

The News-Dispatch

Saturday

Michigan City, Indiana

20 cents

March 13, 1976

front lines

By
Elwin G. Greening

AT LEAST TWO PEOPLE are thankful that Lt. Richard Pliske of Our Fair City's police department and his wife, Marcia (314 Hawthorne Drive), chose to go to Florida for their vacation this year...the first was a woman accident victim who was bleeding her life away on the street when Pliske happened upon the scene...calling upon his first aid training, he applied pressure to the proper place on her neck and kept her alive until an ambulance could reach the scene...the second person was a man who was a passenger on a charter fishing trip with Pliske and several other people...everything was going fine three hours out when the man suddenly toppled over...Pliske went to work again and, with the help of a New Yorker who also turned out to be a police officer, managed to stave off a cardiac arrest while the boat churned at full speed toward shore... "Once during a vacation — maybe," said Pliske when he arrived home the other day. "But twice? Who'd ever think that?"

THE CANTERBURY AUDITORIUM, if you recall, came into being in 1969 through extensive remodeling of the former St. John's United Church of Christ structure (Franklin at Ninth streets) and one of the steps in remodeling included the construction of a mansard roof that completely hid from view a 16-ft. stained glass window...now additional remodeling to provide storage space will require removal of the window, according to Lyman Taylor of Taylor-Chalmers, Inc., the building's owner, and it will be auctioned off via the sealed bid method at the Canterbury at a sale Sunday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m...smaller pieces of stained glass remaining from remodeling through the years also will be sold...Speaking of such sales: Souvenir strips of flooring from Indiana's first basketball floor in the Crawfordsville YMCA are being sold to benefit the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame...information may be obtained at any Hook's Drug Store...the first game on that first floor, by the way, took place on March 16, 1894, with Crawfordsville defeating Lafayette, 45 to 21.

THE MARCH ISSUE of the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin carries a picture of Sgt. James R. Arnold of Our Fair County's police department (Page 31)...Arnold, son of State Rep. and Mrs. Clifford Arnold (203 Finch Trail, Trail Creek), is shown with the other four section leaders of the 103rd National Academy Session, whose members graduated on Dec. 11, and FBI director Clarence M. Kelley, who presented the top five with plaques...The class numbered 246 members...After Rogers defeated the Red Devils in the sectional basketball tournament last weekend, Red Devil coach Doug Adams turned up at the Rogers-LaPorte game wearing a light blue shirt, dark blue tie and yellow sweater — Rogers' colors... "We think he has a lot of class," said a Rogers' teacher during a call on the subject to Ye Ed...Michael D. Butts, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Butts (225 S. Roeske Ave.) and a freshman at Heidelberg College (Tiffin, Ohio), is on tour this week with the Heidelberg choir...the group is performing nine concerts in Ohio, Kentucky, Georgia and Florida...Butts is a baritone.

MICHIGAN CITY Area Schools' counselors have received the state award for Outstanding Counselor of the Year three times during the last six years...Jean Vail received it this year, Betty Turner in 1973 and Jeanne Miller in 1970...Speaking of our schools: Herb Abramson, superintendent of the Lake Ridge school system, and three of his aides spent a day here looking over the elementary counseling program...the Lake Ridge schools are looking to us as a model for developing their own elementary program...And Warren Jones, principal at Elston High School, reports there are 365 potential graduates in the Class of 1976 as of this date...the average number of credits being accumulated from grades nine through 12 is 38.46, against a minimum requirement of 32 for the

(Continued on Page 7, Col. 3)

Tornado hits county



At a loss

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Gibson, 6976W County Road 450N, and their son survey what is left of their home after a tornado touched down and nearly leveled their 1 1/2-year-old house. Fortunately, nobody was

home when the tornado struck. "What can you say?" Mrs. Gibson said. (News-Dispatch photo by Jim Messina)



One trailer down, one gone

This pile of debris used to be a trailer occupied by Horace Williams on the Cloverleaf Stable property, 8997W County Road 300N. The bare spot in front of it used to have a trailer occupied by James Harvey, 20. Harvey got out of the trailer apparently just mo-

ments before the tornado threw the trailer about one-half mile into the woods behind the site. Harvey was found walking back toward where the trailer had been. He is in serious condition at St. Anthony Hospital. (News-Dispatch photo by Bill Swedenberg)

Help comes fast to area

By THE NEWS-DISPATCH STAFF

One man is dead, three persons are seriously injured and damage is estimated at about \$1 million in the aftermath of a tornado which raged through the Michigan City area about 2:30 p.m. yesterday.

