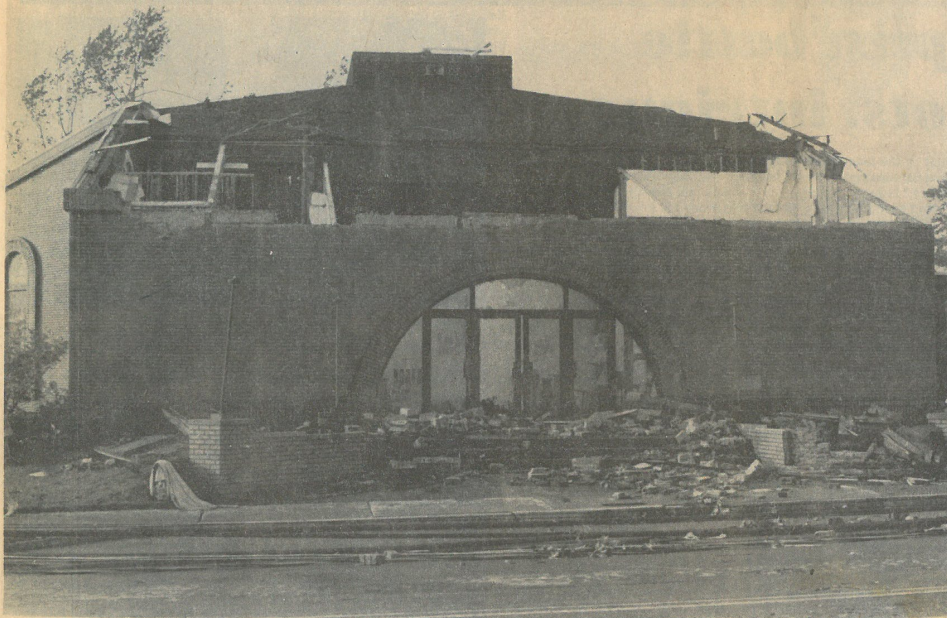


# NEWS



## St. Lawrence Catholic Church ripped open by tornado

This is how the St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Albion looked after a tornado swept through Friday afternoon. The church was just over 10 years old.

## DEATH FROM SKY

(Continued from Page 1A)

Atlantic, a village 12 miles southwest of Meadville inhabited largely by Amish families, was hit the hardest. The tornado cut a path of devastation more than a half mile wide from Adamsville, a mile away, as it made its way through Atlantic, picking up and touching down across the county.

At least five people were reported killed in Atlantic, where the only structure left standing, the Atlantic Congregational Church, was serving as a temporary morgue to handle the dead. The church was also serving as the command post for rescue efforts.

Authorities said the death toll in Atlantic could reach at least 10 as rescuers are looking for five more persons.

One woman was killed at the Linesville campsite in Pymatuning State Park when she was crushed beneath the travel trailer where she was staying. Five other people were injured at the campgrounds.

Between three and four dozen ambulances from Pennsylvania and Ohio were in Atlantic, taking the injured to hospitals in Meadville, Greenville and Erie.

The tornado leveled houses, and tossed trailers and automobiles around like tinkler toys. The contents of the homes and trailers could be seen spread along the roadsides, across newly-plowed farmlands and what trees were not uprooted or splintered. Cars, trucks and farm machinery were carried by the tornado.

Spencer Hospital reported receiving 18 injured, admitting six of them. Meadville City Hospital reported handling 41 injured, admitting five.

The fatality from Linesville was taken to City Hospital.

The County Health Department said people using the Albion-Cranesville water system should boil their water first because of possible contamination caused from the destruction.

In southeastern Erie County, the tornado first touched down at 5:55 p.m. Friday at the Sill Potato Farm in Beaver Dam, and then tore through a section near Corry, de-

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 Ronald Bem family, and the house of the Joe Packo family across the road.

Joe and Jeanna Packo were taken to Union City Hospital in good condition after their house was blown off its foundation and deposited several hundred feet into the back yard.

Also destroyed in the Union City area were the homes and barns of the Richard Fennell and Lysle Bisbee families on Fennell Road.

Emergency workers, including volunteer firemen and Red Cross workers, were on the scene in both Corry and Union City soon after the tornado struck.

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

The tornado touched down on Main Street in Albion 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 Albion'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 Bernie, when he yelled, 'That's a tornado,'" said Pete Stebnisky, 240 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 it hit. I got pushed under the cellar steps and that saved me. My wife and Bernie were under the kitchen, and the floor saved them because the rest of the floors buckled 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, is dead."

Stebnisky, 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.

