0998209 B ✓ F=?

# TORNADO PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

1. DATE AND TIME June 30, 1982 around 6 pm

2. LOCATION OR PATH (attach map) 11 km E and 9 km N of Lacombe, Alta

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

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

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

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

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

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

10. TOTAL DAMAGE ESTIMATE $ 100,000 11. TOTAL DEATHS

12. TOTAL INJURED 13. TOTAL HOMELESS

14. LIST ALL REFERENCES
- pictures in annual report

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

T.D. 1232 6500 500 0
582 4375

ALTA

STORM DATA : JUNE 30, 1982

Canadian Press Clipping Services
481 UNIVERSITY AVE.
TORONTO, M5W 1A7

St. Paul Journal, Alta.
October 27, 1982

CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICES

C 1492

# Disaster assistance is no substitute for insurance

The tornado which ripped through the Rocky Mountain House area on June 30 this year has created hardships for local land and property owners. Some area residents who suffered property damage from the tornado may not be eligible for provincial disaster assistance.

Disaster assistance policy restricts payment of assistance when damage or losses could have been covered by insurance that was readily available when the disaster occurred. "The reason for this", says Disaster Assistance official Al Shephard, "is the government is not in business to compete with insurance companies. If the province did not restrict payments in these situations, then people would simply stop buying insurance against natural disasters." When individuals decide not to insure property against certain risks they assume damage responsibility themselves.

Insurance against tornado damage is commonly available under the heading of windstorm insurance. Some farmers may be partially covered by hail and crop insurance, but all land and property owners should check with their insurance companies to ensure that they are adequately covered.

Damage caused by the Rocky Mountain House tornado was estimated at $300,000.



Photo courtesy Red Deer Advocate
Woman searches through wreckage following tornado at Rocky Mountain House.
If disaster struck would YOUR property be covered by insurance?

ALTA / MAN

STORM DATE JUNE 30, 1982

CLIMATIC PERSPECTIVES, AES
JULY 9, 1982 VOL 4 NO 26

PRAIRIE PROVINCES

Outbreak of tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and heavy rainfall dominated the weather pattern in Alberta. On June 30th, two tornadoes in central Alberta caused damage and destruction to several farms, demolishing buildings. There were reports of several injuries.

Later in the week a severe thunderstorm dumped a record 63.5 mm of rain on Lethbridge in a matter of less than one hour. Aside from flooded basements, there were reports of considerable damage to the farming areas as a result of heavy rain, hail and gusty winds.

Yet another significant rainstorm moved into the Edmonton area over the long weekend. Some 120 to 135 mm of rain fell along Edson - Edmonton line, causing more flooding problems to the residential areas.

The inclement weather, although causing flooding problems to some communities, has provided abundant soil moisture and averted the possible loss of hundreds of millions of dollars in crops. The excessive rain has also helped to control numerous forest fires in the province.

Severe thunderstorm activity was prevalent over southeastern prairies for the latter part of the week. Southern Manitoba recorded nearly 75 mm of rain. There were reports of some hail.

STORM DATE: Wednesday, June 30 1982

ALTA
Tornado

Canadian Press Clipping Services
481 UNIVERSITY AVE.
TORONTO, M5W 1A7

The Mountaineer
Rocky Mountain House, Alta.
July 7, 1982

CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICES

H
1492

# Tornado leaves path of destruction

**by Angie Jamieson**

An estimated $500,000 damage was caused by a tornado that ripped through the Dovercourt area south-west of Rocky Mountain House last Wednesday afternoon, June 30, around 3:00 p.m.

Alex Brown, assistant director of Disaster Services, said there was approximately $350,000 in property damage, and another $150,000 can be tacked on for timber loss, fences, and personal belongings.

Only one person was injured when the twister struck. Mr. Peter Merritt remains in the Rocky General Hospital.

According to Mr. Brown, the two main areas of devastation were on the Fisher/Dorey homesteads, and the Kruger/Merritt homesteads.

The tornado was first seen about five miles south on the Dovercourt road (Highway No. 22) travelling in a south-easterly direction. Mr. Brown said the first damage occurred at the Billy May farm, where the trees were destroyed on the property, and a shed was knocked down.

"From there, it worked east and turned straight north, hitting the Lyle and Lorna Dorey farmstead."

"It's not a pretty sight out there," Mr. Brown noted.

The tornado took the roof off a new log home, splitting logs up to 15 inches in diameter, and lifted the floor. The house, Mr. Brown said, will have to be rebuilt.

"There was another pre-fab log house under construction on the site for Dale Noad. It was ready to put the roof on. . .and it's gone completely."

Mr. Brown said a quonset hut was destroyed on the Dorey property, along with a 20-foot holiday trailer, left "in a shambles", along with two vehicles.

A steel grainery was picked up and deposited 250 yards away.

Mr. Brown commented, "Mrs. Dorey was in her home at the time, and she had presence of mind enough to duck under a bed, escaping injury."

The tornado continued south-east and again took a 90-degree turn north, hitting the Ernest Kruger and Pete Merritt homesteads

"It destroyed two mobile homes, an old farm residence, a cabin and a barn. The area is really a shambles."

Damage was visible at the Mannerfeldt farm, east of the Kruger farm.

From there, it moved a half mile north, causing some damage on the Jack Evans farm, and the Tensen farm across the road. The tornado moved in an easterly direction, also causing damage at the Bob Foster residence and the Fritz von Hollen farm.

"It dissipated just east of the von Hollen farm.

Mr. Brown said there was not much damage west of Highway 22.

In its path, the tornado uprooted trees, destroyed property and left a trail of devastation.

A tornado, defined by Webster's Dictionary as a "whirling progressive windstorm causing widespread devastation", differs from a cyclone, a "violent storm characterized by strong winds", in its ferocity.

According to Alberta Environment, tornadoes are considered windstorms, and are thus covered in most insurance policies for farm buildings.

Meanwhile, Mr. Brown said, a full report has been turned over to Disaster Services in Red Deer.

ALTA Tornado

Storm date: Wednesday June 30 1982

Canadian Press Clipping Services
481 UNIVERSITY AVE.
TORONTO. M5W 1A7

Red Deer Advocate, Alta.
Circ. 19,489
July 5, 1982

CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICES

Z-1492

# Disaster service funds won't co

By DOUG BRUNTON
of The Advocate

The provincial disaster services department won't cover farmstead damage caused by the June 30 Rocky Mountain House tornado if the destruction could have been covered by private insurance, Alex Brown, stand-in disaster services director at Rocky said today.

