~~0998801~~ 0998901 A F=1

TORNADO PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

1. DATE AND TIME July 27, 1989 1630 MDT

2. LOCATION OR PATH (attach map) Edmonton, Alberta

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

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.)
- hail
- heavy rain

10. TOTAL DAMAGE ESTIMATE $1 000 000 11. TOTAL DEATHS

12. TOTAL INJURED 2 13. TOTAL HOMELESS

14. LIST ALL REFERENCES

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

a) Short track.

b) Roofing torn off industrial buildings.

T.D. 12330000

5935000 2000 0

Cypress Hills, Swift Current
Mostly sunny. Isolated late afternoon thundershowers. Light and variable wind. High near 32. Low tonight 15. Sunday mostly sunny. Isolated showers. High 32. Probability of precipitation 30 per cent today and Sunday.

Moose Mountain, Quill Lakes, Yorkton, Hudson Bay, Prince Albert
Mostly sunny. Isolated afternoon thundershowers. Wind light and variable. High near 30. Low tonight 15. Sunday mostly sunny. Isolated showers. High 26. Probability of precipitation 30 per and 30 sunday.

North Dakota
Scattered thunderstorms east, partly sunny and warm west and central. Highs around 80 northeast to the lower 90s extreme west. Tonight clear to partly cloudy, isolated thunderstorms extreme east. Lows in the mid 50s to lower 60s. Sunday mostly sunny and warmer. Highs from the mid 80s northeast to the mid 90s west.

REGINA DETAILS

Forecast high today	31
Temperature at noon	23
One year ago	27
Relative humidity	50%
Barometric pressure 9 a.m.	102.2
Record low, 1925	4
Record high, 1975	37
Average low	12
Average high	26
Average	19

to 26.
Labrador: Mainly cloudy with showers. Highs 10 to 14.

Foreign temperatures
Aberdeen cldy 20, Abidjan clear 29; Algiers clear 30; Amsterdam ptcldy 22; Ankara clear 28; Athens ptcldy 30; Auckland clear 7; Beijing clear 29; Berlin ptcldy 21; Bonn ptcldy 24; Brussels clear 21; Cairo clear 35; Casablanca cldy 23; Copenhagen ptcldy 20; Dakar ptcldy 30; Dar es Salaam ptcldy 28; Dublin drzl 18; Geneva clear 23; Harare clear 24; Helsinki clear 26; Ho Chi Minh Ct ptcldy 30; Hong Kong cldy 28; Jerusalem clear 31; Lisbon clear 33; London cldy 24; Madrid clear 35; Malta clear 30; Manila cldy 29; Moscow ptcldy 25; Nairobi cldy 21; Nassau ptcldy 24; New Delhi ptcldy 33; Nice clear 29; Oslo ptcldy 22; Paris ptcldy 24; Pretoria clear 20; Riyadh clear 44; Rome clear 31; Sarajevo cldy 17; Seoul rain 23; Singapore cldy 28; Sofia cldy 21; Stockholm ptcldy 21; Sydney clear 14; Taipei tstorm 25; Tokyo ptcldy 27; Tunis clear 34; Warsaw ptcldy 27.

A low, also known as a cyclone or depression, is a large roughly circular or elliptical wind system whose winds move in a counterclockwise direction. As air converges in a low pressure system, it forces some of the air already there to move upwards. The rising air expands and cools. Cool air cannot hold as much water vapor as warm air, therefore the water vapor condenses either as clouds or rain.

A high, also known as anti-cyclone, is generally associated with good weather and the winds move in a clockwise direction. As air near the ground flows out of a high pressure area, air sinks to replace it. The sinking air becomes compressed and warmer. Because warmer air can hold more water vapor, relative humidity decreases, therefore it can usually absorb any clouds in the area. As a result, high pressure areas are usually clear.

Bottom map indicates high temperature ranges for North America for Sunday. Supplied by Environment Canada

FRONTS

Cold

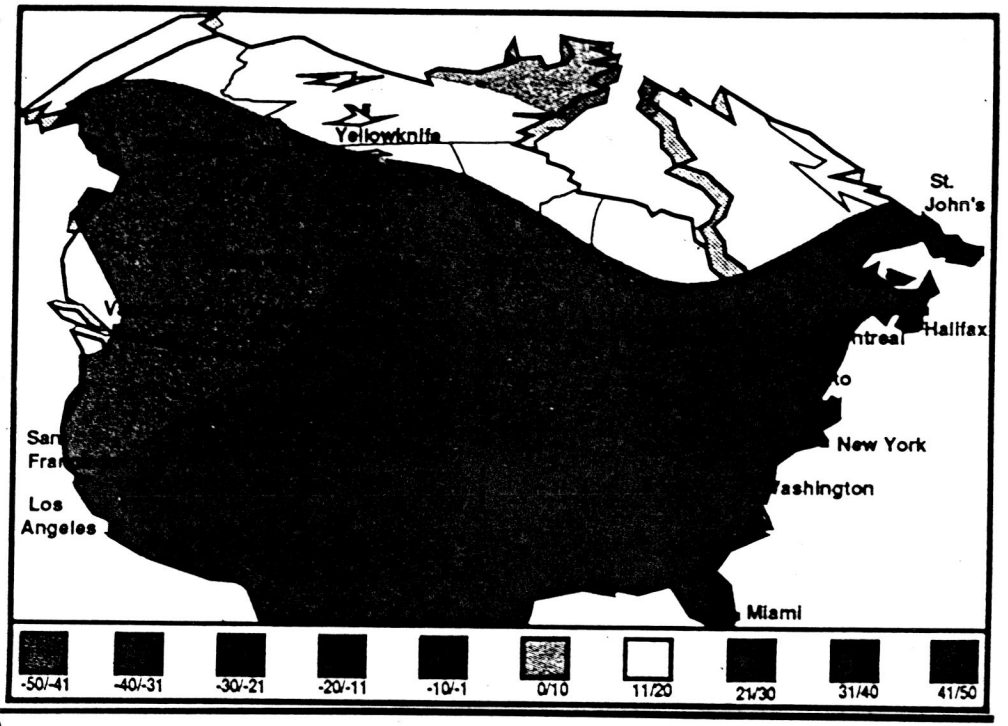
A cold front is formed by an advancing mass of cold air moving under a mass of warm air. The warm air is forced upward and cold air replaces it at ground level. Cold fronts usually cause sudden changes in the weather.

Warm

A warm front is created by the edge of an advancing mass of warm air moving over a retreating mass of cold air. Warm air replaces the retreating cold air at ground level. Warm fronts usually produce more gradual changes in the weather than cold fronts. The passing of a warm front brings a sharp increase in temperature with clearing skies and an increase in humidity.

Stationary

A stationary front is normally the final stages of any front. It is the dividing line between two air masses, one cold the other warm, neither advancing nor retreating.



RLP Sat. July 29/89 c20

Edmonton's early-warning system broke down

S.O. July 27, 1989

EDMONTON (CP) — The Alberta Weather Centre's radar system for Edmonton wasn't working when a tornado hit Thursday, a centre official says.

Brian Paruk said Friday the radar site near Stony Plain, just west of Edmonton, stopped transmitting a signal at 4:50 p.m. MDT. About 50 minutes later the twister touched down, causing an estimated $1 million damage in the city and injuring two people.

