

Wichita Falls: Powerless to fight a disaster

By DOUG BEDELL
Staff Writer

WICHITA FALLS — Exactly a week ago and only a few miles from where Tuesday night's tornado danced its deadly dervish, this city's emergency corps held a mock disaster drill.

Scores of volunteers proficiently had moved victims from rubble, all rescue operations directed by radio from a well-organized command center.

But in the hectic hours after Wichita Falls saw a portion of its city leveled into a pile of wreckage, all that planning went for naught.

"There was one difference, and it was a big one," City Atty. H.D. Hodge said this morning. "We lost all our damn power."

The tornado hit this city of about 100,000 right where it was most vulnerable — it ripped up Wichita Falls' only electrical trunk line, rendering useless the emergency command post that relied on base-station radio communication with rescuers.

Complete coverage...Pages 4-8A, 24-25D

Inside the downtown police station, those who were supposed to direct disaster operations were forced to sit with silent radios.

Outside in the darkened city, the townspeople — hundreds of whom were injured and left homeless — were left to fend for themselves like blind men lost in a wilderness.

"We had all our operations set up with the CB

radios and a base station here," Hodge said. "I don't think we ever established satisfactory communications on that front."

Five of six local radio stations and both television stations were knocked off the air. Phone lines in and out of the city were severed.

Emergency vehicles carrying the dead and wounded ran helter skelter through the unlit streets, unguided by command center personnel.

One downtown gas station opened for business despite the power loss that shut down all the other stations. Ingenious attendants dipped the gasoline from

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DALLAS TIMES HERALD • Wichita Falls Times

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DALLAS, TEXAS, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1979

7 Sections

Price Fifteen Cents

49 dead, hundreds more hurt



Tornado cut wide path of destruction through Wichita Falls homes and apartments

Storm toll may rise to 100

By ROCKY SCOTT
and PHIL RINGMAN
Wichita Falls Record-News & Times

Wichita Falls was a city under siege Wednesday in the aftermath of a giant killer tornado that slashed an eight-mile swath of death and destruction Tuesday evening through the city's heavily populated south side.

The number of dead had climbed to 49 by noon today with hundreds injured and an estimated 5,000 homeless.

"It wouldn't surprise me if we had a hundred dead at the final death count," Mayor Kenneth Hill said at a press briefing at the police station.

Assistant City Attorney Kyle Morrison who led reporters on a tour of the devastated area, said the City Tax Department estimated damage at 75 to 100 million dollars.

The monster storm, which struck during the 6 p.m. dinner hour, left Wichita Falls without power and water. Utility officials hope water and electric service could be restored by this afternoon. Residents were urged to boil water before using it. Emergency rescue teams worked through the night, sifting through the rubble of flattened homes and businesses where more people were feared trapped in the debris.

Three separated tornados apparently converged into one massive twister west of Memorial Stadium and proceeded northeast from the stadium more than eight miles before disappearing back into the clouds.

The press box was torn from Memorial and light poles were bent double. The roof of McNeil Junior High School just east of the stadium was caved in and all 128 units of Willow Creek across Barnett were heavily damaged.

Apartment resident began the lengthy cleanup operation today.

"It's devastating. I can't even find any clothes, nothing," one woman said as she loaded what few possessions she could salvage into the trunk of her car.

"It's hard to tell which room is which room is which," she said.

The half-mile-wide tornado demolished Southwest National Bank a few blocks east before uprooting gravestones at Rosemont Cemetery and flattening houses in the Faith Village subdivision.

The multi-million Sikes Center Mall was heavily damaged and cars were picked up scattered like toys in a large vacant lot south of the mall.

An employee of J.C. Penney's in the mall said she had stood guard at one

See TWISTER'S on Page 6

See TORNADO on Page 8

Few landmarks escape winds' random fury

By JERE LONGMAN
Staff Writer

WICHITA FALLS — From the air, it appeared the tornado that devastated 17 blocks of this city Tuesday afternoon did its work with horrifying efficiency.

The destruction was swift and hauntingly random. In some instances buildings and homes escaped with minor roof damage. At many spots it was impossi-

ble to tell what structures had stood before the storm hit. In those places, homes had been dismantled like Tinker Toys and cars randomly scattered as though some child had bashed them and flung them about in a tantrum.

Outside the three-block-wide corridor of destruction, there were few hints in the chill morning haze that more than 40 persons had died, 700 more had been

injured, and \$100 million worth of property damaged.

The tornado struck first at the southwest edge of town and ripped a 10-mile path almost due east. At the Pioneer Bowl in southwest Wichita Falls, the press box was splintered and six light poles had snapped at their bases and toppled into the stands. The scoreboard was ripped apart. In the parking lot, a

silver tanker truck lay on its side, overturned by the swirling winds. Nets were strewn diagonally across nearby tennis courts, and baseball backstops were warped out of shape.

A building in the same complex, apparently a school or a gym, had a caved-in roof.

In the worst hit areas, entire blocks of houses seemed to have been detonated,

their wooden structures reduced to kindling. Wood and other debris were scattered through neighborhoods. Garbled farm equipment lay in outlying fields. In the yards, grass barely was visible beneath the wreckage.

Main traffic arteries and side streets were clogged with traffic as residents, united by the horror of their experi-

Emergency assistance provided for Wichita Falls storm victims

By PAT ZAJAC

Wichita Falls Times & Record News

WICHITA FALLS — The Red Cross has set up emergency shelters at the First Baptist Church, Floral Heights United Methodist Church, Western Hills Baptist, Norte Dame High School, MSU Coliseum, Rider High School and Fowler Elementary. Those needing shelter may also go to Back Door Theatre, University Methodist Church and the VFW.

More bedding is needed at these shel-

ters. Red Cross disaster case workers, persons trained in first aid, drivers and workers to distribute food at the disaster site are needed.

All types of blood are needed, but there is a two-hour wait at the Red Cross Blood Center.

Workers who wish to help at the disaster sites may report to the fire stations near the areas.

P-8 Restaurant is open to emergency personnel only. Coffee and sandwiches are being distributed free. Money is

needed to help victims of the disaster but it would be better if the donations were mailed to the Red Cross.

"We are not set up to take any money yet," Red Cross worker Gayle Beckstrom said Wednesday morning.

Free day care services have been set up at Kemp Kiddie Clowns Day Care Center, 1306 Kemp. The center is open 24 hours and now has adequate food, extra staff, water and gas for cooking, Sue Taras said.

City pharmacies are standing by to assist persons who need drugs. JRB grocery on 9th Street will be open indefinitely. The store is trying to order bottled water from Brownwood and should have a supply late this afternoon.

Some supplies from the store have been sent to the Red Cross and customers are buying soft drinks, can drinks and other non-perishables.

Safeway reportedly was bringing a truck load of water from Garland for the hospitals. Persons needing bottled water should check with the Red Cross or the Highway Department on South-west Parkway.



Man and dog stand amid rubble left by Tuesday's tornadoes in Wichita Falls

WEATHER

(National Weather Service forecast)

Dallas-Fort Worth area: Fair and a little cooler tonight and Thursday. Low to night lower 50s. High Thursday lower 70s. Wind southwesterly 20 to 30 m.p.h. and gusty. (Details page 26A.)

D-FW Airport temperatures:

10 pm . 72 4 am . 66 10 am . 68
12 M . 71 6 am . 62 11 am . 71
2 am . 70 8 am . 64

Air pollution index: 12 (light)

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ACTION LINE

PHONE
744-6250MAILING ADDRESS: Action Line,
The Dallas Times Herald,
P.O. Box 5445, Dallas, TX 75222

Hospital charges explained

I had my baby at St. Paul Hospital. I checked into the hospital at 11:25 p.m. They are charging me \$90 for the 30 minutes I was there on that date. I was wondering if this was right? MRS. B.B.

According to Pat Faught, community relations representative of the hospital, it is their policy (which she contends is an accepted practice among all hospitals) to charge a full day's room and board for the fraction of the day you enter the hospital, but no charge for the last day if the patient is checked out before 3 p.m. The reason for this, she explains, is that there are a number of services rendered to the patient at the time of admission which are not otherwise directly charged for, while there are fewer, or none, such services performed on the day of discharge. Although it may appear a matter of six of one or half-dozen of the other, she said that while you were listed as being in the hospital Feb. 22-23-24, you were charged for only the first two days.

I purchased a new television from K-Mart in Oak Cliff. When we needed repairs, the store said call their service center where it would be fixed. But the service center said they wouldn't fix it unless we paid for it because we don't live in Dallas County. But it is still under warranty. MRS. M.H.

The store manager responded to Action Line's query by making arrangements to have your set repaired. It seems that because you lived in Palmer, the service center said you would have to have the set brought in to them. However, you didn't feel you should have to do this, so the store manager said he has arranged to have the set picked up at store expense.

My brother died recently. He served in the Air Force and was discharged in 1956. We have not been able to find his discharge, and we are wondering how we can get a copy, because we need it desperately. D.H.

You did not give enough information to contact you personally. Therefore, if you live in Dallas County, you can make application through the U.S. Veterans Assistance Center; if not, you can contact the veterans service officer serving the county where you live, or the Regional Veterans Administration Office in Waco has a special free telephone service, 1-800-792-1110.

I have a neighbor whose husband is sick. She has glaucoma, too. She has been trying to do some babysitting to make ends meet. She needs some help. C.N.

The Aging Information Office of the Community Council of Greater Dallas followed up Action Line's query. They determined that the real problem seems to be that her husband helped her around the house before he became ill. Now, she cannot keep her house straightened up. The stove, for example, needs cleaning, and there are such matters which have resulted in frustration for the elderly couple. Because their Social Security totals \$500 monthly, they are not eligible for any free housekeeping aid, but they have been referred to Upjohn Health Care Housekeeper Service, which will perform the tasks she needs done for an hourly charge.

Ronstadt
opts for day
with Brown

Rock singer Linda Ronstadt today cancelled plans to visit a game preserve by herself and instead left Nairobi with her companion, California Gov. Edmund G. Brown, for northern Kenya. Miss Ronstadt has appeared depressed since arriving Monday, reportedly upset at the horde of photographers who have dogged her every step in Kenya. She and Brown have rarely been together at official functions since they arrived in Africa last weekend. "These are two strong willed people who like to do their own thing," an aide said before Ronstadt changed her plans. "There is nothing unusual in today's program." The couple came to Kenya to celebrate Brown's 41st birthday last Saturday and to watch some of the world's last great herds of wildlife. But Brown has appeared intent on pursuing environmental issues with all the appearances of a man on the campaign trail. "This is the kind of thing Jerry likes to do on his vacation," an aide explained. While Brown appeared to relish his day of meetings Tuesday, during which he proposed a 1980s version of the Peace Corps to promote solar energy, Miss Ronstadt remained closeted in her cottage at the Norfolk Hotel. She finally ventured out to join Brown and U.S. Ambassador Wilbert Lemelle for lunch. But she refused to sign autographs for fans who had been waiting for hours.

Mrs. Brzezinski shows art

First Lady Rosalynn Carter and the ambassadors of China and Russia were on hand as Mushka Brzezinski, wife of President Carter's national security adviser, opened an exhibition of her plastic tree molds. Mrs. Brzezinski, whose works were on sale for up to \$3,000 at Tuesday's opening at a Washington gallery, said she looks for trees that have "interesting textures and great spirit." One piece, "Grafting Beech Chain Bridge," was covered with carved initials and hearts. Mrs. Brzezinski, exhibiting under her maiden name of Emilie Benes, said she works with transparent plastic because, "I like to be able to look into something as opposed to looking around it." She said her husband has been "very supportive and interested in my career. He gives me courage, sympathy and lots of encouragement." Before turning to plastic six years ago, she was a painter and a sculptor.

Abzug to form new group

Former Congresswoman Bella Abzug says she is forming a political organization, Women U.S.A., to give "unorganized women some clout" in the 1980 elections. Formed with former Congresswomen Yvonne Burke and Patsy Mink, the organization will take aim at economic conditions which affect women's equality, she said. Speaking at a news conference at Miami University, in Oxford, Ohio, where she gave a speech, Mrs. Abzug said Tuesday that such a political organization could force candidates to seek its support and help en-



Brown, Linda Ronstadt board plane for north Kenya

sure passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Sci-fi awards scheduled

Hollywood types aren't the only ones with Oscars. Science fiction writers have them too, and the Nebula Awards are works of art compared with the golden statues of Tinseltown. The Nebula is a block of lucite in which a rock crystal is embedded, beneath a floating galaxy. They'll be passed out April 21, and S-F scribes up for best novel honors this year are Vonda N. McIntyre, Gardner Dozois, C.J. Cherryh, Tom Reamy and Gore Vidal. Bob Guccione — editor of Omni magazine — will keynote the ceremonies at New York's Hotel Warwick.

