65/07/01

TORNADO REPORT

LOCATION: **Province:** Manitoba

Reference Town: Ridgeville (10 mi. NE of Emerson)

Lat. & Long.: 49° 04' & 97° 02' W
Emerson & Tolstoi

TIME: **(Year/Month/Day/Time (Z)** 65/07/01/2245 Z

LOCATION OF BEGINNING:

Lat.:

Long.:

Location of End:

Lat.:

Long.:

ASSOCIATED WEATHER CONDITIONS: rain, no hail.

Length of Track:

Direction of Track: travelled [redacted] SW to NE

Visual Description: tail-like funnels.

Path Width: Approximately 50 ft.

Fatalities: NIL

Injuries: NIL

SOURCE OF INFORMATION: Carillon News (Steinbach), Fri, July 9/65
Altona Echoe, July — /65

COMMENTS: - a number of tail-like funnels.
- only one or two actually reached the ground.

- 1st: tossed bins + outhouses around like matchsticks.
uprooted large maple + elm trees.

- 2nd: struck center of Ridgeville.
- demolished car shed, tore roof off garage.

"The twin tornadoes moved off in a southeasterly direction"
- both tornadoes were associated with the same storm.

"2 funnels approached Ridgeway from the southwest each approximately 50 ft. wide at base and extending at least 10,000 ft in air.
- tornado passed north of Altona at 2100 Z moving northward with funnel intermittently touching ground.
- funnel clouds were reported south of city by observers in WG.

MAN

Storm Date: Thursday July 1 '65

WPG. Free Press FRI. JULY 2/65

Tornado Tears Into Ridgeville

Homes And Garages Damaged, Power, Phone Lines Ripped

A five-minute tornado hit the border town of Ridgeville, Man., Thursday evening damaging homes, garages and cutting some power and phone lines.

Ridgeville is about 60 air miles south of Winnipeg.

At the William Schwark farm on the outskirts of Ridgeville, Mrs. Bertha Schwark saw a "sheet of rain — it just poured. But there was no wind whatsoever."

While Bertha Schwark awaited her husband, returning from Plum Coulee, he was running for cover in the village.

Seconds later, the tornado tore through, ripping up trees, peeling off roofs and demolishing garages.

The five-minute terror sent villagers dashing to basements in the middle of supper preparations at 5:45 p.m.

Sheltering

At the John Joba home, one of the people sheltering in a basement was a woman from Minneapolis, where tornadoes recently cut a swath through suburbs.

The Joba home lost shingles from part of the roof, and a chimney was toppled.

The home of the in-laws of Mrs. Schwark's son was moved from its foundations, Mrs. Schwark said in a telephone interview.

"My husband had just reached Ridgeville when he saw the funnel," Mrs. Schwark said. Afterwards, he called for his wife and they went to the home of Len Laufersweiler.

Terrible Noise

"She was home alone," Mrs. Schwark said. "She tore into the basement. She didn't know what it was but it was a terrible screeching noise. There was such a howling noise in her basement she didn't know the house moved."

Mrs. Schwark said she hadn't seen such a storm in the 27 years she'd lived in Ridgeville.

"I saw it later heading east. The funnel was going up and down. It was a little frightening."

The 15-foot steeple, lying behind St. Mary's Anglican church in Ridgeville, after being blown down last year, was picked up by the tornado and dumped several feet away.

And as turkey farmer, Bill Wilkinson, helped replace church windows broken by the storm, he talked thankfully of the tornado missing his turkeys by a mere 500 feet.

A steel trailer was lifted and dropped 300 feet away. One

—Continued

Please See TWISTER Page 2

Twister Seen From Downs Here

CONTINUED

wooden garage "flew" 25 feet over a hedge.

A family from Chicago, visiting in Ridgeville, remarked earlier that a twister might be coming.

"Don't worry," they were told. "We never have things like that." Minutes later, the tornado struck Ridgeville.