The weather centre was without any radar information about the severe thunderstorm from the time it reached the west edge of the city until it passed through Edmonton.

The radar did not work again until 8 p.m., Paruk said. Investigators are still trying to discover whether the breakdown was storm-related.

The loss of radar information didn't delay a decision to issue a tornado risk warning for Edmonton at 5:31 p.m., said Paruk, the centre's severe weather co-ordinator.

When the radar quit, forecasters already knew the storm could produce a tornado, he said. The centre decided to issue a tornado risk warning 40 minutes later because of "other considerations."

Paruk hinted forecasters were observing the storm from the roof of the weather centre. He said the office also received an eyewitness report of a tornado.

It issued extra warnings to possible areas in the probable path of the storm, he said.

Edmonton is expected to have new tornado-detecting techonology by 1992. Called Doppler radar, it can tell which thunderstorms carry a tornado but not where a twister will touch down. The current radar only detects a thunderstorm and its path.

A city alderman said Edmonton needs a better warning system now that tornadoes are more frequent here. Ald. Mel Binder said more people would be critical of the warning system if Thursday's tornado had turned out to be as severe as the twisters that killed 27 people in the Edmonton area two years ago.

But an Environment Canada official said forecasters did the best they could in warning Edmontonians about Thursday's tornado.

"In straight meteorological terms, you saw state-of-the-art forecasting (Thursday) in Edmonton," Desmond O'Neill said Friday. "That's about as good as we can do given present technology."

Some city residents have criticized the service because it did not issue an official tornado warning until after the twister was spotted touching down.

The formal alert can be issued only after an actual sighting, said O'Neill, acting national director-general of the weather services directorate. Until then, forecasters can only "wave a flag" about possible dangers, he said.

"There's got to be a better system to warn people," said Binder. "I don't accept the position there will be no tornado warning until touchdown of the funnel cloud. There's got to be a pre-warning."

Mayor Terry Cavanagh said the city will look at what can be done to provide better warning.

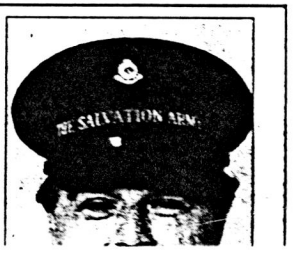
Shortage of air controllers will get worse, union says

TORONTO (CP) — A shortage of

He noted, however, that 75 are off

Cornwall, Ont.

MOVING?
Help us help you!



Storm date : Thursday July 27, 1989

Edmonton tornado rekindles horror

EDMONTON (CP) — A menacing tornado ripped through Edmonton's west end Thursday, bringing back memories of a brutal twister that left a trail of death and destruction almost exactly two years ago.

The suppertime twister sliced roofs from buildings, hurled debris through the air, shattered windows and sent many Edmontonians scurrying for cover.

No one was killed. At least two people suffered minor injuries.

Doug Marleau was sitting in his car as the storm hit shortly before 6 p.m. MDT.

"I thought, 'My God,'" he said. "I felt the car rocking back and forth . I figured maybe it's got enough power to lift the car.

"It happened so quickly. I mean, you're scared but that's it, it's over. You thank God that nothing happened."

As tremendous swirling winds whipped through the city, anxious Edmontonians experienced a feeling of deja vu. Lightning struck repeatedly while hail and heavy rain poured.

The storm rekindled grim memories of the Friday heading into the August long weekend two years ago.

Twenty-seven people died when the merciless twisters tore a wide swath through the city's east end.

Those tornadoes chewed up houses, tossed huge trucks into the air like toys, and left their victims buried in makeshift graves as buildings collapsed.

Thursday's tornado, while initially terrifying, was nowhere near as severe as the 1987 storm.

"It certainly doesn't compare ... to the one that we had two years ago," said Edmonton police spokesman Randy Kilburn.

As in 1987, the tornado followed several days of hot, muggy weather.

Less than an hour after the storm hit, all tornado warnings in the Edmonton area were cancelled. Skies cleared and the sun shone but wary weather officials kept a close watch on the storm as it moved east.

A thunderstorm watch, which is considerably less serious than a tornado warning, remained in effect right from Edmonton to the Alberta-Saskatchewan boundary.

At the peak of the storm, a funnel cloud touched down on a construction company warehouse just a short drive from West Edmonton Mall

A SECTION
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Friday, July 28, 1989

Suggested Retail Price
City and Primary
Market Area
50 Cents
★★

Twister hit before warning got out

July 27/89

By KATHLEEN ENGMAN
and MARILYN MOYSA
Journal Staff Writers

An official tornado warning from the Alberta Weather Centre was issued at least five minutes after the twister touched down in west Edmonton, a centre spokesman says.

Brian Paruk, severe weather coordinator for the centre, said the tornado warning went out at 5:42 p.m.

Edmonton fire department reported the twister touched down on a west Edmonton building at 5:37, ripping off a chunk of roof, and injuring two people, said Mark Egener, managing director of Alberta's public safety service.

Bruce McNaughton, a weather services specialist at the international airport, said the tornado warning was issued at 5:45 p.m.

Most local radio stations said they didn't get any tornado warning until after the twister had already hit.

Paruk said his office issued the tornado warning after receiving a call at 5:40 p.m. from someone who reported seeing it.

Issuing the warning sooner might have been like crying wolf, he said.

Paruk said the warning was "as good as the technology would allow." The centre is using $700,000 of new processing equipment connected to an Edmonton satellite receiving station.

Paruk said this allows forecasters to detect the temperature of the top of the cloud, which can indicate the intensity of the storm.

He noted that before the tornado warning, there were several severe storm warnings issued that mentioned the possibility of a tornado.

As severe thunderstorms moved into the area from the foothills, weather warnings issued include:

- **3:54 p.m.** severe thunderstorm warning for county of Parkland, "can produce tornado."
- **5:31 p.m.** severe thunderstorm warning for Edmonton with the words "risk of tornado."

Paruk said ideally, when there are no other storms to block radar detection of tornadoes, they might be able to predict a tornado an hour before it hits.

Thursday's situations were not ideal because the air was loaded with severe storms, he said.

Paruk said the tornado was not major; it was classed as an F-1, compared to the F-4 tornado that terrorized Edmonton almost two years ago. The scale is F-0 to F-5.

Tornado rips throug

Journal Staff Writers

A tornado ripped through west
monton on Thursday, demolish-
g a building, ripping off roofs and
inging back fearful memories of a
ller tornado.

The storm hit just four days be-
re the second anniversary of the
ly 31, 1987 tornado that left 27
ople dead.

Only two people suffered minor
uries in Thursday's storm.

Pictures, stories B4

The city set up its emergency
erations centre for 90 minutes to
l with problems including a
ckout of 4,000 homes and 12
ldings struck by lightning.

t was the first time the centre,
ich coordinated the actions of po-
, fire, ambulance, transportation
environmental services, has
n used since the 1987 disaster.

'We prayed we wouldn't have the
ne kind of experience as two years
)," said city manager Cy Arm-
ong.

'Thank God this was relatively
nor."

n the evening's worst incident,
werful winds buckled one wall of
dee Equipment Ltd., 10630 176th
and brought down the ceiling on
half-dozen employees inside.