Highway named after Dolly

Tennessee Rep. Bill Atchley figured his proposal was going to bring leers, guffaws and wisecracks from his fellow Nashville legislators, and he was right. He had just proposed a stretch of state highway be named for curvy country music queen Dolly Parton when Rep. Clifford "Bo" Henry started it. Said he, "This 2.6 miles is just about the straightest and most level section of road in Sevier County. Isn't it? Don't you think it would be more appropriate to have something mountainous?" The guffaws followed, but so did an affirmative vote. The flat stretch of highway is now the "Dolly Parton Parkway."

Roy Clark goes to Mayo's

Country music entertainer Roy Clark has been admitted to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., for tests and treatment of a persistent bronchial condition, his office here announced. Tuesday's announcement in Tulsa, Okla., said Clark has been plagued by a continuing bronchial infection and congestion for

several weeks. "Clark's doctors in Tulsa felt he needed several days of total rest and medical supervision at Mayo's to correct the situation," the statement said. "He is expected to remain there through this week."

Joan to perform cameo

American composer Aaron Copland and special guest Joan Kennedy will team up with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra for a special performance April 20 in Burlington, Vt. Copland will conduct the orchestra in the performance of several of his works, including "Lincoln Portrait." Mrs. Kennedy, wife of Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and a music educator, will narrate that piece. Mrs. Kennedy has done similar narrations with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the National Symphony.

Commuting official resigns

Brooklyn, Ohio's, commuting councilman has resigned. For five months, Ronald Hasman commuted 2,100 miles between his new Las Vegas, Nev., bartending job and this Cleveland suburb, where he had been a councilman for the past six years. On Monday night, Hasman, 25, submitted his resignation. He said he has decided to stay in Las Vegas and might even run for city council.

Jerry Colonna recovering

Comedian Jerry Colonna was reported resting comfortably Tuesday in serious but stable condition at Riverside Hospital in California after suffering an apparent heart attack in his home. Colonna, 74, who was partially paralyzed by a stroke in 1966, was taken by ambulance to the North Hollywood hospital from his Studio City home shortly after 1 p.m. Monday, hospital officials said.

NATIONAL SCENE

N.Y. gas hits 99.9 cents a gallon

NEW YORK (AP) — Pump watchers in the city reported today that dollar-a-gallon gasoline has all but arrived.

The sign read 99.9 cents on the premium pump of a Texaco station at 37th Street and First Avenue, five blocks south of the United Nations.

The price had been inching up for some time. The night manager, Thomas Carter, said he went home Tuesday morning with the price at 97 cents and came back for today's overnight stint to find it 99.9.

Sales at the premium pump were described as normal despite the new price.

The price of unleaded gasoline at the station was posted at 96.8 cents a gallon and regular was 91.9.

Gasoline under 90 cents still can be found at many stations in the city.

HEW reports event cost \$108,678

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government's cost for celebrating the 25th birthday of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare: \$108,678.

The figure comes from documents HEW turned over Tuesday, one day after an Associated Press story quoted sources as saying the agency was withholding information showing it spent at least six times the \$15,000 its officials publicly estimated at the time of the two-day celebration last May.

HEW spokesman John Blamphin said the \$15,000 figure "was our immediate office of public affairs estimate of out-of-pocket expenditures, specifically for the celebration" and did not include a complete accounting or the salaries of consultants and staff members who worked on the project.

The AP formally requested all documents on the cost of the event last June under the Freedom of Information Act. Department officials said the records were public information and would be forthcoming. But they were not released until after the AP story appeared.

Blamphin said nearly a quarter of the money — \$26,897 — was spent for "permanent exhibits and other things with more lasting value to be shown at other meetings and conventions for years to come."

Austin company fined for conspiracy

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Four manufacturers of pre-stressed concrete who pleaded no contest to antitrust charges have been fined \$475,000 by U.S. Dist. Judge Edwin Mechem.

Mechem fined on Monday Hydro-Conduit Corp. of Newport Beach, Calif., \$250,000; Stanley Structures Inc. of Denver, \$125,000; Featherlite Corp. of Austin, Tex., \$60,000; and Crowe-Gulde Inc. of Amarillo, Tex., \$40,000.

Dennis Bunker, a trial attorney with the antitrust division of the Department of Justice in Los Angeles, said the indictment returned by a federal grand jury last December involved an alleged conspiracy among the four companies in the pre-stressed concrete business in New Mexico.

Exxon to plug Baltimore Canyon well

HOUSTON (UPI) — A second Exxon Co. USA exploratory well in Baltimore Canyon has produced no sign of oil or gas, and the firm announced Tuesday it will plug and abandon the hole, located 100 miles east of Atlantic City, N.J. A spokesman said the company would continue a third exploratory effort already underway at another site.

"Even though this second well in the Baltimore Canyon is a disappointment, we are continuing our exploration efforts in the area," said Paul H. Dudley Jr., manager of Exxon's Gulf-Atlantic exploration division.

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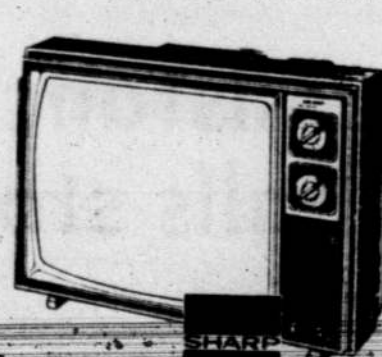
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3-drawer chest	69 ⁹⁵	Triple dresser with Hutch mirror	189 ⁹⁵

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Teamsters get tentative pact, due to roll trucks

By DAVID ESPO
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Teamsters union and trucking companies are getting ready to roll again, ending a nationwide shutdown after reaching a tentative contract agreement that reportedly meets President Carter's anti-inflation guidelines.

"The strike and defensive shutdown (by the industry) are being terminated," chief federal mediator Wayne L. Horvitz said shortly before midnight Tuesday as he announced a settlement in the 10-day work stoppage.

"Procedures for return to work will be made within 24 hours," he said.

The new package would provide increases in wages, cost-of-living and fringe benefits totaling 26.5 per cent

over three years, assuming a 6 per cent annual inflation rate and not counting exemptions granted to the Teamsters, said John N. Gentry, a deputy to anti-inflation director Alfred E. Kahn.

Gentry said the administration was "delighted" that the Teamsters settlement falls within Carter's wage guidelines and is "substantially less" than the 34 per cent increase provided in the previous contract negotiated three years ago. Gentry called it a victory for the Carter anti-inflation program.

Union President Frank Fitzsimmons said he would recommend ratification by the 300,000-member rank and file covered by the pact. "I'm sure they'll be satisfied with this agreement; at least I hope so," he said.

The union said it would take four to six weeks to complete the ratification vote.

The two sides reached their agreement under the prodding of federal mediators in a final marathon round of bargaining that stretched over two days.

The settlement spelled an end to the longest industrywide shutdown in history, a dispute that forced mass layoffs in the auto industry but otherwise caused little damage to the nation's economy.

The dispute began at midnight March 31, when the two sides failed to meet a deadline for agreeing to a new contract. The Teamsters launched strikes against 73 companies, and Trucking Management Inc., the industry bargaining arm that represents about 500 firms, responded with a lockout that prevented union members from working at any of their companies.

Sources, who asked not to be identified, say the tentative settlement gives Teamsters wage increases of \$1.50 an hour over three years, plus semi-annual cost-of-living adjustments. Increased fringe benefits are worth another 75 cents an hour, the sources said.

Teamsters now average \$9.75 an hour in pay. Fringe benefits bring total hourly compensation to \$12.65.

Fitzsimmons declined to say whether the agreement meets Carter's voluntary anti-inflation guideline. Horvitz also sidestepped the subject, saying, "That matter must await the decision of the ratification process."

But J. Curtis Counts, chief industry bargainer, told reporters he believed the settlement falls within the president's guideline. And several administration officials being kept abreast of the talks concurred that the agreement complied with the guideline.

The guideline calls on unions to hold increases in wages and fringe benefits to about 7 per cent a year.

Industry officials said the tentative agreement would boost wages, cost-of-living increases and fringe benefits by about 30 per cent over three years. But administration officials, assuming a lower rate of inflation to estimate future cost-of-living raises, calculate the increases at 26 per cent.

Making allowances for certain exemp-

tions granted the Teamsters, the government has calculated the cost of the package at 22.5 per cent — or 7 per cent annually compounded over three years.

The administration has said for months that its anti-inflation program would be put to the test in the Teamsters negotiations. Industry officials have insisted all along they would not grant increases that exceed the program, and the Teamsters have frequently accused administration inflation fighters of meddling in the talks.

"I've been negotiating labor agreements for practically 50 years and it's the first time I've ever negotiated with a third party that wasn't available for comments, questions or participation," Fitzsimmons said after the settlement was announced.

Amin flees; rebels take Kampala

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Uganda's capital fell to an invasion force of Tanzanians and Ugandan exiles early today and residents greeted the "liberators" with flowers and bananas and beat some of President Idi Amin's remaining troops to death.

"The racist fascist is no longer in power!" victorious Ugandan rebels blared through loudspeakers in Kampala and on state radio.

Amin was reported to have fled Kampala Tuesday for his new headquarters in Jinja, 50 miles to the east, and some unconfirmed reports said he headed even farther eastward to Tororo, near the border with Kenya.

The invaders, moving in from the north, south and west, were apparently pushing on toward Jinja, where residents reported ugly scenes with wounded soldiers straggling through while others went on a rampage of looting. Firing could be heard east of Kampala.

The Tanzanians estimated that 25 to 30 Ugandan soldiers were killed during their advance into the center of the city. They said the invasion force suffered virtually no casualties.

A French diplomat said the acting chief of the U.N. Development Program, a West German named Gert Kallwas, and his wife were killed when a rocket hit their car during the battle for the city.

Radio Uganda, off the air since Tuesday night, returned today with a victory announcement by Lt. Col. David Oyite Ojok, who identified himself as military leader of the Tanzanian-backed rebel Ugandan National Liberation Army.

In Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, UNLF



TANZANIAN SOLDIER tries on hat left behind by Idi Amin.

City voting case may continue for year

By PAUL WEST
Times Herald Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON — It could take up to a year to settle the Dallas City Council redistricting case in court, a judge in the lawsuit said here Tuesday.

Nine months to a year would be needed simply to prepare for a trial, according to U.S. District Judge Barrington Parker, part of a three-judge federal panel in the case.

Until the suit is settled, no city council elections can be held, under a previous federal court order.

A quick end to the case appeared unlikely following Tuesday's hearing on the city's motion for immediate approval of its 1975 City Council redistricting plan.

During a 90-minute court session, the three judges were largely unsympathetic to the city's request.

No decision is expected for at least two weeks, however, as the judges gave parties in the case 10 days to answer new motions filed Tuesday by city attorneys.

Should the city's latest courtroom strategy fail, as now appears likely, the City Council will be faced with two choices: Either negotiate an out-of-court settlement with the U.S. Justice Department or carry on a lengthy courtroom defense of its 8-3 plan before the same three-judge panel.

"It would be up to the council members to make any decisions related to any of those matters," City Attorney Lee Holt said after the hearing.

City Council elections, originally set for last Saturday, have been indefinitely postponed by a three-judge federal court in Dallas pending the outcome of the city's case in Washington. The Feb. 20 order came in response to a request filed by a group of Dallas blacks.

The judges at Tuesday's hearing indicated displeasure with that turn of

events and questioned the city's failure to appeal the 2-1 decision postponing further elections.

"They (the federal judges in Texas) lobbed the ball to this court," said Judge Parker, referring to the order postponing city elections.

"And they (the City Council) didn't appeal it?" asked U.S. Circuit Judge George E. MacKinnon.

Pressed for an explanation, Asst. City Attorney Joe Werner replied, "We might want to wait and see how this hearing comes out, your honor."

MacKinnon asked Justice Department Attorney Paul Hancock if the Washington, D.C., court has the authority to order elections to resume in Dallas.

"I believe their jurisdiction to enter such an order would be questionable," said Hancock, adding that the Justice Department "does not think it is desirable to stop elections."

In response to a question from Parker, the government lawyer said the Justice Department could be ready to go to trial in the Dallas case within four to five months.

Commented the judge: "That really amounts to nine months to a year" before a trial would actually begin.

By law, the city must receive federal approval of the 1975 redistricting plan that gave minorities two "safe" seats on the 11-member council. Minority groups have argued that they are entitled to at least one more "safe" seat because they make up about one-third of Dallas' population.