"I phoned disaster services this morning in Edmonton and they said if it could have been insured, and wasn't, there would be no relief. About what they're saying is tough cookies," said Mr. Brown.

Mr. Brown said disaster services has to take this stand, otherwise individuals would ignore insuring their property because "disaster services would pick up the tab."

Mr. Brown says eight farmsteads were damaged by the tornado that cut a swath 20 km long and 30 metres wide about 20 km south of Rocky. The force of the tornado snapped trees up to 36 cm in diameter.

Damage on the farmsteads will be about $350,000 to $400,000, says Mr. Brown. Forest, pasture and crop damage won't be assessed until the weather allows assessors to fly over the damaged area.

# ver all Rocky tornado damages

Disaster services has offered to help Peter Merritt, 54, the only person hospitalized because of the tornado, to get established in a nursing home, says Mr. Brown. It will also take claims from other tornado victims and adjust them on an individual basis, he says.

Mr. Brown says anyone with farmstead insurance should be covered against the tornado damage. Most insurance policies have wind damage clauses that cover tornado damage.

Although tornados are rare in Alberta, they seem to favor Rocky area.

The recent tornado wasn't the first one the town has experienced.

On July 8, 1927, another tornado sucked 30 metre spouts of water out of Gull Lake, flattened 100 trees in the town school yard, damaged almost every home in town and severely injured one man, said Red Deer archivist Michael Dawe. Damage was estimated at $250,000.

Jerard Neault of the Alberta Weather Centre said, "around Rocky there is a better chance of tornado" because of the thunder storms which form in the nearby mountains creating conditions favorable to tornados.

ALTA Tornado

Storm date : Wednesday, June 30 1982

Canadian Press Clipping Services
481 UNIVERSITY AVE.
TORONTO, M5W 1A7

The Mountaineer
Rocky Mountain House, Alta.
July 7, 1982

CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICES

H1492

**Alhambra News**

# Tornado damages farms

After returning from Rocky on Wednesday afternoon at about two o'clock, Edwin Olson debated whether to pick strawberries or mow the lawn. After viewing the cloud in the west he decided to pick the berries and from his strawberry patch got a full view of that funnel cloud out toward the Strachan area. He watched and thought it wasn't going anywhere, when he realized it was coming in the direction straight toward him (this made it look stationary). Then he saw it raise up into the cloud and disappear. He watched this action for twenty minutes. He says it's the first one he has ever seen and wouldn't ever want to see another one. Edwin lives about three-quarters of a mile east of Bert's Service Station and has a clear view right out to the mountains.

Reports have come of damage done south of here on the Fritz Von Hollen farm and the Foster farm (the former Joe Malaka) place and possibly other farms in that area.

Sympathy goes to Stella and Art Cote in the death of Stella's nephew, Glen Griep in a motorcycle accident at the age of thirty-five at Spruce Grove last week.

On the other hand a little good news when they became aunt and uncle when Kelly James was born to Kathy and Marty Massie, niece and nephew of the Cote's.

Elton Bowness returned home on Tuesday afternoon after spending a few days in Calgary visiting his brother, Cecil.

Visitors to the Bowness home on Thursday were Mr. and Mrs. Allan Chauch of Carstairs and Mr. and Mrs. Gary Hoetmer and family.

School is out once again and should be a fun time for the youngsters, so please watch out for them on bicycles and their horses, some probably will think they're a menace on the road, but when you stop to think they are not as bad as the motorist with only one headlight and we see plenty of these on the highways.

Remember the shower for Mrs. Mireem William (nee Farrington) July 8th at the Community Centre at 8:00 p.m. Ladies, please bring lunch.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Harris and Mrs. Bertha Lund were supper guests also present were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Kimler. They were treated to an evening of musical entertainment with Bill Kimler on the accordian and Chris on the violin, both alternating with the guitar.

Mr. and Mrs. Mel Albertson left on Sunday for their home in Brooks. They will stop at Calgary to visit Mel's father who is a patient at the Foothills Hospital. They have spent the past week with Mrs. Albertson's sister, Mrs. Betty McMillan. They didn't think much of our liquid sunshine.

Storm date: Wednesday, June 30 1982

ALTA Tornado

Canadian Press Clipping Services
481 UNIVERSITY AVE.
TORONTO, M5W 1A7

Calgary Sun, Alta.
Circ. 51,128
July 2, 1982

CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICES

A1492

# Homes hit by tornado

By SEAN DURKAN
Staff Writer

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE — Farmer Ernie Kruger saw nine years of sweat and toil shattered in a four-minute twisting nightmare. A tornado wrecked Kruger's farm as it tore a 12-mile strip through the area, 70 miles north of Calgary, leaving at least $250,000 damage in its wake.

But folk in Rocky Mountain House gave prayers of thanks the twister spared the town itself.

Seven homes and farms were damaged. But only one person was injured — Kruger's uncle, Peter Meritt, 55.

Kruger's farm was the worst hit by the twister, which picked up the farmer's two mobile home units and scattered the pieces for a quarter of a mile.

The tornado, which struck at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, also flattened Kruger's two barns and grain store and mangled his machinery.

As neighbors rallied round to help Kruger clear up the mess yesterday, his sister-in-law Eva Kruger told the *Sun*: "Ernie has worked nine years to build up his farm and that tornado just destroyed everything.

"But Ernie won't be giving up. He'll start building all over again. He still has his livestock and most of his crops can be salvaged."

Eva said Merrit was carried 40 ft. by the twister and was hit on the shoulder by flying timber as he tried to shelter in a truck.

"He was already an ill man — he suffers from epilepsy — and he'll now probably have to go into a nursing home when he's released from hospital," she said.

Max VanderBrink, chairman of the area's improvement district council, flew over the tornado trail to assess the damage and told the *Sun*: "Thank God it didn't hit the town. It would have torn the place apart. It would have taken two bulldozers an entire day to do what the tornado did to Kruger's farm in a couple of minutes."



rick macwilliam, sun

**PILE OF RUBBLE greets Charlotte Mannerfeldt after twister's strike.**

ALTA

Storm Date: Wednesday, June 30 1982 Tornado

Canadian Press Clipping Services
481 UNIVERSITY AVE.
TORONTO, M5W 1A7

Prince Albert Herald, Sask.
Circ. 10,014
July 2, 1982

CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICES

Z-1492

# Tornado razes Alta. community

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, ALTA. (CP)— A tornado that swept through a farming community 17 kilometres southeast of here Wednesday flattened buildings, uprooted trees and cut a half-mile swath through the bush, said a Rocky Mountain House weather official.