Don Gordey, vice-president of the
m equipment dealer, said he was
ving work at 5:25 p.m. when he
a funnel cloud.

He was walking to a window to
e a better look when it hit. He'd
ely ducked under a shelf before
concrete-block wall collapsed.

'It sounded like locomotives driv-
through the building," he said.

Two men suffered minor injuries,
Gordey was thankful most of
65 employees had left half an
r earlier.

He said the building will need to
ebuilt.

Contractor Terry Hoff was
ped in his pickup truck as he
d to drive from the site.

He described huddling in his seat
the wind shattered his windows,
rain and hail poured down.

'It just shook the truck like it was
ng to turn it over."

The storm brought unhappy
mories for residents of the Ever-
en Mobile Home Park, where 15
ple died in the 1987 twister.

Lois Theroux didn't know what to
when she saw a funnel cloud
ning, so she grabbed her children
ran to the park restaurant.

There was no warning, none at
My kids were freaking out, and
I could think of was to flip over
couch and hide."

he was terrified of a repeat of
7 when the car she was driving
picked up by the tornado and
ied a kilometre down the road.

There was no way I was going to
in that car again."

Several people said the storm
w in quickly.



Sales administrator Garry Real surveys destruction at Pardee Equipment L
. . . coming almost two years to the day after the July 31, 1987, tornado that claimed 27 lives, Thursday's to

Gary Boucher was watching the dark clouds from his second-storey balcony at 10152 158th St. when he saw a funnel form.

He rushed inside his suite and slammed windows shut moments before part of the roof was torn off.

Afraid the entire apartment building could be demolished, he ran to the basement to alert other tenants to go into the hallway for safety.

"I was scared . . . when I saw the twisted steel from the last tornado, I knew the kind of damage they could do."

Carl Welt, sales manager at Toyota Village on 170th Street, said he watched a huge "dust cloud" pass north of his office.

The wind was so strong he couldn't open the outside door, he said.

"We were standing here watching it, but we didn't have anywhere to run."

The weather office had unconfirmed reports of winds reaching 100 kmh, and said up to 30 mm of rain was dumped in half an hour.

Edmonton Power reported two lightning strikes knocked out electricity to almost 4,000 west-end homes for about two hours around dinnertime.

Traffic lights were also out in other parts of the city, and several dangling trolley wires had to be cut to allow buses to pass, said Edmonton Power spokesman Ken Rowes.

Other parts of the city were hit as well. Shingles were stripped off part of an apartment roof at 11003 29A Ave., allowing rain to leak into the suites below.

It was a blast from the past for tenant Michelle Boisvert, 22 — in 1987, she was working in Capilano near one spot where that tornado touched down.

"Last time I stood and watched from the parking lot, and this time it seems like I was right here."

A small electrical fire broke out under an LRT train at Corona Station, and an official believed it was caused by rain water under the train.

The system's electrical signals were also temporarily knocked out, probably by lightning.

Police spokesman Randy Kilburn said 12 buildings were hit by lightning, but there weren't any fires. However, fire investigators said they responded to fires caused by lightning at two houses.

Four people reported flooded basements.



Insurance company sho
. . . official warning came at

se unable to seek shelter. He said the wind was so strong he couldn't open the outside door of his office

Sight of funnel cloud sent chill along tornado victim's spine

By ROLLAND BREMNER
and STEVE WARBURTON
Journal Staff Writers

For the second time in her life, Lois Theroux felt a tingling of icy fear creep along her spine.

"I watched that cloud form a funnel, yet there was absolutely no warning over the radio," said Theroux, an Evergreen Trailer Park resident who watched a killer tornado rip apart her tiny community in northeast Edmonton two years ago.

"It really ticks me off," she said of the lack of warning.

She was worried something was going to happen, even before she got home from work.

"It was the same kind of weather, hot and muggy," she said. "It certainly scared me and the kids."

Then she saw the funnel forming, right in front of her eyes.

"The cloud rolled in, and I thought 'here we go again. What am I going to do'. "

Theroux said she thought she was seeing a repeat of July 31, 1987, when the tornado picked up her car with her and the children inside, carrying it about one kilometre down the road before slamming it in a ditch.

"There was no way I was going to get in that car again," she said.

Marcel Zaychuk also saw the cloud gathering momentum.

"We saw a big white cloud in front and it was rolling," he said. "We decided it was wise to get out."

Zaychuk, who owns a farm in northeast Edmonton, was equally angered at the lack of warning.

"I was surprised, because I figured there would be a weather warning considering past experiences," he said. "But we didn't hear anything on the radio."

Zaychuk said he was out in his farm field near Alberta Hospital Edmonton, close to the Evergreen Tailer Park, when he saw the funnel form.

He was chased by a tornado only last month while digging a ditch on the farm but managed to outrun it, though not before it uprooted a tree and tugged at his hair.

That was his second encounter with a twister. Two years ago he was showered with debris when the tornado struck Evergreen.

Luckily, this time the cloud passed by without touching down near his home.

Meanwhile, for Holyrood residents who lived through a natural gas explosion earlier Thursday morning, tornado warnings that night didn't really matter.

"I'm still numb," Elsie Dezman said sitting in her living room as weather warnings flashed on the television screen. "I'm not feeling. I'm not feeling nothing."

Just 17 hours earlier, Dezman had thought her husband Paul had suffered a heart attack after an explosion outside her house at 7912 93A Ave. She was frantic.

It turned out Paul was okay. But by the time he was safe at home, the tornado warnings came.

Many residents whose houses were damaged in the explosion never saw what the rain was doing. They had already left.

Other neighbors shook their heads over the double disasters.

Storm stops LRT

Yesterday's severe lightning and heavy rainstorm were tagged as the likely cause of an electrical short which shut down the entire LRT system for a few minutes.

Motorman Bjarne Laursen said the signal system shut down about 5:50 p.m. in the middle of the storm.

A second electrical short 20 minutes later — in the middle coach of his train — sent smoke into Corona Station at 107 St. and Jasper Ave., where Laursen was waiting for the signal system to be repaired.

Laursen evacuated the 20 passengers from his westbound three-coach train and stopped the smoking by disconnecting the train from the overhead electrical wires. There were no flames.

The switching system was fixed soon after the smoke cleared and service resumed but trains were hampered by continuing signal-system problems for more than an hour.

The disabled train was towed to the maintenance yards.

Evergreen evacuated

By TIMOTHY LeRICHE
Staff Writer

Fearful Evergreen Mobile Home Park residents fled their homes last night, causing a small traffic jam in the midst of yesterday's tornado.

"The people just left," said Happy Steak and Pizza worker Fidel Ammar. "Everybody was scared."

The tornado struck Edmonton's west end at 5:45 p.m. and a severe storm raced across the city.

Thirteen people died and dozens were injured in Evergreen park in the Black Friday tornado of July 31, 1987.

"When you live through one tornado, you keep wondering if there's another one when a storm comes up," said Ammar, at the cafe which became a temporary morgue after the 1987 disaster.

Some people left the park after seeing the storm forming in the west end yesterday, while others heard the news on the radio or from friends.

Wendy Chrisp, whose baby Tyler was paralysed by the 1987 twister, said she, Tyler and husband Murray went to their car as soon as her sister phoned to warn of the coming storm.

