0798001

A

TORNADO PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

F=0 MAN

1. DATE AND TIME SUN APR 6, 1980 1730 CST

2. LOCATION OR PATH (attach map) VCNTY ALTONA (NW–SE)

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

4. PATH WIDTH U 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.) HAIL ¾" in diameter → 19.05 mm
305 mm of rain within minutes.
80 mm rain southern part of altona

10. TOTAL DAMAGE ESTIMATE $100,000 11. TOTAL DEATHS NONE

12. TOTAL INJURED NONE 13. TOTAL HOMELESS U

14. LIST ALL REFERENCES

WINNIPEG FREE PRESS, TUE APR 8, 1980
WINNIPEG TRIBUNE, TUE APR 8, 1980

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

(a) a funnel cloud seen at Emerson, Eyewitness Mrs John Lotkeman, saw "twister headed across her path 2·4 km N.W of altona.

(b) lightly damaged about 30 homes in Altona and broke trees. Tornado track likely at least 2·5 km in length.

TO BE ENTERED

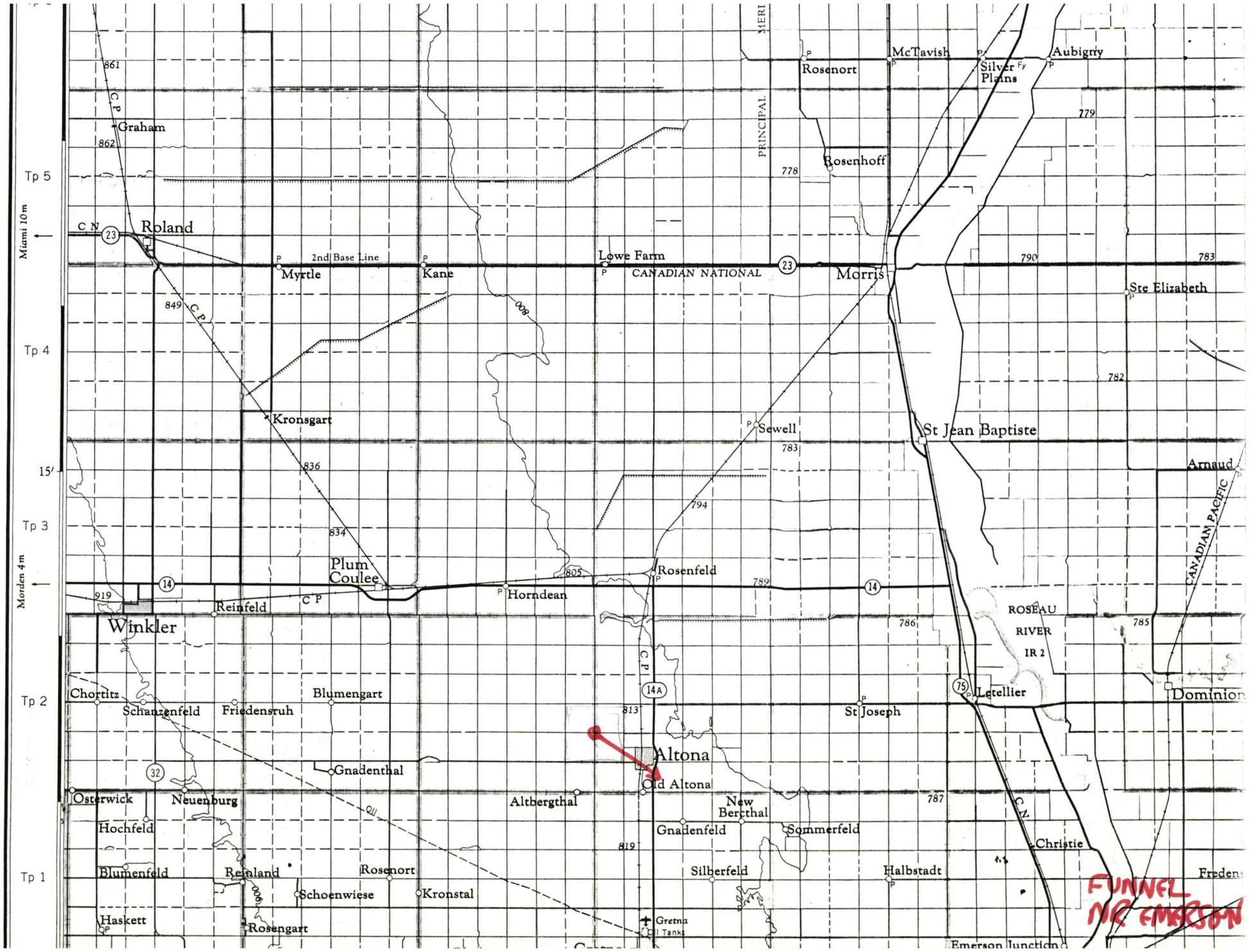
FIELD NO.	FIELD CODE		
1	IDTO	1 [0 7 | 9 8 | 0 0 1] 7 (Prov. / Year / No.)	Identification number
2	DADA	8 [9 8 | 0 4 | 1 7] 14 (Year / Mo. / Day)	Date of data entry
3	INTO	15 [M J | N] 17 (initials)	Initials of person abstracting data
4	DFTO	18 [N] (code)	Detail Flag code
5	YETO	19 [9 8 0] 21 (Year)	Year of occurrence
6	MOTO	22 [0 4] 23	Month of occurrence
7	DATO	24 [0 6] 25	Day of occurrence
8	DAER	26 [ ] 29 (error code)	Date ESE
9	TITO	30 [1 7 3 0 | 0 9 7] 36 (LST / Zone)	Time
10	TIER	37 [1 7 | S] 41 (error / code)	Time ESE
11	TOTY	42 [A] (code)	Type
12	ZOTO	43 [1 4 | 6 0 3 0 0 0] 50 (zone / easting)	Location, Zone No. and easting
13	NOTO	51 [5 4 4 3 0 0 0] 57 (northing)	Location, northing
14	LOER	58 [1 0 0 0 | C] 64 (error / code)	Location ESE
15	DIMO	65 [3 1 5] 67 (degrees)	Translational direction of motion
16	DIER	68 [1 3 | S] 71 (error / Code)	Direction of motion ESE