"It was rather wicked," said John Teshier, officer in charge of the Rocky Mountain House weather station. "It looked like someone had brought in a chainsaw and chopped the trees right down."

The tornado, which lasted four minutes, struck the community about 3 p.m. mdt, Teshier said.

One person was taken to hospital with minor injuries.

Const. Doug Coates of the Rocky Mountain House RCMP said a log cabin and mobile home were demolished by the twister, which travelled in a northeast direction. Several farm buildings surrounding the log cabin suffered minor damage, while a second mobile home near the first was blown over.

"There was a wide strip cut out in the forested area and a new house under construction was knocked off its blocks and had its roof blown off," he said.

Alberta Disaster Services has been called in to assess the extent of damage, Coates said.

A spokesman for the Edmonton weather office said a severe weather warning was issued for the Edmonton-Red Deer area for the storm moving northeast from Rocky Mountain House.

AKTA Tornado

Storm Date: Wednesday, June 30 1982

Canadian Press Clipping Services
481 UNIVERSITY AVE.
TORONTO, M5W 1A7

Winnipeg Free Press, Man.
Circ. 187,522
July 2, 1982

CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICES

# l with $790,000 in trunk, police stumped

c 1492

## NEWS ROUNDUP

### U.S., Spain reach pact on bases

MADRID — The U.S. and Spain announced yesterday they have reached a new five-year agreement to continue the U.S. military presence in Spain.

The agreement, which will be signed soon, gives Spain $400 million in military aid next year in return for use of three Spanish air bases and a Spanish navy base, U.S. officials said.

### Tornado rips through Alberta

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, Alta. — A tornado that swept through a farming community 17 kilometres (10.5 miles) southeast of here Wednesday flattened buildings, uprooted trees and cut a kilometre-wide swath through the bush.

"It was rather wicked," said John Teshier of the weather station. "It looked like someone had brought in a chainsaw and chopped the trees right down."

One person was treated for minor injuries.

### Hitachi indicted in FBI sting

SAN FRANCISCO — A U.S. jury Wednesday indicted 14 people and Hitachi Ltd. of Japan for conspiracy to transport stolen property — IBM computer designs — from the U.S. to Japan.

A separate indictment charged three others with transporting and receiving stolen property. All the rest of the 17 people indicted were among 21 who were charged last week in an FBI sting operation.

### $1.5-million drug haul a stinker

NEW YORK — U.S Customs Service officials said yesterday they seized $1.5-million worth of cocaine disguised by a stench investigators believe was meant to confuse drug-sniffing patrol dogs.

The officials said 1.5 kilograms (3.3 pounds) of cocaine was found in two suitcases brought into Kennedy International Airport Wednesday by a 25-year-old man arriving from Ecuador.

When opened, the suitcases emitted a stench investigators later attributed to glue and treated laundry. They said smugglers know U.S. officials frequently use dogs to detect illegal drugs.



Tornado in Alberta reduced two mobile homes to ruble.

ALTA

Storm date: Wednesday, June 30 1982 Tornado

Canadian Press Clipping Services
481 UNIVERSITY AVE
TORONTO, M5W 1A7
Calgary Herald, Alta.
Circ. 139,244
July 3, 1982
CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICES

W-1492

# Twister sets $500,000 tab

**By Bob Warwick**
(Herald Olds bureau)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE — A Disaster Services official estimates it will cost $500,000 for clean up and repair in the wake of a tornado that ripped through the Dover Court area near Rocky Mountain House.

After a rain-drenched tour of the area Friday, Alex Brown, assistant Disaster Services director, said "it's just hard to believe" the damage the twister did. It will cost "half a million dollars" to return everything to the way it was, he said.

The one person injured by the tornado, Peter Merritt, suffered cuts and bruises and is in hospital at Rocky Mountain House for observation, Brown said.

The tornado zigzagged along a 22-kilometre path about 15 km southeast of Rocky and while two farms took the brunt of the damage, several others were hit.

According to Brown, none of the damage was covered by insurance and it will be up to the provincial government to decide what assistance the tornado victims will receive.

At the farm of Lyle Dorey, a contractor who builds log houses, the tornado left his own log house and another that was almost finished in "smithereens," Brown said.

Lorna Dorey told Brown she hid under a bed when the twister hit and that high winds was the only warning she had before everything began to crumble. Lyle was in British Columbia on a fishing trip and their young children were visiting grandparents.

Also at the Dorey farm, a Quonset hut was demolished, a camper trailer blown over, vehicles damaged by flying logs and a 1,500-bushel steel granary carried half a kilometre.

Merritt was in one of two mobile homes destroyed by the twister. Ernest Krueger and his family, who operate the Merritt farm, were away when it hit. A cabin and barn were also destroyed on that farm, Brown said.

Brown was amazed at the route the twister took. It was working to the southeast and came back 90 degrees on the two farms that were hardest hit, he said.

ALTA Tornado

Storm Date: Wednesday, June 30 1982

Canadian Press Clipping Services
481 UNIVERSITY AVE. TORONTO, M5W 1A7
Star Phoenix
Saskatoon, Sask.
Circ. 52,624
CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICES
July 2, 1982

F1492

# Tornado levels Alberta homes

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, Alta. (CP) — Otto Rauch is counting his blessings after a tornado that smashed buildings and snapped trees like matchsticks passed within 30 metres of his home near this community, 140 kilometres south of Edmonton.

"We were lucky," said Rauch who lives less than a kilometre from a farmstead that was destroyed by the black funnel Wednesday. "All we lost was a maple tree beside the house."

After four minutes, the northeast-bound tornado had cut a kilometre-wide swath of destruction, leaving a log cabin, a mobile home and several buildings destroyed.

Peter Merritt, the sole occupant of a farmstead about 10 kilometres southeast of town, was in his mobile home when the twister struck at about 4 p.m. CST. He was taken to hospital and treated for facial cuts.

A passing motorist who stopped to photograph the black funnel churning across a field said the twister suddenly made a 90-degree turn and headed toward the Merritt farm.

"I was afraid I was in its path so I jumped back into the car and drove off about half a mile," said Vic Maxwell, a Rocky Mountain House rancher-realtor.

