Summary Sheet

IDTO - ID Number :693208
AUTH - Report Author :
TYFU - Tornado Type & Fuji Code :c0
TITL - Report Title or Location :Lucan
PROV - Province :Ontario
COUN - Counties :Middlesex
REFS - References :The Border Cities Star July 8, 1932
ZOTO - Touchdown Zone Number & Easting :17466920
NOTO - Touchdown Northing :4781770
LOVA - Touchdown Error Value & Code :5000o
DADA - Date of Data Entry :28/06/1990
ZOLO - Liftoff Zone Number & Easting :
NOLO - Liftoff Northing :
UPVA - Liftoff Error Value & Code :
DEAD - Number of Fatalities :
HURT - Number of People Injured :
HERT - Injuries Code :
DATA - Date of Tornado :07/07/1932
DAVA - Date Error Value & Code :
TITO - Time of Tornado :1700
TIMR - Time Meridian :75
TIVA - Time Error Value & Code :69s
AXDA - Maximum Path Width :
AXVA - Max. Path Width Error & Code :
AVDA - Average Damage Width :
AVVA - Avg. Damage Width Error & Code :
SADA - Sample Damage Width :
SAVA - Sample Damage Width Error & Code:
INTO - Initials :JAM
DFTO - Detailed Report Flag :n
JUNK - PRDA & DIMO & DALE :
CODA - Property Damage Code :
MISC - ORDE,PICS_TYPE,PICS_AVAIL,COCO : 1
MANY - Multiple Event Flag :y

MEMO:Trees, hydro poles, and fences blown down.

PHEN - Associated Phenomena :
TSHP - Townships :Biddulph/McGillvray/ London

JAM, 28/06/1990

SEE. SEPT 1908
APRIL 5 1957

693208

TORNADO, PELEE ISLAND, ONTARIO.

THE BORDER CITIES STAR, FRIDAY, JULY 8TH. 1932.

STORM DATE. ABOUT 5:30 P.M., THURS. JULY 7TH. 1932.

BUILDINGS SMASHED AS GALE HITS PELEE..ISLANDERS ESCAPE INJURY IN TWISTER, BARNS KNOCKED INTO SPLINTERS AND SIDE SLICED FROM HOUSE; SECTIONS OF OHIO AND INDIANA SUFFER.

A northwest twister of cyclonic velocity, stepping down here and and there like a giant at play, struck the southwest corner of PELEE ISLAND in its wild flight across WESTERN ONTARIO and the LAKE STATES late yesterday afternoon. Barns were scattered to the four winds, trees were uprooted and the side of a brick dwelling crashed out. Several persons escaped injury by a narrow margin and one woman is suffering from a nervous collapse.

MIRACULOUS ESCAPE.

Travelling in from the lake at a terrific pace, the tornado crossed only a small strip of the island. Untold damage would have been the result if the gale had cut through the centre of the island.

CAPTAIN and MRS. DAVE McCORMICK and MRS. CARMEN MILLER and small child, of 573 VICTORIA ROAD, WALKERVILLE, were in the McCORMICK home when one of the walls was blown out. The captain was in the basement, but his wife was in the room when the side of the house was torn away. MRS. MILLER was in one of the other rooms.

BARNS SMASHED.

Two barns in CAPTAIN McCORMICK'S backyard were whirled away in matchwood. Sections of them are scattered in nearby fields. A chicken house, completed only this week, has vanished. The roof of the ice house is gone. The wheat fields are littered with debris.

OUT OF CLEAR SKY.

Out of a clear sky, the hurricane struck PELEE ISLAND about 5:30 o'clock, travelling out of the northwest from the direction of OLD HEN ISLAND. Cutting a narrow swath, it followed the west shore line for half the length of the island until it reached an open space about one quarter of a mile from the southerly tip. There, it swung inland. Funnel shaped clouds seemed to be picking up lake water and tossing it back again, giving to observers the appearance of a raging cauldron.

In the open space is the 12-year-old dwelling of CAPTAIN McCORMICK, a resident of PELEE for the past 66 years. The south side of the structure was torn away. The house is of solid brick construction with double walls.

from the house, knew nothing of the storm.

