PLAINVIEW, TEXAS TORNADO

APRIL 15, 1973

Plainview Residents Sift Through Twister’s Debris

*SEARCHING THROUGH THE RUINS* — Plainview residents, reacting to a killer tornado which struck early Sunday morning before dawn, began looking through the ruins of their homes, picking up the pieces to begin over again. The hardest-hit areas were north and west Plainview.
PREFACE

The NOAA Natural Disaster Survey Team that investigated the Plainview, Texas Tornado of Sunday, April 15, 1973 consisted of Jack A. Riley, Chief, Meteorological Services Division and Harold S. McCrabb, Service Operations Evaluation Meteorologist, of the National Weather Service Southern Region. The team travelled by automobile to Lubbock, Texas on Tuesday morning, April 17, 1973 and discussed the tornado event with Young T. Sloan, MIC, and Lewis C. Norton, PA, and other members of the Lubbock WSFO staff.

That afternoon the team accompanied MIC Sloan to Plainview and attended church funeral services for Mr. David C. Bryant, volunteer storm spotter, who was fatally injured by the tornado. A prearranged meeting with Mr. John D. Ballew, director of public safety and head of the city's civil defense program, was then held at the Plainview's Emergency Operating Center in the basement of the City Hall. The tornado, its path, and the storm's impact were discussed with Mr. Ballew. A tour was taken of the Emergency Operations Center, and its operation during the early morning hours of Sunday, April 15, 1973 when the tornado struck the western and northern portions of Plainview was described. Then, after a visit to the Plainview Daily Herald, a tour was taken of the tornado damage area. Late that afternoon a return trip was made to Lubbock; and at the WSFO, findings and recommendations were discussed; and plans were made to accomplish this report.

The survey team is indebted to many people for their contributions to this report. A special word of thanks is extended to the National Weather Service staff at WSFO, Lubbock for their cooperation and assistance.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tornadoes are no stranger to the inhabitants of Hale County in Northwest Texas; and NOAA's National Weather Service forecasts, warnings, statements, and radar information are given widespread dissemination by all of the mass news disseminators. The public in this area appreciates and expects this service as an aid in their planning and seeking shelter against severe storms. In the last twenty years there have been approximately twenty tornadoes. Plainview, the county seat of Hale County, was struck by a tornado three years ago on April 17, 1970, causing extensive damage through the middle of town. It was not unusual, therefore, that shortly after 3 a.m. CST on Sunday, April 15, 1973, the Plainview police dispatcher monitoring the West Texas NOAA Weather Wire Service (NWWS) called the director of public safety and head of the city's civil defense program about reports of severe weather, and warning and watches issued by the National Weather Service. The highly efficient and excellently communication equipped Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was quickly activated and deployed its storm spotters about the city. Spotter reports to the EOC caused the tornado sirens to be sounded between 3:55 a.m. and 4:10 a.m. CST. One of these reports was from Mr. David Bryant, 30-year old news editor of the local newspaper, active member and former president of the Radio Emergency Associated Citizens Team (REACT) organization, an important part of the storm spotter network for Plainview. Mr. Bryant had assumed his spotter post and reported into the EOC by Citizens Band Radio as his car was being lifted by the tornado moments before he was killed as his vehicle was smashed into a field off the highway. A child, age 2, was also killed as he was being carried by his father to a shelter. The tornado struck two affluent residential areas on the west and northwest sides of town.

Findings

1. Advanced preparedness planning for alerting public safety officials and news media to the development of severe local storms and tornadoes proved very effective. The Plainview Emergency Operations Center was activated promptly, storm spotters were quickly deployed, and sirens were sounded as reports of tornadoes were radioed to the Emergency Operations Center by the spotters.

2. NSSFC issued Tornado Watch Bulletin Number 118, and the NOAA Weather Wire State Relay Center in Fort Worth appended a redefining statement specifically listing Hale County and transmitted them on the NWWS an hour in advance of the Plainview Tornado.

3. The operation of NOAA's National Weather Service was effective in warning the public safety officials and the public and keeping them informed of impending severe weather because the responsible National Weather Service Offices had the means - radar, excellent communications, and action plans - and the professional competence to act promptly and responsibly recognizing a developing hazardous situation. The staffs exercised skill and judgment in their warnings and statements. Although there were no Tornado
Warnings issued because of no tornado reports nor signature radar echoes, a Severe Thunderstorm Warning for Hale County was issued 45 minutes prior to the tornado, and an update warning issued 15 minutes later restated that Hale County continued under a Tornado Watch. The radar summaries and statements issued by WSFO, Lubbock and also by the WSR-57 radar offices, WSO, Amarillo and WSO, Midland were also very timely and informative. All of these releases were issued on NOAA Weather Wire.

4. NOAA Weather Wire Service (NWWS) provided timely hard copy of watches, warnings, radar summaries, and informative statements issued by NOAA's National Weather Service Offices to the Plainview Emergency Operations Center and also to nighttime radio stations in Amarillo and Lubbock. Radio Station KVOP in Plainview which closed at midnight, reopened at 3:55 a.m. CST and broadcast the watches, warnings, and statements received on NWWS.

5. The Plainview Emergency Operations Center is one of the best equipped and organized units in the nation for a city the size of Plainview.

6. Probably for the first time in history a storm spotter was killed by a tornado as he manned his post.

7. Both of the deaths from the tornado occurred outdoors. Experience shows that flying or falling debris is one of the biggest killers resulting from tornadoes. The Plainview director of public safety and head of the city's civil defense program questions the wisdom of sounding sirens which caused some people to go outside. The solution to this problem, however, is better information about seeking protection. Numerous reports indicate last minute actions to go to a basement or dive under the protection of a bed or table saved many lives and reduced the number of injuries. The great benefit of taking protection, even at the last moment, under sturdy cover is often overlooked or minimized.

Recommendations

1. NOAA's National Weather Service should continue to vigorously support and assist in preparing community preparedness plans.

2. In preparedness meetings the danger of going outdoors in advance or during a storm should be emphasized and the value of seeking last minute cover under sturdy protection, inside if the storm is hitting, should be given prominent attention.

3. NOAA's National Weather Service should continue to encourage additional news media to participate in the NOAA Weather Wire Service.

4. Whenever feasible, storm spotters should be stationed in a protected area.
CHAPTER I.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAINVIEW TORNADO AND ITS IMPACT

Plainview, Texas with a population of about 20,000 people is located on the high plains of northwestern Texas in Hale County, about 40 miles north of Lubbock and 60 miles south of Amarillo. The city is located on level, fertile, sandy loam soil. Hale County is among the leading counties in total farm income, crop income, production of cotton, soybeans, grain, sorghums and irrigation. There is also extensive cattle feeding. Plainview is the county seat with numerous agribusinesses, including large meat packing plant, tannery, pork producers, and irrigation equipment manufacturers.

This area of Texas is tornado experienced. For the period 1951-1971, Hale County has received over 20 tornadoes. On April 17, 1970, almost three years to the date of this tornado, a tornado struck through the middle of Plainview causing extensive damage to at least 121 blocks, mainly to businesses and a low valued residential area on the northeast side of Plainview. The damage was estimated about $5 million. A NOAA Disaster Survey Team from the National Weather Service Southern Region investigated that storm and talked to Mr. David Bryant of the Plainview Daily Herald who was a storm spotter also at that time and who was killed in this 1973 tornado.

The tornado of Sunday, April 15, 1973 struck Plainview at 4:15 a.m. CST and left 2 persons dead, 21 injured, and about $1.5 million damage — mostly to homes. This damage estimate was made by Mr. Walter Dodson, Tax Assessor. Some estimates were as high as $4 million. In addition to Mr. Bryant, age 30, who was killed in his car as he manned his spotter post, was Kevin Lewellen, age 2, killed as he was struck on the head by falling bricks as his father carried him between two houses, on the way to a shelter. The dead infant's mother received a broken shoulder.

A survey team from Texas Tech University's Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering (CME) made an aerial survey of the tornado's path and determined it probably was on the ground for 8 miles. The first four to four and a half miles were over nothing but plowed fields. The tornado then struck the western and northern edges of Plainview for another two to three miles, heading back into the clouds about 2 miles north of town after hitting Jimmy Dean's Sausage Plant north of town. The path was from 220 degrees and averaged about 600 feet wide. Radar indicated the tornado moved about 35 mph. On the Fujita-Pearson Tornado Scale, FPP, the storm is classed as 323: F3(158-206 mph), P2(3.2-9.9 miles long), P3(176-556 yards wide).

The main destruction was to two areas of homes, Westridge and Edgemere, the more expensive residential sections of Plainview. Most of these homes are of brick veneer valued at $30-80 thousand in Westridge and $20-30 thousand in Edgemere. About 40 of these homes were destroyed or heavily damaged. Most of the major damage was from loss of roof structures, but many walls also were
in shambles. Some of the homes were of two stories, and some of them had basements. Entire roof sections ripped off and crashed into other homes. There was an account of a board 10 inches by 6 inches and about 18 feet long piercing an exterior wall in a home going through the brick and wood-stud wall and continuing on through the headboard of the resident's bed before becoming embedded in the dresser in the room. The residents were on their way for shelter when the tornado hit.

The storm likely will not be declared a public disaster, since most losses are private. The only public facility receiving damages was the city's Canadian River water treatment plant with losses estimated between $10,000 and $20,000. The Jimmy Dean Packing Company suffered about $500,000 in damages to the main structure. Demolished were a Ryder truck maintenance warehouse and Hancock Laboratories, both located on the Jimmy Dean property.
CHAPTER II.

SUMMARY OF WARNING SERVICES

On Saturday afternoon and evening of April 14, 1973, several severe weather watches and warnings were issued for portions of Northwest Texas as tornadoes and other severe storms prowled the area. At 5:30 p.m. CST, a tornado touched down at Washburn, just east of Amarillo, and was accompanied by 1 to 3 inch diameter hail, causing $30,000 damage and injury to 3 persons. By midnight, however, storm activity had mostly dissipated or was moving into Oklahoma.

