0798604 A ✓ F=2

TORNADO PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

1. DATE AND TIME July 23, 1986 1920 CDT

2. LOCATION OR PATH (attach map) St. Malo, Man

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;
6) white

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

10. TOTAL DAMAGE ESTIMATE $ 11. TOTAL DEATHS

12. TOTAL INJURED 13. TOTAL HOMELESS

14. LIST ALL REFERENCES

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

a) "thin, white funnel cloud"

b) Garage destroyed, grain bins and garages moved off foundations, barn moved from foundations, welding shop levelled
* moved from NW to S.E.

T.D. 14648500 250 O
5464000

862060198 FRI JUL.25,1986 PAGE: A4
CLASS:*News*
DATELINE: ST. MALO, MB WORDS: 82

Tornado

July 27/86

** ACROSS CANADA **
***Manitoba*tornado*confirmed **

Canadian Press
ST. MALO, Man.
A thin, white funnel cloud that touched down in this community 60 kilometres south of Winnipeg has been confirmed as a tornado, a spokesman for Environment Canada said yesterday. A team of investigators determined that Wednesday's twister - which injured no one - carried winds up to 116 kilometres an hour. Damage was confined to a welding shop, two garages and several grain bins. Meteorologist Tom Ostry said the funnel probably appeared white because of the way sunlight hit it.
ADDED SEARCH TERMS: *Manitoba*tornados*

BEST COPY

SD July 23, 1986

Twister damage assessed

ST. MALO (Staff) — Residents hit by a vicious tornado Wednesday began picking up pieces yesterday as insurance adjusters made the rounds to estimate the damage.

Michel Preteau and his family were sitting on the ruins of their garage and waiting for the insurance representative yesterday afternoon.

The twister, with peak winds of 250 km/h, ripped their attached garage to shreds while the family hid in a crawlspace beneath the two-year-old home.

The fierce winds also raised the roof of the house.

"I'm just glad it was the garage and not us," Preteau said, adding he had no firm damage estimate.

While the twister levelled the garage, it also flipped Preteau's truck 20 metres into the air and deposited it near a fence in the back yard.

Meanwhile, Ed and Gerry Hamonic, who farm 1,200 hectares on the edge of town, were assessing damage to a farmyard they rent from absentee European landowners.

The tornado first touched down there before going through town and hitting Preteau's garage and a storage shed owned by Rick Gosselin on the eastern edge of St. Malo.

At the Hamonics', three wood grain bins and two garages were thrown 100 metres across the yard.

The main barn also was torn from its moorings and a hole was punched in the roof of the house.

Gerry Hamonic estimated the damage at $25,000, adding the property was fully insured.

But as the funnel cloud hit the Hamonics' place, it also sucked the walls out from Jim Watson's minimally insured welding shed next door.

Watson's wife, Pat, said last night their insurance adjuster told them the most they could expect in a settlement was $3,500.

Watson earlier estimated the replacement cost of the building at $20,000.

"It's not so bad for us," Gerry Hamonic said. "But for Jim Watson — that welding business is his livelihood, his bread and butter."

Pat Watson said officials from the Emergency Measures Organization visited yesterday and said some rebuilding grants may be available.

She said her husband would start cleaning up the mess today and neighbors likely would join in the cleanup tomorrow.

"We were having one of our best summers ever," Watson said.

"It just seemed this year everything was going well for us. For once our expenses were less than our profits.

"It'll be all right. It's really nice to have neighbors volunteer to chip in and help like that," she said.

Meanwhile, an Environment Canada spokesman said Wednesday's tornado was the fourth to hit the province this year.

The others occurred May 11 in Morden, June 12 in Beulah and July 3 at LaSalle.

Winds from the St. Malo tornado were estimated to be 250 km/h at full force, an Environment Canada spokesman said.

The spokesman added that winds at that velocity put the twister in the second-highest of four categories in terms of severity.

PHIL HOSSACK/WINNIPEG FREE PRESS



St. Malo resident Michel Preteau stands among the ruins of his garage yesterday.