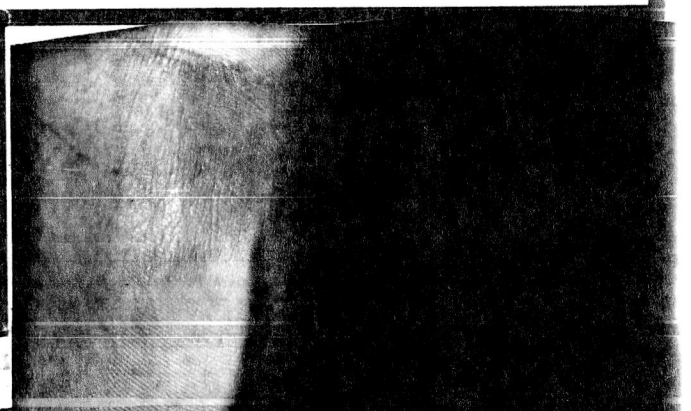
"We just got up and left," said Chrisp. "I was scared."

The Chrisps went to a friend's house in Clareview and they all stayed in the basement until the storm passed.

"I was shaking all the way there. My stomach was turning."

Evergreen convenience store worker Sam Hallibi said there was a 10-minute traffic jam at the 167 Ave. park exit.

While dozens of people chose to leave the park, others congregated at the pizza parlor.



TORNADO

By JAMIE WILSON and DAVID QUIGLEY
Staff Writers

A tornado touched down in west Edmonton late yesterday, sending two men to hospital with minor injuries and causing at least $500,000 damage.

The twister ripped away one wall and tore the roof off Pardee Equipment Ltd. at 10630 176 St.

Two employees were injured by the twister, which came almost two years to the day after the Black Friday tornado devastated the city.

Witnesses said the tornado was about 10 metres wide and touched down for less than one minute.

Pardee worker Gerry Moore, 60, was walking to his car about 5:30 p.m.

"I looked over my shoulder and saw this blackish-looking funnel cloud coming toward me — I just dove under the car," said Moore.

"I was pelted all over — there was a hellish noise and the whole thing was quite frightening," he said.

There was also evidence of damage to other nearby businesses.

A shaken Robert Stock, owner of nearby Great Western Graphics, said he was leaving work when the funnel cloud "came down in a couple of seconds.

"It just dropped right down and I just turned around and ran — pieces of the building were flying all around me," he said.

City manager Cy Armstrong refused to give an official estimate of damage from the tornado and storm, but a Pardee inventory controller said it could reach more than $500,000 to that building and its contents alone.

An Edmonton fire department official said a tornado was also sighted in the south-central end of the city but it didn't touch down or cause any injuries.

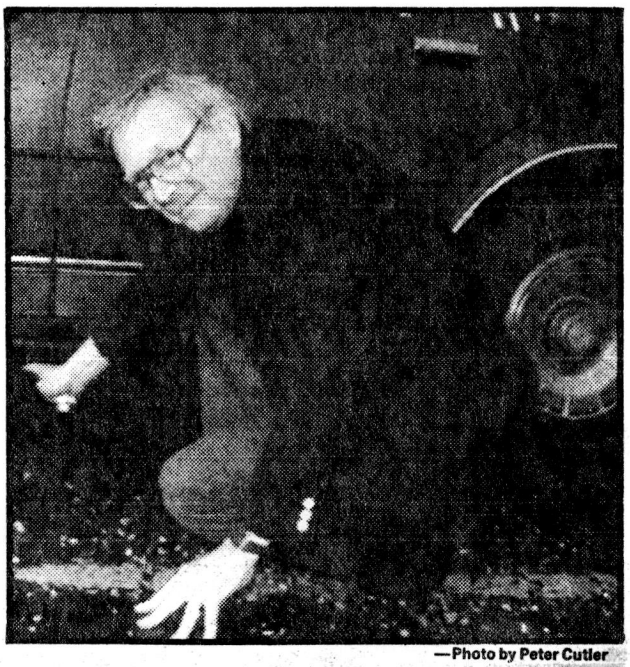
Environment Canada spokesman Ken Nelles said yesterday's storm wasn't nearly as severe as the force-three tornado two summers ago.

"The last one was a monster — this one was much smaller in size and much weaker," he said.

On July 31, 1987 Edmonton was hit by its worst-ever natural disaster when a massive twister cut a swath on the city's east side, killing 27 people, injuring about 300 and causing more than $250 million damage.

Yesterday's storm first hit the Nordegg area about 200 km southwest of Edmonton at 2 p.m. — three hours after the first severe weather watch was issued for central Alberta.

The storm moved northeast toward Edmonton at 40 kmh as severe thunderstorm warnings were issued.



—Photo by Peter Cutler

Gerry Moore crawled under car to escape tornado.

A severe thunderstorm watch with the possibility of funnel clouds was issued for the Edmonton region about 2:30 p.m. as the storm crept closer.

The first edges of the storm began pelting the city limits just after 5 p.m. with more than 12 mm of rain, hail the size of golf balls and winds gusting up to 80 kmh.

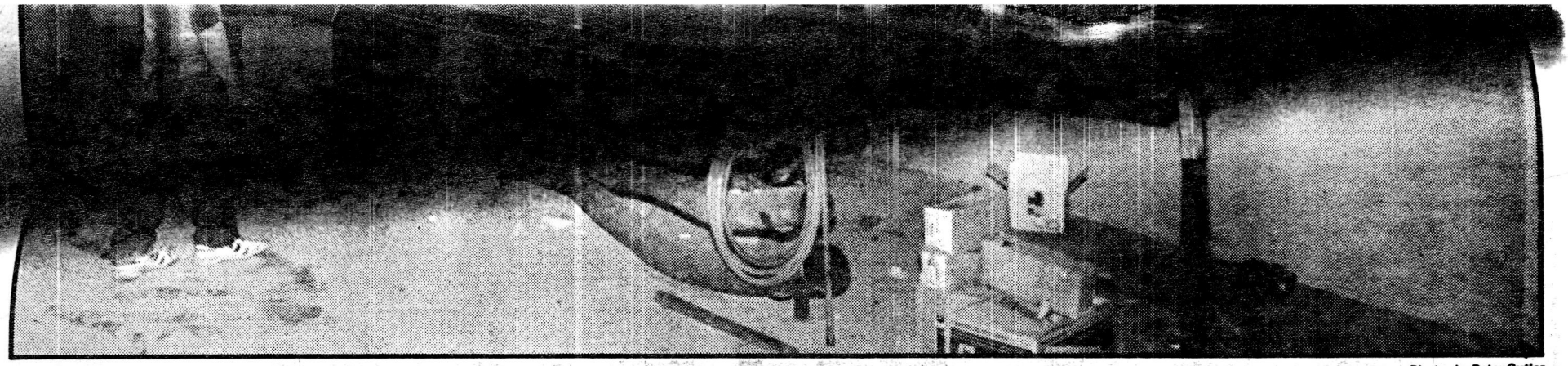
The tornado touched down about 5:30 p.m. as the first tornado warning for the city was issued.

Yesterday's storm also closed A Taste Of Edmonton in Sir Winston Churchill Square and temporarily shut down the K-Days midway for about 40 minutes.