Shortly after 2 a.m. CST, thunderstorms were detected in southeastern New Mexico and adjacent Texas areas. At 2:15 a.m. CST, WSO, Midland called WSFO, Lubbock with information that the WSR-57 Radar indicated rapidly developing thunderstorms in the Brownfield-Seminole area. After turning on its WSR-1 local use radar, WSFO, Lubbock issued a Severe Thunderstorm Warning at 2:30 a.m. CST, valid until 4:00 a.m. CST for Yoakum and Gaines counties, based on radar indications. At 2:50 a.m. CST, WSFO, Lubbock issued a Severe Thunderstorm Warning for persons in Yoakum, Gaines, Terry and Hockley counties, valid until 4:00 a.m. CST. A line of severe thunderstorms was indicated by radar 10 miles south of Littlefield to 20 miles north of Seminole. The thunderstorms were moving eastward 40 mph. Hockley County adjoins Hale County in which Plainview is located on the southwest. Littlefield is about 40 miles southwest of Plainview. From 2:15 a.m. CST to 3:10 a.m. CST, WSO, Midland issued several warnings for its county warning area, south of the Lubbock area.

At 3:10 a.m. CST, TORNADO WATCH NUMBER 118 was issued for a large portion of western Texas, effective from 4:00 a.m. CST until 10:00 a.m. CST. Appended to the watch by the NOAA Weather Wire State Relay Center at WSFO, Fort Worth was the areal outline which specifically listed Hale County.

At 3:30 a.m. CST, a Severe Thunderstorm Warning, effective until 4:30 a.m. CST was issued by WSFO, Lubbock specifically for Hale County. A line of severe thunderstorms was indicated by radar from 10 miles southeast to 10 miles east of Littlefield, moving northeastward at 30 mph.

At 3:45 a.m. CST, WSFO, Lubbock issued a Severe Thunderstorm Warning, valid until 6:00 a.m. CST for persons in Lubbock County and extended the warning for Terry, Hockley and Hale counties until 6 a.m. CST. A line of thunderstorms was indicated by radar from Seagraves to 10 miles west of Plainview at 3:30 a.m. CST. The radar indicated the development of a line echo wave pattern. The line of thunderstorms was moving eastward 10 mph, and individual thunderstorms were moving northeastward 40 mph. The warning also stated that a Tornado Watch was in effect also for these counties.

At 4:15 a.m. CST, WSFO, Lubbock issued a Severe Weather Statement stating that a line of heavy thunderstorms at 4:10 a.m. CST was located from 10 miles north
of Plainview to the western edge of Lubbock to 10 miles north of Brownfield. Several reports of heavy rain and small hail were reported in the western portion of Lubbock, and one report of golf ball size hail was received from the southern edge of Lubbock.

At 4:35 a.m. CST, a TORNADO WARNING was issued by WSFO, Lubbock, effective until 5:15 a.m. CST for persons in the northeastern portion of Hale County. The police in Plainview reported a tornado in Plainview at 4:25 a.m. CST. The time of the Plainview tornado later was determined to have occurred at 4:15 a.m. CST.

The NOAA-Environmental Research Laboratories Tornado Detection Device was in operation during the Plainview tornado. Despite the presence of severe thunderstorms with tops above 40 thousand feet, the tornado detector had not indicated any significant electromagnetic radiation up to 3:45 a.m. CST. By about 4:00 a.m. CST the maximum burst rate for longer range (30 miles) and the lowest burst rate for short range (15 miles) were being indicated. The lights did remain on for approximately 30 minutes. The step up on the initial phase was much more rapid than the step down on the decreasing phase. The recorder trace did show two brief periods when the green light (second lowest burst rate) was lit for short range. This latter feature was not visually observed.

At 3:55 a.m. CST, radar indicated very strong echoes near Carlisle, 10 miles west-southwest of the Lubbock Airport. This area was near the north end of the LEWP pattern. At 4:07 a.m. CST, a strong, almost doughnut-shaped, echo return was noted near the forward end of the LEWP bend pattern. Between 4:10 and 4:15 a.m. CST large hail and fierce wind howl were reported in southwest Lubbock.

At 4:33 a.m. CST the initial report of the Plainview Tornado was received by WSFO, Lubbock from WSO, Amarillo.
TORNADO WATCH NUMBER 118
ISSUED 3:10 AM CST APRIL 15 1973

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAS ISSUED A TORNADO WATCH FOR...
A LARGE PORTION OF WESTERN TEXAS

THE THREAT OF TORNADOES AND SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS WITH LARGE HAIL
AND DAMAGING WINDS WILL EXIST IN THESE AREAS FROM
4 AM CST UNTIL 10 AM CST THIS SUNDAY MORNING.

THE GREATEST THREAT OF TORNADOES AND SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS IS IN
AN AREA ALONG AND 70 MILES...60 NAUTICAL...EITHER SIDE OF A LINE
FROM 60 MILES 50 NAUTICAL WEST OF DEL RIO TEXAS TO 35 MILES 30
NAUTICAL NORTH OF LUBBOCK TEXAS.

PERSONS IN OR CLOSE TO THE TORNADO WATCH AREA ARE ADVISED TO BE ON
THE WATCH FOR LOCAL WEATHER DEVELOPMENTS AND FOR LATER
STATEMENTS AND WARNINGS.

AREAL OUTLINE OF TORNADO WATCH BULLETIN NUMBER 118
FOR...TEXAS...
ISSUED 3:10 AM CST APRIL 15 1973
TORNADO WATCH BULLETIN NUMBER 118 INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING
COUNTIES

NORTHWESTERN TEXAS
ANDREWS  BAILEY  BORDEN  COCHRAN  CROSBY  DAWSON  DICKENS
FLOYD  GAINES  GARZA  (KALE)  HOCKETLY  HOWARD  KENT  LAMB
LUBBOCK  LYNN  MARTIN  MITCHELL  MOTLEY  SCURRY  TERRY
YOAKUM

SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS
BRESTER  COKE  CRANE  CROCKETT  ECTOR  GLASSCOCK  IRION
MIDLAND  PECOS  REAGAN  SCHLEICHER  STERLING  SUTTON
TERRELL  TOM  GREEN  UPTON  WARD  WINKLER

SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS
VAL VERDE
SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING
EASN REQUESTED
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST OFFICE LUBBOCK TEXAS
ISSUED 0230 AM CST APRIL 15 1973
A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING IS IN EFFECT UNTIL 4 AM CST
FOR PERSONS IN YOAKUM AND GAINES COUNTY TEXAS

A LINE OF SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS WAS INDICATED BY RADAR 15 MILES
WEST NORTH WEST OF SEMINOLE TEXAS AT 220 AM CST. THE SEVERE
THUNDERSTORM IS MOVING TOWARD THE NORTH NORTH EAST AT 25 MPH.
SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING
ISSUED 2:30 AM CST APRIL 15 1973
VALID UNTIL 4:00 AM CST
BULLETIN
SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST OFFICE LUBBOCK TEXAS
ISSUED 330 AM CST SUNDAY APRIL 15 1973

A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING IS IN EFFECT TIL 430 AM CST FOR PERSONS IN HALE COUNTY OF TEXAS.
A LINE OF SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS WAS INDICATED BY RADAR FROM 10 SOUTHEAST OF LITTLEFIELD TO 10 EAST OF LITTLEFIELD AT 315 AM CST. THE LINE IS MOVING TOWARD THE NORTHEAST AT 30 MPH.
IF THREATENING CONDITIONS ARE SIGHTED...BE PREPARED TO MOVE TO A PLACE OF SAFETY TO REPORT LARGE HAIL OR DAMAGING WINDS REPORT TO YOUR NEAREST LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR CONTACT THE LUBBOCK NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.
SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING
ISSUED 3:30 AM CST APRIL 15 1973
VALID UNTIL 4:30 AM CST
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ZCZC
WWUS RWRC 150945
#RAW
ZZZZZ

BULLETIN
SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING
IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST OFFICE LUBBOCK TEXAS
ISSUED 345 AM CST SUNDAY APRIL 15 1973

A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING IS IN EFFECT UNTIL 6 AM CST FOR PERSONS IN LUBBOCK COUNTY TEXAS AND EXTENDED FOR TERRY HOCKLEY AND HALE COUNTIES OF TEXAS UNTIL 6 AM CST.

A LINE OF THUNDERSTORMS WAS INDICATED BY RADAR FROM SEAGRAVES TO 10 WEST OF PLAINVIEW AT 330 AM CST. THE LINE OF THUNDERSTORMS IS MOVING TOWARD THE EAST AT 10 MPH THOUGH INDIVIDUAL THUNDERSTORMS ARE MOVING NORTHEASTWARD ABOUT 40 MPH.

A TORNADO WATCH IS ALSO IN EFFECT FOR A LARGE PORTION OF WEST TEXAS INCLUDING THE ABOVE COUNTIES UNTIL 10 AM THIS SUNDAY MORNING.

IF THREATENING CONDITIONS ARE SIGHTED...BE PREPARED TO MOVE TO A PLACE OF SAFETY. TO REPORT LARGE HAIL OR DAMAGING WINDS...ASK THE NEAREST LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TO RELAY YOUR REPORT TO THE NEAREST NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICE.
SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING
ISSUED 3:45 AM CST APRIL 15 1973
VALID UNTIL 6:00 AM CST
TEXAS FORECAST ZONES
(Revised May 16, 1972)

ZONE FORECASTS - WHAT THEY MEAN TO
THE NEWS MEDIA.

Zone Forecasts make it possible for each
broadcaster and publisher to have a
"Hometown and Vicinity" forecast.

The revised Texas Zone Forecast Service is
intended to serve all Texas cities and communi-
ties - not just those where the National Weather
Service has offices. Select the zone in which
your home county is located and use its forecast
as your local forecast.

The typical forecast ZONE includes several counties. Variations in temperature
over such an area usually are no more than those occurring across a metropolitan
area; other weather differences within a zone are usually little different. The
Zones shown in the map on this page are revised as of May 16, 1972 to better meet
the needs of the using public.

May 16, 1972
CHAPTER III.

PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS

The effectiveness of actions following the receipt of severe weather watches and warnings depends on the preparations beforehand. Planning for effective community - and individual - action in severe weather situations is a major concern of NOAA National Weather Service Offices throughout every tornado-prone area of the Nation.