With them was Bernard Engles, who said he recognized the noise as a tornado because he has seen them be-

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

Her daughter, Janet Grover, was in Erie when the twister struck, but the rest of the Grover family was reportedly at their First Avenue home and were still unaccounted for early this morning.

Mrs. Raymond said, "Their 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 Albion, state police, Albion police, west county fire police, and Erie County sheriff's deputies moved in to cordon off the area of destruction early Friday night.

Mayor Dahlin said she requested the National Guard but was told it would be 12 to 14 hours before the guard could mobilize and report to Albion.

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 Martinucci, 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 seen nothing in my career that I can equate with this. It's like a bomb went off."

Martinucci said he will contact Harrisburg to have a state catastrophe unit sent to Erie.

"We want to do everything possible for these people," Martinucci said. "We can get them temporary homes, send trailers up here, anything."

In Cranesville, the emergency medical center was set up at the fire hall on Route 18.

Cranesville Fire Chief "Frosty" Crane said at least 13 people were taken from Cranesville to Erie hospi-

we're all still alive."

A state trooper standing guard on the dirt road leading to the trailer park blinked back tears 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 protruding from the heap.

Some of the trailers were carried over a ravine to the north of the park and their contents deposited into a gully. Clothing and other objects were strewn in the trees that remained standing.

Crawford County Commissioner Gene Rumsey said buses from county school districts and the county's public transit system were brought in to shuttle the homeless from Atlantic to emergency shelters at Meadville Junior High School and St. Brigid's Roman Catholic Church, both in Meadville.

Temporary shelters were set up in Adamsville and Linesville.

Greenville Fire Chief Hugh Shields, who lives in Atlantic, was getting ready to leave for work about 5:35 p.m. when the tornado hit.

"I started to get in my car when I saw it coming, and laid down on the ground," said 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 Shield's home was left standing.

Norm Courtney of Greenville said his aunt and uncle, Frank and Wanda Talbot, whose home down the road from Shield's was leveled, were among the victims. He said he didn't know the fate of his cousin's son and wife from Oklahoma, who were visiting the Talbots.

Hartstown Fire Chief Dick Reaugh

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1520 WEST 26TH



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In the Union City area, at least four homes and barns were destroyed, and two people were taken to Union City Hospital.

Neither Corry nor Union City were directly hit. Most of the damage was concentrated in the countryside outside the municipalities.

By nightfall in Corry, 15 people had been treated for storm-related injuries at Corry Memorial Hospital.

Patricia Bromley, 35, R.D. 3 Donation Road, was the most seriously hurt. She underwent surgery at the hospital, and was transported to Hamot Medical Center in Erie, where she remained in critical condition early Saturday.

Also transported was Maude Nielson, no address given, in serious condition.

Three other Corry-area residents were admitted to the Corry hospital, said hospital president Raymond A. Graeca.

Most of the damage in the Union City area was on Route 8 about three miles north of the borough, and on Fennell Road.

A spokesman for the Pennsylvania State Police Corry Barracks said the tornado travelled from Beaver Dam in a northeasterly direction, and that most damage was concentrated on Proctor, Donation and Turnpike Roads, as well as Route 426 north of the city.

to be a mile long and passed through the center of Albion'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 Bernie, when he yelled, 'That's a tornado,'" said Pete Stebnisky, 240 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 it hit. I got pushed under the cellar steps and that saved me. My wife and Bernie were under the kitchen, and the floor saved them because the rest of the floors buckled 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, is dead."

Stebnisky, 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.

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

"My Jeep was parked in front of Pete's house," he said. "We found it about 100 yards away. I just can't believe what the power or nature can do."

Stebnisky said, "If it wasn't for Bernie's warning, we would be dead. I've been to war in Korea, I've been shot at, but nothing ever prepares you for something like this. I've lost everything, everything."

Carl Stebnisky said he was working in Erie when the twister struck. He said his wife and young son narrowly escaped the tornado.

"My trailer is gone. We had all new furniture, none of it was insured. But we're all alive, thank God."

His wife said she had just driven to her father-in-law's house with her young son when she saw the storm heading directly for her car.

"It looked like smoke or heavy rain," she said. "I just put the car in reverse and started backing away from it until it veered off away from us."

The Stebniskys and Engles said they didn't know where they would go or what they would do.

"All we've got is the clothes we're wearing," Pete Stebnisky said.

He said he moved to Albion 32 years ago and bought his house two years later. When asked if his home was insured, he said, "Geez, I hope so."

Albion.

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

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In Cranesville, the emergency medical center was set up at the fire hall on Route 18.