Under the 1965 Voting Rights Act, the 8-3 plan would be illegal if it has the effect of reducing minority voting strength.

The city went to court last September in an effort to clear the 8-3 plan with federal authorities after the Justice Department informally indicated its opposition to the plan.

On Jan. 25, in an effort to end the case, the city filed a motion for summary judgment, a request that was the subject of Tuesday's hearing.

Such a motion can only be granted if there are no disputed issues in the case. The government says a number of disputed issues remain, including whether the City Council intentionally discriminated against Dallas blacks when it approved the 8-3 plan.

During Tuesday's hearings, city attorney Werner was frustrated at every turn as he attempted to present the council's argument for ending to the suit.

His opening contention — that a Supreme Court ruling in the New Orleans voting case shows that the Dallas case requires no further review — was interrupted in mid-sentence by Judge MacKinnon.

"I have difficulty fitting (the New Orleans case) into this case," said MacKinnon, noting that the Dallas case involves a completely new election system, while the New Orleans case involved less extensive reapportionment.

"I just don't see that you can get around that," the judge said.

A number of times during Werner's presentation, U.S. District Judge Charles R. Richey, the third member of the panel, raised his eyebrows and rolled his eyes skyward in silent dissent.

When the city attorney argued that responses filed by Mexican-American intervenors in the case should be thrown out because they were filed late,

Judge MacKinnon snapped: "We're not inclined to stick too close to arbitrary time limits."

And when Werner contended that the 8-3 plan should be approved because it had been supported by black and Mexican-American voters when submitted as a city charter amendment in 1976, the judges noted that no other plan had been offered to Dallas voters as an alternative.

"People are inclined to take half a loaf if they can't get a whole one," Judge MacKinnon commented dryly.

Judge Parker, one of the few blacks appointed to the federal bench by former President Richard Nixon, asked Werner how many Mexican-Americans had run for city council seats in 1977, the most recent election under the 8-3 plan.

"I don't believe any ran," answered the city attorney.

"None ran for any office?" repeated Judge Parker, in mock astonishment. "Not in the precincts or at large?"

"No, sir," Werner replied softly.

Meantime, the judges' questioning of the federal government's lawyer was perfunctory.

"What else do you need to say?" Judge Richey asked attorney Hancock after Werner's presentation.

"Except what are the most important disputed facts," chimed in Judge Parker.

Replied the Justice Department attorney, "Virtually every material issue in this lawsuit remains in dispute."

Mobile home fire fatal to five

FORT PIERRE, S.D. (UPI) — Five persons, including two children, died in a fire which broke out early today in a mobile home.

State Fire Marshal Joe Egger said the bodies of three adults and two children

were discovered shortly after 7 a.m. in one room of the trailer parked a short distance from the Stanley County Fairgrounds.

Names of the victims were withheld pending notification of relatives.

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D sizes	10.50	# 1252 Full-Comfort® 34-40 B, C. White, beige	\$9	# 1237 How Fitting underwire 34-38 B, C. White, beige	\$12
# 1022 It's You™ soft cup 32-36 A, B, C. Sugar, almond	\$9	D-DD sizes	\$10	D-DD sizes	\$13
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Deadly tornadoes are no strangers to Texas

By ANDREW POLLACK
Staff Writer

Deadly tornadoes, a wave of which swept a path of death and destruction through North Texas and Southwestern Oklahoma late Tuesday, are no strangers to Texas.

Texas is hit by more tornadoes than any other state—more than 100 a year—because of its size and its location on the south end of the wide open Great Plains.

They range from the worst tornado ever to hit Texas, in Waco on May 11, 1953: 114 dead, 597 injured, \$41 million in damages, to the twisting, skipping funnel clouds that miraculously cause no damage whatever.

Fifty-one years before the Waco disaster, an equally deadly twister struck Goliad on May 18, 1902: 114 dead, 230 injured, \$50,000 in damages.

The damage to property can be staggering. On May 11, 1970, a tornado hit Lubbock, causing an estimated \$135 million in damages. It also killed 26 persons and left 230 injured.

About 4,500 tornadoes have been recorded in Texas since 1916, causing about 1,000 deaths. Most of the twisters occur in the spring.

The worst Dallas tornado swept from South Oak Cliff toward Bachman Lake on April 2, 1957, killing 10, injuring about 100.

The worst tornado in the United States in the last 50 years roared through several states from Georgia and Alabama to Michigan on April 3 and 4, 1974, killing more than 300 persons.

Another violent tornado travelled 221 miles through Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas on April 9, 1947, causing 68 deaths and injuring more than 200.

The greatest outbreak of tornadoes in Texas occurred after Hurricane Beulah in 1967, when 115 twisters occurred within a five-day period in September.

Other serious Texas tornadoes occurred in:

- Justin, in Denton County, on May 15, 1896, killing 76 persons.

- Real County, on April 27, 1927, in which 74 were killed, 205 injured and more than \$1 million in property damaged.

- Van Zandt County in East Texas, in which 42 persons were killed on April 9, 1919. Another tornado struck the other side of the state in Ector County on the same day, killing 20.

- Mertens, in Hill County north of Waco, in which 41 persons died on May 6, 1930. The same day, another tornado caused 36 deaths in Karnes County in South Texas.

- Zephyr, in Brown County in Central Texas on May 30, 1909, in which 28 persons died.

- Wolfe City in Hunt County, in which 28 persons died and 200 were injured on May 9, 1927.



Volunteer rescue workers in Wichita Falls search through rubble of a small church destroyed by tornado that hit the city Tuesday night

Amateur radio operators fill communications gap

Thousands of North Texas amateur radio operators were providing emergency communications in the cities hit Tuesday by deadly tornadoes that ripped over telephone lines over a large swath of North Texas and Southwestern Oklahoma.

At least four emergency radio networks were set up throughout North Texas as soon

as news of the killer storms spread, according to Lorene Sanders, a member of the Dallas Amateur Radio Club.

Most of the radio messages handled by the amateur operators concerned collecting health and welfare information for relatives of residents of the impacted areas, Mrs. Sanders said.

But two "ham" operators left Fort Worth about 8 p.m. Tuesday to set up mobile radios in Wichita Falls, the worst hit city, to provide emergency communications until telephone service could be restored, she said.

During such disasters, all other radio traffic is eliminated from the frequencies until the emergency is over.

Amateur operators are trained to handle such disasters, and often are called upon to relay emergency information in and out of areas where more traditional forms of communications have been temporarily wiped out.

"That's what we're here for," Mrs. Sanders said.

This spring, Easter looks like boys dressed in Billy the Kid®

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It's not easy getting boys dressed up—but Billy the Kid knows just what they like. Three great looking separates that add up to a suit look (but with a casual approach!) Blazer with side-slit pockets, \$23. Reversible solid/plaid vest, \$9. Pants, \$13.50. All in Fortrel® polyester/cotton gabardine, in taupe. 8 to 12 regular and slim. Print acetate/nylon shirt, 8 to 12, \$12. Sporty looking classics—Billy the Kid's stripe polo shirt, sizes 8 to 12, 10.75; 4 to 7, 9.50. Belted poplin pants in Fortrel® polyester/cotton, 8 to 12 regular and slim, 11.50; 4 to 7, 11.50.

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Wichita Falls resembles city ravaged by war

By BOB RIVARD
Staff Writer

WICHITA FALLS — A skull-white full moon hooded in the last traces of black storm clouds gave this city a haunted, war-ravaged look in the pre-dawn hours today.

Deserted Kemp Street yielded the first evidence that devastation, in the form of a tornado, had struck: Twisted links of white sheet metal, torn from roofs by winds, were wrapped like parade bunting around bent, leaning street lights; neon store signs ripped from the asphalt tilted at precarious angles, their plastic messages scattered in a thousand pieces across the landscape.

Sikes Center, Wichita Falls' showcase mall, a symbol of affluence and prosperity, was gutted and threatening to collapse, dynamited by a direct hit from nature's most powerful charge.

The mall's parking lot was a junkman's dream — a graveyard of late-model automobiles, piled atop each other, overturned, lifted and again set down.

A war scene: For a stretch of 12 miles, often extending a half-mile in width, Wichita Falls lay destroyed, whole streets and neighborhoods razed — as if precision bombers had set their sights and loosed their fury in the lengthy swath.

And, as in war, there were guns — National Guard guns, police guns, Civil Defense and CBers with their volunteer guns, and, finally, the people and their guns. All guarding against the sporadic looting that began as quickly as the roaring winds of the funnel cloud diminished.

But in today's aftermath, it was the people, not the estimated \$100 million in destroyed property, who yielded the most convincing evidence that some awesome tragedy had struck the city and that April 10, 1979, would be a day never to be forgotten — the dazed stares of homeless people as they slugged amidst the ruins of their houses, silhouettes against the moon, unwilling to abandon their wreckage for the comfort of a public shelter.

Those who could bring themselves to speak, the shock still gripping them, suggested that abandoning their rubble — an unlikely target for looters — would rob them of any remaining identity.

Evelyn Presley, middle-aged and sobbing loudly in the darkness, frantically rummaged through her small hill of waste, what had been a modest, two-bedroom frame house built after the last world war.

She heaved broken and useless objects toward one small cardboard carton. "I was afraid I wouldn't have anything," she said, crying and scurrying through the remnants of what had been her living room. "There's my TV, oh, there's my microwave oven, oh, there's my sewing machine."

They were all objects impossible to recognize by anyone but her. "Oh, yes I was afraid I wouldn't have anything. I couldn't sleep any. I don't have a soul. One kid's in California, the other's in Germany. It's a lonely world."

Feverishly working her way through a pile of kitchen hardware, she discovered her most valued possession.



— Staff photo by Paul Iverson

Roger Hinesh of Wichita Falls rode out the storm in his car; he 'hit the floor and prayed a lot' when he saw it

"Oh, here's my silverware. It's perfect. I knew it would be. I was afraid I wouldn't have anything."

With a steady stream of tears flowing, she struggled to cram the bent pieces of silverware into a crushed velvet-lined box.

For blocks around the Faith Village subdivision where Mrs. Presley's house had stood, other identical frame houses lay leveled, their owners also scurrying through the remains, often discarding the fruits of their searches after long moments of consideration.

Nearby Midwestern Highway was strewn with toppled street lights, fallen

power lines and unidentified chunks of construction.

Rows and rows of perfectly aligned columns of white metal poles, once the reinforcement for a two-story building, stood naked alongside the road, resembling defoliated trees.

Across town, the Manor Nursing Home had begun to calm after a seemingly endless night as a temporary hospital. But its nervous tenants still trembled from the uninvited horror.

One elderly woman, her head rolling and her eyes staring listlessly, spoke to no one in particular in a room of strangers: "I just like to get a little breakfast

after all this, not asking for much, just a little breakfast."

A man seated across the room came alive at the sound of her voice. Slapping his knee and laughing loudly, he shouted, "Yeah, you'll get breakfast. Just sit there a while. You'll get breakfast all right. Sit there the rest of your life."

At the First Baptist Church, one of several shelters established for the homeless and injured, children raced through the halls playing, impervious to the horror; others seemed to sense the tremendous change that, in one day, had hit the town; they hugged the legs of their mothers.

A minister talked quietly to a small

group grieving over the loss of a friend. "Life isn't fair," he told them. "The Lord doesn't always let us know why He does what He does."

Steps away, a thin man in borrowed-looking clothes stared at his feet, hands thrust deep in his pocket, crying soundlessly, his shoulders heaving and shaking, his lips quivering under the bite of his teeth.

Dawn arrived, and the now clear skies filled with the sounds of National Guard helicopters, whirring their way along the path of destruction.

Officials said the search for bodies — at least 41 already have been found — would now continue.

Atmospheric conditions meshed to create tornadoes, thunderstorms

By ANDREW POLLACK
and STEVE ISRAEL
Staff Writers

All the ingredients for violent thunderstorms and tornadoes converged over North Central Texas Tuesday afternoon.

Meteorologically, here is what happened.

Warm moist air moving in from the Gulf of Mexico collided with cooler, drier air moving in from the west near Wichita Falls in the late afternoon. The colliding air also met the jet stream, a high atmosphere wind, which intensified the turbulence.

The atmospheric churning caused by the convergence of three air masses provided the perfect conditions for violent

thunderstorms. KXAS-TV meteorologist Harold Taft said. The fact that it was late afternoon — the hottest part of the day — added to the violence of the storms.

By processes not completely understood, tornadoes often form in the severest thunderstorms. Meteorologists know which storms might produce tornadoes but never can predict exactly where inside the storm a tornado will form.