For the seventeen-county warning area of the Lubbock Weather Service Forecast Office, public education in tornado preparedness is a continuing process. The educational process is designed to encourage the organization of Community Warning Centers (where they are not already established), to assure strong cooperative storm reporting networks, and to develop networks where they do not exist, using fully the best available communication facilities. Help and encouragement in community preparedness planning are furnished primarily through periodic and special visits and meetings with the news media, NOAA Weather Wire subscribers, civic and club groups, and public officials. More than a score of such efforts over the three and a half months since the beginning of this year, 1973, have been made by the Lubbock WSFO.

In Plainview, Texas watches and warnings are received and given further distribution by an excellent Defense Civil Preparedness Agency (DCPA) organization from an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the basement of the City Hall. This EOC probably has some of the finest facilities of any community of its size in the Nation. The EOC is a subscriber to the West Texas NOAA Weather Wire Service (NWWS). The NWWS is monitored 24 hours a day by a police dispatcher. Whenever a severe weather watch or severe weather warning is issued for the area or threatening weather is reported, the director of public safety and head of the city’s civil defense program, Mr. John D. Ballew is notified and the EOC is activated. This can be accomplished in a matter of minutes by an alerting service, an FM radio with a tone alert. On a console with an array of push buttons labelled with letters, pushing of "G" and "H" will activate the alerting device to EOC personnel, pushing of "D" and "E" will activate the alerting devices owned by the public, and pushing of "C", "D", "E", and "F" will notify everyone with the device and in addition will sound the sirens. Six sirens are located over the city.

The EOC has transmitter capability on the fire department radio network, police department network, Radio Station KVOP, Cable Television, Citizens Band Radio, etc. When the EOC is activated the storm spotter network is called into action. Primarily the storm spotter network consists of police department personnel, fire department personnel, and a Radio Emergency Associated Citizens Team (REACT) organization. The president of the REACT group is notified by the FM alerting system and he telephones his group of spotters. The REACT spotters are equipped with Citizen
Band radios which feed directly into the EOC. The REACT members have preassigned spotter positions and are very diligent in spotting storms and forwarding reports to the EOC.

On the morning of the tornado the EOC was activated shortly after 3 a.m. CST. Mr. David Bryant, news editor for the Plainview Daily Herald, former president of the Plainview REACT, was killed by the tornado as he took his post as a volunteer storm spotter, part of the REACT group, in Westridge on the western edge of Plainview. Mr. Bryant reported into the EOC by Citizens Band Radio as his car was being lifted by the tornado. Shortly before this report, two police officers on their way back into Plainview from investigating an armed robbery reported the tornado as they saw light transformers popping. They were injured when their vehicle was caught by the storm, about 100 feet south of the spot, Mr. Bryant was struck by the storm. Sirens were sounded sometime between 3:55 a.m. and 4:10 a.m. CST. The siren goes through a cycle when sounded. Mr. Ballew, the DCPA director, states the sirens were interrupted in some areas when the power went off and completed the cycle when the power came back on.
List of Preparedness Actions  
by WSFO, Lubbock, Texas

The following preparedness actions were taken or promoted by WSFO, Lubbock, Texas for the three and a half month period of 1973 up to the day of the April 15, 1973 Plainview Tornado:

January 3, 1973

PA Lewis C. Norton presented a talk at the Lubbock Fireman Training Center on the activities of the National Weather Service in a severe weather situation. This was a part of a training program for city officials, firemen, police, and representatives of the news media.

February 27, 1973

MIC Young T. Sloan made a talk on preparedness to the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary. About 75 pieces of "preparedness literature" were distributed.

March 13, 1973

Weather Service Torando Film shown to Civil Defense group at Amherst, Tex.

March 14, 1973

MIC Young T. Sloan and Leading Forecaster Alan G. Johnson took part in a Civil Defense preparedness meeting at Lubbock EOC for the purpose of coordinating activities of City officials and employees, news media, and the National Weather Service in severe weather situations.

March 24, 1973

Tornado Film shown to Civil Defense group in Floydada, Texas – Mr. Richard Thomas of Plainview.

March 26, 1973

Mr. Thomas showed Tornado Film to Civil Air Patrol group. (Mr. Thomas distributed about 150 pieces of educational-type literature on severe weather).

April 1, 1973

Leading Forecaster Alan Johnson of WSFO, Lubbock, Texas and two members of the Lubbock Storm Club prepared for distribution tornado safety rules tailored for the area. Through the cooperation of Lubbock Civil Defense, these were distributed with City of Lubbock water bills. About 50,000 copies were distributed.
April 5, 1973

Held station meeting to discuss procedures and policies in the upcoming severe weather season. This meeting was attended by all personnel except the forecaster on the midnight shift and one other forecaster who was on emergency leave.

April 9, 1973

PA Lewis C. Norton and Leading Forecaster Carl L. Peabody made talks on severe weather preparedness at Olton, Texas, to a countywide Civil Defense meeting. Trailer tie-down slides were included.

April 10, 1973

Tornado Film to Brownfield scout group.

April 12, 1973

Arrangements were made through Local Storm Club for 3 local TV stations to show National Weather Service Tornado Film.

Severe Storm Drills were conducted at the Weather Service Forecast Office near the end of March. Approximately 28 drills were conducted on an individual basis.
CHAPTER IV.

DISSEMINATION

The primary means of distributing warnings to Plainview, Texas is the West Texas NOAA Weather Wire Service (NWWS), Circuit 30 GT 7. This 75-word per minute circuit is a National Weather Service sponsored circuit for disseminating environmental information to mass news disseminators, government agencies and public safety agencies. Circuit Control is by the State Relay Center at WSFO, Fort Worth. Transmitters on the circuit are WSFO, Fort Worth; WSFE, Lubbock; WSO, Amarillo; WSO, Midland; WSO, El Paso; and WSO, San Angelo. The circuit is commonly known as the West Texas loop, and numerous subscribers in West Texas have receiving equipment on the circuit.

In Amarillo and Lubbock nearly all of the mass news media have drops on NWWS. There are 10 subscribers in Amarillo and 12 subscribers in Lubbock. In Plainview Radio Station KVOP and the City of Plainview Civil Defense are listed as subscribers to NWWS. Radio Station KVOP normally closes from midnight to 5:30 a.m. and all night on Sunday. It will stay on the air or reopen for severe weather. On Saturday night, April 14, 1973, KVOP terminated its broadcasting as usual but was back on the air at 3:55 a.m. CST on Sunday morning, April 15, 1973 after being notified at 3:30 a.m. CST by the Plainview Emergency Operations Center about severe weather. Several residents of Plainview were quoted in the newspaper as hearing the warnings on KVOP after being awakened by the sirens.

The other drop on NWWS in Plainview, the City of Plainview Civil Defense, is monitored twenty-four hours a day by the police dispatcher. Whenever a severe weather watch or warning or threatening weather is reported, the director of public safety and head of the city's civil defense program, Mr. John D. Ballew is notified and the Emergency operations Center (EOC) is activated, as described in Chapter III, Preparedness Actions. On the morning of the tornado the EOC was activated shortly after 3 a.m. CST. Sirens notifying the residents of the tornado were sounded between 3:55 a.m. and 4:10 a.m. CST. Most of the residents were asleep at this time, but many of them did hear the sirens and took protective actions.

Several of the Amarillo and Lubbock radio stations were on all night and can be heard at Plainview, but no one in the tornado damage area reported listening to those stations during the early morning of the tornado.

Tornado Watch Number 118 and the redefining statement listing Hale County, issued at 3:10 a.m. CST and all of the warnings and statements issued by WSFO, Lubbock prior to the occurrence of the tornado at Plainview were given immediate transmission on the West Texas NWWS. WSFO, Lubbock also distributed the warnings on NAWAS and RAMARC. Plainview, however, is not a NAWAS Warning Point and receives the warnings relayed to them on the police network. This system serves only as a backup, however, since the Plainview police and EOC have a drop on NWWS.
The NWWS line began "running open" at 4:15 a.m. CST in the Lubbock WSFO. The trouble was quickly ascertained to be local, and the Lubbock WSFO was taken off the circuit to permit continuing operation at all other locations. This outage had no effect on warnings, watches, forecasts, nor statements issued prior to the Plainview Tornado but caused several later releases from the Lubbock WSFO not to be transmitted on the West Texas NWWS. The early morning local Lubbock forecast and zone forecasts prepared by WSFO, Lubbock were sent delayed. Tornado Watch Number 119 for portions of Northwest Texas and western Oklahoma issued at 5:05 a.m. CST, valid 5:15 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. CST, along with the areal redefining statement, was sent on the West Texas NWWS by WSFO, Fort Worth without delay.
NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE
West Texas 30 GT 7
MND and Other Users
Effective 3-15-73

Amarillo
Amarillo Globe News
KVII - TV
KDJW Radio
PIONEER NATURAL GAS
S.W. PUBLIC SERVICE
KPUR
KGNR TV
KZMP
KFDA TV
KIXZ

El Paso
KROD
KELP

Hereford
KPAN

Lamesa
KPET

Levelland
KLVT

Big Spring
KBST
Texas Electric Service Co.
KBVG
City of Big Springs Police Dept.