Farmers to receive fuel-tax break

Gas-price decline predicted in wake of North Dakota agreement

By Doug Speirs

Manitoba farmers importing cheap bulk fuel from the United States will get a hefty tax break under a new agreement between the province and North Dakota.

The deal, finalized late last month, will grant Manitoba farmers the same tax break North Dakota farmers enjoy when buying bulk fuel in that state, a Department of Finance official said yesterday.

Under the deal, Manitoba farmers will pay a two-per-cent state tax on the purchase price of diesel fuel and a 1.5-cent tax on a gallon of gasoline, Paul Goyette said.

Previously, farmers taking advantage of lower fuel prices in North Dakota had to pay a state tax of 13 ta for fuel-buying purposes," he said.

Goyette said the deal is a bonus for Manitoba farmers and is not intended to benefit the average motorist.

"North Dakota is not too interested in the welfare of Manitobans per se, but it is very interested in the welfare of farmers," he said.

He also predicted Canadian oil companies will drop their farm fuel prices to compete with lower prices south of the border.

"In the long-term," he said, "we think Canadian prices will drop to meet that competition because Canadian (fuel) firms don't want to lose that market."

In some cases, farm fuels are up to 30 per cent cheaper in the United States and prices are expected to

A spokesman for Imperial Oil Ltd. said the giant fuel supplier was aware Manitoba and North Dakota were negotiating a tax break.

"We never comment on future price intentions," Stuart Nadeau said from Edmonton when asked whether Imperial will drop its bulk fuel prices for farmers.

A rural Manitoba bulk fuel dealer said it will be hard for dealers here to compete with U.S. operators if the oil companies refuse to cut prices.

"If they don't do that (allow dealers to sell at lower prices), farmers are going to go over there (North Dakota) and buy fuel," said Tom Lenton of Imperial Bulk Products in Ridgeville, near the Canada-U.S. border.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for Manitoba's largest farm organization

buying U.S. fuel in that state.

Under the deal, he said, a Manitoba farmer will have Minnesota's 17-cent-a-gallon gas tax refunded after the fuel is dyed at the border. There is no state tax on bulk diesel fuel in Minnesota.

He also said Manitoba farmers will be able to make agreements with Minnesota bulk dealers to have the U.S. federal tax of nine cents on a gallon of gas refunded.

"That's a total of 26 cents a gallon off the U.S. price," Goyette said. "It's going to make gas look very competitive down there."

WE'RI

day she lied when she claimed not to have conducted business affairs for her boss, Sinclair Stevens, while on the government payroll.

Walker acknowledged that she signed hundreds of cheques worth millions of dollars during the last two years for firms Stevens controlled — often acting on her own initiative, regularly shuffling money back and forth between the companies, and sometimes deciding when to sell off massive amounts of bonds.

"I was just being helpful," Walker told a judicial inquiry investigating conflict-of-interest allegations that prompted Stevens to resign in May as federal minister of regional industrial expansion.

She denied Stevens ever told her what financial action to take on behalf of his firms and said he never expressed much concern about his ailing business interests.

Walker — who last week told Mr. Justice William Parker she severed ties with the firms after joining Stevens in his new cabinet portfolio in the fall of 1984 — admitted yesterday she visited the offices of York Centre Corp. after business hours at least 35 times since last November to conduct business.

Her activities included depositing more than $145,000 in dividends on holdings that were in Stevens' blind trust to his personal account while he was in cabinet.

Walker insisted, however, that Stevens knew nothing about the transaction — a shuffling of paper in which the money was returned within days to Gill Construction Ltd., a company Stevens controlled.

Walker said she signed and deposited cheques worth $10,361 and $134,715 in Stevens' Bank of Montreal accounts on Dec. 31, 1985. But because Gill Construction "was not in funds" to pay the dividends, they were paid from "overnight" loans with the bank.

The money was withdrawn two days later and loaned back to Gill, of which Stevens owned about 63 per cent. The shares in Gill — the holding company that controlled York Centre Corp., the centrepiece of his complicated web of holdings — were placed in blind trust when Stevens joined the cabinet. He was to have no control over them and realize no benefit from them.