Several thunderstorms, each generally 10 to 15 miles in diameter, were formed late Tuesday afternoon, said Alan Moller of the National Weather Service in Fort Worth.

One storm spawned a tornado that hit Vernon in Wilbarger County shortly

after 3 p.m. The storm then moved into Oklahoma and probably gave rise to a second deadly twister that hit Lawton, he said.

Another thunderstorm produced a tornado that hit Oklahoma east of Vernon before moving into Oklahoma, Moller said.

A third thunderstorm formed just southwest of Wichita Falls and moved over the city after 6 p.m. The storm might have produced two tornadoes, including a huge one one-half mile wide, Moller said.

The tornadoes generally moved about 35 miles per hour across the countryside, but winds inside the funnels were

moving at speeds estimated at 200 to 300 miles per hour.

Tornadoes wreak destruction partly through the furious winds that can hurl people and animals for hundreds of yards and make a deadly projectile of a straw.

Damage to buildings also can be caused by a partial vacuum in the center of the funnel. When the low pressure eye of the tornado passes over a closed building, the higher pressure in the building can cause it to explode.

The tornado-forming thunderstorms that hit the Wichita Falls area dissipated Tuesday evening, but a string of new storms soon formed in a southwest-to-northeast line running from Stephen-

ville in Erath County to Montague by 1 a.m. today.

As the line moved east, twisters reportedly dipped to the ground in Coleman County, near Bridgeport in Wise County and near St. Jo and Nocona in Montague County. There were no reports of injuries or damage.

By 1:30 a.m. the storm moved into Denton County. Baseball-size hail was reported at Ponder.

The severe weather reached to within 20 miles of Dallas County this morning when radar indicated a possible tornado two miles north of Krum, in Denton County, moving east northeast at 35 miles per hour about 2:30 a.m.

And a tornado was reported in Sher-

man at 2:06 a.m., though it caused no damage.

Hail ranging from marble to golf ball size fell in West Fort Worth sporadically between 2:30 4 a.m. today, the National Weather Service said.

Tornado watches were extended to include the Dallas-Fort Worth area, but expired at 7 a.m. without confirmed local funnel sightings.

Storm-free skies and mild temperatures were predicted in the Dallas-Fort Worth area tonight and Thursday, with a temperature range of 55 to 72.

The center of atmospheric turbulence remained north of Dallas-Fort Worth, sparing the area the heaviest of storms, the NWS said.

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Witnesses relate tales of fear, lucky escapes

The stories that came in the wake of Wichita Falls' devastating tornado were endless. They were stories of terror and, in some cases, seemingly miraculous escapes. Some were touched with near-hysteria, others with gratitude or grief. Times Herald staff writers Doug Bodell, Bob Rivard and Mary Barrineau were in Wichita Falls. Here are some of the things they saw and heard:

While much of Wichita Falls trembled in fear as tornadoes ravaged the city, a 63-year-old widow, Mrs. Nadine Jones, wrapped a blanket tightly about her and crawled into a bedroom closet, uncertain whether she would ever emerge alive.

The tornado roared down Futherford Street, the street where she lived, shredding houses as it went. It struck hers, tearing at the roof and walls.

Within seconds the tornado had passed, and Mrs. Jones emerged, shaken, to discover that the closet was the only part of her home still standing. It apparently saved her life.

As she huddled on the floor, the trunk of a tree had been driven through the top of the closet door.

"Oh, my God. Oh, my God," Mrs. Jones said in describing the tornado. "It sounded like one of the largest trains I ever heard and I thought it would never get out of my house."

Twenty-one-year-old Dennis Heathary was working at J.C. Penney's at Sikes Mall when the tornado hit. "We pulled out some bodies. We had some warning. There was the tornado signal. Some other guys came in the store screaming that it was coming so I started screaming at others to get in the center of the mall. There were at least a hundred people there huddled together around the fountain. It blew me right down the aisle when it hit. It sucked in all the glass and there were missiles flying through — all sorts of merchandise. It was ugly."

Here, as in many other areas around town, reports of human scavenging were offered. "I'm sure there was some looting," Heathary said. "Right after the tornado stopped, I saw people running through the store with stuff. I asked them what they were doing. They just kept running."

J.C. Penney's merchandising manager, David Manor, said he was listening to radio reports of a tornado in Vernon when he walked out the store's back door to look at the cloud formations.

"I saw the funnel cloud, and it was huge, as wide as the shopping center at least, and quite a ways away," he said.

Herding shoppers and employees out into the mall, Manor said, "All I could think of was, 'We just had to get away from the glass.' It seemed like we had about 10 minutes between the time I first saw it and the time it hit."

After the tornado had passed, Manor ventured out into the parking lot, but he still hadn't found his car as of late Tuesday night.

"Every car in the parking lot looked like it was totaled," he said.

Roger Hinesh, 41, spotted the tornado



Shopping center sign becomes twisted wreckage 3 blocks away after twister

— Staff Photo by Paul Iverson

as he left the Southmoor Shopping Center and immediately jumped into his car and started to drive away. "But something told me to stop and hit the floorboard. I heard all this noise and I started praying. I laid there shaking and I said, 'Hey, God, I got too much work to do. I can't go yet.' I must have laid there at least 10 minutes. Everything was still and quiet, more quiet than a cemetery."

When Hinesh raised his head, he found that his 1968 Ford Ranchero was buried beneath two other cars that had been picked up by the winds and slammed on top of his vehicle.

Michael Perkins, 18, and his wife were driving in his CB-equipped vehicle watching the threatening clouds when

"a hook started to form in that cloud up there and then it started to funnel. I reported it and I started heading here," he said as he walked among the ruined duplexes of the Southmoor Manor homes.

"We took off — me and my wife, Christina — in the pickup, and that thing started hitting right behind us. Metal and all kinds of stuff started coming down on the car top. My wife was yelling for me to slow down. I looked down and I was going 110 miles an hour. I took a turn, and it (the tornado) turned the same way. I turned the other way and it went off. After it went back up (in the clouds), I came back here and found two or so people trapped in these houses. There's still a lady down there

who's stuck in a basement under a mattress."

One of the few places still open at Southmoor Shopping Center when the tornado hit was Underwood's Barbecue Cafeteria, where about 80 diners were sitting in the front portion of the restaurant. Mrs. Roberta Vaughan, a waitress, said the wail of a tornado siren sent the customers rushing to a rear dining room to take refuge beneath tables.

"It was just a big noise, an odd roaring noise I'd never heard before," she said. "Then everything seemed to be flying at us at once — ceiling panels, big pieces of glass, barbecue, silverware and even money." Surveying the ruins, she added, "Of course, this shakes every-

body up. We had a few children crying, scared to death. That seemed to frighten some of the adults and I guess a few of them started crying, too." None, however, was seriously injured.

About eight blocks from the destruction of the Southmoor center, 43-year-old Wayne Dunn, a security guard, said he stood on his front porch and watched as tons of heavy construction debris sailed through the air.

"I didn't think it would ever let up. It was wilder than I could ever imagine anything natural being. I went inside, got my four kids and two neighbor kids who were in there, and I just threw them under the house," he said. "Then I got out there on the porch and just kept

watching it. All of a sudden, a two-by-four came out of nowhere and crashed through the window I was standing near. Boy, I was under there with those kids faster than you could say 'Hit it.'"

J.W. Jackson and his wife found some friendly strangers when they spotted the tornado while driving home.

"I thought I could outrun it, but it was coming my way and coming fast, so I whipped into a driveway and went up and knocked on the door of a perfect stranger's house and they let me and my wife in. We saw we were gonna have to get out or we'd be killed for sure."

Twister's random fury leaves little untouched

Continued from Page One

ence, returned home to salvage their belongings and hunt for missing friends and relatives.

More fortunate sightseers came to inspect what they had narrowly escaped. Dotted the streets, too, were flashing lights from ambulances, police cars and cleanup trucks.

Stop signs and other highway markers were flattened and their concrete bases uprooted. Telephone poles were felled, too, in neat rows.

Entire apartment complexes were razed along with the houses, their swimming pools cluttered with scraps of walls and roofs. At apartments and homes under construction, bundles of wood had been scattered about like pop-sicle sticks.

The swimming pool at one large brick home was cracked and the diving board twisted and thrown into the waterless pool along with lawn furniture. In another yard, five cows stood staring at the leaning remains of the house.

Many homes simply had their entire roofs removed. They seemed like doll houses with their bright walls exposed and broken furniture inside.

The tornado merely toyed with several buildings, tearing the roofs open but leaving alone the contents inside. Parts of billboards and sign lettering were ripped away, leaving inscrutable syllables or letters standing. What once had been a Texaco station sign said simply, T-C. Across the street another part of a sign read CONOC. In the same block, metal beams holding up a billboard had been bent like taffy.

At one underpass, seven cars apparently had been unsuccessful in seeking shelter under the road. The cars were twisted, some with their roofs smashed and windows broken, others with their doors torn away.

Down the road, a pickup and another car had been swept from the road into a culvert. A distance away, the windows of a yellow Volkswagen had been pierced by pieces of lumber.

The tornado left two shopping centers ravaged in its wake, with many feared trapped inside. J.C. Penney's and Dillard's were only brick hulks Tuesday morning. Cars still remained in the parking lot, many of them swept up against each other, their owners caught off guard and not able to get away in time.

At one of the shopping centers, all that remained of a gas station were the pumps and the skeleton of its canopy.

Above the city, the intermittently sunny skies were busy with airplanes and helicopters ferrying reporters and sightseers over the damage. Personnel at Kikapoo Downtown Airport continually admonished pilots to exercise extreme caution.

The airport itself received little damage, but the lack of electricity created other problems. "All of our hangars have electric doors," said airport owner John Coppage. "We can't get any planes out."

Loss of power upsets city

Continued from Page One

the storage tanks with buckets and poured it into customers' autos. The station was doing a land office business, with cars lined up 15 to 20 deep.

The only radio station on the air, KTRM-AM, was ill prepared to deal with the mammoth task of disseminating the necessary information.

Between disco rock musical selections, it broadcast a hodgepodge of announcements ranging from a frantic Mayor Kenneth Hill's pleas for calm to instructions on how to purify water.

In fact, for at least six hours, the beleaguered broadcaster at KTRM could only tell residents what he had learned from an Amarillo deejay about the extent of damage to their town. "Ham" radio operators had relayed that information in a series of hookups to Amarillo.

"Those ham operators were it," Hodge said.

Meanwhile, problems developed at the two major hospitals — Wichita Falls General and Bethania.

The morgue at General, the city's largest hospital, filled as rapidly as the waiting and operating rooms. Those

treated and released clogged doorways as more wounded were carried in.

KTRM spent long minutes broadcasting the names of those treated and released in hopes relatives would pick them up at the hospital and help clear the jammed emergency rooms.

The disaster plan had designated a number of refugee centers that would handle the homeless, treat them to food, warmth and dry clothing.

But without radio communication, supplies for the disaster's victims were haphazardly distributed.

"We had those things pre-designated in the plan," Hodge said, "but whether the supplies ever got there I couldn't tell you."

Over the only radio station, pleas were sent out for blankets at shelters that had auxiliary lights, for generators where shelters had blankets, for food where shelters had both.

"I guess a lot of people didn't even use them from what I hear," Hodge said. "I heard several reports that people were just sitting on their bare slabs (of their houses) all night."

"I guess they were just too dazed to do anything."

Gradually, as the sun came up and auxiliary power generators and gas to run them were procured, the city's plan began to take hold.

TESCO electrical workers streamed into town from throughout the state and company officials optimistically announced power would be restored by noon today.

Some phone service was restored on a limited basis. And, by 8 a.m., enough avenues of communication had been opened to begin organized rescue procedures.

About 150 National Guardsmen arrived to assist police in patrolling for the few looters and direct the curious away from the acres of destruction on the southwest side.

At the command post, Hodge seemed relieved.

"In the beginning, it was very, very difficult," he said. "But right now I think we've got it pretty well coordinated."

"But I think it's safe to say that next time our drills will definitely deal with a possible loss of all power."



— Staff Photo by Shooter Hager

AMID THE WRECKAGE — Ray Smith of Wichita Falls holds his 3-year-old daughter Bandy in the living room of his ruined home. Smith said the furniture in his living room was despoiled from a neighbor's home.

12 killed, 100 hurt in Vernon, but warning siren saved many

By PAT R. TEAGUE

VERNON (UPI) — The tornado that struck here Tuesday afternoon left 12 people dead and injured about 100 others.

The warning siren sounded just before the tornado came through at 3:39 p.m., giving some people enough time to take shelter.