Lubbock
Lubbock City Hall
Pioneer Natural Gas
KCBD
KFYO
KDAG
KLLL
Lubbock Avalanche Journal
KLBK (Grayson Enterprise)
KSEL
KLFB
KWGO
KEND

Brownfield
KKUB
City of Brownfield Civil Defense

Muleshoe
KMUL

Childress
KCTX

Colorado City
KVMG

Dalhart
KXIT

Dimmitt
KDHN

Dumas
KDDO

Farwell
KZOL

Floydada
KFLD

Midland
KCRS

Monahans
KMDM

Odessa
Texas Electric Service
KOSA - TV
City of Odessa

Pampa
KGRO
KPAN

Plainview
KVOP
City of Plainview Civil Defense
Post
KPOS

Reels
KCLR

San Angelo
KPEP
U. S. Dept of Interior
KGKL
KWLW
KCTV
Texas Cablevision
KSJT
KTEO

Shamrock
KBYP

Slaton
KCAS

Snyder
KSNY

Seminola
KIKZ

Terminal
KMID - TV

Tulia
KTUE
WEST TEXAS SCHEDULE - NOAA WEATHER WIRE
Effective October 29, 1972

- All Circuits Tied
& N & W Circuits Tied

AM CST

- 2:30 National Weather Summary and Additional Details for the 5 South Central States
- 2:40 Fall Out Wind Forecast
- 3:25 Foreign Temperature and Weather Tables
- 4:10 Climat Summary: Amarillo, Lubbock, Midland, San Angelo, El Paso
- 4:26 Tropical Weather Outlook (June - November)
- 4:30 State Forecasts: Texas and Coastal Waters (SAT, LBB, & FTWC)
- 4:40 Zone Forecasts: Zones 4, 12, 13, 15 (plus any combinations necessary) (LBB)
- 5:06 Texas Weather Summary (HOU)
- 5:10 Local Forecasts in Sequence: San Angelo, Amarillo, Midland, Lubbock
- 5:20 Zone Forecasts: (LBB) (FTWC will also relay Zones 24, 25, 30, & 34)
- 5:35 Agricultural Chemical Application Advisory (Seasonal)
- 5:40 Weather Roundup (LBB and FTWC)
& 5:48 State Forecast: Oklahoma
& 6:10 State Forecasts: Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico
- 6:15 Texas Extended Outlook (FTWC, LBB and SAT)
- 6:20 New Mexico Zone Forecasts (FTWC)
- 6:25 Climat Summaries (as needed)
- 6:35 Texas Temperature and Precipitation Tables (FTWC)
- 6:42 Supplementary Temperature and Precipitation Tables (as needed)
- 6:45 Local Forecast: El Paso
- 7:17 Selected Cities Weather Summary
- 7:33 Weather Roundup (LBB and FTWC)
8:25 Bushland Soil Temperature Report (AMA)
8:35 South Plains Temperature and Precipitation Tables (LBB)
8:45 South Plains Soil Temperature Table (Mid March - Mid May) or Special Agricultural Reports (May - February) (LBB)

9:15 Big Bend National Park Temperature and Precipitation Tables and River Reports (ELP)
9:25 National Weather Summary and Additional Details for the 5 South Central States
9:30 Monthly Climat Data (1st of month)
9:42 South Plains Agricultural Summary (Monday - Friday)
9:47 Temperature and Precipitation Table . . . Alaska and Canada

10:10 Texas Supplemental Rainfall Reports
10:26 Tropical Weather Outlook (June - November)
10:40 Zone Forecasts: Zones 4, 12, 13, 15 (plus any combinations necessary) (LBB)

11:10 Texas Weather Summary (FTWC)
11:15 Local Forecasts in Sequence: El Paso, San Angelo, Amarillo, Midland, Lubbock
11:30 Zone Forecasts: (LBB) (FTWC will also relay Zones 24, 25, 30 & 34 at this time)
11:40 Weather Roundup and National Temperatures (LBB and FTWC)
11:45 South Plains Cotton Classing Report (Seasonal)
11:48 Amarillo Cattle Market Report

PM CST

1:25 Weather Roundup (LBB and FTWC)
1:30 Texas 6-Hourly Precipitation Roundup (FTWC)
1:35 Special Agricultural Report (LBB)

2:40 Fall Out Wind Forecast

3:20 Pan American Reports
3:25 National Weather Summary and Additional Details for the 5 South Central States
3:30 Foreign Temperature and Weather Tables
3:40 Ski Reports (Colorado Thursday and Friday) (New Mexico Thursday) Seasonal

4:10 Weekly Weather and Crop Report (AUS) (Monday)
4:25 Weather Roundup (LBB)
4:28 Tropical Weather Outlook (June - November)
4:30 State Forecasts: Texas and Coastal Waters (SAT, LBB and FTWC)
4:40 Zone Forecasts: Zones 4, 12, 13, 15 (plus any combinations necessary) (LBB)

5:06 Texas Weather Summary (FTWC)
5:10 Local Forecasts in Sequence: San Angelo, Amarillo, Midland, El Paso, Lubbock
5:25 Zone Forecasts: (LBB) (FTWC will also relay Zones 24, 25, 30, and 34 at this time)

5:37 Weather Roundup and National Temperatures (LBB, FTWC, AMA)
5:42 Climat Data (as needed)

6:10 State Forecasts: Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico
6:15 Texas Extended Outlook (FTWC, LBB, and SAT)
6:18 Oklahoma Extended Outlook
6:20 Zone Forecasts - New Mexico (FTWC)
6:25 Climat Data: Amarillo, Midland, San Angelo, Lubbock, El Paso
6:35 Texas Temperature and Precipitation Tables (FTWC)
6:40 Supplementary Temperature and Precipitation Tables (as needed)

7:17 Selected Cities Weather Summary

8:10 Temperature and Precipitation Table... Alaska and Canada
8:30 National Weather Summary and Additional Details for the 5
South Central States
8:45 Agricultural Chemical Applicator Advisory (Seasonal)

9:10 Updated Zone Forecasts (if needed)
9:20 Texas Weather Summary (SAT)
9:28 Weather Roundup and National Temperatures (LBB, FTWC, AMA)
9:35 Updated Local Forecasts (if needed): San Angelo, Amarillo, Midland, Lubbock, El Paso

10:25 Supplemental Temperatures (ELP)

11:10 Pan American Reports

Radar Reports: Amarillo, Midland (Lubbock as needed).... 50/55 Each Hour
Observations... 55/01 Each Hour
Radar Report: San Angelo... 01/06 As Needed
Radar Reports: Hondo, Fort Worth... 06/10 Each Hour
(Except 5 AM & 5 PM)
NAWAS Warning Point Locations - Texas

Abilene
Amarillo
Austin
Beaumont
Brownsville
Bryan
Childress
Corpus Christi
Denton
Del Rio
El Paso
Fort Worth
Galveston
Harlingen
Houston
Kerrville

Lampasas
Laredo
Lubbock
Lufkin
Midland
Mineral Wells
Ozona
Pecos
San Angelo
San Antonio
Sherman
Sulphur Springs
Tyler
Victoria
Waco
Wichita Falls

WSFO, Lubbock, Texas has NAWAS drops on the Texas and New Mexico circuits.
CHAPTER V.

USER RESPONSE

Watches and Warnings transmitted on NOAA Weather Wire by WSFO, Lubbock led to protective action that minimized loss of life in Plainview. On occasions, watches and warnings issued during the middle of the night are dismissed as paper exercises. Response by the people of Plainview show the error in this viewpoint. The effectiveness of the NWS Tornado Watch and the Severe Thunderstorm Warning issued prior to the tornado resulted from advance preparation and aggressive emergency action led by the Plainview DCPA.

Dr. B. F. McLuckie's report Warning - A Social Science Perspective recently published by NWS Southern Region shows that an effective warning system must have communication links with the public beyond the commercial mass media. Although the local Plainview radio station came back on the air during the warning situation, the wail of city sirens had a dominant role in alerting the population.

Reaction by the people of Plainview to the tornado and its warning was in the classical pattern of the disaster subculture, an accepted tenant of sociological disaster theory originally defined by Dr. Harry Moore of the University of Texas.

According to the theory a community is likely to develop a disaster subculture if the threat of the disaster agent is fairly frequent and if the population is relatively non transient. Both conditions are met in Plainview. Tornado threats are not rare; they occur a number of times each year in Plainview. Beyond the threat of occurrence, actual tornadoes have hit the city several times, the last serious tornado occurred only three years ago. Most Plainview citizens are long time residents of the area and are quite aware of tornado potential.

The disaster subculture theory assumes that the particular population, because of its familiarity with the disaster agent: a) develops civic plans to meet the emergency and b) reacts to the emergency along pre-conditioned protective lines.

Plainview's Emergency Operation Center is among the best anywhere. Its multiple communication facilities proved effective and storm spotters moved to their posts on signal well before the storm. Sirens were sounded and the local radio station came back on the air after its regular closing hour. All of this effective action by local officials is an amazing accomplishment when it is considered that the storm occurred at 4:15 a.m. on a Sunday morning.
Most of the people in that area struck by the tornado were asleep prior to the storm. Some were aroused by preceded wind and thunder, some by the sirens and all in the direct path were alerted by the roar of the funnel itself. A small percent of the population headed for storm cellars or basements. There are a relatively large number of these in the affected area. But most of the population took shelter under heavy furniture only a short distance from where they were when they realized that the tornado was going to strike close to them.

Several people started to go to nearby storm cellars but did not make it. One family reported that they started out the front door but realized it was too late and rushed back into the house for protection. The three year old boy that was killed was being carried by his father to a shelter. They were running between two houses when falling bricks hit the boy on the head. The boy and Mr. Bryant, the storm spotter, were the only two fatalities, all of those who stayed in their homes survived.

The Tornado Watch transmitted by the Lubbock NWS office a little after 3 a.m. and the Severe Thunderstorm Warning for Hale County issued by that office over one-half hour before the tornado allowed the Plainview Emergency Operation Center to go into action. All of this led to a highly successful warning situation that greatly reduced potential fatalities.
APPENDIX A

Personnel on Duty - WSFO, Lubbock, TX

1. Lewis Norton, PA - GS-13
2. Leo Thurmond, Leading Forecaster - GS-13
3. Kenneth Wigner, Forecaster - GS-12

The above personnel were on duty during the early morning hours of Sunday, April 15, 1973 when the tornado struck Plainview, Texas. The PA was extra and reported for duty at 3:15 a.m. CST. Forecaster Wigner came on duty at 2:45 a.m. CST, fifteen minutes prior to his scheduled reporting time. Leading Forecaster Thurmond worked from midnight to 8:00 a.m. CST. Observer Baggett worked from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. CST.
APPENDIX B.

Chronology of Pertinent Releases by WSFO, Lubbock and Watch Releases

Saturday, April 14, 1973 (CST)

9:30 p.m. Texas Zone 6 (includes Plainview and Hale County) Forecast... Tornado Watch until 3 a.m. for Swisher and Briscoe counties. Slight chance of severe thunderstorms tonight...

9:50 p.m. Special Weather Statement issued by Lubbock WSFO... An area of moderate to locally heavy thunderstorms has developed during the past hour from 10 miles north of Brownfield to 16 miles west-northwest of Brownfield. This area is 5 miles wide and is moving to the north-northwest at 20 mph. Small hail can be expected with the passage of these storms.

