

Interviews conducted by the Huntsville Times

Interviewee: Kevin Davis:

I remember it being rather warm that day. Late in the work day, heavy rain began to fall on the metal roof of our building. Our office was located on Leeman Ferry Road between Drake Avenue and Airport Road, just behind Joe Davis Stadium. It was raining so hard against the metal roof that we couldn't hear one another talk. My supervisor walked toward the front of the building to see how hard it was coming down when all of the sudden the rain came to an immediate halt. At that very moment I recalled someone once telling me, "If it's raining hard and all of the sudden it stops, look out because there's going to be a tornado." No sooner than that thought left my mind, the rain began to fall again.

Just seconds later, the power went out and my supervisor yelled, "Guys, we have a twister on the ground!" I ran toward the front of the building and stepped outside. Looking south down Leeman Ferry Road, I saw a huge dark mass settle to the ground. It wasn't a tornado like you see on TV – curved cone with a tail touching the ground. It was massive and had a wide base that stretched from the ground up toward the sky...a sight I'll never forget.

It appeared to touch down where Leeman Ferry meets Airport Road. As we watched for a second almost in shock I said, "It doesn't look like its moving." My supervisor answered, "That means one of two things. It's coming directly at us or its going away from us." At one point we made the decision to get in the company van and drive west toward the arsenal. I sat in the back of the van feeling helpless because I couldn't locate the tornado through the driving rain. The thought that at any minute the tornado could hit us was terrifying. Luckily we escaped unharmed. Once it was all over, I remember the sky had a strangely pinkish color to it, and snow began to fall.