"I could see debris flying into the air from where I was parked," he said. "The whole thing took about 20 seconds."

Slamming into Merritt's house, the whirlwind picked up the roof and knocked the building off its foundation. A barn, a machine shed and two trailers were demolished and a log house badly damaged.

The tornado's swath of destruction extended to the Lyle Dorey farm, 24 kilometres southeast of Rocky Mountain House, lifting the roof from his log home and sucking out much of the contents like a vacuum. His wife, the lone occupant of the house, miraculously escaped injury.



-CP

**Peter Merritt received minor injuries when his home was destroyed**

ALTA
Tornado

# Tornado rips $500,000 swa

By RICK WARREN
Special to the Advocate

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE — Peter Merritt watched helplessley Wednesday as a tornado ripped through his mobile home, tossing him 30 metres in the air.

"I didn't have time to think," said Mr. Merrit in an interview at Rocky General Hospital Thursday.

"I blacked out when I landed and then sat in my half-ton truck, half dizzy, wondering what to do,"

He flagged down a neighbor and was driven to Rocky hospital, where he is being treated for multiple bruises, contusions and joint pains from the fall. Dr. Stanley Hein says Mr. Merritt is in stable condition and may be in hospital for another week.

"It was a scary experience," said Mr. Merritt, admitting he was still unable to eat his supper Thursday night.

The tornado cut a swath 20 km long and 30 metres wide, about 20 km south of Rocky. It snapped trees up to 36 cm. in diameter and damaged six or seven homesteads. Mr. Merritt was the only person injured.

The Rocky municipal affairs office pegs the initial damage estimate at $500,000.

The tornado blew the roof off the log home of Lorna Dorey, demolished a prefab log home and mobile trailer, and damaged a truck and a car in the same yard.

Mrs. Dorey took refuge under a bed in the house and fire chief Art Bott said it was the safest thing she could have done.

One property owner reported the tornado carried a couple of dogs from one side of the river to the other and a calf from one side of a fence to the other. Emergency officials were first alerted to

# ath of destruction

the emergency when a local homeowner's fuel lines to a 2,300-litre diesel tank and 2,300-gallon gasoline tank were disconnected by the tornado which struck the area about 3 p.m.

Fire officials covered the fuel-saturated ground in foam and remained on the scene for more than three hours.

Property owners say they will appeal to MLA Jack Campbell or higher government authorities for disaster assistance.

Mr. Campbell, who surveyed the area Thursday, says "it is a real disaster, terrible, never seen anything like it in my life. I will do my utmost to get the maximum benefits for the stricken people." An Emergency Measures Organization official said property owners should be covered under wind storm insurance.

Officials at the Alberta Weather Centre say there are an average of four tornados in Alberta a year. Gerard Neault, forecaster for severe weather, said tornados are rare in Alberta because the warm air mass is less than in United States and there is a lack of a large body of water.

***Huge hailstones batter Parkland. Please see story Page 1B.***

Red Deer Advocate
July 2 1982
Wednesday
Storm date: June 30 1982

ALTA
Tornado

Storm Date:
Wednesday
June 30
1982

1492

Canadian Press Clipping Services
481 UNIVERSITY AVE.
TORONTO, M5W 1A7

ed Deer Advocate, Alta.
Circ. 19,489
July 2, 1982

ADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICES



ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESIDENT SEARCHES DRESSER FOR PERSONAL ITEMS AFTER TORNADO SMASHED TRAILERS, BLOWING ONE ABOUT 20 METRES OFF ITS FOUNDATION

Photo by CALVIN CALD

ALTA
Tornado

Storm date: Wednesday, June 30 1982

Canadian Press Clipping Services
481 UNIVERSITY AVE
TORONTO, M5W 1A7
Moose Jaw Times Herald
Saskatchewan
Circ. 10,053
CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICES
July 2, 1982

Z-1492





# TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION

A tornado left a trail of destruction when it swept through a farming community near Rocky Mountain House, 140 kilometres south of Edmonton, Wednesday. The elderly man who occupied the mobile home in the background was taken to hospital with minor injuries.
—CP Laserphoto

SHOP IN MOOSE JAW

H1492

ALTA STORM DATE JUNE 30, 1982

Canadian Press Clipping Services
481 UNIVERSITY AVE.
TORONTO, M5W 1A7

The Mountaineer
Rocky Mountain House, Alta.
July 14, 1982

CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICES



Disaster Services will review damage claims for possible assistance to Dovercourt area residents who suffered damage in the tornado which struck on June 30.

# Tornado victims begin cleanup

by Angie Jamieson

Residents of the Dovercourt area whose homes and properties were destroyed or damaged by a tornado which tore through the area June 30 are beginning the task of cleaning up trees, fences and debris in the wake of the disaster.

Mr. E. L. Ted Johns, Director of Disaster Services for central Alberta, in the Red Deer and district office, visited all the sites with Alex Brown, assistant director of Disaster Services for our area, last Wednesday, July 7, and spoke with the residents.

"I asked each of them to do a ballpark assessment of damages and cleanup, on items that were not insurable. For example, the figure may not include fencing, and every place had fencing down, mostly from trees falling," Mr. Johns said.

The damage ranged from farm to farm, he added. The major areas of destruction were on the Fisher/Dorey and Kruger/Merritt farmsteads.

"I told people to get itemized bills for work done, to take pictures of the damage, and go ahead with the cleanup, as they would normally."

Several treed areas were used as windbreaks, and Mr. Johns said some extensive stands of trees were knocked down.

"They have to be cleaned up or they'd be a fire hazard when they dried."

The residents will be repairing fencing and posts as well as taking care of the treefall, he said.

"There are no life-threatening factors there now. The people all have places to stay — and that's the main consideration in any emergency."

Since the tornado was an unusual occurrence, Mr. Johns said, "it may qualify for financial disaster assistance."

On Monday, the Improvement District No. 10 (Municipal Affairs) office sent a summary of damage assessments from the individuals to Disaster Services in Edmonton.

"This information will be presented to the Minister, Marvin Moore, and passed on to the Disaster Services Committee in the Cabinet."

Mr. Johns said the committee will review the assessment and decide whether or not the tornado damage "warrants opening a registration office for a detailed appraisal" in Rocky Mountain House.

Action comes down through the Minister. The disaster information offices are generally opened for about three days.

"The committee will be reviewing several assessments. There should be a decision on the Rocky area tornado by early next week," Mr. Johns said.