Walker said she did not contact National Victoria and Grey Trust Co. — which as trustee of Stevens'blind trust was to handle all matters relating to the holdings — to discuss the transaction.

"In my mind it was simply a crossing of cheques," said Walker, a Stevens' employee for more than

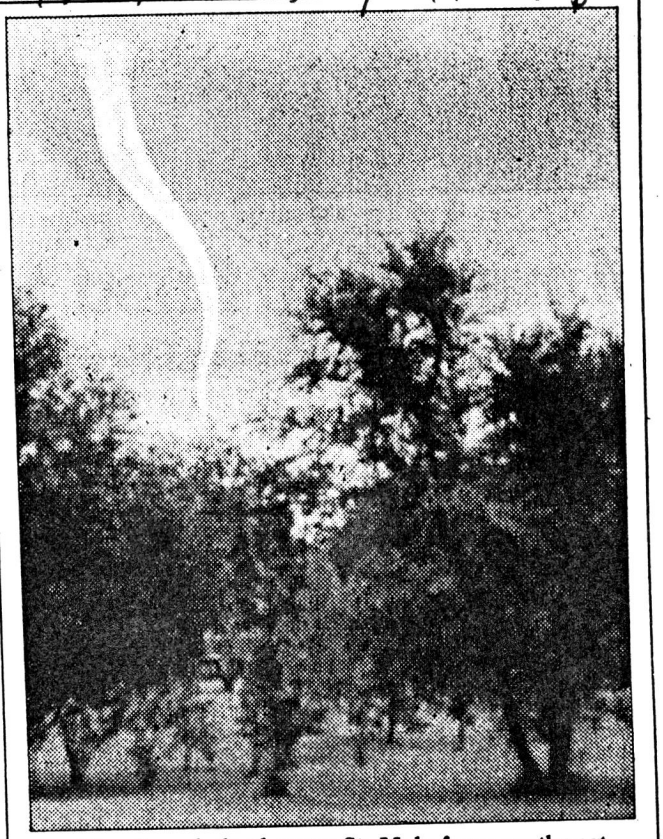
tion on blank cheques signed by Stevens — which she said she routinely carried — and he was unaware of it at the time because she received most of his bank statements and managed his personal financial affairs.

She said she still considers herself

Walker said much of her corporate activity was performed at the behest of Edward Rowe, president of York Centre Corp. and a former campaign manager for Stevens, and she tried to end her involvement in the finances of her boss's firms.

See **WALKER** page 5

WFP Thurs. July 24/86 pg 1



Snaking funnel cloud nears St. Malo from northwest.

SD. July 23/86

Twister touches down three times in St. Malo

By David Roberts
Winnipeg Free Press

ST. MALO — A twister touched down three times in two minutes last night, crumpling a welding shop, ripping up grain bins and scaring the wits out of residents.

"It was a great white snake in the sky," Manitoba Hydro lineman Gerry Maynard said as he described the tornado that hit the town, located about 55 kilometres south of Winnipeg, at 7:14 p.m.

"It was amazing. The bottom of the funnel was maybe three feet around — that's all. But dust was blowing and trees were coming loose 200 yards away."

One witness said the funnel climbed 600 metres into the sky before vanishing as quickly as it appeared.

"After it was all over, it just disappeared into the clouds. It was weird," said Leo Gosselin, 37.

See **'GIANT'** page 5

Park police want to carry guns

By Shane Minkin

Winnipeg park police want to carry guns to defend themselves against growing numbers of increasingly rowdy park patrons.

"We're expected to do a job, but we don't have the equipment to do it," said one officer who asked not to be identified.

"It would be nice to be able to carry firearms or at least defender batons, but we have nothing, no protection at all," he said.

Park police are expected to perform the same duties as other peace officers, he added.

"Why call us police? We're like glorified security guards and it shouldn't be that way."

Canadian Union of Public Employees' shop steward Andrew McMaster said the union plans to raise several safety concerns, including arming the police, once wage talks between the city and CUPE are completed.

Park police want their defender batons returned, he added.