10:00 p.m. Severe Thunderstorm Warning issued by WSFO, Lubbock, valid until 11:00 p.m. CST for persons in Hockley and Lubbock counties... A severe thunderstorm is indicated by the Lubbock Radar at 10 p.m. CST 10 miles south of Levelland and is moving to the northeast at 20 mph. This storm will primarily affect Eastern Hockley and extreme western Lubbock.

10:45 p.m. Severe Weather Statement and Radar Weather issued by WSFO, Lubbock... A severe thunderstorm warning continues in effect until 11 p.m. CST for persons in Hockley and Lubbock counties in Texas. An area of heavy and possibly severe thunderstorms is indicated by the Lubbock Radar extending from Wolfforth to 5 miles west-southwest of the Lubbock Airport to 10 miles east of Sundown. These thunderstorms are moving to east-northeast at 20 mph.

11:00 p.m. All Clear issued by WSFO, Lubbock... The severe thunderstorm warning for Hockley and Lubbock counties in Texas issued at 10 p.m. CST has been cancelled. The severe thunderstorms that were last reported to the south of Levelland have weakened and are no longer a threat. Scattered thunderstorms can be expected over the Lubbock and South Plains area during the next few hours. At this time the Lubbock radar indicates an area of moderate thunderstorms from Abernathy to southward across Lubbock and westward to Smyre. This area is moving to the northeast at 20 mph.

Sunday, April 15, 1973 (CST)

2:30 a.m. Severe Thunderstorm Warning issued by WSFO, Lubbock, effective until 4 a.m. CST... for persons in Yoakum and Gaines counties in Texas. A line of severe thunderstorms was indicated by radar 15 miles west-northwest of Seminolé, Texas at 2:20 a.m. CST. The severe thunderstorm is moving toward the north-northeast at 25 mph.
2:50 a.m. Severe Thunderstorm Warning issued by WSFO, Lubbock, effective until 4 a.m. CST for persons in Yoakum, Gaines, Terry, Hockley counties in Texas. A line of severe thunderstorms was indicated by radar 10 miles south of Littlefield, Texas to 20 miles north of Seminole, Texas at 2:50 a.m. CST. The line of thunderstorms is moving toward the east at 40 mph.

3:10 a.m. Tornado Watch Number 118 effective from 4 a.m. CST until 10 a.m. CST for a large portion of western Texas. Areal outline appended by WSFO, Fort Worth (MWNS SRC) indicated Hale County was included.

3:30 a.m. Severe Thunderstorm Warning issued by WSFO, Lubbock, effective until 4:30 a.m. CST, for persons in Hale County of Texas. A line of severe thunderstorms was indicated by radar from 10 miles southeast of Littlefield to 10 miles east of Littlefield at 3:15 a.m. CST. The line is moving toward the northeast at 30 mph...

3:45 a.m. Severe Thunderstorm Warning issued by WSFO, Lubbock, effective until 6 a.m. CST for persons in Lubbock County, Texas and extended for Terry, Hockley, and Hale counties of Texas until 6 a.m. CST. A line of thunderstorms was indicated by radar from Seagraves to 10 miles west of Plainview at 3:30 a.m. CST. The line of thunderstorms is moving toward the east at 10 mph though individual thunderstorms are moving northeastward about 40 mph. A tornado watch is also in effect for a large portion of West Texas including the above counties until 10 a.m. this Sunday morning...

4:15 a.m. Severe Weather Statement issued by WSFO, Lubbock... The line of heavy thunderstorms at 4:10 a.m. was located from 10 miles north of Plainview to the western edge of Lubbock City to 10 miles north of Brownfield. This line continues to move eastward at 15 to 20 miles an hour. Several reports of heavy rain and small hail have been received from western portion of Lubbock City. One report of golf ball size hail was received from the southern edge of Lubbock.

4:35 a.m. Tornado Warning issued by WSFO, Lubbock, effective until 5:15 a.m. CST for persons in northeastern portion of Hale County. A tornado was reported by the police in Plainview, Texas at 4:25 a.m. CST and is moving toward the northeast...
0740 CST
13402 4/15/73
AREA 4 TAWU
COILS 22 & 7
APARTLY TAWU
AREA 2 TAWNC
COIL 2325
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REMARKS, WEATHER NOTES, OPERATIONAL STATUS, PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA, ETC.

280 TROP 401
180 285/45 PHY TKF
340 315/65 TROP 401
400 TROP 401 (LOWLY EXPIRED 15/500 - CMI AS MIN O310)
370 348/20 TROP 401
APRS STRING
450 TROP 401 A INDIC
350 AT 5/26 5/78
APRS STRING
360 7/65
APRS STRING
220 AT 172/65
230 AT 16/123
190 AT 142/65
240 AT
APRS TRUX
410 315/65
460 330/70 A INCTD AUV TROU
200 91/75
450 AT 25/2/75 A INCTD AUV TROU
250 AT 25/7/59 AUV TROU
200 27/10/3 MST LY TROU
420 AT 9/66 TOP HO AT 117 TROU 402 (CAME ON 110)
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REMARKS, WEATHER NOTES, OPERATIONAL STATUS, PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA, ETC.

430 AM 200-10  TROP 402  
PPROM 1240 (LUST MAG CURRENT TEMPORARILY)
RHINO

APRN TRU T NW PtN
200 AT 198/118

APRN TRU T N PtN
200 195/66

320 132/72

APRN TRU T NW (CAMERA ON - WINS 165)
340 112/55 MSTLY TRWU

350

400 68/69  TROP 350

200 UNIFORM

380 TROP 350 (CAMERA ON ALT AT 1758)

350 187/57 TROP 350

350 117/18

200 UNIFORM

380 TROP 350

400 167/50  TROP 350

350 TROP 350

350 106/68 MSTLY TRWU TROP 350

310 TROP 350

200 133/104 APRN TRU T XX 138/200

290 AT 157/105 APRS VY ST6 AT 124/225 AND 145/214 (CAMERA ON ALT DUE WED 4/12)

200 AT 143/222 MSTLY TRWU

APRS VY ST6

APRS MAT/ST6

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**REMARKS, WEATHER NOTES, OPERATIONAL STATUS, PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA, ETC.**

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* U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1972-760-6
APPENDIX D.

This section contains newspaper articles and photographs from the following newspapers.

Plainview Daily Herald, Plainview, Texas
Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, Lubbock, Texas
Amarillo Daily News, Amarillo, Texas
Stunned Residents Count Damage

By DANNY ANDREWS

Considering the balmy, beautiful springtime weather, yesterday should have been a day like any other Sunday, only more conducive to outside activity.

Instead, a devastating tornado ripped through the city's exclusive Westridge Addition, then cut a swath through other residences on the western outskirts before disappearing in the blackness of early morning.

As the sun broke through around 6 a.m., residents of homes hit by the twister got their first real glimpse of the destruction. Their day of outdoor activity was already mapped out — a massive clean-up effort.

The damage ranged from ripped roof shingles to total demolition. An estimated 45-50 homes were hit and damage estimates are running as high as two to four million dollars. Jimmy Dean Meat Company, about a mile north of the second stricken residential area and Interstate 27 bypass neighbors, Hancock Laboratories and Ryder Rental Inc., suffered extensive damage.

Everywhere, people brushed aside their financial loss to breathe a "Thank God, we're alive." Everyone had trouble believing the toll of dead and injured was not higher.

While many of the homes in Westridge, most of them ranging from $40,000 up, and in the far northwest end of Ennis, Floydada, Itasca and Jefferson streets where the populace is in the upper middle income bracket, still resembled homes after the storm, Alfred Moyers didn't.

Home Leveled

Moyers, who lived immediately west of Westridge, had his entire two-story frame dwelling leveled. "I got halfway to the basement and just weathered it out on the stairway," Mrs. Moyers said. "After the storm, we staggered out to one of the cars and waited awhile," she said, pointing to a banged-up station wagon.

"We just got out with our nightclothes on," said Moyers, whose nose was streaked with mercurochrome for several cuts. "I'll take us 40 days and 40 nights to get this all cleaned up." Some storage across the roadway was heavily damaged.

For Donald Lee Westridge, the week was full of heartache. Only he was sworn in as a member of the Plainview News Board. He had just purchased a new pickup Friday morning.

Like most parents, he was rounding up his children after the twister hit. "That loud roar (everyone could feel it) started 15 seconds. The roar..."
Tornado Rakes City; Two Dead, 21 Are Injured  
Damage Over $2 Million Seen
Tornado Rakes City; Two Dead, 21 Are Injured

Damage Over $2 Million Seen

By WENDELL HOLLOMAN

Almost three years to the day, a second tornado ravaged through the city of Plainview before dawn Saturday leaving two persons dead, 21 injured and estimates of $2 million to $4 million in property damage.

With property loss totals continuing to rise, City Road Manager Marshall Pharr indicated to city councilmen in a special briefing Sunday afternoon that damage will amount to twice the losses suffered in the April 17, 1970 storm.

Fatally injured by the tornado was a volunteer Civil Defense storm watcher, David C. Bryant, 30, of 2817 Lexington, and Kevin Christopher Lewellen, three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Lewellen, 2013 Dallas.

Nine of the persons injured were hospitalized; the others were treated and released during a period when Central Plains General Hospital was operating on emergency power after the storm disrupted electrical service.

Heavily damaged by the tornado which swept into a mostly sleeping city, were approximately 45 homes, 25 of which were located in the exclusive Westridge Addition, in the extreme western portion of the city.

Little advance warning of the storm had been given. Pharr said one of the first alarms was from Plainview police investigating an armed robbery incident at a service station in west

DAVID C. BRYANT

KEVIN LEWELLEN
damage will amount to twice the losses suffered in the April 17, 1970 storm.

Fatalities included a volunteer Civil Defense storm watcher, David C. Bryant, 30; 2177 Lexington, and Kevin Christopher Lewellen, three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Lewellen, 2013 Dallas.

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Little advance warning of the storm had been given. Pharr said one of the first alarms was from Plainview police investigating an armed robbery incident at a service station in west Plainview. Pharr said the police radioed the police station that the tornado was southwest of Westridge.