He explained the Disaster Services Act provides for a $250 deductible by the province, and the Government of Alberta sets the rate of financial assistance.

"They'll set an hourly rate for the cleanup of logs, for example. They may also set a rate and pay for wire, fence posts and labor."

Meanwhile, Disaster Services in the province are being kept busy, dealing with the tornado, floods and fires.

"We're a little behind, with six disasters now. The Cabinet committee just received appraisals of flood damage in Lethbridge . . . They review each disaster on its own merits."

Mr. Johns said they have received appraisals from flooding damage in the counties of Ponoka, Red Deer and Lacombe; a train derailment outside Lethbridge; and fires up north which have caused evacuations.

Disaster Services has been assisting with evacuations. They have also received some flooding reports in the Vermillion area.

ALTA

STORM DATE: JUNE 30, 1982.

Canadian Press Clipping Services
481 UNIVERSITY AVE
TORONTO, M5W 1A7

Red Deer Advocate, Alta.
Circ. 19,489
July 9, 1982

CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICES

Z-1492

# MLAs to assess tornado damage

**By DOUG BRUNTON**
**of The Advocate**

A committee of MLAs will likely decide next week whether victims of the June 30 Rocky Mountain House tornado will receive assistance from disaster services.

Ted Johns, Red Deer co-ordinator of disaster services, said the 12 tornado victims will phone in a rough appraisal of damage to disaster services by today. This appraisal will be sent to the Municipal Affairs Department in Edmonton and a committee of MLAs will decide whether the damage warrants assistance from disaster services.

Mr. Johns said today only damage that couldn't be paid by private insurance will be covered. Disaster services will likely cover the cost of clearing damaged timber and fixing torn fences. The tornado destroyed at least 20 acres of trees and the twisted timber will have to be cleared to prevent a fire hazard.

Two mobile homes and a log house were destroyed in the tornado. Peter Merritt's mobile home and Lorna Dorey's log house were not insured.

Mr. Merritt, the only person hospitalized because of the tornado, is recovering from several knocks and bruises in Rocky Mountain House General Hospital. A hospital spokesman said today he is improving but it isn't known when he will be released.

Mr. Johns said disaster services is not looking for another residence for Mr. Merritt, but Social Services will assist him if he asks for help.

Mr. Johns said the MLA committee will also decide whether flooding on the Blindman and Medicine Rivers last weekend will be covered by disaster services.

FINAL

Edmonton J

50 CENTS

EJ July 2/82

FINAL

SD June 30/82

# A fling with terror

By ELSE REMPEL
and RICK PEDERSEN

Peter Merritt doesn't remember much about the tornado that plucked him from his home Wednesday and threw him 30 metres through the air.

The Rocky Mountain House area man was in his mobile home on the Ernest Kruger farm, about 15 km southeast of Rocky Mountain House, when the twister struck at about 3 p.m. Wednesday.

It demolished the home and tossed him through the air. RCMP say a second man, Chuck Kruger, suffered minor injuries.

Dr. S.S. Hein said today that Mr. Merritt doesn't remember much about the storm hitting. He remembers finding himself lying on the ground 30 metres from his trailer. Mr. Merritt remains in stable condition in Rocky Mountain House hospital where he is being treated for cuts and bruises.

"It was a miracle he got out of that trailer alive," said Max Vanden Brink, Improvement District No. 10 councillor. "It was just demolished."

In minutes the tornado destroyed two mobile homes, levelled a log cabin, destroyed barns and outbuildings on the Kruger farm. The storm snapped trees like matchsticks and knocked down power poles and fences.

Mr. Vanden Brink estimated damage to seven farms touched by the kilometre-wide twister at more that $250,000.

"It zig-zagged in a northeasterly direction," he said. "It cut trees down just like a mower."

A passing motorist who stopped to photograph the black funnel churning across a field said the twister suddenly made a 90-degree turn and headed toward the Kruger farm.

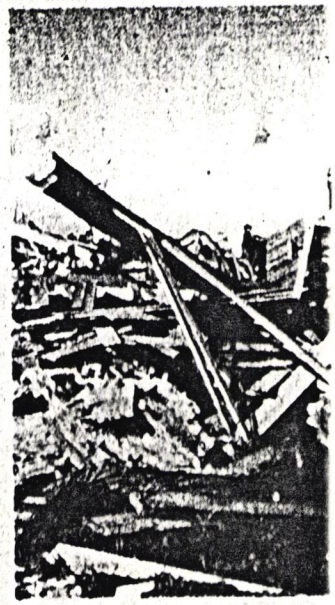
"I was afraid I was in its path so I jumped back into the car and drove off about a half-mile," said Vic Maxwell, a Rocky Mountain House rancher-realtor.

"I could see debris flying into the air from where I was parked," he said. "The whole thing took about 20 seconds."

When it slammed into Mr. Merritt's house, the whirlwind picked up the roof and

More TORNADO Page A3





FUNKY.



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Thursday that Canada must get inflation under control before "sustained and balanced" economic recovery can take place.

In the gloomiest analysis and forecast for the Canadian economy written in years by the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development, the Western world's economic diagnostic clinic here, there were also some tough messages for the provincial governments, labor leaders and industrialists.

- Provincial governments were told that they must keep wages down in upcoming negotiations with their civil servants.
- Canadian labor was criticized for not showing the "same flexibility as its United States counterpart in negotiating wage concessions" with industry and government.
- Industry leaders, particularly those in highly protected industries such as leather, textiles and furniture, will have to face the fact that protecting them from outside competition has contributed to high inflation.

But the major theme of the organization's annual report on Canada centred on the federal government's responsibility to get high inflation down to manageable levels.

Without results in the inflation fight, interest assuming a recovery in export markets as from the latter part of the year and an easing of external inflationary pressures, prospects for restoring more sustained and balanced growth in Canada are not very promising.

"Over the next 18 months or so activity is forecast to remain relatively slack, but in spite of a further rise in unemployment only moderate progress is expected to be made in the fight against inflation," it said.

The key to a recovery in Canada, as it is in the U.S. and the Western world, is high interest rates. But since Canada's inflation rate is between four and five points higher than the U.S., the Canadian priority must be fighting inflation.

"Much will depend of course on financial developments in the United States, but the scope for reducing interest rates remains also highly conditional on progress made in bringing down domestic inflation," the OECD economists said.