FIELD NO.	FIELD CODE		
17	FUJI	72 [0] (F-no.)	Fujita scale number
18	DALE	73 [ ] 78 (length)	Damage length
19	LEER	79 [ ] 84 (error / code)	Damage length ESE
20	AXDA	85 [ ] 88 (width)	Maximum damage width
21	AXER	89 [ ] 93 (error / code)	Max. damage width ESE
22	AVDA	94 [ ] 97 (width)	Average damage width
23	AVER	98 [ ] 102 (error / code)	Av. damage width ESE
24	SADA	103 [ ] 106 (width)	One-sample damage width
25	SAER	107 [ ] 111 (error / code)	One-sample damage width ESE
26	DEAD	112 [ ] 114 (dead)	Number of human fatalities
27	HURT	115 [ ] 118 (injured)	Number of human injuries
28	HERT	119 [ ] (code)	Qualitative number of human injuries code
29	PRDA	120 [1 0 0] 125 (damage)	Total property damage
30	CODA	126 [ ] (code)	Qualitative property damage code
31	ORDE	127 [1] (code)	Originator of damage estimate

FIELD NO.	FIELD CODE		
32	MANY	128 [N] 129 code	Multiple event code
33	PICS	129 [1 1] 130 code	Pictures code
34	PHEN	131 [A 1 8 P 3 1] 154 code code code code code code code code	Related Phenomena Code
		155 [ ] 175 code code code code code code code	
35	COCO	176 [1] code	Confidence code.
36	INFO	177 [FUNNEL ALSO SEEN AT EMERSON.] 206	
		207 [DAMAGE PATH LIKELY AT LEAST] 236	
		237 [2.5 KM IN LENGTH] 266	
		267 [ ] 296	
		297 [ ] 300	narrative block