Cranesville Fire Chief "Frosty" Crane said at least 13 people were taken from Cranesville to Erie hospitals after the tornado touched down in Kennedy's Trailer Park, just off Route 18. "There's nothing left there," Crane said of the trailer park. "Every one was leveled."

Crane, who owns Albion Truck Repair in Albion, said, "I was working in the garage and I got out just in time. It chased me down the street. I'm out of business. It's gone."

A woman in the fire hall held her hand to her face and cried, "My home is nothing but splinters."

Cranesville residents walked about the fire hall asking whomever they saw if they knew what had happened to their relatives. Most appeared numb by the shock of losing their mobile homes and all of their possessions.

Firemen said they held tarps above the injured while rescue workers treated them before the ambulances from Erie, Millcreek and elsewhere throughout the county arrived on the scene.

Jim Lehan, who owns a home across Route 18 from the trailer park, said he and his family escaped into their basement moments before the tornado swept through Cranesville.

"I've been here since 1958," he said while using a chain saw to clear uprooted trees from his property. "And I've never seen anything like this before. At least my house is still standing. They weren't as lucky in the trailer park. The best part is that

Roman Catholic Church, down in Meadville.

Temporary shelters were set up in Adamsville and Linesville.

Greenville Fire Chief Hugh Shields, who lives in Atlantic, was getting ready to leave for work about 5:35 p.m. when the tornado hit.

"I started to get in my car when I saw it coming, and laid down on the ground," said 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 Shield's home was left standing.

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Hartstown Fire Chief Dick Reaugh

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Saturday, June 1, 1985 5-A





## One side of home removed

The tornado that ripped through Albion totally removed the 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 fatalities were from the Pinedale Trailer Court, next to the Talbots. All 12 mobile homes in the park were ripped apart by the storm, with the frames of seven of them piled in front of where the Talbot home stood.

George Buszinski of Gibsonia, Pa. was camping at Linesville 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.

Buszinski's other son ran to the lake, suffering injuries to his eye when struck by flying debris. Buszinski'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," Buszinski said.

Among the many dead in the tristate area, the identities of these victims were released early Saturday:

In Venango County: Phyllis Deeter, unknown age, RD 1, Ulica; Paul James Bergin, 13, RD 3, Franklin; Brock Best, Judy Best, Charles Best, of unknown ages, all of Cherrytree, Pa.; and Beverly Westfall, unknown age, of Cherrytree.

According to Venango County Coroner Ed Gabrys, "We haven't 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 Limestone 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 houses, mobile homes and a restaurant were destroyed, the

spokesman said.

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

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

Vanderpool said several people were injured in Forest County, some serious. 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 injured 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 Spokeswoman Rosemary Greenfield said the hospital had six confirmed dead, and Larry Peterson 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 persons.

State Police Cpl. Phillip Criado said they could only confirm the death of one person near the village of Hannaville, and three others from the McCormick Trailer Park in Cherrytree.

Worst hit by the tornadoes were rural areas near the Borough of Cooperstown and Village of Bradletown in north-central Venango County, and the Village of Cherrytree, in northeastern Venango County near the intersection of Routes 8 and 417.

Please turn to Page 3B



AP Laserphoto

S — Second-seeded Chris Evert Lloyd makes return Friday's French Open match. Lloyd ousted Angeliki Poulou of Greece 6-3, 7-5.

## in French battle

ssett edged qualifier G of West Germany 7-5, 6-4, a 21-year-old left-hander, the tall, slow-moving on the start and never al-Ecuadorian to settle into of his baseline game, re suited to the red clay arros Stadium. umph over Clerc left the ican in a state of anguish ure. naking a comeback after of the top 10 world rank-ar. But he said a line call stage of the match had adow over his career. s one point away from

knotting the final set at 6-6 when he smashed a shot towards the sideline. The ball was called in, but Clerc thought it was out and protested strongly.

The referee stood by the linesman's decision before Noah asked to replay the point. Clerc, still upset over the call, didn't win another point in the match.

McEnroe could possibly meet Swedes in his next three matches as he attempts to reach the final here for the second straight year. If the seedings prove correct, McEnroe would play Sundstrom, Nystrom and Wilander to gain the championship match.

## er drivers escape injury

KEE, Wis. (AP) — Several drivers, including Indianapolis 500 Pancho Carter, escaped injury in a series of crashes Friday during practice for the Miller American 200.

ing up to 50 mph caused problems as the Indy cars worked on oval at Wisconsin State Fairgrounds Park, where Sunday's 200-ll be run.

un his March racer in turn two and was struck by the Lola of Jim Scotland. Both cars were badly damaged.

ho retired from the Indy 500 last Sunday after only six laps in oil pump problem, moved to his backup car, another March. d, who had only one car at the track, was forced to withdraw.

