Death from Sky

(Continued from Page 1A)

Route 8 near Union City was closed for several hours while volunteer workers cleared the road of debris from the house and barn of the Reynolds family, and the house of the Joe Palko family across the road. Joe and Jeanette Palko were taken to Union City Hospital in good condition after their house was blown off its foundation and several hundred feet into the back yard.

Also destroyed in the Union City area were the homes and barns of the Dickie Fensel and Kyle Bubba families on Fensel Road.

Emergency workers, including volunteer firefighters and Red Cross workers, were on the scene to help Curry and Union City soon after the tornado struck.

Emergency shelters were set up in Curry at the armory and at the Red Cross building.

The tornado touched down on Main Street in Alliance about 5:15 p.m. and cut a swath that state police estimate to be a mile long and a half mile wide through the center of Alliance's main residential district.

Homes were torn from their foundations, many of them reduced to heaps of rubble, as residents had virtually no warning of the impending disaster.

"I was just sitting on my porch, talking to Berrie, when he yelled, 'That's a tornado,'" said Pete Stohs, 346 East Washington Street.

"It sounded like a train, I thought he was crazy. Then I saw it. It was right on top of us. We ran into the house and down the cellar stairs and hit it. I got inside under the cellar doors and that saved me. My wife and Berrie were under the kitchen, and the floor saved them because the rest of the floors collapsed and the house just collapsed. It was over in less than 20 seconds. We had to crawl out. My sister, who lives in the trailer in back of us, did not.

Stohskey, his wife, his son, Carl, and Carl's wife and two-year-old son were huddled at the temporary shelter at the junior high school late Friday afternoon.

With them was Bernard Eagles, who said he recognized the noise as a tornado because he has seen them before.

Mary Raymond, who lives on the east side of Alliance, sat alone in her junior high school cafeteria late Friday night, waiting to hear the fate of her seminarian, Michael Grover, and her three grandchildren.

The house was destroyed, but his (Michael's) pickup truck is still in the driveway. We don't know where they are. Oh, God, I hope they're all right."

In what had been downtown Alliance, a state police officer, Alliance police, word county fire police, and Erie County sheriff's deputies moved in to cordon off the area of destruction early Friday morning.

Mayor Dahlen she suggested the National Guard was put on alert at 12 to 14 hours before the guard could mobilize and report to Alliance.

She said the 9 p.m. curfew would be strictly enforced and that violators would be removed from the town.

Erie County Sheriff Robert Michel, accompanied by Arthur Martensco, regional director of the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs, drove back and forth along Main Street, announcing over a loud speaker, "Please leave the streets. All persons except for rescue workers and police must be off the streets by 9 p.m. All homeless persons report to the high school for food and shelter."

Michel said, "I've been waiting in my career that I can equate this with a lot worse."

Martensco said he will contact Harrison in that case to coordinate relief efforts.

Norm Cornyn of Greenfield said the sun and moon, Frank and Wanda Cabet, whose home down the road from Shields was leveled, were among the victims. He said he didn't know the fate of his cousin's son and wife from Ohio, who were visiting the Taftons.

Erie Fire Chief Dick Roach said at least 13 people were taken from Greenfield to Erie hospitals.

"We're all still alive," a state trooper standing guard on the dirt road leading to the trailer park broke down near the debris as he described injuries to small children there.

"I can handle almost anything, except when it comes to kids. These poor little kids were hurt and just terrified. Who could expect them to understand what was happening?"

Inside the mobile home park, not a single trailer stood intact. Most were reduced to piles of rubble with an occasional toy, a bicycle, a washer or dryer propping from the heap.

Some of the trailers were carried over a ravine in the north of the park and their contents deposited into a pile of rubble. Chairs, beds and other objects were strewn in the trees that remained standing.

Crawford County Commissioner Gene Romney said buses from county school districts and the county's public transit system were brought in to assist the hundreds from Alliance to emergency shelters at Meadville Junior High School and St. Bride's Roman Catholic Church, both in Meadville.

Temporary shelters were set up in Alliance and Endwell.

Greenfield Fire Chief Hugh Shields, who lives in Alliance, was getting ready to leave for work about 5:30 p.m. when the tornado hit.

"I started to get in my car when I saw it coming, and laid down on the ground." Shields, who suffered a gash in his left arm from a piece of flying wood, "It picked me up and put me back down." Only the first floor of Shields' home was intact.

Nora Courtnay of Greenfield said her aunt and uncle, Frank and Wanda Cabet, whose home down the road from Shields was leveled, were among the victims. He said he didn't know the fate of his cousin's son and wife from Ohio, who were visiting the Taftons.

Hartstown Fire Chief Dick Roach said at least 13 people were taken from Greenfield to Erie hospitals.

"We're all still alive," a state trooper standing guard on the dirt road leading to the trailer park broke down near the debris as he described injuries to small children there.