City Manager A. C. Duke said he and a dozen other men working in the city warehouse managed to get into a grease pit and escape injury.

The twister hit the southwest corner of Vernon, a town of 12,000 about 50 miles west of Wichita Falls, and traced a line southeastward, avoiding the most populous areas.

"We had reports that they had a tornado in Thalia," Duke said. "We were kind of looking for it. They blew the tornado alert and a few minutes after they blew it, it got as black as night."

"It sounded about like 20 freight trains all at once. We had a metal building and it swayed and shook like it was going at any minute. The whole thing lasted about 30 seconds; then it got real quiet."

"I think the short warning... maybe that saved some of us. We've got lots of damage here. It's a terrifying experience. It makes you look at your hole card," he said. "We could see roofs flying, parts of walls just floating around like they were on a string. I just remember the noise. I'll never forget the noise. It was like a bunch of freight trains or a giant swarm of bees."

At the Cardinal Equipment Co., a farm machinery company on U.S. 287, huge combines weighing thousands of pounds were thrown hundreds of feet. Farm equipment of all types was twisted into unrecognizable form.

Bobbie Boyd, manager of the Sands Motel, said she was in a room with her

grandson when she got a phone call that the tornado was coming. She rolled off the bed and pulled the mattress over her and her grandson. When the tornado had passed over, only two walls were left standing in that room.

During the afternoon, the first of 64 injured persons began arriving at the Wilbarger General Hospital in Vernon. Hospital Administrator Billy Robertson said the victims were handled quickly. The hospital staff had a simulated tornado drill in January, Robertson said, and "that worked like a charm (Tuesday)."

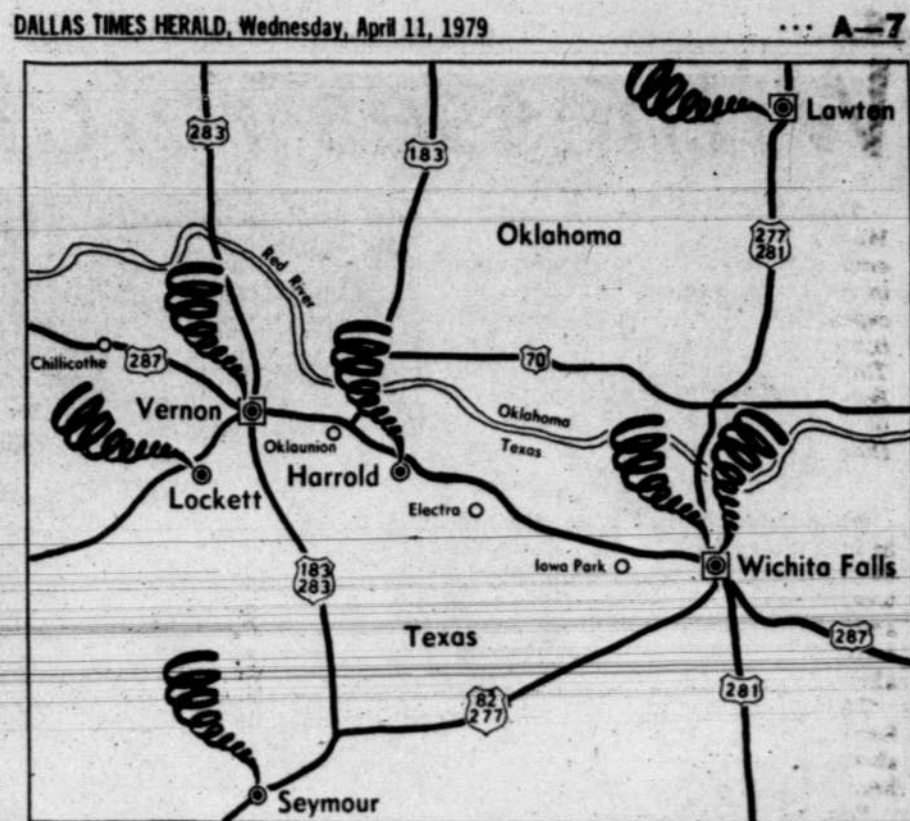
Robertson estimated at least four and perhaps five of the 19 patients admitted to the hospital were in critical condition. Some of the injured, he said, had severed legs and portions of their skulls ripped away. The hospital reported 30 patients were transferred to hospitals in Wichita Falls and Altus, Okla.

There were scattered reports of looting in the Vernon, although Highway Patrol Sgt. Danny Smith of Childress said he had no confirmation of the reports. However, one citizen said he had seen the looting and commented, "I just can't comprehend it. It's beyond me. It (the looting) has already started."

Across the Pease River, the storm uprooted trees and hurled them through cattle. Early in the evening, many of the animals were standing in pastures with jagged tree limbs stuck through their bodies, still alive but in shock.

A combination of National Guard troops, city police and state troopers blocked off sections of the city to keep sightseers away from the heavily damaged area.

Among major structures destroyed were the Sands Motel, the Canton Cafe, a new 4-H Barn and Arena, many modern homes and the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation.



Map locates towns hit by tornadoes Tuesday afternoon

'My God, it's in my back yard!'

By DOUG BEDELL
Staff Writer

As the first sirens settled over Wichita Falls at 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Marty Sabota was on the telephone at her home. She was explaining that the twister was headed south toward Archer City — when a vicious wind began ripping behind her house.

"Oh, my God!" she screamed into the telephone. "It's in my back yard!"

Sabota, a police reporter for the Wichita Falls Times, described the vicious twister as it tore through her neighborhood in downtown Wichita Falls.

"My whole back yard is filled with black smoke. Oh, my gosh, I don't believe this. Everything is twirling and smashing around here. I hear all this rushing. It sounds as if a whole bunch of light bulbs are smashing all over the place."

"There's pea-sized hail falling, too," she said. "This is just like the movies. It really does sound like a freight train."

Her voice charged with an instinctive terror and a lingering awe.

"Oh, my God, this is weird... It's kind of neat."

Moments later, the tail of the twister was gone, churning black clouds of debris over a 100-yard path across Ponderosa Estates. Checking the house, she found no structural damage. A neighbor knocked on the door and warned her that the hail was rapping deep dents into her car.

As she continued her account, the wind was still thrashing outside her home.

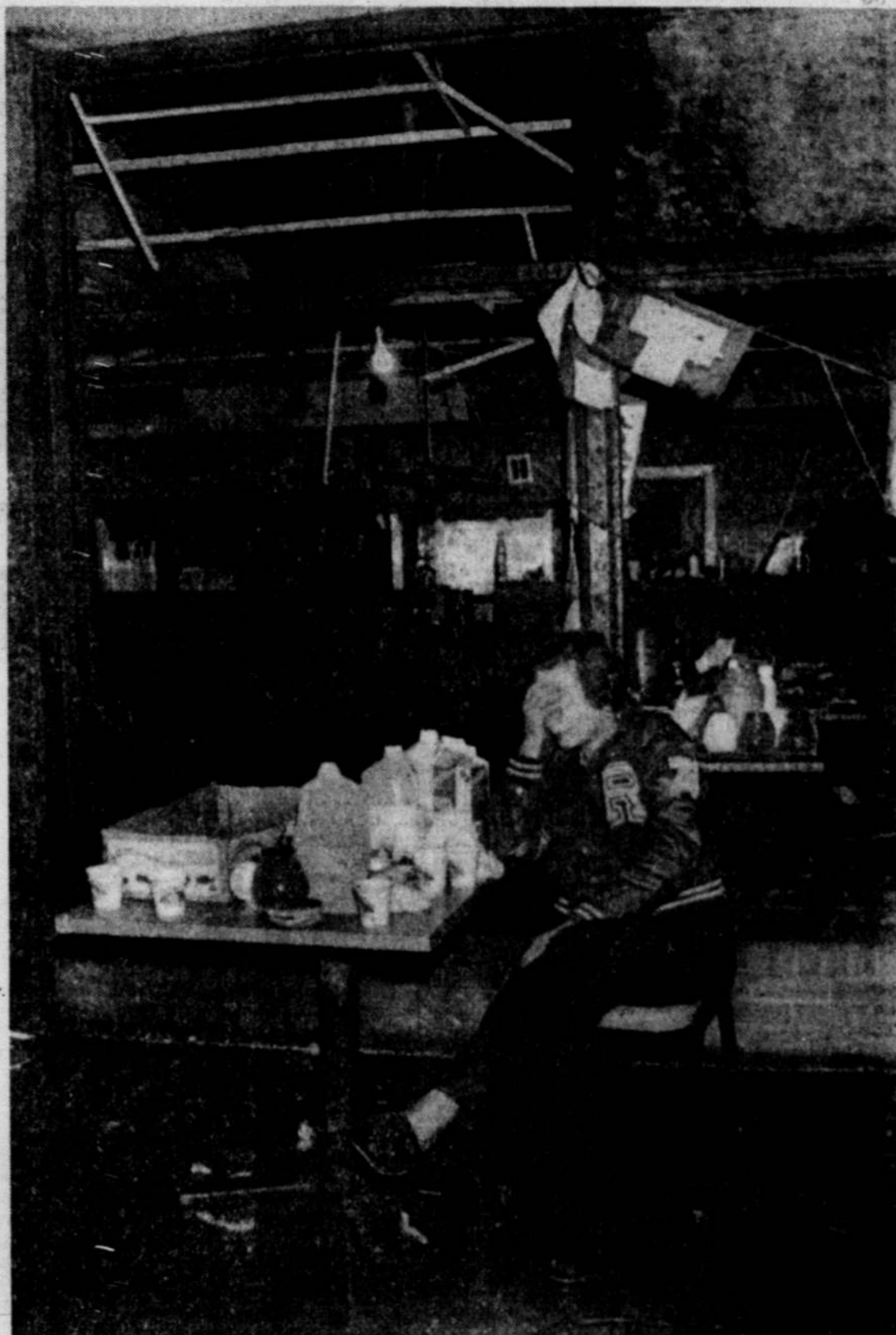
"Can't you hear all this?" she asked, sticking the telephone receiver next to the door. "We're almost in the very center in Wichita Falls. If it's hitting like this here, there's no telling what it's doing elsewhere."

Through the crackle of the telephone line, the wind gushed, the hail rapped. And deep in the distance sirens of every type — police, fire, ambulance — wailed in the trail of the twister for the homeless, the injured and the dead.

Moments later, the line itself was lifeless. The telephones were gone.



Car and store left mangled at Wichita Falls' Southmoor center



A shaken Jewel Reynolds tries to compose herself after storm hit



A lone man walks with no certain direction in a vast area of tornado damage early today in Wichita Falls

Tornado rundown

Here is a town-by-town rundown of death and damage reports from the Tuesday tornadoes:

Harrold, Tex. — One person reported killed.

Lawton, Okla. — Four reported killed, 56 injured; seven-square-block area in southwest damaged; Red Cross reports 24 houses and two mobile homes destroyed, 75 houses and two apartment houses damaged.

Lockett, Tex. — Tornado touched down; no death or injuries reported.

Ratliff City, Okla. — Oklahoma Highway Patrol reported \$250,000 damage just south of the city with two mobile homes destroyed and more than 20 houses, barns and outbuildings destroyed.