Several homes had power cut when lines were ripped down, but service was resumed by 9:45 p.m. All telephone communications with the village were still out at press time.

Three homes were badly damaged, and the roof of a large vacant garage owned by Ted Walters was torn off.

The funnel was seen about 6 p.m. "straight south behind the grandstand" at Assiniboia Downs by Harry Jeffrey, track superintendent.

"It was a great big black funnel — twisting. The top was right in the clouds and the bottom was a long way off the ground. I've seen them in Oklahoma, and this was small compared with them."

The weather office in Winnipeg said Friday it is unlikely there will be another tornado.

"Conditions have to be just right — and this far north we don't usually have the low level of moisture which is one of the main requirements.

"It is the last stage of a thunderstorm. It has become popular to call them tornadoes, but I can remember when I was on a farm and someone's barn roof would blow away.

"We'd just say: 'There was a cyclone last night' and forget about it."

The weather office spokesman said reports had come in for an hour — between 5 and 6 p.m. — and the tornado had moved from southwest to the northeast.

Storm Date:
Thursday: July 1 65

WPG. Free Press SAT. JULY 3/65

Damage At Ridgeville $10,000

No One Injured As Storms Hit S. Manitoba Community

By RON THORSTEINSON

RIDGEVILLE, Man. (Staff) — Despite sorrow over property losses, residents of this community 60 miles south of Winnipeg talked eagerly Friday of "twin" tornadoes which struck the community of 120 people around suppertime Thursday.

An estimated 100 cars arrived in the village by evening to look things over.

The two "funnels" hit Ridgeville simultaneously — plucking up, ripping apart and slamming back down every type of object in their paths except the houses.

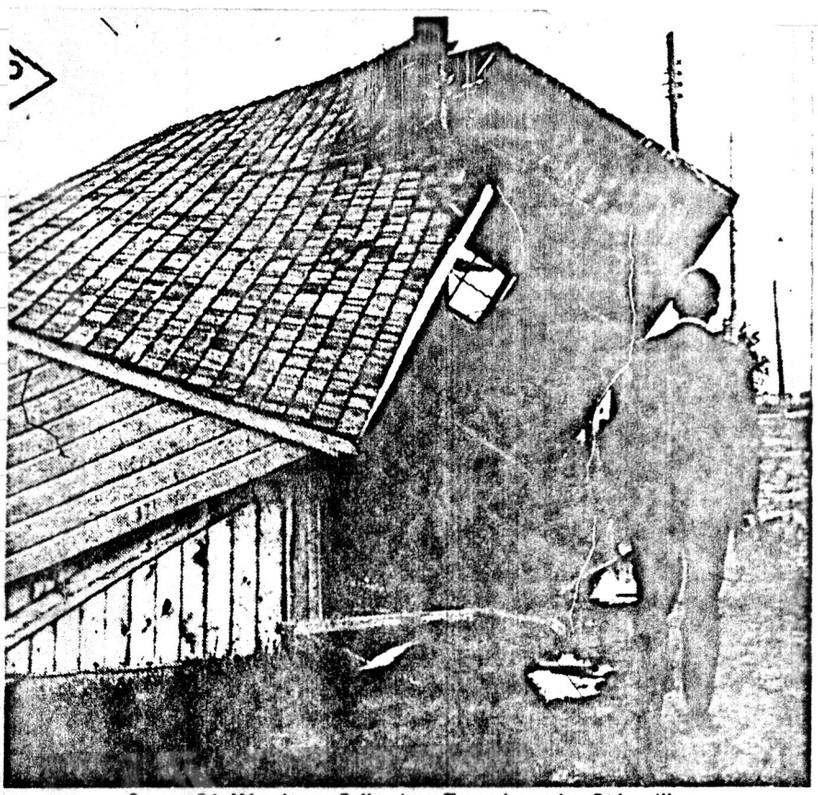
One house was shifted over on its foundation by the storm which lasted about two minutes. Three garages "flew" and were demolished, sheds were wrecked, wires were downed, trees were bent and uprooted, communication was crippled and heavy objects were catapaulted through the air.