The storm also forced a Canadian Forces plane carrying 18 VIPs returning from North Bay to be diverted to Calgary from Edmonton after it flew directly above the storm. No other Edmonton-area flights were affected.

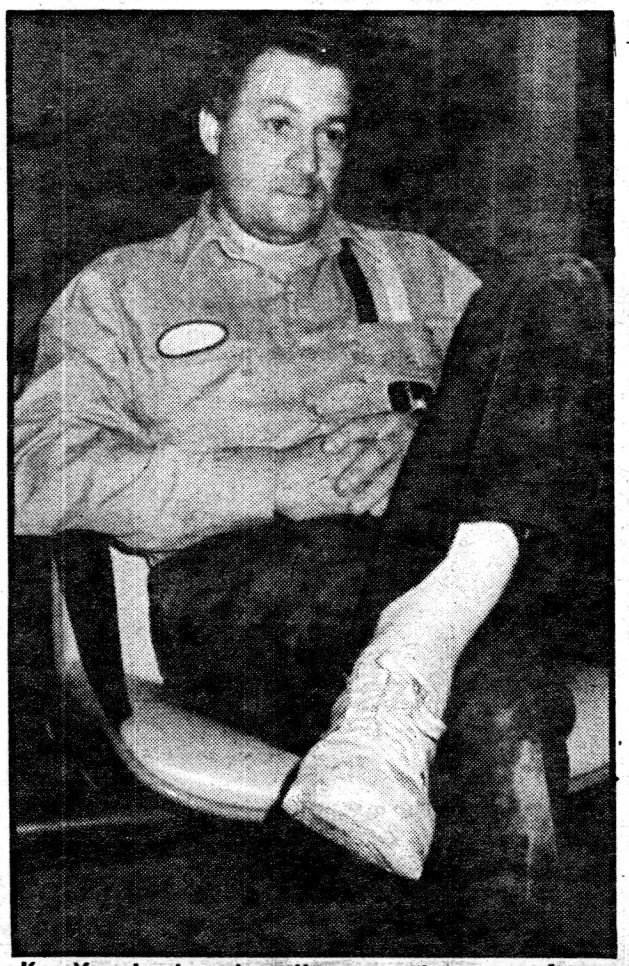
A thunderstorm watch — less serious than a tornado warning — was in effect last night from Edmonton to the Alberta-Saskatchewan border.

The weather office forecasts highs of 27C today with thunderstorms this evening.



—Photos by Peter Cutler

Scott Dancey surveys the destruction inside Pardee Equipment Ltd., badly damaged by the tornado.



Ken Yuschyshyn describes escaping a roof cave -in with only minor injuries.

Pair struggles free after roof cave-in

By GORD BANNERMAN
Staff Writer

Hit on the head by falling bricks and trapped in darkness when yesterday's tornado sent a roof crashing in on him, an injured city man could hear a rescuer calling out.

"It was the eeriest feeling, sitting pinned in your chair and you can't move and you can see the roof settling down," Pardee Equipment's shop foreman Ken Yuschyshyn told *The Edmonton Sun.*

Yuschyshyn struggled to free himself with help from co-worker Art Huisman, 30.

Blood poured from his head

Huisman was also hit by falling bricks and ignored blood pouring from a cut on his head to frantically dig through tons of rubble to rescue his trapped friend.

"Art called out and asked if I was all right," said Yuschyshyn, who along with Huisman miraculously suffered only minor injuries when a tornado ripped through Pardee's building at 10630 176 St.

Damage was estimated to be at least $500,000.

Yuschyshyn, 41, who was plunged into darkness when the roof caved in, managed to free himself from debris pressing down on his neck and lap.

He got to his hands and knees and began crawling towards Huisman's voice.

"When Art moved stuff aside I could see light and I started to work my way towards the light," said Yuschyshyn, a father of two.

Huisman, a mechanic, said he was hit by bricks that blew out of a wall above him, bringing the roof down on his co-worker.

Both men said everything happened so fast they didn't have time to think.

With bricks and pieces of roof falling around him, Huisman sought safety beside a steel pillar holding a section of still-standing roof.

Yuschyshyn was sitting at his desk in the heavy equipment distributor's shop when he heard a sound like a jet.

"I looked up and the doors blew open and roof came down.

Four metres of demolished roof

"When I realized what was happening, I didn't even have time to get out of my chair.

"I was pinned."

Yuschyshyn said four metres of demolished roof separated him from his rescuer.

Both men were taken by ambulance to the Misericordia Hospital, where they were treated for cuts and bruises and released.

July 27/87

TORNADO

By JAMIE WILSON and DAVID QUIGLEY
Staff Writers

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Environment Canada spokesman Ken Nelles said yesterday's storm wasn't nearly as severe as the force-three tornado two summers ago.

"The last one was a monster — this one was much smaller in size and much weaker," he said.

On July 31, 1987 Edmonton was hit by its worst-ever natural disaster when a massive twister cut a swath on the city's east side, killing 27 people, injuring about 300 and causing more than $250 million damage.

Yesterday's storm first hit the Nordegg area about 200 km southwest of Edmonton at 2 p.m. — three hours after the first severe weather watch was issued for central Alberta.

The storm moved northeast toward Edmonton at 40 kmh as severe thunderstorm warnings were issued.



—Photo by Peter Cutler

Gerry Moore crawled under car to escape tornado.

A severe thunderstorm watch with the possibility of funnel clouds was issued for the Edmonton region about 2:30 p.m. as the storm crept closer.

The first edges of the storm began pelting the city limits just after 5 p.m. with more than 12 mm of rain, hail the size of golf balls and winds gusting up to 80 kmh.

The tornado touched down about 5:30 p.m. as the first tornado warning for the city was issued.

Yesterday's storm also closed A Taste Of Edmonton in Sir Winston Churchill Square and temporarily shut down the K-Days midway for about 40 minutes.

The storm also forced a Canadian Forces plane carrying 18 VIPs returning from North Bay to be diverted to Calgary from Edmonton after it flew directly above the storm. No other Edmonton-area flights were affected.

A thunderstorm watch — less serious than a tornado warning — was in effect last night from Edmonton to the Alberta-Saskatchewan border.

The weather office forecasts highs of 27C today with thunderstorms this evening.

Storm stops LRT

Yesterday's severe lightning and heavy rainstorm were tagged as the likely cause of an electrical short which shut down the entire LRT system for a few minutes.

Motorman Bjarne Laursen said the signal system shut down about 5:50 p.m. in the middle of the storm.

A second electrical short 20 minutes later — in the middle coach of his train — sent smoke into Corona Station at 107 St. and Jasper Ave., where Laursen was waiting for the signal system to be repaired.

Laursen evacuated the 20 passengers from his westbound three-coach train and stopped the smoking by disconnecting the train from the overhead electrical wires. There were no flames.

The switching system was fixed soon after the smoke cleared and service resumed but trains were hampered by continuing signal-system problems for more than an hour.

The disabled train was towed to the maintenance yards.

Evergreen evacuated

By TIMOTHY LeRICHE
Staff Writer

Fearful Evergreen Mobile Home Park residents fled their homes last night, causing a small traffic jam in the midst of yesterday's tornado.

"The people just left," said Happy Steak and Pizza worker Fidel Ammar. "Everybody was scared."