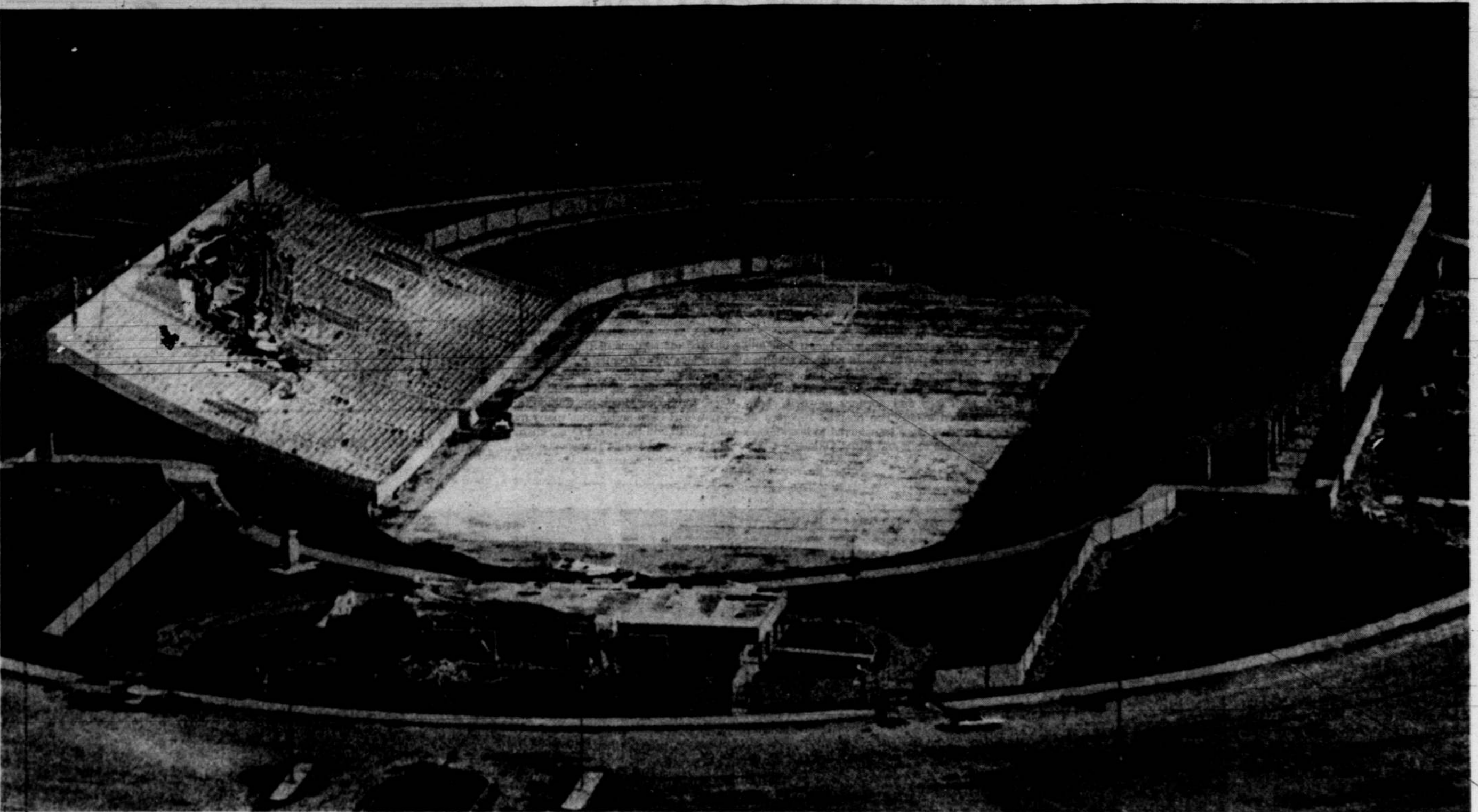
Rush Springs, Okla. — A house was demolished and a semitrailer-truck overturned south of the city.

Seymour, Tex. — Tornado touched down in thinly populated northwest part of town, little damage reported.

Vernon, Tex. — Twelve dead, about 100 injured; damage estimated in millions.

Wichita Falls, Tex. — Forty-one reported dead and more than 850 injured; twister cut an eight-mile path through the center of the city. Damage was reported at Midwestern University, Memorial Stadium, Sikes Center and Southmoor Center shopping malls. The tornado cut a diagonal path through the city from southwest to northeast, paralleling Highway 79.

Hospitals reportedly filled beyond capacity. More than 500 persons were said to be in need of surgery. Electric power, gas, and telephone utilities were knocked out; scattered looting.



Broken light standards, smashed pressbox on stands at left and damaged concessions building testify to fury of tornado that struck Wichita Falls' Pioneer Bowl Tuesday

Tornado death toll to grow, officials fear



LOST EVERYTHING — Mrs. R.S. Reeder leaves her home with a suitcase she managed to salvage. Her home was heavily damaged by a tornado which struck Wichita Falls shortly before 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Continued from Page One
entrance since about 7 p.m. entrance to prevent looters.

Scattered incidents were reported in several areas.

Midwestern State University just east of the mall and the fashionable country club section were virtually unscathed, but a large area of apartment complexes were flattened.

One of the hardest hit areas was a group of apartment complexes south of Midwestern Parkway on Weeks Park Lane. The second story was torn from Tiffany Apartments and car were covered with debris. A small fire was reported in one apartment but was extinguished. The smell of gas permeated the area.

Also hard hit was the fashionable Colonial Park area, just east of Taft with numerous homes totally destroyed and roofs torn from others.

The tornado chose its path of destruction seemingly at random, leaving some homes untouched while homes on either side were wiped out.

Downed power lines and debris, including overturned automobiles, blocked many streets. A resident of Tiffany Apartments said most of its residents got out safely a few minutes struck. They took refuge in the adjoining Weeks Golf Course.

Numerous Wichita Falls churches provided shelters for the homeless Tuesday night with about 30 families provided food, shelter and bedding at First Baptist Church early in the evening with more registering as the evening wore on.

By late Tuesday night, hospitals in the tornado-torn areas were begging for blood. Several cities were without electricity or water. And, as disaster volunteers worked to dislodge the trapped, aid the injured and restore vital city services, several of the towns were too busy to count their dead.

"We haven't had time to stop and confirm how many dead we have," said Civil Defense spokesman Wes Miller in Lawton, where a twister ripped through a 20-block area on the southeast end of town.

Outside Wichita Falls General Hospital, relatives and friends gathered for news of the missing, the injured and the dead. Mayor Kenneth Hill made repeat-



Wichita Falls firemen were on duty in damaged areas to help prevent looting of businesses Tuesday night.

ed radio pleas for citizens to conserve water and keep off the streets.

Hill said today it would take the city more than 10 years to recover from the devastation.

There were reports of looting in some areas of the downtown business district and some merchants were seen guarding their stores. What police could be spared from the rescue operations, prowled through the downtown area with spotlights.

Late Tuesday night emergency medical workers from Arlington and Fort Worth were carrying blood and medical supplies to the area, but all other persons were asked by Mayor Hill to stay away from Wichita Falls.

The twister first ripped into the Southwest side of the city, pounding an eight-mile path of destruction nearly nine blocks wide. Starting near Midwestern University, the tornado smashed through Memorial Stadium, uprooting light posts and sucking the press box from stadium walls.

Moving northeast, away from the

university, the twister pummeled a path along Highway 79.

"As the storm started, you could see the clouds being sucked into the center of the storm," said Wichita Falls reporter Rocky Scott, who witnessed the storm. "All of a sudden there was a tremendous roar and the storm appeared to move very quickly. It seemed like it lasted about five or six minutes and it looked like a huge snowcone."

The twister ripped through the city's two major shopping centers, Sikes and Southmoor, trapping an unknown number of shoppers inside. It was not known if any shoppers or workers had been killed.

Rescue workers were forced to ignore reports of persons trapped inside smaller, scattered homes and businesses to concentrate their rescue efforts on the shopping center sites.

Michael Perryman, 19, who was at the Sikes Shopping Center when he spotted a funnel, said he ran to a church and found shelter by a wall.

"We saw the tornado coming," he said. "My dad told me to get up next to the church. I put my hands over my head and a whole bunch of bricks fell on me."

"When I looked around, only the wall of the church I was standing by was left. The rest was gone."

The front wall of the Wichita Falls Johnson & Johnson plant was blown away and trailers from a nearby mobile home park were hurled across the highway from the force of the wind. A safe in the Wichita Falls National Guard Armory reportedly exploded, exposing pieces of weaponry and riot control gear.

Wrecked cars were smashed against bridge abutments, roofs were sheared away and homes and businesses were leveled. The twisters damaged Midwestern University, knocked out the Texas Electric power plant and destroyed a portion of a high school.

Utility poles were scattered like matchsticks; derricks were strewn like crumpled paper.

City officials feared contamination of the city's water supply.

It was the second tornado disaster to hit Wichita Falls in 12 years. A funnel cloud on April 3, 1967, left seven dead and 111 injured.

At Wichita Falls' Bethania Hospital, a 4-year old girl died on the operating ta-

ble during emergency surgery when the hospital's power failed. The hospital, switching to alternate generating systems, was quickly overloaded as casualties crowded the waiting rooms, halls and even the board room of the facility.

Several nursing homes were used to treat minor injuries. Schools, churches, and homes still standing were used to house the storm's refugees.

In Vernon, Wilbarger General Hospital administrator Billy Robertson said there was no more room to treat the injured and the closest hospitals were the already overloaded facilities in Wichita Falls.

Half the injuries reported were deemed critical by city officials.

"We have legs cut off, a guy with his chin nearly gone and a lot of head injuries and a lot of broken bones," he said.

Some of the victims were being treated at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Altus, Okla., about 150 miles north of Wichita Falls.

"We've treated 13 persons already from Vernon," said a hospital spokesman. "All we know is that there are more on the way. We've got relatives in a huge crowd outside the hospital waiting for word from us. We're so busy we can't even get the names to them."

The Vernon twister reportedly destroyed the Sands Motel, the Canton Restaurant, the John Deere farm implements store and dozens of homes.

"I know we had a number of fatalities," said Vernon Police Chief Wayne Hendrix. "It hit some restaurants and houses... it just left a path of death."

In Lawton, a tornado touched down in the Southwest end of the city, heavily damaging a four-block area downtown. The twister overturned two trucks loaded with dangerous chemicals, sending toxic fumes into the wind-whipped air.

One of the trucks overturned near Southwestern Hospital, which was also damaged by the storm. Hospital director William Neal said he spotted the twister from the hospital window.

"It was dark and circulating — definitely, a funnel cloud. We had high winds and hail right before, but this was definitely a tornado."

The tornado ripped into the hospital roof, tore out two roof-mounted air conditioning units, and temporarily cut power supplies. Hospital employees had to hand-pump an artificial respirator that failed when the power went, Neal said.

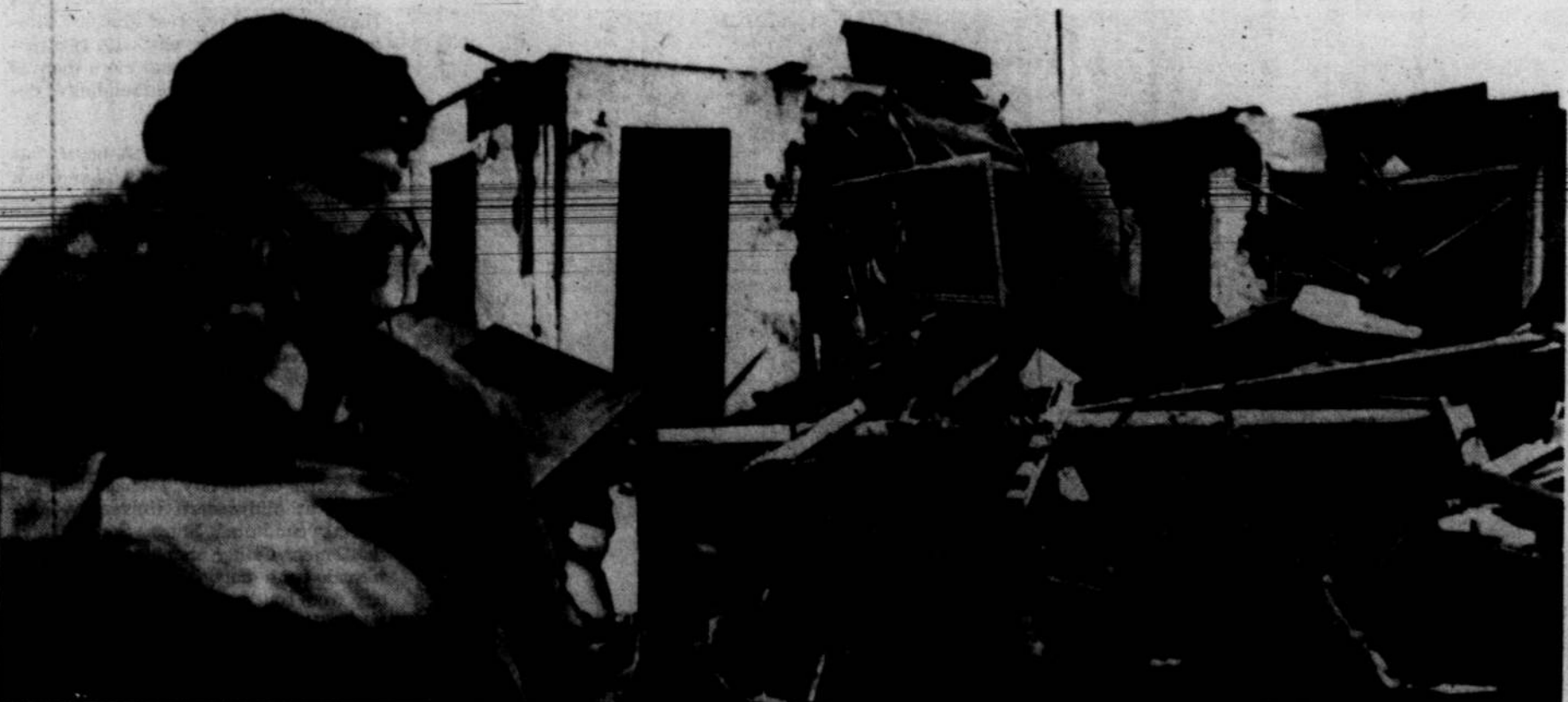
In Vernon, the tornado cut a quarter-mile wide path through the southern portion of the city, leaving hundreds homeless and 12 persons dead. One woman, who took refuge under a tractor-trailer, was killed when the trailer overturned. Another two persons died when their car was blown from an overpass, smashing on the highway below.