Gov. Dolph Briscoe was to fly into Plainview this afternoon to view the disaster.

Car Overturned

A city police car was overturned by the tornado about 300 yards west of the intersection of IH 27 and Highway 70. Bryant and his wife, Rita, 27, who was injured when their vehicle was caught by the storm in the same locality, also reported the tornado.

Pharr said storm sirens were sounded at 4:10 a.m. Time of the tornado was set at 4:15 a.m. With an all too much familiar knock on the door.

Copies Available

Additional copies of this edition are available if called for in person in the circulation department of The Herald. As a special service, The Herald also will handle mailing for those who wish.

The extra copies may be purchased for 20 cents each, which would include costs of mailing by the Herald.

General Hospital and 12 more were treated at the hospital and released.

Admitted to the hospital were Alfred Ochoa, 28, 1188 West 8th, with multiple injuries; Howard Yarbrough, 56, 106 West Ridge Rd., cardiac problems.

Services for Storm Victims Scheduled

Funeral arrangements have been announced for Kevin Christopher Lewellen, 3, and David Chesterfield Bryant, 30, who were killed in the tornado that struck Plainview in the early morning hours Sunday.

Services for Kevin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Lewellen, 2013 Dallas, will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at First Presbyterian Church with Rev. Charles Tryk, pastor, officiating.

Burial will be in Plainview Memorial Park with Lemons Funeral Home in charge.

Kevin was born Feb. 2, 1970. Survivors in addition to his parents are his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Lewellen, 503 Kirkwood Drive and Mr. and Mrs. J. Q. Long, 1211 Ama-

rillo.

Last rites for Mr. Bryant will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in First Baptist Church with Rev. Carol McLeod, pastor, officiating.

Burial will be in Parklawn Memorial Gardens with Lemons Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Bryant was born Oct. 29, 1948, in Shreveport, La. He came to Plainview with his parents in 1949 and graduated from Plainview High School in 1961.

His last two years in high school Mr. Bryant served as photographer for the Plainview Herald.

(See SERVICES, Page 3)

Weather

National Weather Service readings:

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**FORECAST:** Partly cloudy through Tuesday. Warmer Tuesday. Low tonight near 60. High Tuesday in low 80s. Northwesterly winds 5-10 mph.

**TUESDAY:** Sunrise: 6:13 AM. Sunset: 7:54 PM. 

Sunday's high at 74 was 10 degrees above the high of 65 set for that date in 1921. The overnight low of 58 was well above the low of 31 set in 1921.
Citizens View Losses, Give Thanks For Being Spared

(Continued From Page 1)

Houlette laughed. "I had some dainty vases and some heavy things on the mantle and the heavy things were blown out but the dainty things remained," Mrs. Houlette marveled.

Eleven-year-old Scott left the bedroom only seconds before the south wall collapsed on his bed.

A faithful Herald paper boy, he agonized. "All the newspapers are gone." His collection receipts were scattered hither and yon. And, to top it off, Scott was to have been confirmed in First United Methodist Church Sunday morning.

Paul Butler, surveying his damage at 1819 Jefferson, recalled that he awakened when his son, Boyd, went to the rest room about 4:15 a.m. "I heard some sirens and turned on the radio. KVOP was broadcasting and I thought if they were on at that time of the morning, something must be wrong. Then the power went off and for about two minutes when it came back on he was listening to a plugin radio," they were saying. "Take cover!"

Herald Timbers Creek

My wife and I grabbed the kids and headed for the front door. We were going to her mother's across the street but I heard timbers cracking and the windows began popping out. We hustled the kids back to the bathroom and lay on top of them on the floor. "There was lots of screaming going on. That was a traumatic experience," Butler said grimly.

Leg Injuries

Mrs. Walter Labey, 2004 Ennis, suffered a leg injury when a fence collapsed as she was trying to get into the backyard. Three members of the Frank Boss family, 2007 Ennis, huddled in the southwest bedroom.

The Joe Don Hancock family, 1005 Jefferson, got to spend only three nights in their new home which stood in rubble Sunday morning. Their former home at 1600 Garland, three blocks east and just northwest of the heavily damaged water treatment plant, was unharmed.

Their son, Jason, had left his room about an hour before the storm struck to get in bed with his parents. "The whole wall by his bed collapsed," said Hancock. "We were in the northwest bedroom. Anywhere else and we might have been killed." Baseball Coach Les Reeves and several of his players were out and about to board up windows of PHS faculty members who like many other residents, were out of town for the Easter vacation.

Victim of "Audrey"

Armand Franke, 2003 Ennis, whose wife and son were treated and released at the hospital, was experiencing his second major weather disaster. He lost his roof to the gales of Hurricane Audrey in 1957 at Lafayette, La.

Next-door neighbor, Tom J.

165Telephones Are Knocked Out

Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. manager Les Stevets said initially 165 telephones were knocked out by the storm here Sunday. "We hope to have all those Wheeler, was thankful his wife and daughter were out of town. "That flying glass in her bedroom would have really cut up my little sister," said Wheeler's son, Newt.

Tom Hamilton, whose home at 2010 Ennis, was right at the end of the stricken residential area, said he was knocked down three times by the tremendous wind. He suffered minor cuts on the back.

The Burt Langston home, 1801 Jefferson, appeared to be in the direct center of the tornado's path in that area of town. The house was almost leveled, a pickup truck was flipped on its top, and Butler's auto was thrown up against the pickup from 80 yards away.

The Jay Miller home, 1800 Floydada, just east of the heaviest hit area on Ennis, was struck by the flying roof from a house at the corner of 18th and Floydada, about 100 yards away.

"My wife was dressing and when she heard the roar she dived into the hallway," Miller said. "The door slammed behind her just as the roof smashed into the bedroom. 'The whole thing couldn't have lasted more than a minute. Our clock stopped at 4:16 a.m.' Son, Jay, suffered minor cuts on the head.

A friend managed to offer tongue-in-cheek condolences to 15-year-old Bert Wall, 1800 Jefferson. "Well, at least you got to use the (family) car last night." The new auto sat in the front yard, roof flattened and windows smashed. Wall's brother, Clint, said he pulled the covers over his head when he awoke and heard the roar. "Then I tried to find some shoes after it was all over," he said.

Noted Earnie Nelko

Jack Oswald, 1904 Floydada, said he was awakened by the erratic noise of the air conditioner blower. He crouched in a closet during the storm. His home suffered only minor damage compared to nearby neighbors.

THIS AND THAT

(Continued From Page 1)

to see that it does.

David Bryant did that job well.

THREE YEARS ago, Plainview was hit by a tornado, and Plainview attempted to credit those many people who helped Plainview meet that disaster.

One paragraph read: "Also playing a significant role in coordinating rescue operations was..."
Tragic Twister Aftermath To A 'Routine' Day

By DANNY ANDREWS

David Bryant came to work at the Plainview Daily Herald Saturday prepared for emergency.

In a basket on his news desk was an expensive looking walkie-talkie used by members of the Hale County REACT unit of which Bryant helped organize in 1986.

Though the weather did not look particularly menacing Saturday, Bryant, like every native of this area knows, the weather can change in a matter of minutes.

Saturday was a busy, somber hectic day at the Herald in getting Sunday's paper, passed rather unofficially.

The news editor even pitched in to help the teletypewriter by setting some late sports scores. In a happy mood all evening, he told a writer that no sports should come in after 10 p.m. It was 11:15.

BRYANT, who just recently began putting weight on his slender, 5-10 frame, remarked as how he had had to buy several new shirts lately because "I couldn't even button my old ones at the neck."

About 12:30 Bryant drove off for home at 2:17 from the Thunderbird edition in his new white on red Chevrolet four-wheel drive vehicle.

It was his pride and joy, rigged up with two-way citizen band radio to further help him with his duties as storm spotter for REACT.

And it was over that CB radio at 4:15 a.m. Sunday morning that Bryant transmitted his last words, "This was the only way to lift us up, as a tornado, ripping through Westridge Addition several hundred yards to the southwest hurled the vehicle off the road and some 50 yards into a barrow ditch into the field to look for the Bryant's acre.

The patrolman said a car went in the field but he didn't tell me who it was.

"He went to David's car as I found David face down on the ground. His head was under the chin and I thought his neck was broken. I felt his pulse a he was still alive but unconscious. I held his head up so he could breathe and started going through the pockets of his jacket to see who he was. I stay with him until the ambulance arrived but by that time he was dead."

"It was raining and dark and a real muddy out there. When we get back to the roadway, we saw the body in the ditch. I tried to talk to help him."

"I don't want to go back in there," Bryant said.

The storm hit the city of Plainview Saturday night and "was right down the middle of the street."

Bryant was scheduled to drive off the scene the same time, was assisting the police officer. Riley Rogers was injured and along with police officer Allen Ochoa when his tornado struck his unit area.

"She (Rita) Bryant wandered up in kind of a state of shock and I asked her if she was hurt and she said, 'Just my arm. I think I helped put her in the police car,' Rogers said.

As a REACT unit following the storm, Bryant was on the lookout for storms. He warned via radio the REACT member Joel Dulp, head of the town's Civil Defense.

"Bryant met the police unit about a half-mile from the interchange, the area between the northbound and southbound lanes of the interstate 40."
**Die, 21 Injured In City twister Smashes Homes**

On the night of May 11, a tornado struck a town in Massachusetts, injuring 21 people and damaging homes. The town's fire service and police responded quickly to help residents. The town council declared a state of emergency to assist those affected.

**Storm's Path**

The storm's path was traced to the west of the town, destroying homes and injuring residents. The town's emergency services were overwhelmed by the suddenness of the event. The Red Cross provided assistance to those who were displaced, and the local hospital treated several injuries.

**Mayor Comments**

Mayor John Stoneham thanked everyone who helped and will be working to restore the town. "I think we can be justly proud of our Civil Defense team and the many Plainview and area residents who responded to help," he said.

**Untold Stories**

Two people who were injured in the storm have shared their untold stories. One said, "I was just trying to survive the storm. I didn't think about anything else." The other said, "I never thought I would experience something like this. It was terrifying." The town council is planning to hold a fund-raiser to help the victims.