The tornado struck Edmonton's west end at 5:45 p.m. and a severe storm raced across the city.

Thirteen people died and dozens were injured in Evergreen park in the Black Friday tornado of July 31, 1987.

"When you live through one tornado, you keep wondering if there's another one when a storm comes up," said Ammar, at the cafe which became a temporary morgue after the 1987 disaster.

Some people left the park after seeing the storm forming in the west end yesterday, while others heard the news on the radio or from friends.

Wendy Chrisp, whose baby Tyler was paralysed by the 1987 twister, said she, Tyler and husband Murray went to their car as soon as her sister phoned to warn of the coming storm.

"We just got up and left," said Chrisp. "I was scared."

The Chrisps went to a friend's house in Clareview and they all stayed in the basement until the storm passed.

"I was shaking all the way there. My stomach was turning."

Evergreen convenience store worker Sam Hallibi said there was a 10 -minute traffic jam at the 167 Ave. park exit.

While dozens of people chose to leave the park, others congregated at the pizza parlor.

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Tornado terror stalks city again

Revives memory of killer storm

The tornado ripped through west Edmonton, rekindling memories of the 1987 killer storm that claimed 27 lives. Although Thursday's storm demolished one building and damaged others, only two people suffered minor injuries.



PICTURE: Rick MacWilliam

Eyewitnesses said the storm, whipping up clouds of dust, blew in quickly, sending some people scrambling for safety in their basements
. . . Carl Welt, sales manager at Toyota Village, was one of those unable to seek shelter. He said the wind was so strong he couldn't open the outside door of his office



PICTURE: Bruce Tweten

An angry sky boiled overhead in the area of 186th Street and 118th Avenue
. . . Nearby, Pardee Equipment Ltd. at 10030-176 St. was heavily damaged when the storm buckled a wall

Sight of funnel cloud sent chill along tornado victim's spine

By ROLLAND BREMNER
and STEVE WARBURTON
Journal Staff Writers

For the second time in her life, Lois Theroux felt a tingling of icy fear creep along her spine.

"I watched that cloud form a funnel, yet there was absolutely no warning over the radio," said Theroux, an Evergreen Trailer Park resident who watched a killer tornado rip apart her tiny community in northeast Edmonton two years ago.

"It really ticks me off," she said of the lack of warning.

She was worried something was going to happen, even before she got home from work.

"It was the same kind of weather, hot and muggy," she said. "It certainly scared me and the kids."

Then she saw the funnel forming, right in front of her eyes.

"The cloud rolled in, and I thought 'here we go again. What am I going to do'. "

Theroux said she thought she was seeing a repeat of July 31, 1987, when the tornado picked up her car with her and the children inside, carrying it about one kilometre down the road before slamming it in a ditch.

"There was no way I was going to get in that car again," she said.

Marcel Zaychuk also saw the cloud gathering momentum.

"We saw a big white cloud in front and it was rolling," he said. "We decided it was wise to get out."

Zaychuk, who owns a farm in northeast Edmonton, was equally angered at the lack of warning.

"I was surprised, because I figured there would be a weather warning considering past experiences," he said. "But we didn't hear anything on the radio."

Zaychuk said he was out in his farm field near Alberta Hospital Edmonton, close to the Evergreen Tailer Park, when he saw the funnel form.

He was chased by a tornado only last month while digging a ditch on the farm but managed to outrun it, though not before it uprooted a tree and tugged at his hair.

That was his second encounter with a twister. Two years ago he was showered with debris when the tornado struck Evergreen.

Luckily, this time the cloud passed by without touching down near his home.

Meanwhile, for Holyrood residents who lived through a natural gas explosion earlier Thursday morning, tornado warnings that night didn't really matter.

"I'm still numb," Elsie Dezman said sitting in her living room as weather warnings flashed on the television screen. "I'm not feeling. I'm not feeling nothing."

Just 17 hours earlier, Dezman had thought her husband Paul had suffered a heart attack after an explosion outside her house at 7912 93A Ave. She was frantic.

It turned out Paul was okay. But by the time he was safe at home, the tornado warnings came.

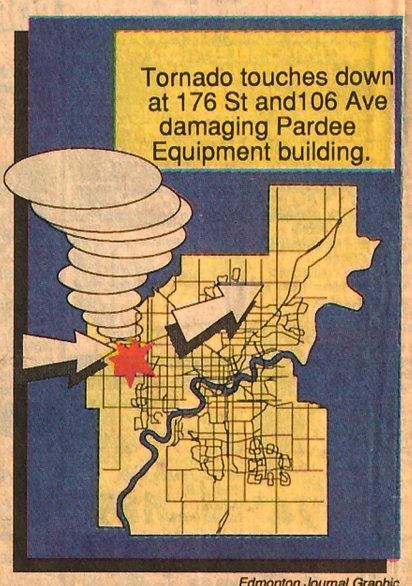
Many residents whose houses were damaged in the explosion never saw what the rain was doing. They had already left.

Other neighbors shook their heads over the double disasters.



PICTURE: Brian Gavriloff

The storm brought out the spirit of chivalry in one city man
. . . Paul Vass carried Jennifer Yeoman through a downtown puddle



Edmonton Journal Graphic

Map shows where storm hit
. . . west end took hardest blow



PICTURE: Bruce Edwards

Mark Cheadle learned firsthand about the fierce power of a summer storm
. . . he surveys his car after its windows were blown out Thursday night

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Tornado rips through west

Journal Staff Writers

A tornado ripped through west Edmonton on Thursday, demolishing a building, ripping off roofs and bringing back fearful memories of a killer tornado.

The storm hit just four days before the second anniversary of the July 31, 1987 tornado that left 27 people dead.

Only two people suffered minor injuries in Thursday's storm.

Pictures, stories B4

The city set up its emergency operations centre for 90 minutes to deal with problems including a blackout of 4,000 homes and 12 buildings struck by lightning.

It was the first time the centre, which coordinated the actions of police, fire, ambulance, transportation and environmental services, has been used since the 1987 disaster.

"We prayed we wouldn't have the same kind of experience as two years ago," said city manager Cy Armstrong.

"Thank God this was relatively minor."

In the evening's worst incident, powerful winds buckled one wall of Pardee Equipment Ltd., 10630 176th St., and brought down the ceiling on the half-dozen employees inside.

Don Gordey, vice-president of the farm equipment dealer, said he was leaving work at 5:25 p.m. when he saw a funnel cloud.

He was walking to a window to have a better look when it hit. He'd barely ducked under a shelf before the concrete-block wall collapsed.

"It sounded like locomotives driving through the building," he said.

Two men suffered minor injuries, and Gordey was thankful most of the 65 employees had left half an hour earlier.

He said the building will need to be rebuilt.

Contractor Terry Hoff was trapped in his pickup truck as he tried to drive from the site.

He described huddling in his seat as the wind shattered his windows, and rain and hail poured down.

"It just shook the truck like it was going to turn it over."

The storm brought unhappy memories for residents of the Evergreen Mobile Home Park, where 15 people died in the 1987 twister.

Lois Theroux didn't know what to do when she saw a funnel cloud forming, so she grabbed her children and ran to the park restaurant.

"There was no warning, none at all. My kids were freaking out, and all I could think of was to flip over the couch and hide."