Two more bodies were found beneath an overturned car in a pasture and a Vernon school teacher and her daughter were reportedly killed when their house was destroyed.

"A lot of the buildings are tore up on this end of town," said a Vernon radio reporter. "One of our disc jockeys was inside a club in town and he came running back to the station with blood all over him. He said the club had been flattened."

Another tornado touched down in Seymour, but caused little damage in the wide, rolling countryside, according to Jo Rozell of the Baylor County Sheriff's office. However, one sheriff's officer, she said, was almost trapped by the twister.

"He said it almost sucked him off the highway," she said.



An unidentified family surveys damage to their home Tuesday afternoon after a tornado struck Wichita Falls

WONDERWORD

HOW TO PLAY:

All the words listed below appear in the puzzle—horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HOPE IN THE MINORS

Solution: 10 letters

SECNACIREFUPST
SDYSECNAMROFREP
KRRDCCJTABSAASNO
SAOOUUSMAERDREST
UWERCTSTREECTED
FSYRREESTLYMRAFE
JAOYBERGAREERST
UWIALACLMDDOOGG
DNLIDRPPSBNBNLE
GLAEUSEUIREUAOL
ECONTRACTISOSMTE
DACROEECTIYSSOSS
LHECLEREOTIATHT
ISSELPASNSETREC
SENIHSESSIMDSPR

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4/11
Ambitions. Area: Baseball, Bats, Break; Call, Careers, Chance, Chosen, Cited, Contracts, Crowd, Crunch, Draws, Dreams, Errors, Failure, Fare, Farm, Good; Injury, Judged, Lots, Male, Misses, Peers, Performances, Players, Press, Rates, Records, Rejected, Roster, Scores, Selected, Shines, Spot, Stadiums, Stay, Stress, Study, Success, Super, Tabs, Tense, Toll, Trade, Trying, Young.

Yesterday's Answer: PLENTIFUL

To order Wonderword collection #1 send \$1.50, which includes postage and handling, to Wonderword c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 90, Los Angeles, Ca. 90053.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

JOANB

RAPEP

DORAT

TSATLE

Print answer here: HE

Yesterday's Jumbles PAUSE FLUID HOTBED BREACH

Answer: What all that talk around the sanitation truck was—A LOAD OF RUBBISH

Acreage 8728

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Horoscope

FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 12
By SYDNEY OMARR

COME UP AND SEE ME. She exemplifies Leo, is a student of psychic phenomena and extraterrestrial perception. She is show, glamour, wit, languid, perceptive, knowledgeable about astrology and a legend, in her own time. Mae West. She has spawned hundreds of imitators. If one seeks a good, spicy, humorous quote, look to this movie queen, this author, this star, this lioness. A coffee firm sponsored a radio show. Mae West appeared on it. Some of her lines were censored while she was on the air. Asked about it the next day, Mae rolled her eyes, turned up her sultry voice and allowed that, "How did I know they didn't want *their* coffee hot?" You couldn't wrestle her birth date out of me, but the wondrous Mae is in her eighth decade, thinks modern, remains an innovator, understands more about nutrition and health than do many pretenders with medical degrees.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Maintain low profile, check sources, quotations — take nothing for granted. Be familiar with legal rights, permissions. Marital status, contracts, partnerships are spotlighted. Pisces, Virgo persons figure prominently.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Emphasis on dependents, getting chores finished, evaluating efforts, time and motion, money in and out, worth of a relationship. Capricorn, Cancer — and the number 8 — figure prominently. One you respect lends benefit of experience — and wisdom.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Lunar aspect coincides with style, creativity, emotional responses, exciting changes and prospects. You are rid of restriction. Communication, display and distribution improve. Aries, Libra figure prominently.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Avoid premature starts, decisions — be creatively selfish. Means keep resolutions concerning your own safety, security, welfare and health. A family member, older and accustomed to giving orders, might listen if you put your foot down. Act accordingly.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You get proof of validity of your concepts. Means idea pays off — your judgment, intuition are on target. You are praised, complimented for your knowledge of "psychology." Cancer, Capricorn, Aquarius persons figure prominently.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Expansion, celebration, freedom, lucky streak and money crowd agenda. Gemini, Sagittarius persons play key roles. Accent on lost-and-found, investments, getting a foothold on financial security. Don't let any person intimidate you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You break through mold of red tape, suspicion. More persons are willing to listen — and take action. Charisma is emphasized. You can win — know it and take initiative. Make known your views — and presence.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Study Libra message. Aura of mystery leads to glamour. Know it and don't brood. You do not have to know everything at once. Some persons wish to "draw you in" to a secret operation, clandestine meeting.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Accent on friends, hopes, persuasiveness, money realized from business enterprise. Domestic adjustment, change of residence could figure high on agenda. Taurus, Libra, Scorpio persons play significant roles.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your natural abilities surge to forefront. Accent on prestige, reputation, honor, career. You might feel as if you are a tight-rope walker. Reinforce aspirations, sense of direction. Steer clear of schemes and "characters."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): View of potential comes into focus. Older individual does have your best interests at heart. You'll know it and dialogue will result. Make travel plans. Write, communicate, advertise and publish. Your faith will be restored.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You resolve dilem-

YOUR PERSONAL BIORHYTHMS

By Bernard Gittelson, Author of "Biorhythms: A Personal Science"
The personal science of biorhythm can tell you how your day will run. You can judge the high and low of only your own, but to one and friends, and celebrities and stars. Biorhythm, our new scientific discipline, is the study of the built-in natural cycles of our powerful influence on our behavior.

BIORHYTHMS FOR APR. 12, 1979

PHYSICAL
Critical: 12, 24, 36, 48, 60, 72, 84, 96, 108, 120, 132, 144, 156, 168, 180, 192, 204, 216, 228, 240, 252, 264, 276, 288, 300, 312, 324, 336, 348, 360, 372, 384, 396, 408, 420, 432, 444, 456, 468, 480, 492, 504, 516, 528, 540, 552, 564, 576, 588, 600, 612, 624, 636, 648, 660, 672, 684, 696, 708, 720, 732, 744, 756, 768, 780, 792, 804, 816, 828, 840, 852, 864, 876, 888, 900, 912, 924, 936, 948, 960, 972, 984, 996, 1008, 1020, 1032, 1044, 1056, 1068, 1080, 1092, 1104, 1116, 1128, 1140, 1152, 1164, 1176, 1188, 1200, 1212, 1224, 1236, 1248, 1260, 1272, 1284, 1296, 1308, 1320, 1332, 1344, 1356, 1368, 1380, 1392, 1404, 1416, 1428, 1440, 1452, 1464, 1476, 1488, 1500, 1512, 1524, 1536, 1548, 1560, 1572, 1584, 1596, 1608, 1620, 1632, 1644, 1656, 1668, 1680, 1692, 1704, 1716, 1728, 1740, 1752, 1764, 1776, 1788, 1800, 1812, 1824, 1836, 1848, 1860, 1872, 1884, 1896, 1908, 1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016, 2028, 2040, 2052, 2064, 2076, 2088, 2100, 2112, 2124, 2136, 2148, 2160, 2172, 2184, 2196, 2208, 2220, 2232, 2244, 2256, 2268, 2280, 2292, 2304, 2316, 2328, 2340, 2352, 2364, 2376, 2388, 2400, 2412, 2424, 2436, 2448, 2460, 2472, 2484, 2496, 2508, 2520, 2532, 2544, 2556, 2568, 2580, 2592, 2604, 2616, 2628, 2640, 2652, 2664, 2676, 2688, 2700, 2712, 2724, 2736, 2748, 2760, 2772, 2784, 2796, 2808, 2820, 2832, 2844, 2856, 2868, 2880, 2892, 2904, 2916, 2928, 2940, 2952, 2964, 2976, 2988, 3000, 3012, 3024, 3036, 3048, 3060, 3072, 3084, 3096, 3108, 3120, 3132, 3144, 3156, 3168, 3180, 3192, 3204, 3216, 3228, 3240, 3252, 3264, 3276, 3288, 3300, 3312, 3324, 3336, 3348, 3360, 3372, 3384, 3396, 3408, 3420, 3432, 3444, 3456, 3468, 3480, 3492, 3504, 3516, 3528, 3540, 3552, 3564, 3576, 3588, 3600, 3612, 3624, 3636, 3648, 3660, 3672, 3684, 3696, 3708, 3720, 3732, 3744, 3756, 3768, 3780, 3792, 3804, 3816, 3828, 3840, 3852, 3864, 3876, 3888, 3900, 3912, 3924, 3936, 3948, 3960, 3972, 3984, 3996, 4008, 4020, 4032, 4044, 4056, 4068, 4080, 4092, 4104, 4116, 4128, 4140, 4152, 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Rescuers search for more victims in rubble of Lawton

LAWTON, Okla. (AP) — A search was under way today for possible additional victims of the killer tornado that ripped through this southwest Oklahoma city Tuesday afternoon, killing at least four and injuring at least 70.

The four confirmed tornadoes that hit Lawton and a three-county area of southwestern Oklahoma caused an estimated \$30 million to \$40 million damage, said Ralph Cheatwood, a Comanche County Civil Defense spokesman.

Gov. George Nigh scheduled a 10 a.m. inspection of the storm-ravaged area.

Officials identified three of those killed in the Lawton twister as Garland Newsom, 47, Stephanie Miller 2, and Barbara Kading, 69, all of the Lawton area.

Even Defense personnel and local police speculated that additional victims might be found in the ruins of scores of demolished buildings in the southern part of Lawton.

Police Capt. Bob Edmondson said the 2½-acre-block business and residential section hit by the twister contained many elderly residents.

One hundred members of the National Guard remained on duty here today to guard against looters, control traffic and help in cleanup operations.

An even greater tragedy was narrowly averted when a semi-trailer truck carrying an explosive mixture of sulphuric acid and chlorine was overturned by the killer twister in the heart of the damaged area. Workers toiled frantically until they were able to right the truck and move it two miles away, where the dangerous chemicals were removed and secured.

Southwestern Hospital director William Neal said the twister apparently skimmed over the top of the two-story hospital, nearly causing a tragedy. He said the hospital was full of patients and visitors. The tornado ripped into the roof, tore out roof-mounted air conditioning units and shook the building.

The twister struck full force about 5:15 p.m., 12 minutes after sirens sounded their warnings.

Mrs. E.A. Hansen peering from the ruins of her roofless house said, "It happened so fast, it was over before I could hide."

Homeless storm victims spent the night in a Methodist church, the Red Cross Center downtown and a elementary school.

Officials on the scene reported that about 25 homes were destroyed and another 75 homes were heavily damaged, along with restaurants, service stations and other businesses.

A large area was cordoned off because of the ruptured gas lines and downed electric lines. Southwestern Bell reported about 1,000 telephones out of service and said their cable was badly damaged.

At least 16 persons remained hospitalized today as a result of the storms, several of them in critical condition.

Southwestern Hospital officials said most injuries involved broken bones, cuts and injuries from falling or blowing debris.

Lawton Assistant Police Chief Jack Partin said the 2-year-old girl killed in the twister died when the car in which she and her mother, Carol Miller, were riding was blown off U.S. 277. Mrs. Miller was not injured.

Partin said Newsom was killed when a steel beam fell as the twister struck an auto repair shop where he was working on his car. Newsom was a well-known stock car racer.

Details of the other deaths were not immediately known.

Though Lawton was hardest hit by Tuesday's tornadoes, other nearby communities also suffered damage.

A twister damaged 15 homes and farm buildings southwest of Waurika.

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol said three houses were destroyed and another house and four barns received major damage in Davidson, just north of the Texas line.

