. They are "public employees from organization such as the RCMP, highways and renewable resources departments, and telephone and hydro."

These people have been issued pamphlets showing what severe weather looks like. When they see it, they telephone a special number at the atmospheric environment service (weather office).

The weather office evaluates the reports, cross-references them with their own charts and radar and then issues a warning.

The severe weather warning is the second to be sent out. Monday it went out at 5 p.m.

With this warning people can expect damaging winds and severe thunderstorms.

The first report of a tornado was phoned in at 5:15 p.m., the second shortly after. These were evaluated and a tornado warning issued at 5:50 p.m.

Since it has been in operation the weather watch service has issued 40 messages, 11 of them severe weather watches or higher on the scale, including one tornado warning.

In the past 13 years there were 47 registered tornadoes in Southern Manitoba, which works out to three or four a year.

These are generally confined to the Red River Valley, and generally die out before they get to Winnipeg.

The weather watch program has been planned for the past year with this year being the first it has operated.

Canadian Press Clipping Service
481 UNIVERSITY AVE.
TORONTO 2

Winnipeg Free Press, Man.
Circ. 138,822
June 23, 1978
81
CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

e1492

Lifesaver

The damage done by Monday's tornadoes in southern Manitoba was great — but only one person died as a result of the storm. Some of the credit, at least, for this remarkable fact can be given to the weather watch system instituted this year.

A couple of weeks or so ago, the watch fell down when it failed to predict the severe thunderstorms that hit Winnipeg from early evening until after midnight and that also caused some property damage. But there was no faulting the weather office on Monday. A severe weather watch was issued early in the afternoon to take effect starting at 4 o'clock. The storm area was pinpointed later that day, and a tornado watch issued immediately the first one was sighted and reported, giving warning to the immediate area.

If one were listening to the radio or watching television, one knew what to expect. The weather watch system proved its value. The only proviso that can possibly be entered against it is the possibility that, having had one tornado experience, people may expect the worst every time a severe weather warning is issued. On the other hand, it is better to be forewarned, even if the warning comes to nothing, than to be caught unaware.

Canadian Press Clipping Service
481 UNIVERSITY AVE. TORONTO 2

Brandon Sun, Man.
Circ. 16,170
June 24, 1978

138

CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

Axworthy raises complaint

D1492

Mercier defends tornado readyness of EMO

WINNIPEG (CP) — Attorney-General Gerry Mercier has attacked what he described as "unfounded, unsubstantiated and unresearched" allegations that the Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) was not immediately available Monday afternoon when a tornado tore through Southeastern Manitoba.

Mercier told the Legislature Friday he would reply even though Lloyd Axworthy (L—Fort Rouge), the member who had raised the issue, was not present.

"I think it's important that such unfounded, unsubstantiated and unresearched substantiations should be answered as quickly as possible."

The attorney-general said EMO officials kept a log of all the phone calls received, and the first one came in at 4:55 p.m.

"EMO was in a state of readiness."

He said there were as many as three telephones in operation Monday night to handle the calls and coordinate activities.

He said EMO has written to all municipalities and sent them booklets containing advice on emergency procedures, including special advice on safety precautions during a tornado threat.

Wednesday, Axworthy said in the Legislature he had received reports alleging that "a serious lag" of 16 to 20 hours elapsed before emo officials appeared in the area struck by the tornado.

EMO officials have since replied that their telephones are staffed on a 24-hour basis, but that telephone lines might have been busy so that callers had difficulty getting through.