She was terrified of a repeat of 1987 when the car she was driving was picked up by the tornado and carried a kilometre down the road.

"There was no way I was going to get in that car again."

Several people said the storm blew in quickly.



PICTURES: Bruce Edwards

Sales administrator Garry Real surveys destruction at Pardee Equipment Ltd. at 16030 176th Street

. . . coming almost two years to the day after the July 31, 1987, tornado that claimed 27 lives, Thursday's tornado mercifully caused no serious injuries

Gary Boucher was watching the dark clouds from his second-storey balcony at 10152 158th St. when he saw a funnel form.

He rushed inside his suite and slammed windows shut moments before part of the roof was torn off.

Afraid the entire apartment building could be demolished, he ran to the basement to alert other tenants to go into the hallway for safety.

"I was scared . . . when I saw the twisted steel from the last tornado, I knew the kind of damage they could do."

Carl Welt, sales manager at Toyota Village on 170th Street, said he watched a huge "dust cloud" pass north of his office.

The wind was so strong he couldn't open the outside door, he said.

"We were standing here watching it, but we didn't have anywhere to run."

The weather office had unconfirmed reports of winds reaching 100 kmh, and said up to 30 mm of rain was dumped in half an hour.

Edmonton Power reported two lightning strikes knocked out electricity to almost 4,000 west-end homes for about two hours around dinnertime.

Traffic lights were also out in other parts of the city, and several dangling trolley wires had to be cut to allow buses to pass, said Edmonton Power spokesman Ken Rowes.

Other parts of the city were hit as well. Shingles were stripped off part of an apartment roof at 11003 29A Ave., allowing rain to leak into the suites below.

It was a blast from the past for tenant Michelle Boisvert, 22 — in 1987, she was working in Capilano near one spot where that tornado touched down.

"Last time I stood and watched from the parking lot, and this time it seems like I was right here."

A small electrical fire broke out under an LRT train at Corona Station, and an official believed it was caused by rain water under the train.

The system's electrical signals were also temporarily knocked out, probably by lightning.

Police spokesman Randy Kilburn said 12 buildings were hit by lightning, but there weren't any fires. However, fire investigators said they responded to fires caused by lightning at two houses.

Four people reported flooded basements.



Insurance company shouldn't have far to go to make a claim

. . . official warning came at least five minutes after twister touched down

ROCKS EDMONTON

"We were put on to the idea that this may have been a deliberately-caused event by the man in the house. We definitely have to look into that aspect of it," said Townsend.

There was no physical evidence found at the scene to prove suicide, he said. Probes by police, fire and the medical examiner's office will likely determine if the blast was intentional.

But a source close to the investigation told *The Edmonton Sun*: "I'd lean toward a suicide."

Relatives said Ogilvie's wife Millie died eight days ago from cancer and emphysema and was buried Monday.

The explosion blew out windows in homes a block away in all directions.

"I thought we had been hit by lightning — I just screamed," said Peggy North, whose windows and dishes shattered. "It seemed like a wall of flames," she said of Ogilvie's house.

Neighbor Joan Strachan said "you could see burning stuff falling from the sky — the fire was terrible."

It took firefighters more than two hours to quell the blaze and about 40 firefighters and 31 police officers were on the scene for about 10 hours after the blast.

Firefighters and medical examiner's office personnel searched the water-logged debris with shovels and their hands for 20 minutes collecting Ogilvie's remains.

Investigators said it could take more than two days just to confirm the cause of the blast.

The family pet, 17-year-old poodle Muffet, is missing and presumed killed in the blast.

The blast demolished Ogilvie's home, leaving nothing but the burning remains of the foundation.

The roof of the house was blown off and landed on the front lawn, and pieces of Ogilvie's clothing were later found hanging from nearby power lines.

Much of Ogilvie's personal belongings, including family photographs, were blown across the neighborhood. The house next door had half of the roof blown off and the remainder set ablaze.

Smaller fires were set on other nearby roofs by flaming pieces of debris from Ogilvie's home.

Most neighbors said it could take a week to repair the broken windows and other damage, while others said they may have to tear their homes down due to structural damage.

All immediate neighbors said they were insured.

Misfortune stalks neighbors

The destruction of the home of a newly-wed couple in Edmonton's worst-ever residential explosion yesterday marks the third time the family has been hit by misfortune or near-tragedy.

Fred and Shelene Runzer, who were married July 1, had just done $25,000 in renovations on their house, at 7916 93 A Ave., said Bob Rodda, who works for Fred.

Their home was reduced to a blackened skeleton yesterday by the blast next door which killed 73-year-old Warren Ogilvie and levelled the elderly man's house.

"We really questioned how we got out of here alive — especially once we came back and saw the house," said Shelene Runzer .

"None of us heard it," she said of the blast which blew off half of their roof and set most of the rest of the structure ablaze. "I had a two-by-four and a piece of drywall from the ceiling on top of me."

The couple escaped with minor cuts but lost most of their possessions. Rodda said they have insurance.

Shelene's brother and parents, also in the house, suffered minor injuries. Their dog Spike wasn't hurt.

The family business, Runzer's Truck Parts Ltd., 3315 64 Ave., had a near-miss with the tornado that ripped through Edmonton two years ago, killing 27 people.

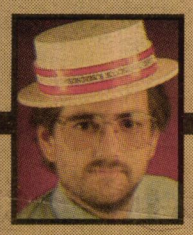
Tragedy struck the family in January 1982 when Fred's mother, Hannah, 50, was killed in a head-on crash between two excursion buses in the Philippines.



Linda, 28, sporting a 19th century bikini, is a computer analyst who wants to retire with her sanity intact — but she fears it may already be too late. Linda likes dancing, skiing and self-respecting honest men who share her zest for fun.

TOM BRAID'S

K-Days' SUNshine Girl



Rescue sparks heart attack

An Edmonton man who lives next door to the house which blew up early yesterday suffered a mild heart attack after returning to his debris-strewn Holyrood home to rescue one of his dogs.

Paul Dezman, 69, said he took his wheelchair-bound paraplegic wife Elsie and two of their dogs to safety outside their 7904 93A Ave. home just after the 1:41 a.m. blast. He went back inside the house to find Blondie, their missing 15-year-old Pomeranian.

When Dezman found the terrified dog under a bed and removed it from the house, he returned to his front steps — although he can't remember why.

"All of a sudden I felt like I was going to choke and my chest felt like it was going to blow up," Dezman said."It was damn spooky . . . My life went right by my eyes and I thought that was it."

Dezman couldn't breathe and lay on his back on the stairs. A nearby paramedic spotted him, took him to an ambulance and gave him oxygen. He was later taken to hospital.