The latest available county police estimate listed 35 houses damaged or destroyed in LaPorte County. Heaviest damage was in Coolspring Twp.

Porter County also suffered tornado damage.

The tornado first touched down in LaPorte County at County Line Road and County Road 125N, extensively damaging or destroying four houses there. It then cut a northeastern swath through the county, destroying houses, uprooting trees, demolishing barns and sheds and downing power lines.

Chief Deputy Sheriff James Arnold estimated the damage at just over \$1 million. He said that estimate included structural damage only — not the contents of homes. It also did not include power line and related damage.

The tornado apparently lost its force at about the Springfield Twp. line. There were no damage reports from Springfield Twp.

Dead after the tornado was Roger D. Parkhouse, 58, 3632N County Road 850W. He was pronounced dead at St. Anthony Hospital after he had suffered an apparent heart attack. He was in the basement when his home was struck and destroyed.

Also dead of a heart attack is Harold A. Keppen, 76, 1215 Wabash St. He was also in his basement, and state police speculated the attack may have been tornado-related.

Still in St. Anthony Hospital are Mrs. Phyllis S. Morris, 32, 1365N County Line Road, critical condition; Brett Calloway, 8 months, 4805N Johnson Road, who was at the County Line Road address when the tornado hit, serious condition; and James Harvey, 20, 8997W County Road 300N, serious condition.

Five other persons were treated and released at St. Anthony.

Almost immediately after the tornado struck, civil defense, volunteer firemen and helpers, and Northern Indiana Public Service Co. crews were busy cleaning up debris and aiding property owners whose homes were struck.

Ironically, the most important aftermath of the tornado was what didn't occur: The tornado barely missed slapping Coolspring Elementary School, with hundreds of students inside.

The tornado touched down within a quarter-mile of the school, as pupils knelt along walls and covered their heads with their hands in anticipation of a sudden strike.

"They had curtains shut over the windows, but you could hear the wind howling," said Coolspring sixth grader Phil Cross, 12. "The electricity went off, and the windows began rattling. Some of the girls cried."

Others were not so fortunate, at least as far as their property was concerned.

"We saw it coming, a small funnel cloud," said Casmer Kieszowski, 9452W County Road 300N. "We heard a lot of noise and it sounded like a railroad train. We ran into the basement."

Mrs. Kieszowski said they were glad to be alive in the tornado's wake. The storm knocked shingles off the home, tore out a brick wall

Other tornado news on 2, 3, 4, 5

and destroyed a chicken coop and fence.

While homeowners began boarding up broken windows and cleaning up debris, Coolspring Twp. Fire Chief Ray Nowatzke called in his 45-man organization.

"I'm calling in all our volunteers to help clean up the debris," Nowatzke said. "There are several houses knocked down and we will assist the homeowners."

Nowatzke's firemen didn't have to go far to help one property owner. The home next to the fire station was damaged. In fact, the fire station itself was hit, with radio aerials knocked down and the chimney toppled.

Next door to the fire station, Jerry Huskey, 7311W Johnson Road, was asleep in the upstairs bedroom of his home. He works the swing shift at Midwest Steel.

"I was sleeping when a tree limb crashed through the roof, falling near my bed. I jumped," Huskey said.

Not knowing what caused it, Huskey went outside and saw his garage and shed demolished.

"I came out and saw the sun shining. Until people came and told me about the tornado, I didn't know what happened. The tornado passed that quickly," he said. "Even a 100-foot tree I had was knocked down."