In Basements

No one was injured. Not a person had been caught unsheltered in the paths of the tornadoes. Many had dashed into their basements.

Mr. Tanchak eye witnessed the tornadoes from his home. They hit Ridgeville from the southwest and were 200 feet apart. He said the funnels "were at least 10,000 feet in the air" and 50 feet across the base. When they left east of town, the twisters "merged" into one, then dissolved.

He said three empty granaries in the farmland near Ridgeville were ripped up but there was no crop damage or livestock casualties from the twisters.



Scene Of Wreckage Following Tornadoes At Ridgeville

At the south end of the main street of the border village which is about two city blocks long, Mrs. Len Laufersweiler stood Friday amid the debris covering her lawn — walked onto the garage roof laying in her yard — and recalled that it had seemed an "eternity" of fright when the twisters cut a swath through Ridgeville. She was safe in the house but had the "presence of mind" to scurry to the basement "when I heard this roar."

House Shifted

Emerging to the calm following the "terrible banging and crashing" noises, she found four garage walls and its roof scattered on her lawn. It had lifted over a hedge and flew 25 feet. Her one-storey house shifted over on its foundation, living room walls cracked, a deep gouge in the earth "like a plow went through it" — the debris from the lawnmower which had been in the garage and a steel, four-wheel trailer lay out in back of the house.

Mrs. Laufersweiler pointed to the back yard of her neighbor Horace Pott to indicate the spot the trailer originally stood. It had been hurled about 300 feet through the air. A box unit which had been knocked off the trailer during the tornado had two chickens feeding in it. Mrs. Laufersweiler found them dead in her garden.

Ridgeville Storm Not The Worst

Winnipeg Free Press
Sat. July 3 65

Friday's tornado in the Ridgeville district was not the worst witnessed in Manitoba.

Free Press files have produced clippings of the following major tornado disasters:

Here's a history of tornadoes in Manitoba:

1868 — July 3 at Fort Garry. Barn destroyed killing one man. York boat carried over the stone fort 500 feet.

1884 — June 14 at Shell River. Houses and stables overturned. Sixty-foot water spout sucked from a lake near Russell and carried ½-mile over prairie. — Aug. 27 from Portage la Prairie to Winnipeg. Churches at Headingley and St. Charles wrecked, and small buildings in Winnipeg lifted from foundations.

1891 — June 22 at Kildonan. Top storey of McKay house ripped off and sleeping family thrown to ground.

1892 — June 11 at Rock Lake. Log house wrecked and logs flung far across prairie. Water of Lewis Lake lifted into a pillar visible for many miles — July 10 at Forrest. Hundred-yard swath cut for eight miles from Forrest to near Douglas, taking buildings, machinery, cattle, horses and pigs. One death. Also at Holland, clothes torn from backs of family.

House Uprooted

1893 — May 18 at Winnipeg. Several Fort Rouge buildings damaged; a shanty at Point Douglas with woman and child lifted and dropped in the river. — July 27 at Gladstone. Church destroyed and house unroofed.

1895 — May 4 at Bagot.

1896 — Aug. 2 at Hamiota.

1897 — July 3 at Lothair. House lifted and carried considerable distance, but occupants not seriously injured. One death at Oak River.

1899 — July 11 at Manitou. Several buildings destroyed.

1900 — July 9 at Manitou. — Aug. 18 at Rosser.

1901—April 25 at Rosser and Stony Mountain. — June 23 at Boissevain. July 13 at Carberry.

1904 — July 2 at Winnipeg. Heavy thunderstorm as funnel moved from Arlington Bridge to Maryland Bridge. Houses and barns destroyed, trees and sidewalks torn up. — July 13 at Hilton.

1905 — July 6 at Deloraine — July 17 at Arizona.

1907 — June 16 at Souris, Raven's Glen, Wheatlands and Newdale.

1911 — Pierson. Barns destroyed and cattle swirled in air. — Aug. 29 at Miniota. Man killed as house collapses.