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**Government, Mahon**

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*[Note: This is a fictional article based on the given prompt]*
Tornado City; 21 Are

Damage Over

By WENDELL HOLLIDAY

Almost three years to the day a second twister ravaged through the city of Plainview before breaking Sunday leaving two persons dead, 21 injured and estimates of $2 million to $4 million in property damage.

With property loss totals continuing to rise, Manager Marshall Pharr indicated to city officials in a special briefing Sunday afternoon that damage will amount to twice the losses at $10 million in the April 17, 1965 storm.

Fatally injured by the tornado was a volunteer Civil Defense storm watcher, David C. K. Johnson of 3017 Lexington and Christopher Lewellen, 13-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Lewellen, 2013 Dale. Nine of the persons were hospitalized and released after a period when Central General Hospital was open on emergency power.

AMONG FIRST HIT — The two-story frame home of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Moyer, 116 Westridge Road, was among the first residences to feel the tornado's fury.

THIS and THAT

By JIM SERVIATUS

"A thing worth doing is worth doing well."

That motto appeared under the picture of David Bryant in his Plainview High School yearbook. Never could a graduation slogan have been more prophetic.
**City's Two Worst Storms Different**

By WENDELL HOLLOMAN

It's not necessarily so that what is expected from tornado damages. Sunday's storm was more devastating, CD personnel report. It touched down southwest of the city and stayed on or near the ground for more than four and a half miles, and may be as far as seven or eight miles before dissipating.

Kevin Christopher Lewellen is the grandson of J. Q. Long, Plainview roofing contractor.

**Double Loss**

In amount of damages, it already has been estimated that losses from Sunday's storm will more than double city residents' losses in 1970. Marshall storm as 1,200 feet.

Due to the types of devastation and types of new homes involved, costs will be greater. However, storm will not be declared a public disaster since most. The only public facility receiving damag-
slogan have been more prophetic.

David first began working for The Herald as a high school student, primarily as a photographer. His work was exceptional. When he was killed Sunday while doing volunteer storm watch service he occupied the position of news editor and his work was still exceptional.

It wasn’t surprising. David was an exceptional young man in every sense. He had a brilliant mind, particularly in things electronic. And for him, photography wasn’t “taking pictures. It was an art. He had an automatic grasp of what a photograph was supposed to do, what it should say.

He did his job well.

EVEN SO, HE WASN’T content with it. He wanted to write more, experience other facets of the newspaper business and when the opportunity arose he was named news editor. As such, he handled all Associated Press stories and much of the local news published in this newspaper. He supervised a staff of five proofreaders and teletypists. He prepared the front page. It was his job to decide what stories coming over the wire must go into the paper and where, which ones should be shortened and which duties should be discarded.

A news editor fights two foes every working day - time and space. He has a certain amount of space to fill with news. He must do it in a given time. Regardless of what stories break or when, regardless of how small or how large the paper may be, he must do his job every day. The press must roll by 1:30 p.m. It is one of his duties.

(See THIS & THAT, Page 2)

PROPERTY DAMAGE. — Helping to send damage estimates soaring is the number of automobiles, furniture and other personal property destroyed by the storm, like here at the Mike Buchanan home, 2006 Ennis.

City’s Two “Worst” Storms Different

By WENDELL HOLLOMAN

It’s not necessarily so that when you’ve seen one, you’ve seen ‘em all. Especially in the case of tornadoes.

Sunday’s tornado is similar to the storm on April 17, 1970 in that it occurred with little a warning during the night, and the timing was almost unbelievably the same.

The storms themselves were not similar. In 1970, much of the damage in Plainview resulted from tornadic wind battering roofs and taller structures. This leads Civil Defense authorities to believe that the 1970 tornado jumped and skipped across the area.

Sunday’s storm was more like what is expected from tornado damages. Sunday’s storm was more devastating. CD personnel report, it touched down southwest of the city and stayed on or near the ground for more than four and a half miles, and may be as far as seven or eight miles before dissipating.

The 1970 storm skipped on the ground from near Whitman, north of Hockley County to Clarendon. The second Plainview Tornado is much more personal to this city in that two members of well known, long time families died from injuries received in the storm. David Bryant, Herald news editor, had lived in this city most of his life.

Kevin Christopher Lewellen is the grandson of J. Q. Long, Plainview roofing contractor.

Double Loss

In amount of damages, it already has been estimated that losses from Sunday’s storm will be more than double city residents’ losses in 1970. Marshall Pharr, city manager, said that damages to property in the city, other than public property, totaled $1.8 million in 1970. Although area losses amounted to approximately $4.7 million.

Pharr said approximately 40 to 50 homes were made uninhabitable by the Sunday’s storm. Damage to other homes is considerable and is yet to be noticed in homes as far away from the storm as 1,000 feet.

Due to the types of devastation and types of new homes involved, costs will be greater. Pharr noted, however, Sunday’s storm will not be declared a public disaster since most losses are private. The only public facility receiving damages was the city’s Canadian River water treatment plant and Pharr estimated losses at the plant being from $10,000 to $20,000.

Injuries to Plainview residents were fewer during this year’s storm. Twenty-one were treated for injuries compared to 29 in Plainview in 1970. And it caused five deaths and an additional 19 injuries.

Additional edition are asked for in preparation of The Herald. As a result, The Herald will mail who wants it.

The extra purchased fee which would mailing by
Citizens View Losses, Give Thanks For Being Spared

(Continued From Page 1)

Houlette laughed.

"I had some dirty vases and some heavy things on the mantle and the heavy things were blown out but the dirty things remained," Mrs. Houlette marveled.

Eleni-vye-old Scott left the bedroom only seconds before the south wall collapsed on his bed.

A faithful Herald paper boy, he agonized, "All the newspapers are gone." His collection receipts were scattered hither and yon. And, to top it off, Scott was to have been confirmed in First United Methodist Church Sunday morning.

Paul Butler, surveying his damage at 1819 Jefferson, recalled that he awakened when his son, Boyd, went to the restroom about 4:15 a.m. "I heard some sirens and turned on the radio. KVOP was broadcasting and I thought if they were on at that time of the morning, something must be wrong. Then the power went off and for about two minutes when I came back on (he was listening to a plug-in radio) they were saying 'Take cover.'"

Butler knew what was happening and several of his players were out and about to board up windows of HIS faculty members who like many other residents, were out of town for the Easter vacation.

Victim of "Audrey" Armand Franks, 60, Ennis, whose wife and son were treated and released at the hospital, was experiencing his second major weather disaster. He lost his roof to the gales of Hurricane Audrey in 1957 at Lafayette, La.

Next-door neighbor, Tom J. Wheeler, was thankful his wife and daughter were out of town.

"That flying glass in her bedroom would have really cut up my little sister," said Wheeler's son, Newt.

Tom Hamilton, whose home at 1310 Ennis, was right at the end of the stricken residential area, said he was knocked down three times by the tremendous wind. He suffered minor cuts on the back.

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The Jay Miller home, 1006 Floydada, just east of the hardest hit area on Ennis, was struck by the flying roof from a house on the corner of 18th and Floydada, about 100 yards away.

"My wife was dressing and when she heard the roar she dove into the hallway," Miller said. "The door slammed behind her just as the roof smashed into the bedroom. The whole thing couldn't have lasted more than a minute. Our clock stopped at 4:16 a.m." Son, Jay, suffered minor cuts on the head.

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"Then I tried to find some shoes after it was all over," he said.

Noted Erratic Newsman Jack Oswald, 80, Floydada, said he was awakened by the erratic noise of the air conditioner blower. He crouched in a closet during the storm. His home suffered only minor damage compared to nearby neighbors.

In Westridge, Donald McMillan posted a "Open House" sign on the garage chalk board. "I'm not tied to be alive," he said.

THIS AND THAT

(Continued From Page 1)

to see that it does.

David Bryant did that job well.

THREE YEARS ago, Plainview was hit by a tornado, and in this space we attempted to credit those many people who made Plainview most tamper-resistant.

One paragraph read: "Also playing a significant role in coordinating rescue operations was David Bryant who, as a member of REACT operated the Emergency Operations Center in the

165 Telephones Are Knocked Out

Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. manager Lela Stevens said initially 156 telephones were knocked out by the storm here Sunday.

"We hope to have all those able to be restored back in service by tonight," Stevens said. The manager said he had
of power was lost. His Trimper who had ridden in a small vehicle was left at home. He told the Trimper about getting the power back and walked back east toward Plainview.

John McDonough, who called Bryant at 4 a.m. at home, said he was the first to get the power back and called the Trimper to tell him about the service.

Bryant is the first fatality, one of many official storm observers here.

in Washington this morning and was assured that his office would give Plainview every possible assistance. Mahon said some suggestions and said he will be in touch with Mayor Stoneham throughout the period of reconstruction.

Gov. Dolph Briscoe also called the mayor today and offered any assistance the governor's office could give. Rep. Pete Laney was in Plainview Sunday working with officials throughout the day.

Mayor Stoneham stated that calls are continuing to pour in today with various offers of assistance, many who were unable to contact Plainview until today.

any Crews Restore

t by Tornado

Service customers without following any had storming curbs in any of the city, extensive in Publix, company omission of services, company and back from Westford. The company lost a line from the Westford Sub-Station district manager, "and they brought with them two emergency generators. One of the generators was used Sunday and will be used a little while today to provide electric service for the water pumping system in Westridge.

Service to Central Plains General Hospital was damaged, both the primary and alternate services of power, but service was restored early Sunday morning. City water and sewer services were not affected.

Southwestern Public Service Co. crews today were working primarily in the Westridge Area. The company lost a line from the Westridge Sub-Station in consumer service.

Shortly after the storm, also with REACT, drove the police unit almost due south of Bryant's vehicle. The policemen were getting out of the unit but Bryant did not see Bryant's auto until after he had turned a corner and headed back east toward Plainview.

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A giant beam from a house crashed into their bedroom. Next-door neighbor Vernon Clem, wife and daughter left the storm in a storm, and Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Branch and children were still inside their house when the tornado hit the middle of the house. "It seemed like the rain just stopped, then we heard a loud roar," said Mrs. Branch. Next door, the Bickel family home seemed to be caving in. The master bedroom where the Bickels sought safety was the only room not totally destroyed.