"I can handle almost anything, except when it comes to kids. These poor little kids were hurt and just terrified. Who could expect them to understand what was happening?"

Inside the mobile home park, not a single trailer stood intact. Most were reduced to piles of rubble with an occasional toy, a bicycle, a washer or dryer propping from the heap.

Some of the trailers were carried over a ravine in the north of the park and their contents deposited into a pile of rubble. Chairs, beds and other objects were strewn in the trees that remained standing.

Crawford County Commissioner Gene Romney said buses from county school districts and the county's public transit system were brought in to assist the hundreds from Alliance to emergency shelters at Meadville Junior High School and St. Bride's Roman Catholic Church, both in Meadville.

Temporary shelters were set up in Alliance and Endwell.

Greenfield Fire Chief Hugh Shields, who lives in Alliance, was getting ready to leave for work about 5:30 p.m. when the tornado hit.

"I started to get in my car when I saw it coming, and laid down on the ground." Shields, who suffered a gash in his left arm from a piece of flying wood, "It picked me up and put me back down." Only the first floor of Shields' home was intact.

Nora Courtnay of Greenfield said her aunt and uncle, Frank and Wanda Cabet, whose home down the road from Shields was leveled, were among the victims. He said he didn't know the fate of his cousin's son and wife from Ohio, who were visiting the Taftons.

Hartstown Fire Chief Dick Roach said at least 13 people were taken from Greenfield to Erie hospitals.

"We're all still alive," a state trooper standing guard on the dirt road leading to the trailer park broke down near the debris as he described injuries to small children there.

"I can handle almost anything, except when it comes to kids. These poor little kids were hurt and just terrified. Who could expect them to understand what was happening?"

Inside the mobile home park, not a single trailer stood intact. Most were reduced to piles of rubble with an occasional toy, a bicycle, a washer or dryer propping from the heap.

Some of the trailers were carried over a ravine in the north of the park and their contents deposited into a pile of rubble. Chairs, beds and other objects were strewn in the trees that remained standing.

Crawford County Commissioner Gene Romney said buses from county school districts and the county's public transit system were brought in to assist the hundreds from Alliance to emergency shelters at Meadville Junior High School and St. Bride's Roman Catholic Church, both in Meadville.

Temporary shelters were set up in Alliance and Endwell.

Greenfield Fire Chief Hugh Shields, who lives in Alliance, was getting ready to leave for work about 5:30 p.m. when the tornado hit.

"I started to get in my car when I saw it coming, and laid down on the ground." Shields, who suffered a gash in his left arm from a piece of flying wood, "It picked me up and put me back down." Only the first floor of Shields' home was intact.

Nora Courtnay of Greenfield said her aunt and uncle, Frank and Wanda Cabet, whose home down the road from Shields was leveled, were among the victims. He said he didn't know the fate of his cousin's son and wife from Ohio, who were visiting the Taftons.
ing five people were among the seven injured in the attack.

Between 12:30 and 12:45 a.m., the tornado struck the town, causing widespread damage. The streets were filled with debris, and homes and businesses were destroyed. Many people were injured, and some were trapped in the rubble.

A few miles south of Erie, in the town of Cranberry, a tornado touched down in the early morning hours. The tornado caused extensive damage, with many homes and businesses destroyed or severely damaged. The town was left in a state of shock and destruction.

At least one person was reported to have been injured in the tornado, and emergency services were frantically working to reach those in need. The damage was widespread, with many homes and businesses left uninhabitable.

As the sun began to rise, the residents of Cranberry were left to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives. The town was a testament to the power of nature, and the resilience of the human spirit.

The tornado was one of many that struck the region, and it highlighted the need for increased preparedness and response plans in the event of such disasters. The community was rallied together, working to support one another through the aftermath of the tornado.
One side of home removed

The tornado that ripped through Albion totally removed one side of this East State Street home. These residents were some of the lucky ones. Many homes were completely destroyed.

said several of the casualties were from the Pinedale Trailer Court, near to the tornado. All 18 mobile homes in the park were ripped apart by the storm, with the frames of seven of them piled in front of where the trailer home stood.

George Busenick of Gibsonia, Pa., was camping at Limeville when he heard the sound of the tornado approaching and dove for cover behind a friend's pickup truck with one of his sons. Trees fell on the truck and around them, but they were not injured.

Busenick's other son ran to the lake, suffering injuries to his eye when struck by flying debris. Busenick's friend, Herb Herman, was injured when he was knocked down by the branches of a falling tree. Herman's son, Tom, was not hurt.

"We were joking and having a good time and then disaster struck," Busenick said.

Among the many dead in the tri-state area, the identities of three victims were released early Saturday. In Venango County — Philip Duster, age 32, of Homer, Paul James Bergin, 12, RD 3, Franklin, and Buck Best, 30, of North Sarver, a known drug user — were identified as among those killed.