LIST ALL REFERENCES

WINNIPEG FREE PRESS, TUE APR 8, 1980
WINNIPEG TRIBUNE, TUE APR 8, 1980



Tp 5
Tp 4
Tp 3
Tp 2
Tp 1
Miami 10 m
Morden 4 m
15'
Graham
Roland
Myrtle
2nd Base Line
Kane
Lowe Farm
CANADIAN NATIONAL
Morris
Rosenort
McTavish
Silver Plains
Aubigny
Rosenhoff
PRINCIPAL
Ste Elizabeth
Kronsgart
Sewell
St Jean Baptiste
Arnaud
CANADIAN PACIFIC
Plum Coulee
Horndean
Rosenfeld
Reinfeld
Winkler
ROSEAU RIVER IR 2
Letellier
Dominion
Chortitz
Schanzenfeld
Friedensruh
Blumengart
St Joseph
Altona
Old Altona
Gnadenthal
Osterwick
Neuenburg
Altbergthal
New Bercthal
Hochfeld
Gnadenfeld
Sommerfeld
Christie
Blumenfeld
Reinland
Rosenort
Silberfeld
Halbstadt
Schoenwiese
Kronstal
Haskett
Rosengart
Gretna
Emerson Junction
FUNNEL NR EMERSON

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY FOR APRIL 1980 AT WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

This April was not only the driest April on record but also the driest month ever recorded in Winnipeg since records began in 1872. The previous record for April was 2.0 MM set in 1949 while the previous driest months with only 0.8 MM were May, 1917 and November 1976. April 30th marked the 35th consecutive day with no measurable precipitation making this the longest dry spell ever during the spring season and the 3rd longest dry spell on record. Naturally there were no days in April with measurable precipitation, this too is a record not only for April but for any given month of the year. Sunshine, with 326.7 hours smashed the previous record of 305.5 hours set in 1900. This month's total is 79% of the total possible hours of sunshine. The maximum temperature of 34.3 on the 21st was the highest temperature ever recorded during April since 1872.

DAILY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR APRIL 1980 AT WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

1. Above normal temperatures. Mostly light winds. Sunny.
2. Above normal temperatures. Mostly sunny. Light winds.
3. Above normal temperatures. Sunny. Light winds.
4. Mild. Sunny. Mostly light winds but gusty west winds to 45 Km/h late morning and early afternoon.
5. Mild. Mostly sunny. Mostly light winds, but southeast gusts to 43 Km/h in the afternoon.
6. Warm. Mostly sunny. Showers 2:18 a.m. to 2:41 a.m., 5:04 p.m. to 5:18 p.m. Thunder 9:42 p.m. to 10:04 p.m. Moderate winds gusting to 43 Km/h. Marble size hail reported in St. Vital about 9:45 p.m. Funnel cloud near Emerson about 7:30 p.m. did not touch the ground. Tornado at Altona about 6:35 p.m., $100,000 property damage, no injuries. 40.0 MM of rain fell in the north part of town, while 80.0 MM fell in the south part. 10 to 13 cm of hail on the ground it was the earliest ever for this part of the country for a tornado.
7. Above normal temperatures. Cloudy. Moderate NNE winds gusting to 61 Km. Heavy fog 2:46 a.m. to 3:30 a.m. Visibility severely restricted.
8. Near normal temperatures. Cloudy. Moderate NNE winds gusting to 44 Km/h.
9. Below normal temperatures. Sunny. Mostly light winds but NNE gusts to 46 Km/h.
10. Below normal temperatures. Sunny. Moderate north winds gusting to 48 Km/h.
11. Near normal temperatures. Cloudy, clearing late morning. Moderate north winds gusting to 63 Km/h in the afternoon.
12. Below normal temperatures. Sunny. Moderate north winds gusting to 65 Km/h in the afternoon. Red River free of ice.
13. Slightly below normal temperatures. Sunny. Light winds.
14. Mild. Sunny. Moderate south winds becoming moderate north winds gusting to 6 5 Km/h.
15. Below normal temperatures. Sunny. Mostly light winds.
16. Warm. Partly cloudy. Showers 5:19 p.m. to 5:31 p.m. Moderate south winds gusting to 59 Km/h changing to gusty northwest in the afternoon then light southwest winds.
17. Warm. Sunny. Mostly light winds.
18. Warm. Record high temperature for this day. Record low Relative Humidity of 42 years at 6%. Sunny becoming cloudy in the afternoon. Moderate southwest winds gusting to 70 Km/h. Assiniboine River free of ice.
19. Warm. Mostly sunny. Light winds.
20. Warm. Record breaking high maximum temperature, record breaking high minimum temperature. Mostly sunny. Moderate south winds gusting to 52 Km/h.
21. Warm highest maximum temperature ever in April. Sunny. Mostly light winds, but gusty south-southeast winds to 56 Km/h.
22. Above normal temperatures. Mostly sunny. Moderate winds gusting to 98 Km/h. Strong winds on Lake Manitoba and at Twin Lake beach drove "mountains" of ice to shore crushing one big cottage and damaging another. Residents never saw ice pushed in so far inland before.
23. Near normal temperatures. Sunny. Moderate NNE winds gusting to 52 Km/h.
24. Normal temperatures. Sunny. Mostly light winds but gusty east winds to 43 Km/h about noon.
25. Above normal temperatures. Sunny. Mostly light winds but gusty northeast winds to 54 Km/h in the afternoon.
26. Above normal temperatures. Sunny. Mostly light winds but gusty ENE winds to 50 Km/h in the afternoon.
27. Warm. Sunny. Mostly light winds.
28. Warm. Sunny. Light winds.
29. Warm. Sunny. Light winds except ESE gusts to 41 Km/h in the early afternoon.
30. Warm. Sunny. Smoke in the morning. Visibility slightly restricted. Light winds except for east gusts to 33 Km/h in the afternoon.