The speed of the tornado amazed other watchers.

"It was calm. Then all of a sudden the sky darkened and debris was going into this turbulence," said Stanley Popp, 4171N County Road 675W, who watched the funnel cloud from his job at Waterford Tool & Dye. "The tornado just shot through. I saw boards and debris shoot up into the air. It's the kind of view I don't ever want to see again."

Considering the strength of the storm, it was almost a miracle not more damage was caused. But most of the storm's fury was vented on wooded areas and grass fields.

"I watched it knock down trees. The funnel swept through a wooded area near me," noted Norman Foltz, 3464N County Road 850W.

Soon afterward, Coolspring Twp. fire units responded to a call at the Otto Gruenke property, 3653N County Road 850W. Residents smelled smoke and firemen checked the chimney.

"I was in the kitchen when I saw this tremendous wind," said Melanie Bannwart of the County Road 850N address. "The tornado hit our barn and trees."

Fire Chief Nowatzke, 3202N County Road 850W, was home when he sighted the darkening clouds.

"It was about 2:20 p.m. I saw debris flying through the air, with paper and shingles. I went into a ditch near my house for safety. But it missed my place by about a quarter mile," Nowatzke said.

Nowatzke credited fireman Tom Cashbaugh for shutting off a leaking propane gas unit on property near Coolspring School.

Persons who were homeless for the night due to the tornado were asked to call Sue Bortell, who owns property on County Road 450 and was willing to put anyone up who

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

Deaths

Robert Janes, 73, LaPorte
Harold A. Keppen, 76, 1215 Wabash St.
Roger Parkhouse, 58, 3632N County Road 850W.
Chester Snider, 87, Walkerton.

(Details on Page 7)

Weather

Cloudy and continued cold with snow flurries ending tonight, high in low 30s, low in mid to upper 20s. Partly sunny Sunday, high in upper 30s.

Real Estate Guide inside

The monthly Regional Real Estate Guide is part of today's News-Dispatch. It's EXTRA big and EXTRA colorful. Look over its many pages...we know you'll like the many homes featured!

Tornado hits area; help comes quickly

(Continued from Page 1)

needed a place to stay. Larry Fegaras, 6311W County Road 450N, was at his restaurant, Rodini's on U.S. 421, when he sighted the funnel cloud. Since his children attend Coolspring School, he drove there to make sure they were safe. As he approached the Interstate 94 overpass, he watched the tornado touch down, lifting the roof off a barn on the Frank Milzarek property near the school. "The first thing that went through my mind was, 'Am I going to blow up, too?'" said Fegaras, watching the barn "blow up." The Wayne Gibson residence at 8976W County Road 450N was one of those leveled. Fortunately, there was no one home at the time of impact. When Mrs. Gibson arrived, after fellow NIPSCO employees drove her home, she saw the 14-year-old home demolished. "I just couldn't believe it," she said. "We drove around the curve

and I said, 'Oh, my God!'" Several home owners were relieved that their property suffered less damage than they thought when word spread of the tornado's impact. Gary Wagner, 7755W County Road 400N, was working at Sullair in Michigan City when he saw the funnel cloud touch down in the vicinity of his home. "When I looked, I knew it was near my house," he said. "When I got home and saw there was little damage, I was relieved. But at the same time, I felt sorry for my neighbors, whose home had its roof completely torn off." His neighbors, the Frank Allies, 7729W County Road 400N, were not at home when the tornado came. The tornado also touched down at the LaPorte-Porter County Line Road. "The worst thing was when I looked next door and the house was gone. I knew the woman in there had been babysitting with a child. The house was completely gone. I didn't know where to look."