According to Venango County Coroner Ed Gabay, "We have not been able to make the proper contacts with relatives, there's still people missing."

He said no autopsies would be performed.

Warren, Forest, and McKean counties were not spared Friday night.

State police at Warren reported that a tornado touched down in Lime- stone Township, near Tidioute. A state police spokesman from the Warren barracks said eight people were injured; two critically, but no people were believed dead.

Several homes, mobile homes and a restaurant were destroyed, the spokesman said.

An area around Kane in McKean County was also heavily hit, said Sgt. William Vanderpool at the Punxsutawney barracks. Marionville and German Hill in Forest County also sustained some damage, though the extent was unknown.

Telephone lines to state police barracks in Kane and Tensions were downed by the storms, forcing communications to be routed through the Punxsutawney barracks. The Tensions fire department's radio system was also damaged, resulting in a loss of nearly all emergency communications in Forest County.

Vanderpool said several people were injured in Forest County, some seriously. Many roads in Forest County remained closed at 11:30 p.m.

In McKean County, Vanderpool said, all three major routes into Kane were closed. Several injuries were also reported.

Seven people were reported killed in Venango County and at least 75 others injured when tornadoes touched down in widely scattered areas of the county Friday evening.

Franklin Regional Medical Center spokesman Rosemary Greenfield said the hospital had six confirmed dead, and Larry Petroff of Oil City Area Health Center said that facility had one known fatality.

State police, however, were able to confirm the death of only four people.

State Police Cpl. Philip Crand said they could only confirm the death of one person near the village of Hazlehurst, and three others from the McKean trail park in Cherytree.

Worst hit by the tornadoes were rural areas near the borough of Carlysle and Village of Brilliant in north-central Venango County, and the Village of Cherrytree in northeastern Venango County near the intersection of Routes 8 and 17.

Sat. June 1, 1985 5-A

In French battle

The most edgy qualifier of West Germany's 5-1, 6-4, 6-3 victory over Yugoslavia's 21-year-old left-hander Bert Ziegl in the start and never at

Second seeded Chris Evert Lloyd makes return friday's French Open match. Lloyd ousted Angeliki Soulu of Greece 6-3, 7-5.

in French battle

ers drivers escape injury

EEK, Wis. (AP) — Several drivers, including Indianapolis 500 winner, escaped injury in a series of crashes Friday during un clotting up to 100 mph caused problems at the Indy cars worked on oval at Wisconsin State Fairgrounds Park, where Sunday's Indy 500 will be run.

The March racer in turn two and was struck by the Lolas of Jim Ireland. Both cars were badly damaged.

He retired from the Indy 500 last Sunday after only six laps on the pump, moved to his backup car, another March, and had only one car at the track, was forced to withdraw.

Kerry of Colombia, who was third at Indy, spun on the back straight and did not make contact with anything and was able to continue.

Lad and Steve Chassay tangled in turn one later in the session. Drivers walked away without injury.

Steve Chassay, who finished 14th Sunday, said his car was only lightly damaged and could be repaired in time for qualifying on Saturday. But Chassay, Indy after being bumped, also had to withdraw because his car was damaged and the team has no backup.

Cools of Holland, the seventh-place finisher Sunday, spun and crashed with the wall in the third and final practice period Friday.

Please turn to Page 3B
Venango County Commissioners announced they would meet at 8 a.m. Saturday to discuss the damage caused by the tornado. A spider-web of rural, dirt roads quilted the area, and rescue workers had been directly in the path of the tornado, killing 15 and destroying homes and causing injuries.

Rescue efforts were further hampered by a man who had blacked out many of those roads. A road in a rural area resident was cut off by a tree, and the first rescue units began arriving. All available PennDOT equipment and crews were pressed into service. Using high-lifts and dump trucks, PennDOT crews plowed their way through the debris, clearing the road for ambulances and rescue equipment.

Rescue workers were further hampered by sightings, many of whom had friends or relatives in the worst-hit areas, who closed highways to the rescuers.

At 8:35 p.m., a tornado warning was issued for all parts of Venango County. The tornado warned a large area directly in the path of the tornado, killing 15 and destroying homes and causing injuries.

One person was killed, and several others were injured. The damage was extensive. The tornado was classified as an EF-4, with winds up to 165 mph. The damage was widespread, with homes and businesses destroyed in the path of the tornado. The cleanup and repair efforts were extensive, with many homes and businesses left uninhabitable.

The following report is based on information provided by the Venango County Sheriff's Office and the Venango County Emergency Management Agency:

Twister shocks Albin

Albin looked as if it "had a vacuum cleaner had sucked it up and threw it back down," according to Berndt. He added that the tornado had just passed through Albin, and it was an eerie sight. Then people began emerging from their homes and were shocked by the sight. The town was in a state of recovery, and people were working together to get the town back on its feet. Albin was hit hard, and the people of Albin were determined to rebuild.