A similar twister hit PELEE ISLAND eight years ago, passing one-quarter of a mile to the north of the McCORMICK homesteads, wrecking three barns and uprooting trees.

GETS OFF EASY.

PELEE ISLAND, however, escaped with comparitive lightness, reports from other sections of the middle west indicate. No lives were lost and only one small section of the island felt the effects of the storm which, like a giant in seven-league boots, swept across a wide expanse of territory, stepping down at erratic intervals, to wreck barns, and houses and destroy lighting systems.

OTHER PLACES HIT.

Damaging crops and wrecking property, wind and electrical storms, sweeping down out of the northwest, swept CENTRAL and NORTHERN OHIO, INDIANA and sections of WESTERN ONTARIO.

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One of the worst storms in recent years struck the LUCAN area, about 17 miles north of LONDON, late in the afternoon, leaving havoc in its wake. Hydro lines were smashed, trees were uprooted and fences blown down. Peculiarly enough, there have been gales of cyclonic velocity in that particular neighborhood at intervals for the past 50 years but none of them did as much damage.

Power was off in the district north of LONDON for several hours. Hydro linemen were rushed on the job at 5:30 o'clock. They worked until midnight, but with scores of homes still without light, they were compelled to quit until this morning. Large trees were blown across the wires in several places, making the work of repair a lengthy job. Numerous fruit trees are down.

(Goes on to tell of tornadoes in OHIO and INDIANA).

Heavy rains followed the cyclone. It lasted for a long period on PELEE ISLAND and over the west end of the lake. Later in the evening, as the electrical storm passed eastward, a deluge was reported from ST. THOMAS. The gutters of the city were filled with water and the fields of neighboring farms were flooded.

Farmers of ELGIN COUNTY say that the wet and cool weather recently has endangered the bean crop and that spring grains, notably oats, are not making proper progress.

CAPTAIN McCORMICK had gone into the cellar for some kindling wood. He was absent only two or three minutes and the storm had done its worst while he was away and he had known nothing of it. MRS. MILLER, and her baby were in the kitchen. Just as she opened the door to enter the dining room she saw the wall of that room fall out. She slammed the door and rushed back into the kitchen for safety.

WALL COLLAPSES.

MRS. McCORMICK had gone to her bedroom upstairs. A sudden gust of wind wrenched the window away and as the wind swept into the room it caused the side wall to collapse. The house is now being supported by three of its walls and a central partition.

The radio was smashed. The bed was showered with bricks. Plaster was thrown about the rooms but in the main the furniture was not greatly damaged. A window of the house was blown from its fastenings, and tossed 20 feet where it was discovered undamaged, one of those queer quirks to be encountered in all cyclonical disturbances.

BARN LIFTED 40 FEET.

The barn in CAPTAIN McCORMICK'S yard, 20 by 30 feet with a 15-foot lean-to, was lifted 40 feet before it crashed to the ground and scattered. A cow and its calf in the barn were unhurt.

A tobacco barn, 108 feet by 32, on EDWARD McCORMICK'S property also was wrecked. The roof of his ice house was carried away and is resting somewhere in a wheat field. A coupe, owned by a neighbor, EDWARD GARNO, was smashed.

SWEEPS EASTWARD.

As the gale swept eastward damage of lesser consequence was done at the farm of MRS. T. L. McCORMICK, SOUTH BAY. A corn crib was blown over a fence. A willow tree was uprooted and a chicken coop was destroyed. Most of the chickens escaped without injury although they were badly flustered for a couple of minutes.

CAPTAIN McCORMICK'S automobile had been standing in the yard. The wind carried it against a tree, breaking off the front fender. His twine shanty was torn from its foundation but not carried any distance. Boards, shingles and other objects were found half a mile from the farm.

DOCK DAMAGED.

CAPTAIN FLOWERS reports that a crib at the outer end of the HOTEL PELEE dock was washed in and wrecked by the violence of the waves.

The gale confined its activities to a narrow path. A son of MRS. T. L. McCORMICK, who was cutting trees in a wood one-quarter of a mile