Winnipeg Free Press
Monday, April 7, 1980 VOL 108 NO 108
SUN Rises 5:53 a.m. Sets 7:11 p.m. MOON Rises 1:14 a.m. Sets 10:15 a.m.
FINAL 20¢
For home delivery, Call 957-0550 ★★

JIM WILEY/WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

Twisters damage 30 houses in Altona

Two tornadoes touched down in Altona yesterday damaging about 30 houses and scattering trees and debris across a residential area of town.

Mayor Dick Penner said today there were no reported injuries as a result of the twisters, which struck about 6 p.m. He said the damage might total $100,000 in the town, about 110 kilometres southwest of Winnipeg.

"We're very fortunate no one was hurt," said Penner. The mayor said a home he was building in the southwest corner of town suffered damage to the roof. One of his neighbors lost a garage.

The tornado just picked it up and took it away," Penner said.

A number of windows in the area were smashed by flying debris, while one tree was snapped and went flying into a roof "like a spear," Penner said.

Shingles and parts of roofs were torn off many houses. Penner said workmen have placed drop sheets over the roofs while cleanup operations are carried out.

Penner said he believed the tornadoes touched down just outside Altona and then moved into the western part of town.

The Winnipeg weather office said a funnel cloud was seen at Emerson yesterday afternoon but hadn't touched down in the area. No tornado warning had been put into effect for the area, but a thunderstorm warning was issued after the tornado was reported to have hit in Altona.

A weather office spokesman said tornadoes are extremely rare this time of year.

Altona chief constable Bob Mart said the debris blocked roads overnight but town workers had cleared them by morning.

"We're looking at some considerable damage here," Mart said. "Some homes had their roofs torn off and wooden sheds have been really tossed around."

Penner said people had no warning the tornadoes were coming, though they occurred in the midst of a heavy thunderstorm.

The mayor said he didn't expect the town would require outside assistance for its cleanup operations.

Altona's population is about 2,900.

603000 E
5443000 N

WINNIPEG TRIBUNE
TUE APR 8, 1980



Tribune photos by Jeff Debooy

David Friesen holds all that remains of his son's garage after twister transported most of the building several blocks from its original site.

Damage may reach $100,000

Vicious twister hammers Altona



John Enns and Tim Cornelson examine torn treetop.

By Bob Rowlands
Tribune Staff Writer

ALTONA — Residents were busy today mopping up after a tornado which cut a destructive swath through this southeastern Manitoba town Sunday.

"I've been in this town for 22 years, but I've never seen anything like this," said Mayor Dick Penner, who estimated the loss at $75,000 to $100,000.

No injuries were reported, but about 30 homes received damage ranging from a few torn shingles to gaping holes in roofs. Many windows were broken and trees downed.

Mr. Penner said his sister-in-law, Mrs. John Letkeman, was probably one of the first residents to encounter the vicious storm, which was preceded by heavy rains.

She was driving along a side road about 2.4 kilometres northwest of the town when the twister headed across her path, scooping up water in a drainage ditch at the side of the road.

"She stopped to avoid it, but the wind ripped off a fibreglass top on the back of the pick-up truck," Mr. Penner said.