Elkhorn Hit

1912 — July 27 at Glenboro, Cypress River and Morden.

1913 — June 25 at Glen Souris.

1915 — Aug. 22 at Sperling. — Sept. 2 at Elkhorn and Miniota. Large barns wrecked at Elkhorn. Skating rink destroyed at McAuley. Two railway coaches lifted from tracks at Miniota. Freight train upset at Reeder.

1916 — July 6 at Carberry.

1919 — June 14 at Winnipeg. $1 million damage; Children's Hospital and Strathcona School unroofed. — Sept. 16 at La Riviere.

1921 — June 30 at Killarney — Sept. 3 at Portage la Prairie.

Barns Wrecked

1922 — May 10 at La du Bonnet. Houses and barns wrecked a long 30-mile path. One house lifted intact and four occupants injured. City on emergency power for three days. — June 22 at Portage la Prairie. Manitoba's most destructive storm, it began as a minor storm in Qu'Appelle Valley, struck Portage at 2 a.m. collapsing homes and business buildings, uprooting giant trees, snapping telephone poles and cutting crops and farm houses worth in all $2 million. Hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of damage in Winnipeg before the storm died out in the Whiteshell. Five dead, scores injured.

1923 — June 17 at Boissevain and Souris.

1927 — July 7 at Roblin.

1930 — June 11 at Griswold.

1933 — May 23 at Winkler. Grain ripped from fields and five inches of rain at Morden.

1935 — June 1 at Strathclair. Two farms devastated as buildings lifted and torn apart in mid-air. Also at Portage la Prairie, buildings destroyed, cars off railroad tracks. — July 1 at Solsgirth. Barns, granaries and a home destroyed. Gilbert Plains lost one house. Burdett lost barns. Brandon had three inches of rain. — Aug. 10 at Rapid City. One dead.

1937 — July 5 at Minitonas. — July 31 at Margaret.

1941 — June 19 at Goodlands, Deloraine and Boissevain.

1942 — Sept. 10 at Killarney. One dead, 15 injured. Homes and barns destroyed. Woman sucked out window, clothes torn from children. Hail 10 inches circumference fell at Boissevain.

1943 — July 15 at Russell. — July 26 at Macdonald.

1947 — July 3 at Windygates. Two farms destroyed. School demolished. Moved into North Dakota killing 11. — July 23 at Headingley. — Aug. 1 at Poplar Point. — Aug. 5 at Dufrost. — Aug. 16 at Gretna. — Aug. 18 at Franklin, Neepawa, Westbourne; $100,000 damage.

1948 — July 24 at Tilston, Reston, Pipestone, Carberry.

1952 — July 5 at St. Laurent.

1953 — July 20 at Lundar. House sucked into air with occupants, overturned and dropped back to earth. — Aug. 28 at Plum Coulee.

1954 — July 6 at Glenboro. Six-mile-wide swath for ¼-mile.

1955 — June 19 at Vita. Hospital, school, stores, garages and houses demolished costing $500,000. Thirty injured.

1956 — Aug. 16 at Oak Lake, Souris. Trees uprooted, barns destroyed. Hail among worst ever experienced in southwest Manitoba, piling to six inches at Wawanesa. Brandon plate-glass supply exhausted because of damage at Souris and Virden.

1957 — July 5 at Amaranth. Path seven miles long and a few yards wide. — July 24 at Alonsa.

1958 — July 17 at Gardenton.

1959 — May 24 at Crystal City. Windows sucked from farmhouse, barns damaged. — June 6 at LaSalle. Funnel seen from Fort Garry — July 28 at Manigotogan. Hundreds of trees ripped up. — Aug. 19 at Wood Bay. — Sept. 5 at Bright stone. Newly-constructed Hutterite barn destroyed. — Sept. 5 at Zhoda.

1960 — July 18 at Brookdale. 59 empty freight cars on moving train toppled into ditch.

Barns Wrecked