Mrs. Edgar Hellman 1387N County Line Road, was describing the scene in the wake of yesterday afternoon's tornado. Four houses on County Line Road, including the Hellmans', were extensively damaged or destroyed. One woman and a child were injured. On the edge of the tornado's path, roofs had been blown off houses owned by Raymond Potempa, 1411N County Line Road, and Nicholas Rebich, 1353N County Line Road. Disabled by diabetes, Rebich would normally have been home by himself when the tornado struck. But yesterday, he went into town to get dog food. His sister, Mrs. Clarence Rapp, who lives at 4883 County Line Road, rushed to her brother's house when all the power in her house went off at 2:10 p.m. "What else could happen to us?" Mrs. Rapp said. "He's disabled, his brother just had open heart surgery, and our mother just passed

away. Now this. What else could happen?" Rebich said the house was insured for \$40,000. Before the tornado hit, Raymond Potempa was driving home and nearing the driveway of his house when he saw a grey tornado cloud forming several hundred yards southwest. "I saw it touch down," Potempa said. "I ran into the house and told my wife and we ran to the basement. In about 20 seconds it was all over." When the Potempas looked out, the roof of their \$42,000 home, built just last summer, had been torn off. Part of the front wall and garage had caved in. Their three children, in school at the time, were unharmed. They were lucky. A neighbor to the south, Mrs. Hellman, was home with her 20-year-old son, Terry. "I really didn't think about it until it hit," Mrs. Hellman said. "I saw shingles flying and then Terry looked out and said, 'We better get

down.'" Mrs. Hellman crouched down in a hallway at the center of her two-story frame home. She felt the house tip off its foundation. When she went outside and noticed the house to the south had disappeared, Mrs. Hellman began looking for Phyllis Morris, who lived in the house. Mrs. Morris had been babysitting with eight-month-old Brett Calloway. Mrs. Hellman and a neighbor found Mrs. Morris in a field about 50 yards from where the Morris house had been. "She was covered with mud. A farmer found the baby not too far away and he took the baby I stayed with Mrs. Morris. She never complained but just kept on saying softly, 'My leg hurts.'" The tornado apparently had made a slight jog to the southeast when it hit the Morris house. Beginning about 50 yards slightly to the southeast, the house was scattered like kindling. Pieces of insulation festooned a row of small trees.

Farther to the east, two high-tension NIPSCO towers lay on the ground. A little to the west, on Porter County Road 1325N, the tip of a barn roof looked as if it exploded from inside. The rest of the roof was intact. Leonard Bootcheck, who lives across the road from the ravaged area, saw the tornado touch down. "It only lasted for seven or eight seconds, but that was long enough," he said. "It moved out in a northeastern direction." He said he couldn't see the houses being destroyed. "The air was full of debris, and just one big pile of smoke." Ivan Wilhelm, nearby at 11888W County Road 125N, also saw the tornado coming. He ran out of his house and buried himself in mud, but the tornado missed his house. Bootcheck said he has lived in the area 26 years and had seen four tornadoes, but this was the first that ever touched down. Mrs. Morris and the baby stayed at Bootcheck's house until the ambulance arrived.



After the winds

This house, owned by Stanley Kabacinski, on U.S. 421, about one-quarter mile south of County Road 300N, shows the after-effects of yesterday's tornado. Added to the litter of trees and junk deposited by the tornado are the remains of a barn no longer stand-

ing. Utility poles were also down in the area. The house suffered a variety of damages, including loss of its windows. (News-Dispatch photo by Bill Swendenberg)



Funnel in the sky

For many area residents, this was the scene that met the eye while looking out the window. The photo was taken by Paul Herrick, visiting from Pennsylvania, with a Polaroid camera from an apartment on Windy Lane. The funnel cloud touched down near Coolspring school and wreaked havoc in a path that took it through Waterford and east along County Road 450N.

The tornado also caused an estimated \$200,000 in damage to Camp Farr, near the intersection of County Roads 350E and 1050N in Porter County.

Camp workman Mark Phares was visiting the Paul Noes when the twister hit. The Noes own a house on the campsite.

"We saw a tree falling right toward us. Somebody said 'Get down in the basement.' But by the time we were at the basement stairs, it was all over," Phares said. "The whole thing lasted maybe 10 seconds."