David Friesen, who lives in the western part of the town, said he noticed the storm starting about 5:30 p.m., when the wind picked up and a cloud with a heavy white streaking — usually the forerunner of a hail-storm — began to move east.

"About 6 p.m., there was a terrific downpour — 1.2 inches (30.5 millimetres) within a matter of minutes," he said. "This was accompanied by hailstones one-half to three-quarters of an inch (1.3 to 1.9 centimetres) and the ground rapidly became white with ice."

"There was a slight lull, then the wind hit."

Mr. Friesen said he lost a section of shingles about 2 metres by 2.6 metres from the roof of his house and his television antenna was blown down. He also has to repaint a wall of his house after hailstones caused the paint to flake off.

Far more serious was the damage to a home belonging to his son-in-law, David Neudorf. The tornado punched a large hole in the roof and ripped out most of the shingles. Insulation in the roof was damaged, moisture-laden light fixtures will have to be removed and furniture will have to be repaired or replaced.

A garage adjoining the one-year-old house was completely blown away.

A section of the garage was deposited in a yard belonging to John Enns, about 150 metres away, but nearly 24 hours after the storm hit, the rest of the structure had not been found.

Damage to Mr. Enns' house was less serious. Some shingles were missing and insulation, ceilings and carpets were damaged by water.

"I had a small shed in this yard," Mr. Enns said. "Now, no one has the slightest idea where it is." A swing nearby was twisted out of shape.

Tombstones behind the Sommerfelder Mennonite Church were toppled by the wind, but the church itself did not appear to be damaged.

Residents of the town of 2,000, about 110 kilometres southwest of Winnipeg, said they later saw the tornado head in a southeasterly direction toward Emerson. A funnel cloud was sighted there about 7:20 p.m.

A spokesman for the Prairie Weather Centre in Winnipeg said the tornado is the earliest of the year ever recorded by the centre in this part of North America. The next earliest was at Watrous, Sask., on April 16, 1958.

"But that doesn't mean they don't happen at all (at this time of year)," he said.

Twister touches down



Tribune photo by Jeff Debooy

Storm ravages Altona

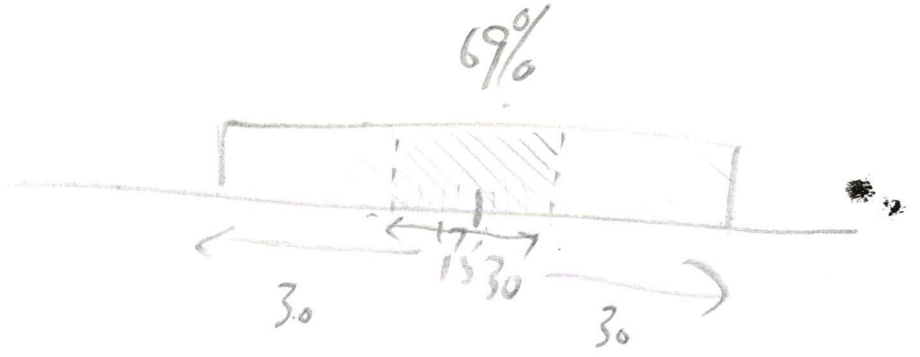
Spring made an unprecedented arrival at Altona, Man., on Easter Sunday in the form of a devastating tornado that cut a swath of destruction through the community.

Nine-year-old Tracy Falk sits on the twisted remains of a backyard bench swing that was demolished by the storm of winds and rain. In the background is scattered debris that was picked up and dropped by the tornado.

No deaths or injuries were reported but more than 30 homes were damaged with losses expected to reach an estimated $100,000.

The tornado — earliest ever recorded in this part of North America — toppled tombstones in a cemetery and levelled a garage.

See Page 3 for story.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WINNIPEG FREE PRESS
THE APR 8, 1980

WAYNE GLOWACKI/WINNIPEG FREE PRESS



John Thiessen (left) and brother Cornie inspect neighbor Ben Reimer's property damage in wake of a tornado that hit Altona Sunday evening. Damage to the town was estimated at $100,000. Reimer had an outhouse overturned and a neighbor's shed blown onto his property. A thunderstorm warning was issued two hours after the tornado struck.