When it came to prescriptions about how to cure the problem, the OECD report suggested a start should be made with civil servant pay settlements, particularly in the provinces. The measures in Finance Minister Allan MacEachen's budget last Monday seemed to anticipate the report in this area.

"A key element in the outlook, and one to

Turning to labor, th
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EJ July 2/82 SD June 30/82

# Tornado

(Continued from Page A1)

knocked the building off its foundations.

The swath of destruction began near the Lyle Dorey farmstead, several kilometres southeast of the Kruger farm, lifting the roof from a log home and sucking out much of the contents like a vacuum.

Neighbor Bill May received a frightened telephone call from Lorna Dorey as the the storm passed over her home.

Mrs. Dorey was asleep when the winds hit. She walked out of her bedroom only to find the roof missing from the rest of her house, said Mr. May.

She took cover under the bed and called the Mays' farm for help.

Mr. May said she was lucky to escape injury, and even luckier her three young children were away from home with their father when the tornado hit the home.

"That was a miracle itself."

While the only homes hit were on the Kruger and Dorey farms, five other farms were hit, Mr. May said.

He lost a large outbuilding and about seven acres of trees. Some trees were pulled out by the roots, others were twisted and broken off six metres above the ground.

Otto Rauch is counting his blessings after the tornado passed within 30 metres of his home near Rocky Mountain House.

"We were lucky; all we lost was a maple tree beside the house," said Mr. Rauch, who lives less than a kilometre from a farmstead that was destroyed by the black funnel.

Mr. Vander Brink said area farmers hope to recover damages from their insurance. "The experience has been that wind damage is covered," the councillor said. "I think it can be recovered."


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seized the Falklands on April 2 were better armed, better clothed and better fed than soldiers from the British task force. And when the main Argentine garrison at Stanley, the island capital, fell on June 14, few British soldiers could believe it.

## Writers' meet

OTTAWA (CP) — Mexico will host to a colloquium between six Canadian and six Mexican writers in November.


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CALGARY HERALD 50 CENTS FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1982

EJ July 2/82 SO June 30/82

# Luck rides the funnel of twister

By ELSE REMPEL

Otto Rauch is counting his blessings after a tornado that smashed buildings and snapped trees like matchsticks passed within 30 metres of his home near Rocky Mountain House.

"We were lucky; all we lost was a maple tree beside the house," said Mr. Rauch, who lives less than a kilometre from a farmstead that was destroyed by the black funnel Wednesday.

After only four minutes, the northeast-bound tornado had cut a kilometre-wide swath of destruction, levelling a log cabin, a mobile home and several buildings.

Peter Merritt, sole occupant of a farmstead about 10 km southeast of town, was in his mobile home when the twister struck at about 3 p.m. He was taken to hospital and treated for facial cuts.

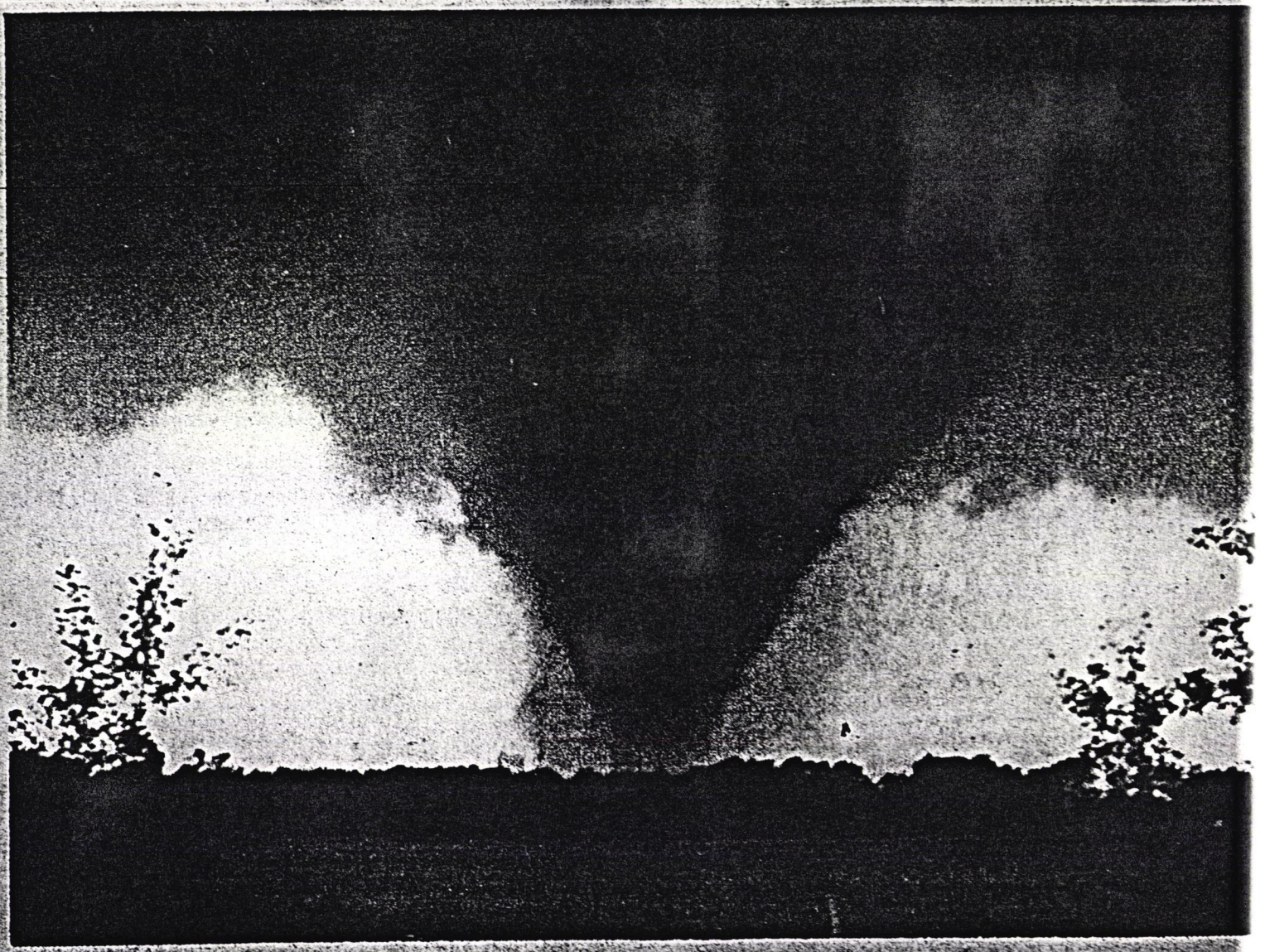
A passing motorist who stopped to photograph the black funnel churning across a field said the twister suddenly made a 90-degree turn and headed toward the Merritt farm.