The tornado crashed a tree into the front of the Noe home, caving in a front overhang.

Damage to the rest of the camp was more extensive. Two campers and a cabin were blown away. Another cabin was badly damaged. A pavilion at the site was crushed by fallen trees. The roof and sides of a bathhouse were stripped away.

The twister was about 100 yards wide when it hit Camp Farr. Crossing County Road 350E, it also flattened a garage owned by Glen Gloyeske.

"In a way, I guess I'm lucky this didn't happen on a weekend," Gloyeske said. "If it had been, I probably have been inside (the garage) and it would have clubbed me."

Nearby, power lines and tree limbs were down on County Road 575E and on the prison farm. Aluminum siding was twisted into wire mesh fencing and apple trees in a prison farm orchard were uprooted.

The tornado caused heavy damage to the Cloverleaf Stable property, 8997W County Road 300N.

A trailer occupied by Horace Williams was demolished. Another trailer occupied by James Harvey, 20, was lifted and thrown about a half mile into a wooded area. A barn and horse arena had about \$12,000 damage.

Another, barn, 8993W County Road 300N, adjacent to the Cloverleaf property, owned by county highway department worker Oscar Nowatzke was destroyed. A pony was in the barn, but it was gotten out from beneath the rubble.

A house about 500 feet to the west, owned by James Harvey's mother, Dorothy Harvey, was also damaged.

Harvey was in his trailer just before the tornado hit.

Tracy Bland, a worker at Cloverleaf garage, 420 U.S. 20, saw the tornado heading toward the Harvey trailer. He telephoned Harvey and told him to "get out of there right now. I mean it, there's a tornado heading your way."

Harvey later told his brother, Allen, that he remembered getting the call. He also remembered looking for his dog. He got the dog, and was outside the trailer. That's the last thing he remembered.

The trailer was found half a mile away. Harvey was found walking between the trailer and its original site, cut and bruised. He is in serious condition at St. Anthony Hospital.

Destroyed with the trailer was \$3,000 to \$5,000 worth of rock band equipment.

A NIPSCO representative said five towers carrying high-voltage lines a little east of County Line Road were thrown to the ground, and one other tower had some damage.

Three of the downed utility structures carried 345,000-volt lines and two carried 138,000-volt lines.

In addition, about a dozen utility poles in the County Line Road area were knocked down or damaged.

The power company spokesman said there were "scattered outages" but no major disruptions because of the tower damage. Circuits were switched to alternative power sources, he said.

About 50 utility workers were out last night repairing damaged lines.

Michigan City Civil Defense head Hans Schumacher said two shifts of six to 10 Civil Defense volunteers were to patrol five areas in the county last night where homes were extensively damaged, to prevent looting.