No warning of tornado

Altona Mayor Penner critical of Environment Canada

By Pam Fayerman

ALTONA — Mayor Dick Penner said yesterday he is concerned that his town's 2,800 residents received no warning from Environment Canada of a tornado that struck here at 6 p.m.Sunday, causing an estimated $100,000 damage.

"It's miraculous that people weren't out at the time. We've had no reports of anyone being injured at all," Penner said as the cleanup progressed in this community 110 kilometres southwest of Winnipeg.

"I've never had cause to check into this matter but now I will for sure," the mayor said. "I can just imagine what might have happened if there were people on the streets."

Environment Canada meteorologist Jack McMorran said yesterday the tornado "was very weak" and touched down in one place. He said it was probably the earliest one on record in Western Canada. The earliest tornado reported between 1868 and 1960, a peri-

See **ALTONA** page 4

WINNIPEG FREE PRESS
TUE APR 8, 1980

Altona irked by no warning of tornado

continued from page 1

od recently studied, was on April 16, 1958.

Earlier Sunday, Environment Canada was forecasting isolated thunderstorms for the area including Altona. A heavy thunderstorm warning was issued at 8:15 p.m., more than two hours after the first twister set down and after the weather office had received telephone calls about the tornado. Although a funnel cloud was spotted in the Emerson area, no tornado warning was put into effect by Environment Canada for the area.

The twister lightly damaged about 30 homes and scattered trees and debris across a residential area of the town.

McMorran said an Environment Canada official was in Altona interviewing residents yesterday. He came to the conclusion that only one tornado touched down, although reports on Sunday said there were two.

Penner said four twisters were spotted in the area last year — none of them touched down. But the latest has him concerned about a lack of any warning system.

"These things are becoming so frequent that at least with a warning system, parents could get their children off the playgrounds.

"With no warning system, no one bothers looking for those darn things."

McMorran said Environment Canada doesn't issue a tornado warning unless a tornado has been reported. "We get quite a few reports of funnel clouds and nothing ever materializes out of them.

"We would have to have somebody phone in and say we've seen a tornado touch down and do some damage. If we didn't do that, we could issue tornado warnings every time it looked really bad but then we'd be crying wolf."

Kenneth Clark, a meteorologist with Accu Weather Inc. in Pennsylvania, a private weather forecasting service used by the City of Winnipeg, said yesterday he didn't know a tornado had touched down in Manitoba.

"I had no inkling there actually were tornados . . . . The prediction of a tornado in a situation like yesterday is almost impossible until one is sighted and at that point for us to put a tornado in the forecast, that's hindsight," he said.

Clark said tornados are rare and are rarely cited in Accu Weather forecasts, even in "the high tornado-type areas that we serve . . . . Unless you're absolutely 100 per cent sure, which would very, very, very rarely happen."

McMorran said "It's quite difficult to forecast the difference between a tornado and a heavy thunderstorm situation. It's difficult to recognize that just looking at our weather map and data."

Penner said residents had no reason to suspect Sunday's tornado would hit. The weather was warm and sunny until about 5 p.m. when a dark cloud appeared followed by lightning and wind. Then hail and at about 6:00 p.m., the twister touched down in the northwest part of the town.

5440 5450

5,443,000

600 605 610

603,000

Winnipeg Free Press, Man.
Circ. 141,890
April 8, 1980

Storm Date: Sunday April 6 '80

CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICES

E1492

Warning came hours after twister hit

ALTONA — Mayor Dick Penner said yesterday he is concerned that his town's 2,800 residents received no warning from Environment Canada of a tornado that struck here at 6 p.m.Sunday, causing an estimated $100,000 damage.

"It's miraculous that people weren't out at the time. We've had no reports of anyone being injured at all," Penner said as the cleanup progressed in this community 110 kilometres southwest of Winnipeg.

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PROVINCE

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Damaged 30 homes

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No reason to suspect

Penner said residents had no reason to suspect Sunday's tornado would hit. The weather was warm and sunny until about 5 p.m. when a dark cloud appeared followed by lightning and wind. Then hail and at about 6:00 p.m., the twister touched down in the northwest part of the town.

Resident Ben Reimer said the wind was blowing so hard he couldn't carry on a conversation in his house. The twister struck for only about two minutes, he said, but still managed to lift his neighbors' utility shed and blow it 100 feet onto his property.