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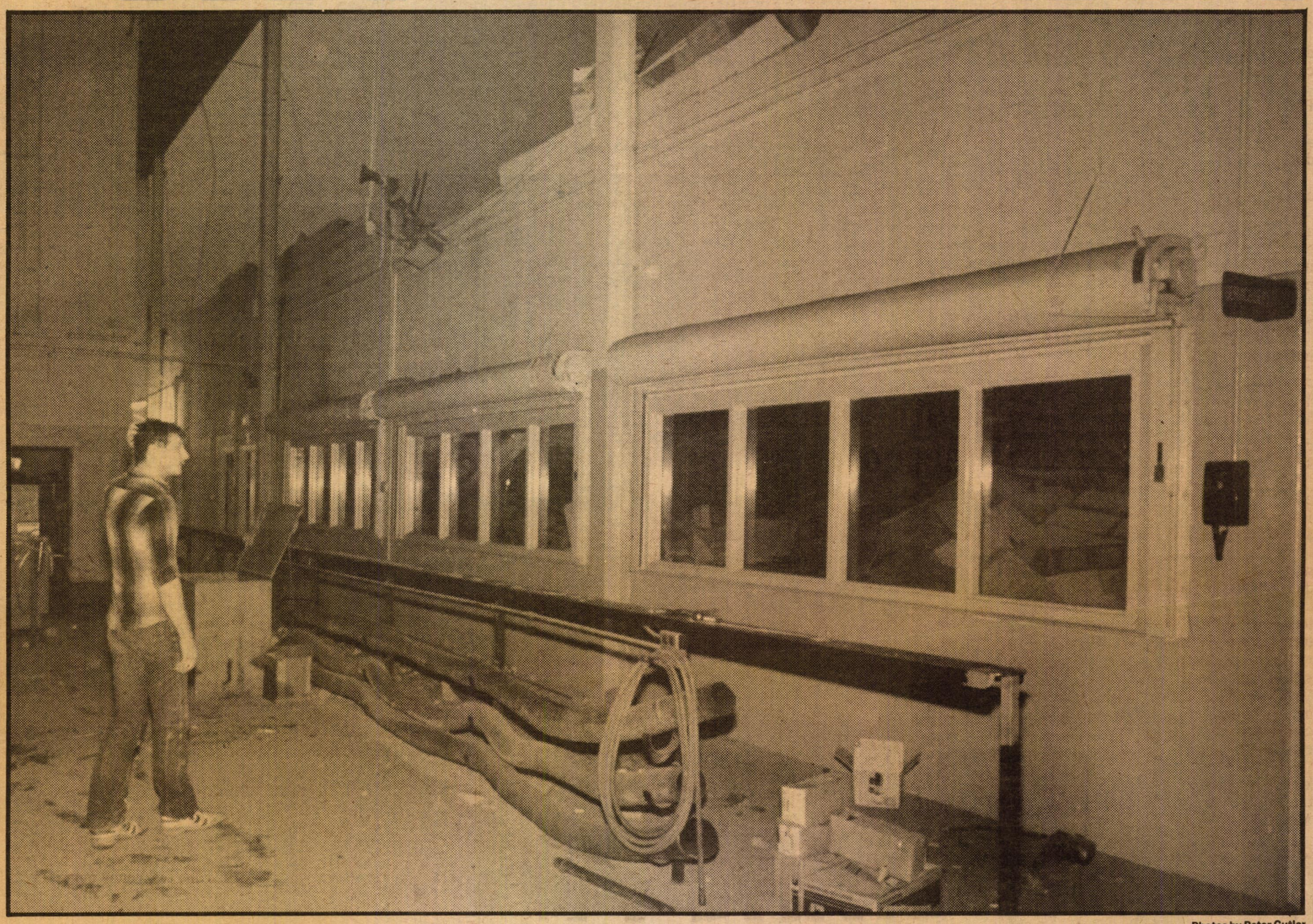
CITY STRUCK BY



—Photos by Peter Cutler

Scott Dancey surveys the destruction inside Pardee Equipment Ltd., badly damaged by the tornado.



Ken Yuschyshyn describes escaping a roof cave-in with only minor injuries.

Pair struggles free after roof cave-in

By GORD BANNERMAN
Staff Writer

Hit on the head by falling bricks and trapped in darkness when yesterday's tornado sent a roof crashing in on him, an injured city man could hear a rescuer calling out.

"It was the eeriest feeling, sitting pinned in your chair and you can't move and you can see the roof settling down," Pardee Equipment's shop foreman Ken Yuschyshyn told *The Edmonton Sun.*

Yuschyshyn struggled to free himself with help from co-worker Art Huisman, 30.

Blood poured from his head

Huisman was also hit by falling bricks and ignored blood pouring from a cut on his head to frantically dig through tons of rubble to rescue his trapped friend.

"Art called out and asked if I was all right," said Yuschyshyn, who along with Huisman miraculously suffered only minor injuries when a tornado ripped through Pardee's building at 10630 176 St.

Damage was estimated to be at least $500,000.

Yuschyshyn, 41, who was plunged into darkness when the roof caved in, managed to free himself from debris pressing down on his neck and lap.

He got to his hands and knees and began crawling towards Huisman's voice.

"When Art moved stuff aside I could see light and I started to work my way towards the light," said Yuschyshyn, a father of two.

Huisman, a mechanic, said he was hit by bricks that blew out of a wall above him, bringing the roof down on his co-worker.

Both men said everything happened so fast they didn't have time to think.

With bricks and pieces of roof falling around him, Huisman sought safety beside a steel pillar holding a section of still-standing roof.

Yuschyshyn was sitting at his desk in the heavy equipment distributor's shop when he heard a sound like a jet.

"I looked up and the doors blew open and roof came down.

Four metres of demolished roof

"When I realized what was happening, I didn't even have time to get out of my chair.

"I was pinned."

Yuschyshyn said four metres of demolished roof separated him from his rescuer.

Both men were taken by ambulance to the Misericordia Hospital, where they were treated for cuts and bruises and released.

Twister hit before warning got out

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By KATHLEEN ENGMAN
and MARILYN MOYSA
Journal Staff Writers

An official tornado warning from the Alberta Weather Centre was issued at least five minutes after the twister touched down in west Edmonton, a centre spokesman says.

Brian Paruk, severe weather coordinator for the centre, said the tornado warning went out at 5:42 p.m.

Edmonton fire department reported the twister touched down on a west Edmonton building at 5:37, ripping off a chunk of roof, and injuring two people, said Mark Egener, managing director of Alberta's public safety service.

Bruce McNaughton, a weather services specialist at the international airport, said the tornado warning was issued at 5:45 p.m.

Most local radio stations said they didn't get any tornado warning until after the twister had already hit.

Paruk said his office issued the tornado warning after receiving a call at 5:40 p.m. from someone who reported seeing it.

Issuing the warning sooner might have been like crying wolf, he said.

Paruk said the warning was "as good as the technology would allow." The centre is using $700,000 of new processing equipment connected to an Edmonton satellite receiving station.

Paruk said this allows forecasters to detect the temperature of the top of the cloud, which can indicate the intensity of the storm.

He noted that before the tornado warning, there were several severe storm warnings issued that mentioned the possibility of a tornado.

As severe thunderstorms moved into the area from the foothills, weather warnings issued include:

- **3:54 p.m.** severe thunderstorm warning for county of Parkland, "can produce tornado."
- **5:31 p.m.** severe thunderstorm warning for Edmonton with the words "risk of tornado."

Paruk said ideally, when there are no other storms to block radar detection of tornadoes, they might be able to predict a tornado an hour before it hits.

Thursday's situations were not ideal because the air was loaded with severe storms, he said.

Paruk said the tornado was not major; it was classed as an F-1, compared to the F-4 tornado that terrorized Edmonton almost two years ago. The scale is F-0 to F-5.