"I was afraid I was in its path so I jumped back into the car and drove off about a half-mile," said Vic Maxwell, a Rocky Mountain House rancher-realtor.

"I could see debris flying into the air from where I was parked," he said. "The whole thing took about 20 seconds."

Slamming into Mr. Merritt's main house, the whirlwind picked up

More TORNADO Page A2



Churning black funnel marked tornado's destructive path as it rumbled across the countryside near Rocky Mo

# Wasn't that a party!

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: Lunch: Chicken sand-
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early in August.*

government have reached an impasse over how to treat Canada's economic woes.

More strenuously than any other provincial leader, Premier Peter Lougheed has rejected the latest federal prescription for easing the recession.

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau has, for his part, all but dismissed Alberta's own proposed economic medicine.

The fundamental differences between the two leaders emerged after Wednesday's meeting of first ministers.

Mr. Lougheed stressed the need for incentives to the private sector.

Mr. Trudeau said the main need is to cut inflation by trimming costs, particularly in wages.

The Alberta premier ruled out further wage restraints for provincial employees. He also rejected the prime minister's call for provincial regulatory agencies to limit the price increases that they administer.

Program (NEP) and the abolishment of the Foreign Investment Review Agency (FIRA).

Most premiers said the five-hour meeting was unusually amicable and useful.

"I'm surprised that some of the premiers viewed the meeting as being as constructive as they apparently did," said Mr. Lougheed.

"The ideological differences are as hard as I've ever seen them."

He said he told Mr. Trudeau the NEP is discriminatory and undermines investor confidence. "I didn't detect any sign that the prime minister was about to see that point of view."

To Mr. Lougheed's call for changes in the NEP and an end to FIRA, the prime minister said industry's main complaint is that wages are higher in Canada than in the United States.

Mr. Trudeau conceded that abandoning FIRA might encourage a slight increase in investment. But, he said, it would be at the cost of losing some Canadian sectors to foreign control.

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EJ July 2/82 SD June 30/82

# Tornado

(Continued from Page A1)

the roof, knocking the building off its foundations. A barn, machine shed and two other trailers were demolished and a log house badly damaged.

Its swath of destruction extended to the Lyle Dorey farm, 24 km southeast of Rocky Mountain House, lifting the roof from his log home and sucking out much of the contents like a vacuum.

His wife, alone in the house, miraculously escaped injury.

An Edmonton weather office official said a severe cloud build-up over central Alberta, about 96 km long and 35 km wide, helped create ideal tornado conditions.

The funnel develops when a thunderstorm — caused by an uplift of air — reaches maturity, resulting in a downward rush of air. As moisture adds to the weight of the thunderstorm, the downward rush gathers momentum, sometimes touching the ground.

On Thursday, unusual weather patterns hit the province again, this time dumping 63.5 millimetres of rain in 25 minutes on Lethbridge. There were reports of a power failure at nearby Coalhurst and street flooding at Coaldale, a few kilometres to the east.

## Hijack nets 150,000 (real) clams

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) — Hijackers have pulled off a big haul that netted them 150,000 clams.

As in seafood.

FBI spokesman Jim Waters said three hijackers on Thursday forced the drivers of a tractor-trailer to load the sacks of clams into another truck.

# Report

(Continued from Page A1)

provincial governments and the private sector to follow its lead by trimming salary increases.

Industrial production is forecast to tumble by 6.6 per cent this year compared with the slight 1.5-per-cent increase recorded in 1981. The OECD, however, sees output expanding by a 2.7-per-cent rate in 1983.

Despite the relative weakness of the Canadian dollar which would tend to stimulate price competitiveness in foreign markets, the OECD expects Canada's exports of goods and services to drop 4.4 per cent this year as manufacturing costs remain high.

The OECD predicts the current-account deficit to be little changed from the $5.5 billion U.S. posted last year.

The organization also
government to take fur
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"Broader initiatives to
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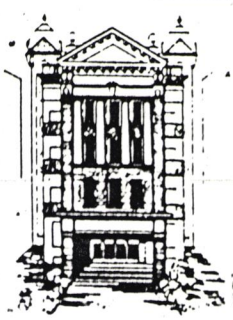
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dition, said Michener had to get onto his hands and knees to handle some of the steeper stretches. Their route wound up the west side of the mountain and rose close to 200 metres to the summit.

Michener, a former ambassador to India and Nepal, is the patron of the Everest expedition which sets

on the edge of an 800-foot drop but I felt secure roped to Lloyd," said Michener.

The climbers had to wait until Wednesday to attempt the mountain northeast of Banff National Park after high winds and heavy cloud cover blocked two attempts planned Sunday and Monday.

climbing as a sport, particularly after people close to him were killed in climbing accidents. Two friends from his university days at Oxford, George Leigh Mallory and Andrew Irvine, were among the first climbers to die attempting to reach the summit of Everest in 1924.

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*Bob Bogle*

October, to see needed repairs are carried out, Bogle said.

But he gave his assurance that "older buildings which need to be refurbished and renovated ... are being given a high priority."

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trout has proven it has that capability and will be a good spawner, likely of progeny that will also exhibit good growth capability.

As I mulled all that over, I came to a huge deep backwater of one of the largest pools on this river. It is near the road and dozens of couples court here, drink beer and never catch a fish. Fortunately it was too early on a Sunday morning for any such couples to be about.

Like a hundred anglers before me I hopelessly flung my Le Tort hopper out in the backwater, just to see how far I could cast.

My strike was instinctive to a gulp and splash. There followed a battle that rivalled that in the film "Way of a Trout" for speed, and violence, except that this Brown trout should not have been rivalling in leaps the rainbow star of that film.

Finally I had unhooked and held in my hand while she recovered a Brown trout of 62 to 64 centimetres. I debated keeping the trophy for mounting the full five minutes it took her to recover, and doffed my hat to her when she took off in a cloud of silt.

The one I want on the wall has to be a male about that size with a big hook on his jaw.

Besides, I like Father's Day solitude even more than Vern Caddy does.