More than one inch of rain fell in 30 minutes and town work crews were called in to clear the sewer back up.

Yesterday residents had already cleared away most of the debris and all civic operations were back to normal.

WAYNE GLOWACKI/WINNIPEG FREE PRESS



Tornado left debris and overturned tombstones in cemetery.

Winnipeg Tribune: April 8 1980
Storm Date: Sunday April 6 1980



John Enns and Tim Cornelson examine torn treetop.

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TORONTO, M5W 1A7

The Leader Post
Regina, Sask.
Circ. 68,283
CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICES
April 8, 1980

Storm Date: Sunday April 6 1980

B1492

Tornado hits town

Residents of the southern Manitoba community of Altona are continuing to mop up after the town was surprised by a tornado Sunday.

The twister was the earliest of the year ever recorded in this part of North America, a spokesman for the Prairie Weather Centre in Winnipeg said. The next earliest was at Watrous, Sask., on April 16, 1958.

Altona Mayor Dick Penner estimated damage from the tornado at $75,000 to $100,000.

Winnipeg Tribune: April 8 1980
Storm Date: Sunday April 6 1980

Damage may reach $100,000

Vicious twister hammers Altona

By Bob Rowlands
Tribune Staff Writer

ALTONA — Residents were busy today mopping up after a tornado which cut a destructive swath through this southeastern Manitoba town Sunday.

"I've been in this town for 22 years, but I've never seen anything like this," said Mayor Dick Penner, who estimated the loss at $75,000 to $100,000.

No injuries were reported, but about 30 homes received damage ranging from a few torn shingles to gaping holes in roofs. Many windows were broken and trees downed.

Mr. Penner said his sister-in-law, Mrs. John Letkeman, was probably one of the first residents to encounter the vicious storm, which was preceded by heavy rains.

She was driving along a side road about 2.4 kilometres northwest of the town when the twister headed across her path, scooping up water in a drainage ditch at the side of the road.

"She stopped to avoid it, but the wind ripped off a fibreglass top on the back of the pick-up truck," Mr. Penner said.

David Friesen, who lives in the western part of the town, said he noticed the storm starting about 5:30 p.m., when the wind picked up and a cloud with a heavy white streaking — usually the forerunner of a hail-storm — began to move east.

"About 6 p.m., there was a terrific downpour — 1.2 inches (30.5 millimetres) within a matter of minutes," he said. "This was accompanied by hailstones one-half to three-quarters of an inch (1.3 to 1.9 centimetres) and the ground rapidly became white with ice."

"There was a slight lull, then the wind hit."

Mr. Friesen said he lost a section of shingles about 2 metres by 2.6 metres from the roof of his house and his television antenna was blown down. He also has to repaint a wall of his house after hailstones caused the paint to flake off.

Far more serious was the damage to a home belonging to his son-in-law, David Neudorf. The tornado punched a large hole in the roof and ripped out most of the shingles. Insulation in the roof was damaged, moisture-laden light fixtures will have to be removed and furniture will have to be repaired or replaced.

A garage adjoining the one-year-old house was completely blown away.

A section of the garage was deposited in a yard belonging to John Enns, about 150 metres away, but nearly 24 hours after the storm hit, the rest of the structure had not been found.

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Storm Date! Sunday April 6 1980

Winnipeg Tribune, Man.
Circ. 106,463
April 8, 1980

CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICES

B1492



Tribune photos by Jeff Deboo

David Friesen holds all that remains of his son's garage after twister transported most of the building several blocks from its original site.

Winnipeg Tribune, Man.
Circ. 106,463
April 8, 1980

Storm Date: Sunday April 6 1980

CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICES

$1492

Spring brews early twister



Tribune photo by Jeff Debooy

Storm ravages Altona

Spring made an unprecedented arrival at Altona, Man., on Easter Sunday in the form of a devastating tornado that cut a swath of destruction through the community.

Nine-year-old Tracy Falk sits on the twisted remains of a backyard bench swing that was demolished by the storm of winds and rain. In the background is scattered debris that was picked up and dropped by the tornado.

No deaths or injuries were reported but more than 30 homes were damaged with losses expected to reach an estimated $100,000.

The tornado — earliest ever recorded in this part of North America — toppled tombstones in a cemetery and levelled a garage.

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