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

ngton and Steve Chassey tangled in turn one later in the session. rivers walked away without injury.

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

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



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# Death from the sky

Continued from Page 5A

Venango County Commissioners announced they would meet at 8 a.m. Saturday to assess the damage and to determine whether to declare the county a disaster area.

A spider-web of rural, dirt roads spirals out of the Cooperstown-Bradleytown area, and rescue workers had great difficulty in finding all the locations where tornadoes touched, down destroying homes and causing injuries.

Rescue efforts were further hampered by downed trees that blocked many of those roads.

Dozens of area residents were cutting apart trees with chainsaws and dragging them out of the way as the first rescue units began arriving. All available PennDOT equipment and crews were pressed into service. Using highlifts and dump trucks, PennDOT crews plowed their way through the debris, clearing the roadway for ambulances and other rescue equipment.

Rescue workers were further hampered by sightseers, many of whom had friends or relatives in the worst-hit areas, who clogged highways entering the damage areas.

At 8:45 p.m. Cooperstown Firefighters were organizing teams to fan out from the borough, covering every road and private lane to ensure that every destroyed home had been found and all the injured, trapped and displaced were rescued.

At 9:45 p.m., emergency workers were continuing to receive unconfirmed reports that persons remained to be rescued in rural areas.

"It could have had a roadmap," said Cooperstown Firefighter Richard Braden. He explained the tornadoes seemed to follow along several rural roadways, touching down at widely separated locations — destroying homes, barns and garages along the Cooperstown-Bradleytown Road, Creek Road, Sugarlake Road, Mitchell Road, Sunville Road and others.

Braden assisted in the rescue of the Wilson family. Eleven members of the family were trapped in the debris when their mobile home was directly struck by the tornado.

Emergency shelters were established at the Cooperstown, Rocky Grove and Oakland fire halls, Cooperstown Elementary School and Polk Center. The shelters were staffed by fire department auxiliaries, Red Cross workers and other volunteers.

Franklin Regional Medical Center, Oil City Area Health Center and Titusville Hospital in southeastern Crawford County implemented disaster plans, going to full emergency status, calling off-duty physicians, nurses and other personnel.

As many as 50 injured were taken to Franklin Regional Medical Center, Greenfield said, and a large number

of injured were also taken to Oil City Area Health Center and Titusville Hospital.

Oil City Area Health Center's Peterson said that as of 10:30 p.m. Friday 20 persons had been treated and 14 of those admitted. Jane McNierney of Titusville Hospital said shortly before 10 p.m. seven patients had been admitted, but she did not know the total number treated.

Some of the injured were being transferred to hospitals in Pittsburgh and Greenville. At least two of those transferred to Pittsburgh Hospitals were described by a Venango County Emergency Management spokesman as in "very bad shape."

Emergency equipment from as far away as Clarion and Butler was brought in to assist in Venango and Crawford counties, as local facilities were quickly overwhelmed by the magnitude of the devastation. Hundreds of persons were directly involved in the rescue effort and hundreds of others in support roles.

East central and south central Ashabula County were hard hit by tornadoes Friday night, and more than 24 homes were leveled by the storm, according to Trooper Jerry Dufour of the Ohio Highway Patrol.

Only minor injuries were reported, Dufour said, but emergency workers were busy setting up emergency shelters for the homeless.

The city of Ashabula escaped the brunt of the storm.

In the Franklin area, tornadoes reportedly touched down in Dempseytown and Cooperstown.

"They've got everything out there," a police dispatcher at Franklin Police headquarters said.

High winds and rain plagued the Warren area Friday night, causing flooding conditions, electrical outages and downed tree limbs. No serious injuries were reported.

Fire officials in Corry said the Baker Hill and Carter Hill areas on either side of Corry sustained heavy damage.

According to Trooper Harold Eberhardt of the State Police barracks in Corry, "There are places that just aren't there anymore."

He said at least one tornado touched down north of Corry, leveling homes and barns.

A tornado also touched down in the Titusville, Ridgway, Franklin, Meadville areas.

Hardest hit were the villages of Atlantic, Dempseytown, Lamont, Linesville, Hannaville, Jamestown and Greenwood Township.

The Jamestown Campground sustained severe damage, and Atlantic reportedly was destroyed.

The homeless and injured gathered at various volunteer fire departments throughout the area, and several people were taken to the Thiel College gymnasium.

According to fire officials, several homes along Route 8 near Union City were destroyed by the storm and 20 to 30 homes were leveled near Corry.