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Calgary Herald July 2/82

# Tornado tears through farms

S.D. July 1/82

By Earl Fowler
(Herald staff writer)

Things are slowly returning to normal in the wake of a tornado which flattened buildings and uprooted trees about 15 kilometres southeast of Rocky Mountain House Wednesday.

Residents of the mixed farming district spent much of Thursday picking up after the afternoon twister, which destroyed three dwellings and damaged buildings on seven farms.

"The whole thing couldn't have lasted more than five or 10 minutes," said Art Bott, chief of this town's volunteer fire department. "But what a path of destruction. Wow!"

One man suffered what neighbors described as minor injuries when his mobile home was flattened about 2:40 p.m. Peter Merritt, said to be in his 60s and physically disabled, remains in Rocky Mountain General Hospital but is not in serious condition.

The tornado tore the roof from a log house while a woman hid under her bed. At the same farm, it levelled another house under construction, demolished a Quonset hut, blew over a camper trailer, damaged vehicles with flying logs, and carried a 1,500-bushel steel granary half a kilometre.

The lone occupant of the log house, Lorna Dorey, was not injured. Neighbors said her husband Lyle was in British Columbia on a fishing trip, while their young children were visting grandparents.

Elsewhere, two mobile homes and numerous farm buildings were destroyed. "It took the roof right off our hay shed, and if it had been over another 200 feet, it would have taken our barn and our house and everything else," said a woman who asked that her name not be used.

Bott said the tornado first hit about 16 kilometres due south of Rocky Mountain House, then tore northeast toward the small communities of Alhambra and Leslieville.

He said it missed them both and "petered out" south of Leslieville. But during its periodic contacts with the ground during its zigzagging, 15-kilometre life, the tornado "cut a swath about 200 yards wide."

Max VanderBrink, acting Alberta Disaster Services officer for the area, said the tornado was accompanied by hard rain. As the storm proceeded northeast toward Bentley, the winds died down and the rain turned to hail.

The tornado tore out "about a half a mile of power lines," VanderBrink said. TransAlta Utilities Corporation workers restored power to 90 per cent of the homes in the area within three hours.

VanderBrink said he believes most or all of the farmers hit were insured against tornadoes.

A damage estimate has not been made and will not be unless Alberta Disaster Services requests one, said Glen Snelgrove, manager of Improvement District 10.

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# Disposal bylaw quashed

EDMONTON (CP) — A Beaver County bylaw prohibiting construction of a hazardous wastes disposal plant has been quashed in Court of Queen's Bench.

Justice J. J. Stratton ruled Tuesday a petition presented by a local citizens' group calling for the bylaw void because it wasn't presented within 60 days of the original motion allowing construction of the facility.

Beaver County Reeve George Knudslien said Wednesday he was happy with the decision because it relieved the council of enforcing a law which might have restricted other related projects such as sewage lagoons and landfill sites.

However, Mr. Knudslien said the ruling would not change the county's decision not to negotiate any further with the Alberta government on a proposed $50-million hazardous wastes disposal plant.

"The people have made their feeling quite clear on this issue in the plebiscite and we will respect that," he said. "Yesterday's decision just gives us a little breathing space when we consider other projects."

The court ruling does give the provincial Environment Department the right to arbitrarily locate the plant in Beaver County, southeast of Edmonton.

storm date July 1/82





Canadian Press

he city, three water mains
ourst. Outside the city, the
mage.

# Twister sets $500,000 tab

By Bob Warwick
(Herald Olds bureau)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE — A Disaster Services official estimates it will cost $500,000 for clean up and repair in the wake of a tornado that ripped through the Dover Court area near Rocky Mountain House.

After a rain-drenched tour of the area Friday, Alex Brown, assistant Disaster Services director, said "it's just hard to believe" the damage the twister did. It will cost "half a million dollars" to return everything to the way it was, he said.

The one person injured by the tornado, Peter Merritt, suffered cuts and bruises and is in hospital at Rocky Mountain House for observation, Brown said.

The tornado zigzagged along a 22-kilometre path about 15 km southeast of Rocky and while two farms took the brunt of the damage, several others were hit.

According to Brown, none of the damage was covered by insurance and it will be up to the provincial government to decide what assistance the tornado victims will receive.

At the farm of Lyle Dorey, a contractor who builds log houses, the tornado left his own log house and another that was almost finished in "smithereens," Brown said.

Lorna Dorey told Brown she hid under a bed when the twister hit and that high winds was the only warning she had before everything began to crumble. Lyle was in British Columbia on a fishing trip and their young children were visiting grandparents.

Also at the Dorey farm, a Quonset hut was demolished, a camper trailer blown over, vehicles damaged by flying logs and a 1,500-bushel steel granary carried half a kilometre.

Merritt was in one of two mobile homes destroyed by the twister. Ernest Krueger and his family, who operate the Merritt farm, were away when it hit. A cabin and barn were also destroyed on that farm, Brown said.

Brown was amazed at the route the twister took. It was working to the southeast and came back 90 degrees on the two farms that were hardest hit, he said.

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# cted for Cold Lake rally

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t from Alberta — may

workshops and speeches.

Stanford said he would like to see more than the expected 100 to 200 people make the 600-kilometre drive northeast to Cold Lake from Calgary. But he said the size of this weekend's rally, organized by the union, the Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament in Edmonton and the Lakeland Coalition for Nuclear Awareness in Cold Lake, is not all-important.

The mid-June demonstrations, held to mark the opening of the UN

volved about 2,000 people in Calgary and about 4,000 in Edmonton. They illustrated the public's loathing for the nuclear arms race in general and the proposed cruise missile tests at Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake in particular, Stanford said.

Public response to the proposal to send cruise missiles skimming across Alberta's northern forests, similar to the taiga of Soviet Union, has already forced the federal government to postpone a final

TV TIMES TODAY

# THE CALGARY HERALD

50 CENTS

FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1982

June 30/82

S.D. July 1/82

## Rocky hit by tornado



Neighbors pick through the pieces left at Lyle and Lorna Dorey's farm after a tornado tore through seven farms southeast of Rocky Mountain House Wednesday afternoon.

Lorna escaped injury when the whirlwind lifted the roof from her log house and sucked the contents out like a vacuum.

The tornado ripped across 15 km of countryside, destroying dwellings, flattening farm buildings, uprooting trees and damaging vehicles. One man suffered cuts when his trailer blew down.

Story on Page C12.

Paul Godin, Calgary Herald

## Brothers

## LRT on block