Park police supervisor Peter Perch said the officers' nightsticks were taken away last summer pending negotiations. "It's not totally resolved yet, but for now they don't have the nightsticks."

Perch said the officers are there to assist city police and he does not think the park officers should carry weapons.

"Their lives have not been endangered in any way and if they see anything of a serious nature they call city police."

However, one officer said he has

See **ARMING** page 5

INDEX
Entertainment 36



Jim Watson surveys the wreckage of his welding shop, which he fled after walls collapsed as tornado hit.

WFP Thurs. July 29/86 pg 5

'Giant vacuum cleaner' hits town

Howling tornado rips through St. Malo, residents escape unhurt

continued from page 1

No injuries were reported and property damage was less than originally feared.

About 90 Hydro customers in and around the town were without power for several hours, Maynard said.

The funnel cloud followed plummeting temperatures, a fierce rainstorm and dead calm.

Guy Forest saw the cloud form northwest of St. Malo and then touch down on his neighbor's farmyard at the western edge of town.

"At first it wasn't very big," he said, "but then as it moved closer it got bigger. There was a lot of noise, like a giant vacuum cleaner. It was just howling."

When it hit neighbor Ed Hamonic's farmyard, wood splinters and shingles flew 600 metres in the air, Forest said.

Hamonic, 26, lost three wooden grain bins, two wooden garages and part of the roof from his house. He had no damage estimate.

The wind sucked clothes off hangers in the bedroom closet and a wood beam punched a hole through their satellite TV dish, Hamonic's wife, Dawn Watson, 21, said.

The two garages were tossed 100 metres across the yard.

Next door, Dawn's father, Jim Watson, 42, was standing inside his welding shop when the building started to come down around him.

"It's pretty scary," he said. "The noise of the twister was so loud I couldn't even hear the shop come down. It sounded like a giant vacuum cleaner."

Watson said that seconds before the twister hit, he was standing at the rear door of the shop watching the wind make the trees dance.

"It was real pretty watching those trees sway like that," he said.

When the south wall of the shop crumpled, he made a dash for the front door.

"The only thing I could think of was my wife and youngest daughter (age five) in the house," he said. The twister missed the house.

Moving east, the winds around the twister mowed down trees until the funnel touched down again.

This time it tore an attached garage from a house belonging to Michel Preteau.

The garage was reduced to rubble and Preteau's pickup was lifted 20 metres in the air, Forest said. The house appeared unscathed.

Witnesses said the twister then continued southeasterly at about 16 km/h until it descended once more, this time on Rick Gosselin's place.

Gosselin's wooden and aluminum storage shed was a twisted wreck and his lawn furniture was carried into the next municipality, he said.

"My wife had sore ears from the change in air pressure," he said. "I'm just glad it didn't hit the house."

Meanwhile, Environment Canada officials were to visit the town today to confirm the tornado reports.

The twister is believed to be the second to hit Manitoba this summer, an Environment Canada spokesman said.

On June 12, a tornado hit farms in the Morden area. Earlier this month, high winds battered the Somerset-Swan Lake district.

Arming of park police opposed

continued from page 1

recently been confronted by gangs of youths armed with knives and he once stopped a drunk driver who had a loaded shotgun under his seat.

Perch said the issue of park police arming themselves was raised a number of years ago through a union grievance. "It was decided at that time not to arm them and I haven't heard anything about it since."

Parks and recreation general manager Jim Swail said arming park police is a non-issue as far as the department is concerned.

"We wouldn't even entertain it if it was raised again."

Perch noted the officers are equipped with two-way radios which they use to call city police if problems arise.

But one officer noted it sometimes takes city police an hour to respond to radio calls. "What are we supposed to do in the meantime?"

Another officer, stationed in Assiniboine Park, said he recently stopped a car and discovered a handgun inside.

"I would've felt a lot more secure with some sort of protection," he said.

However, an officer at Kildonan Park said he's more concerned about a possible CUPE strike than he is about confronting knife-wielding thugs.

"I haven't run into anybody that I needed to shoot," he said. "If I was scared about getting knifed, I wouldn't have this job."

BEST
EVER!