Controllers at the tower of Erie International Airport said commercial power was severed at the tower Friday for 40 minutes. Standby power was used until electricity was restored.

Motorists encountered trouble on I-79 and surrounding roads as the tornadoes touched down.

Tom Milliren, 8510 East Lake Road, and his family were traveling north on I-79 when the tornado struck just ahead of them.

"We saw this big, black funnel cloud ahead of us and it touched down," Milliren said. "Power wires were down on the northbound lanes of 79 and we saw a power pole all twisted up."

"We just drove across some of those wires. Everybody up ahead of us hit their brakes, but we all kept on going. Near Meadville, there was hail as big as golf balls on the road."

"We saw people running around and there were trees that were just mangled."

In New York, emergency shelters were set up throughout southern and western Chautauqua County.

Panama, Clymer, Kiantone, Freshburg, Busti and Falconer, N.Y., were hard hit. Lt. James Schnars of the Jamestown Police Department said there were pieces of plywood falling in the streets of Jamestown.

"Some of the plywood might have

were reported.

Trooper David Killion of the State Police barracks in Falconer said he saw a tornado touch down near the barracks in the Town of Poland.

"A mobile home was destroyed and barns were leveled," Killion said.

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

Looting became a problem in at least one area hit by the tornado Friday night, and area police agencies

called in extra patrols to prevent break-ins and looting.

State Police in Kane said people were looting in the Kane area early Saturday.

One woman was killed Friday when a tornado touched down on Route 318 in Lackawanna Township, Mercer County, State Police said.

Killed was Marion Barnes, 65, RD 1 Mercer.

Police said she and her husband, William, 67, were found in the basement of their neighbor's home on Route 318. Their mobile home was destroyed by the tornado.

According to police, a tree fell onto the house and pinned Mrs. Barnes in the basement.

William Barnes was undergoing treatment at Shenango Valley Hospital. The owners of the house where the Barnes' fled are Keith and Holly Fulford. Both were injured.

The following reporters and photographers covered the tornado story for the *Weekender*:

JEFF PINSKI  
BILL MCKINNEY  
JOHN GUERRIERO  
ROY SENECA  
ROBIN DILE  
JOE MATTIS  
KEN ZIEGLER  
PAUL JENKINS  
GREG CHIMENTI  
PAT CUNEO  
JERRY TRAMBLEY  
MARY BENSON  
BRIAN KINAL  
JACK GRAZIER  
GARY WESMAN  
JOHN BARTLETT  
PAUL GILKES  
JIM CARROLL

## Twister shocks Albion

Albion looked as if "a big vacuum cleaner had sucked it up and threw it back down," according to Robert Beck of Edinboro, who witnessed the tornado from a rise overlooking the downtown on Route 18.

Beck, on his way home from work at Al-Chem Wood Products Co. in Springboro, stopped his truck on the outskirts of Albion when he saw the twister about to descend on the town.

"I noticed there was a gray funnel that came down. It all happened in 10 or 15 seconds," Beck said. "It took only a couple of minutes and it was all the way through town. It sounded like a big train wreck — things exploding."

He estimated the tornado was "a couple of thousand feet" from top to

bottom, narrowing dramatically for the last hundred feet to the ground.

After it passed through Albion, there was an eerie lull. Then people began emerging from their homes in shock, Beck recalled.

"Power lines were down. Trees were down. Gas was leaking out. People were running around looking for relatives in the wreckage and a few people were cut up pretty badly," Beck said.

The air was filled by "a swirling pattern of debris" some 300 to 400 feet in the air, he said.

"Right at the spot where the tornado had touched down, it looked like someone had stepped on the homes," he said.

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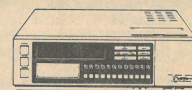
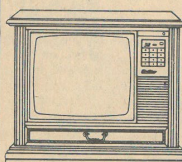
I believe one statement is true: "If a person is gay, no amount of therapy or motivation can change him."

My own study of bisexual or homosexual husbands (to be published soon) is the only study of married gays with a six-year follow-up. Not one of the married men in our sample, despite years of "normal" married sex, has overcome the desire to be with men.

If you have information with which I am not familiar, I would like to see it. If not, please eliminate that question, as it encourages homosexuals to seek useless therapy from counselors who have not carefully reviewed the research, and perhaps because of their own homophobia, or just from ignorance, try to "help" the homosexual. The effect is (besides loss of time and money) to delay accepting (hopefully affirming) a gay identity. — DAVID MATTESON, Ph.D.

DEAR DR. MATTESON: You are correct. The statement is the only

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