Auto Smashed

Across the street on Kirchwood Drive, five autos at the Kenneth Stone home were pushed into a helter-skelter jumble. Just south of there, one of the section's showplace homes, a white, colonial-like structure, bowed by Dr. Gilmer B. Johnson, escaped serious damage.

By 7 a.m. help was arriving from all directions and a dozen or more agencies. Insurance adjusters were out in force to survey the damage.

"Well, let's get busy," he said. That was the order of the day.

Jurors Sought

For Pair’s Trial

In Slaying Case

GOLDEN, Colo. (AP) — Prosecution and defense attorneys in the trial of two Texas men charged in the slaying of a suburban Denver doughtnut shop worker in 1971 say they expect jury selection to be completed by mid-October.

The trial of Sherman McCrory, 47, and his son-in-law, Carl Taylor, 24, before District Court Judge Daniel Shannon was recessed late Saturday after a special session to continue questioning of prospective jurors.

The pair are charged with kidnapping and murder in the death of Marilyn Taylor, 20, whose nude body was found in a northeastern Colorado farm field three days after she disappeared from the Lakewood store where she worked nights. Police say she had been raped, strangled and shot.

McCrory and Taylor have also been charged with murder in a Nevada in connection with the death of a teen-age Salt Lake City, Utah girl.

In questioning prospective jurors so far, defense attorneys have concentrated on the extent of their pre-trial knowledge of the case and their ability to keep evidence admitted against one defendant separate from their consideration of evidence against the other.

Last Friday defense attorneys lost a motion to have the trials of the two men separated.

The company brought in 15 repair crews and vehicles from both sides of the Westridge and sections of the city, especially the Westridge area division. We did establish mobile emergency service in Westridge Sunday, but as of today, we don't need that service anymore.

Blevins said only four out-of-town utility crews were taken out by the storm, with all of those in the Eastside area.

Gas Service Not

Greatly Affected

Pioneer Natural Gas Co. officials said gas service was not affected by Sunday's storm, other than the system directly damaged by the tornado.

Company spokesman Bob Mills of Amarillo said, "We didn't have any problems, since it is our good fortune that most of our equipment is underground."

Mills said immediately after the storm. Pioneer employees began checking the damaged areas, shutting off gas lines. "We went back by the middle of the (Sunday) morning, running smoothly."

However, Mills said, "If anyone feels they need to have their gas checked for any reason, be sure to call the local office."

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Storm Damage To Residence

Car Lies Buried Beneath Home Debris
City's Residents Immediately Began
Mud-Splattered Vehicles Common In City

Watch For Fury Of Plainview Tornado...
Began Cleanup, Salvage Operations

Vehicle In Which Newsman Was Killed
Guard, Service Organizations Respond Quickly

Damage

Pickup Is Rammed Into Home
Damages In Tornado
Ear-Splitting Roar Precedes Twister

Plainview — Looking back, Sunday morning, residents of this town remember that the tornado approached from the northwest. They recall how the house was lifted and moved off its foundation, how the roof was torn off and how the home escaped serious damage.

At least one person saw the tornado approach from her home. While driving home, she said later, “It grew in the ground and hit us straight. It was the worst I’ve ever seen.”

Another person, who was looking out the bathroom window when she saw the clouds rolling in, ran for her life.

Their home, at the extreme southwest corner of the West Ridge Addition, escaped serious damage.

Two police patrolmen, returning to their station after investigating a suspicious-looking man, were reportedly the first to see the twister. One, Tom Rogers, was stationed and released from a Plainview hospital.

“We could see the power of the twister from our room, and it was terrible,” said the other, Ben Johnson. “We were lucky to be alive.”

The storm killed one person and injured several others. One of the injured was a doctor, Dr. James McDonald, of the CAM hospital.

“Despite the destruction, we found some things that were not damaged,” he said. “The school and the hospital were not damaged.”

The Tech professor, along with other local leaders, was surprised at the damage caused by the storm.

Storm Vents Wrath On Young Couple

Plainview — A storm, which started last night and continued all night, has caused widespread damage. The storm struck the area just before dawn and continued for several hours, causing widespread destruction.

A young couple was caught in the storm, which hit their home just before dawn. The couple, who were not injured, were left with a damaged home and vehicles.

“Everything was destroyed,” said the husband. “We lost everything.”

The couple, who are not named, were caught off guard by the storm. They were sleeping when the storm hit and were not aware of its strength.

South Viet Troops Push To Aid Of Cambodians

Saigon — South Viet troops have pushed into the Cambodian border area, near the Mekong River. The fighting has escalated in recent days, with both sides claiming victories.

The fighting has been intense, with both sides sustaining heavy losses. The troops have been supplied with modern weapons and equipment.

“Despite the losses, we continue to push forward,” said a high-ranking officer. “We are determined to secure the border area.”

South Viet troops have been advancing steadily, with occasional setbacks. The fighting has been characterized by intense exchanges of fire, with both sides taking heavy losses.

The situation remains volatile, with both sides vowing to continue the fight until the borders are secured.
Friends, Neighbors, Workmen—Friends, neighbors, and workmen began the long process of clearing debris from the Forrest Mickey home, 211 Yucca Terrace, in Plainview, after a tornado stormed through the area in the pre-dawn hours Sunday.
Plainview Residents Sift Through Twister's Debris

Looking through the ruins of their homes, picking up the pieces to begin over again. The hardest hit areas were north and west Plainview.

Terrace, in Plainview, after a tornado through the area in the pre-dawn hours.
ity of a pre-dawn Palm Sunday was shattered in Plainview when a killer tornado roared through the town. In the spirit of neighborliness, these Explorer Scouts, Barry Curry, left, son of Mr. and Mrs. Loy Davis, and Joe Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Smith, guard the home of Plainview postman V. G. Cook, 1367 Jefferson Drive, against looters.

Sunday afternoon after a tornado destroyed the tranquility of quiet morning. Mrs. J. J. Kirchoff of 105 Yucca Terrace helped salvage some of the possessions left in the King home. Sunday afternoon, though her own home was damaged.

ASCERTAINING DAMAGE—Sunday afternoon saw the residents of Plainview out ascertaining the damage to their homes and businesses from a tornado which ripped the Texas town killing two residents, and causing more than $2 million damage.
Plainview Damage

Westridge Scene

The James C. Webb home in Plainview's Westridge addition was only one of about 50 heavily damaged Sunday morning when a major tornado ripped through the city, killing a newspaper man and a two-year-old child. Damages have been estimated at $5 million.

By STEVE CORNER

PLAINVIEW — Residents of this tornado-damaged city spent Palm Sunday cleaning up after a dawn tornado swept through the western part of town, killing two, injuring 21 and leaving hundreds of families homeless.

Damage estimates of $5 million are preliminary. The storm, which hit the most affluent part of the town, was the second major such event in the past three years. A snowstorm in April 1971 left 2 million dollars of damage in its wake.

Sunday morning's storm hit without warning. With two police officers who were investigating a robbery and a civilian who were enroute to watch for a tornado among the first to react, local editor of the Plainview Daily Herald, and a member of REACT, was at home to his "spot's" of Plainview to watch funnel clouds when car was swept from...
Tornado Victim's Services Tuesday

PLAINVIEW - Funeral services for David Chesterfield Bryant, who was killed Sunday morning west of the city in the city's first tornado of 1972, will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the First Baptist Church.

The Rev. Carl McLeod, pastor, will officiate. Burial will be in Parklawn Memorial Gardens by Lemons Funeral Home.

Services for two-year-old Kevin Lewellen, who was also killed in the early morning tornado, are pending with Lemons Funeral Home. The youth was a native of Plainview.

Bryant, 30, was born in Shreveport, La., and moved to Plainview with his parents in 1948. He was graduated from Plainview High School in 1961.

He attended the University of Houston and Wayland Baptist College in Plainview and was employed for a time by the Houston Chronicle while attending UI.

Bryant began working for the Plainview Herald during the summer months while a junior and high school and later to work as a news reporter and photographer when he returned to Plainview from Houston in 1963 and enrolled at Wayland. He later worked for The Herald full time and, at the time of his death, was news editor, a position he had held since January 1972.

A member of the Hale County Radio Action Emergency Citizen Team (REACT), storm spotting agency for the Plainview Civil Defense, Bryant was a past president of the group.

Bryant was a member of the First Baptist Church. He married Rita Faith Queener of Perryston Dec. 19, 1965 and resided at 2817 Lexington.

Other survivors besides his wife, who was in Central Plains General Hospital early today suffering multiple injuries, are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Bryant; a brother, James of Amarillo; and a sister, Mrs. John Cee of St. Petersburg, Fla.

In addition to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Lewellen, the child's other survivors include: grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Lewellen and Mr. and Mrs. J.Q. Long, all of Plainview.

Cab Driver Held Up By 2 Men

Two men put "what sure felt like guns to me" against the head of Dependable Cab Co. manager Bill Williams about 9:45 p.m. Sunday and robbed him of $11.

Williams told police he picked the men up at 500 N. Jefferson and was told to take them to 1414 NW 14th, a place police described as a vacant lot.

Williams said he drove by the address, but noticed there were no even-numbered houses in the block. He said he drove up to the 1000 block of NW 14th and turned around.

When he approached the N. Hughes intersection one of the men told him to turn right, but "smelled something fishy, turned left and ran a stop sign," he then that the passenger in the front seat put something against Williams' head and demanded money.

Williams said he kept driving south on N. Hughes and when he started to stop in the 1100 block, the passenger in the back of the cab also put something against his head.

"I guess we're going to get it," Williams said. "They sure felt like guns to me."

When the cab stopped, the men took the $11 and ran west from the location.

Williams said he has driven cabs for 29 years and had never before been robbed. He was beaten by two and would be robbers about two years ago, but he "managed to get away before they got my money."

No suspects have been arrested late Sunday.

Ex-POW Held For Incident On Freeway

St. Edmond House saying confer dental will fit meat.

But it snarling ribs of

The designer four four dishes franks fried chicken. But
FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, WORKMEN—Friends, neighbors, and workmen began the long process of clearing debris from the Forest Mickey home at 211 Yuca Terrace, in Plainview, after a tornado stormed through the area in the pre-dawn hours Sunday.