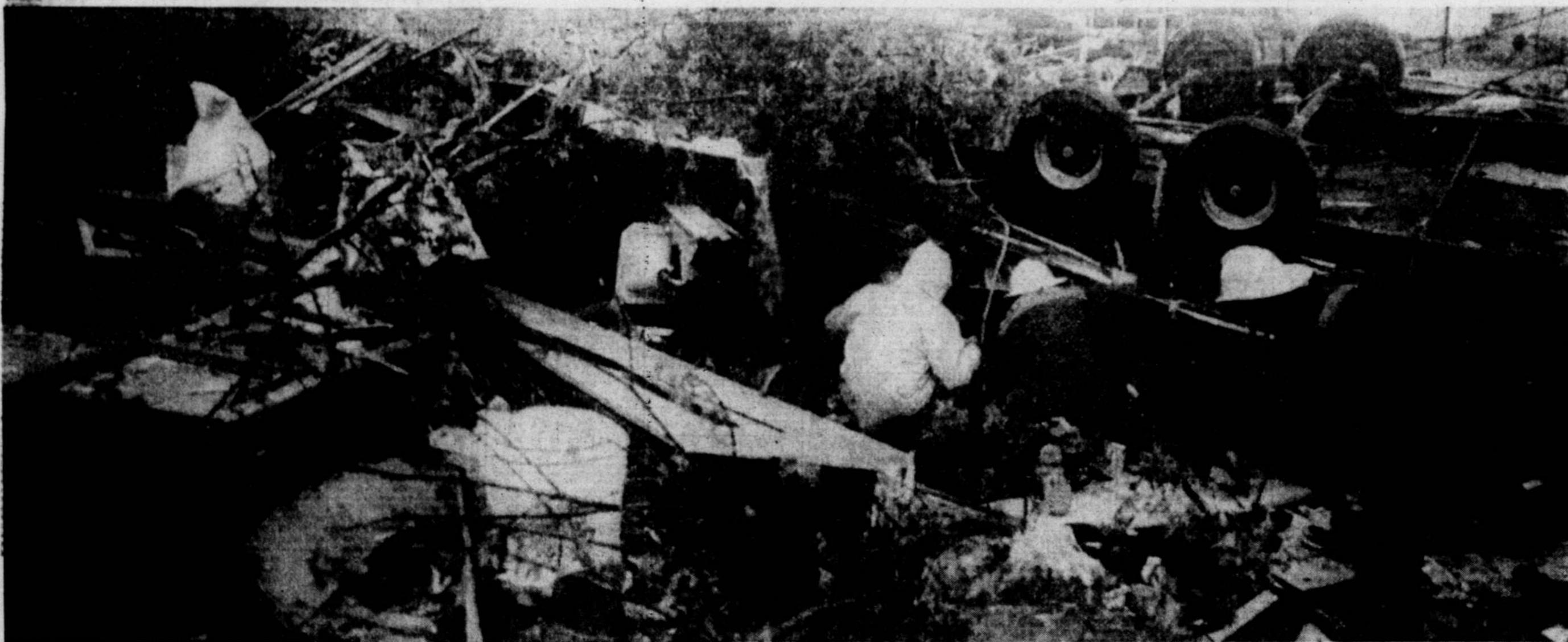
Twelve houses, four mobile homes and a small airport were heavily damaged in nearby Grandfield. Three injuries were reported at Davidson and Grandfield.

Hulen reported 12 houses damaged with three destroyed, and one person injured. A mobile home was damaged in Faxon and two people were reported injured.

Jefferson County reported damage to about 15 homes. Storm damage was also reported in several other towns.



Mrs. E.A. Hansen peers from stairs at where her attic was located in Lawton.



Rescuers frantically struggle to pull a victim from a mobile home in a Lawton trailer park.



Double amputee George McKee, 52, and wrecked home in Lawton



Workers sift through rubble in Lawton where at least four persons were killed



Two women remove belongings from ruins of Wichita Falls home



A row of small homes were blown together by the force of the Tuesday tornado

Wichita Falls suffers massive destruction



Tuesday's tornado left a wide path of massive damage to suburban Wichita Falls homes and apartments



Couple seeks valuables in demolished home

Aid planned for victims of tornadoes

Some religious organizations in Dallas today were moving quickly to start disaster relief operations for victims of the tornadoes.

Early this morning, 10 Southern Baptists from Dallas, Amarillo, Abilene and Waco rushed to Wichita Falls with a mobile disaster unit carrying food supplies.

Orville Scott of Dallas, in charge of news and information for the group, reported today that the storm had heavily damaged Faith Baptist Church in Wichita Falls and destroyed the home of the missions director of the local Baptist Association, Fred McDowell.

Scott also said that Charles Ragland, the coordinator for disaster relief for the Florida Baptist Association, was en route to Wichita Falls today to assist in the operations.

Moreover, Bruce Funk, the congregational chairman for the Dallas Mennonite Fellowship, said today the Mennonite Disaster Service has personnel on the scene in the tornado-damaged areas.

About 150 to 200 volunteers from Mennonite congregations in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas are expected to begin their work in Wichita Falls, Vernon and Lawton, Okla., by the weekend, he said.



Two Wichita Falls men search through the wreckage of a building

Among lucky ones

Killer twister outrun by mother, daughter

By JIM HENDERSON
Staff Writer

WICHITA FALLS — Mrs. Sandra Patterson and her 15-year-old daughter were among the lucky ones.

They outran the tornado that slammed into this North Texas city of 100,000, killing at least 41 of its residents, injuring about 700 and leaving much of it a pile of rubble.

Mrs. Patterson, a nurse at a local nursing home, was standing outside her house, watching the black clouds move in. And then the funnel dipped down.

"It was not a little narrow one like you see in pictures," she said. "It was wide all the way down. It looked like it was a mile and half wide."

"It was the biggest thing I'd ever seen."

As it danced toward her residence, she and her daughter sped off down Highway 287.

"We tried to outrun it," she said.

But four miles down the highway, as the tornado was about to catch up with them, she pulled off the highway and sought refuge beneath a railroad trestle. About 30 other motorists had done

the same. None was injured.

And as the tornado veered off to the side, Mrs. Patterson started heading back toward Wichita Falls.

What she saw was dozens of cars beside the roadway, some flipped on their tops, others just a pile of wreckage.

She stopped to render aid, but most occupants had gotten out and survived with only minor scratches and bruises.

One truck lay on its side, its driver pinned inside dead.

Driving back into town, Mrs. Patterson surveyed the damage — an apartment complex near her home was demolished, reduced to what virtually resembled a junkyard of refrigerators, stoves and household furniture.

Some of the injured walked around as rescuers dug into the rubble to find survivors.

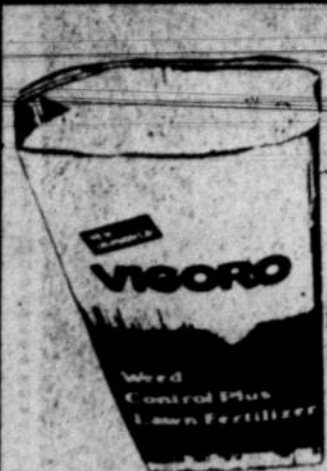
The most serious quickly pushed the medical staff at local hospitals to the limit. Some of the less serious were taken to the nursing home where Mrs. Patterson works.

She said she volunteered her services and was working early into the morning today treating the injured.

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50-pound of heavy-weight, inexpensive lawn and garden fertilizer.

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Several varieties of shade trees to choose from in 5-gallon containers.

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Use as lawn dressing or as a garden enricher. Weed free.



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Choose from an assortment of vegetable plants in 1 1/4" pots.



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Ortho fertilizer made especially for St. Augustine lawns. Covers 3,000 sq. ft. 21-4-4



ORTHO UPSTART

Sale Priced
4 Days Only **147** pt.

Reduce transplant shock, get plants off to a strong start. Root stimulator.



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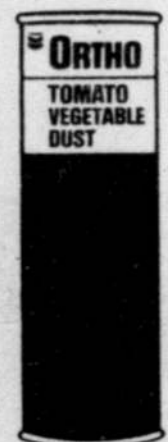
Insecticide and fertilizer sprayer dilutes as it sprays. Save at Kmart.



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Fruit and vegetable insect controls a wide range of pests.



TOMATO AND VEGETABLE DUST

Sale Priced
4 Days Only **247**

10-oz. dust helps control many common insect and plant diseases.



1-GAL. AZALEAS

Sale Priced
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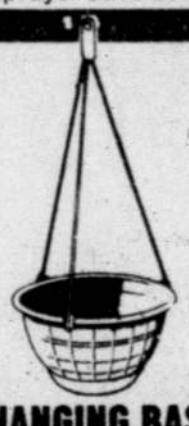
One gallon potted azaleas. Assorted colors. Ready to replant.

POTTING SOIL

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40-lb. potting soil is sterile, won't burn and is easy to use.



10" HANGING BASKET

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10-inch empty plastic hanging basket. Save at Kmart.

4 CU. FT. PEAT MOSS

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Bale sphagnum peat moss. Weed free. Good soil conditioner.



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Atlas fish emulsion fertilizer. 100% fish, non-burning, deodorized.



50-LB. GYPSUM

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Lawn and garden gypsum loosens and conditions clay soil.



3-INCH CALADIUMS

Sale Priced

2 for \$1

4 Days Only

Beautiful caladiums in 3 inch containers for garden or patio.



GREENLIGHT WIPE-OUT

Sale Priced
237 pt.

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1-pint bottle of weed killer. Kill many weeds without harm to your lawn.



GREEN LIGHT SEVIN DUST

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For fleas, ticks, lawn, vegetables and ornamental use. 4-lb.



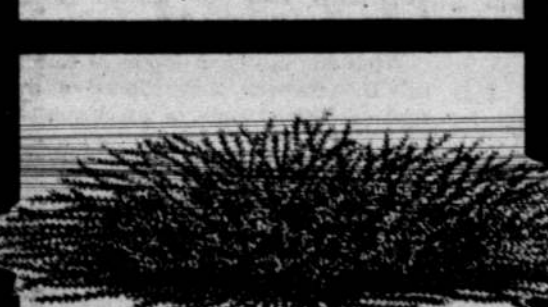
GREENLIGHT LIQUID EDGER

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Green Light liquid lawn edger with handy applicator top. Work for weeks.

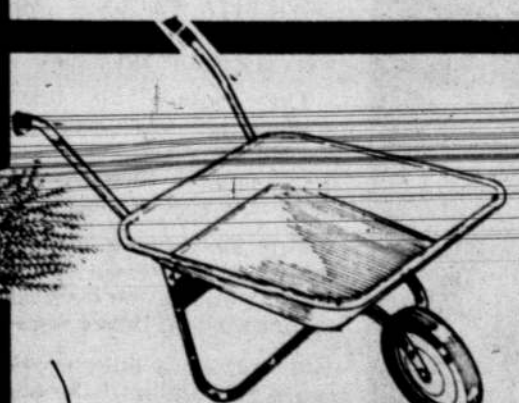


1-GAL. JUNIPER

Sale Priced
4 Days Only

2 for \$3

Juniper low ground cover shrub in 1-gallon containers.

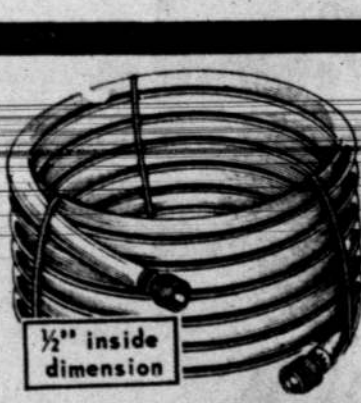


WHEELBARROW

Sale Priced
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Sturdy steel wheelbarrow with 3 cubic foot capacity.

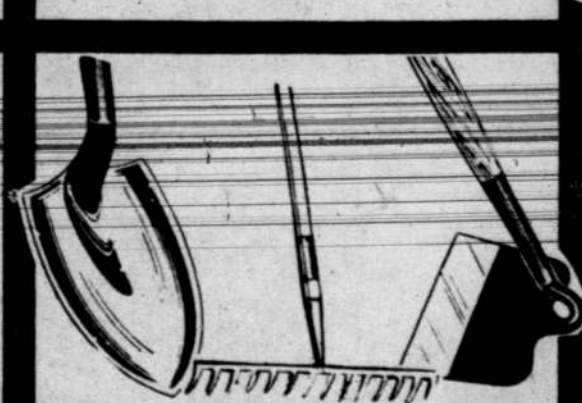


50' GARDEN HOSE

Sale Priced
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Vinyl hose is flexible lightweight. Easy to carry. 1/2" D.



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Sale Priced
4 Days Only

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Choice of painted steel shovel, steel end rake or steel blade hoe.



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23 1/2-lb. bag especially for bermuda grass. Covers 4,000 sq. ft.