Damage estimate: \$1 million

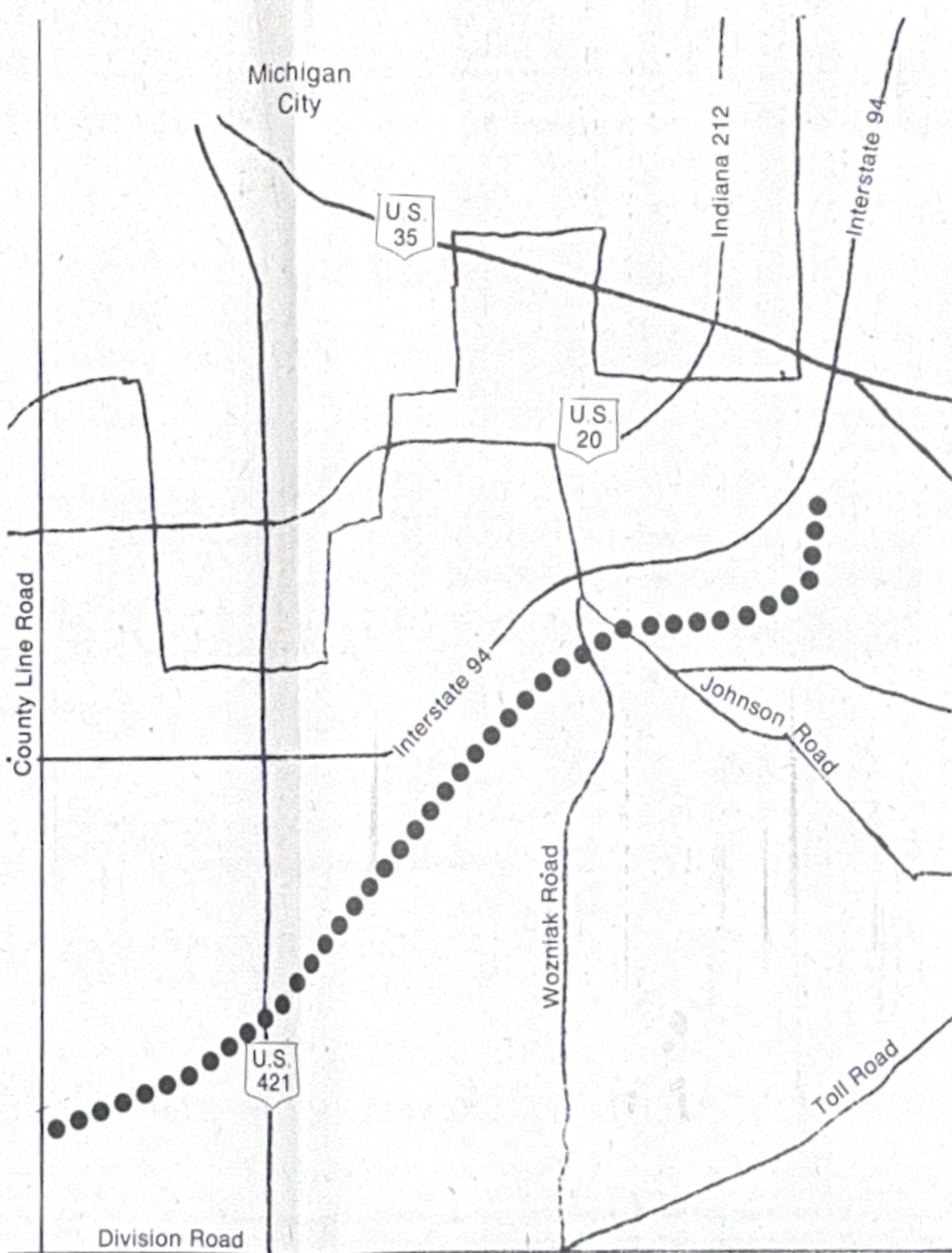
Yesterday's tornado damaged 35 residences in LaPorte County, with an initial damage estimate of "a little over \$1 million," LaPorte County Chief Deputy Sheriff James Arnold said last night. Arnold said the damage estimate was compiled from reports taken by sheriff's police and Indiana State Police. The estimates do not include home contents lost or destroyed or damage to Northern Indiana Public Service Co. transmission towers, poles and wires. The summary of major residential damage, as compiled by sheriff's police, is as follows: County Line Road and County Road 125N — four residences extensively damaged, including one completely leveled. U.S. 421 south of County Road 300N — one house damaged. County Road 300N near Coolspring School — four houses extensively damaged. County Road 850W north of County Road 350N — three houses extensively damaged. County Road 400N between Wozniak Road and Interstate 94 — six houses damaged, including five extensively.

Wozniak Road north of County Road 400N — two houses extensively damaged; also one barn knocked down. County Road 450N in area of County Road 700W — five houses damaged, including four extensively. County Road 660W near County Road 400N — three houses extensively damaged, including one mobile home leveled. Bleck Road west of County Road 600W — two houses extensively damaged. County Road 500N near County Road 600W — five houses damaged, including one extensively. In addition, the base radio station for the Coolspring Twp. Volunteer Fire Department was damaged when the antenna was blown down.

Buddy Baker a 'speedster'

BRISTOL, Tenn. (AP) — Ford driving Buddy Baker of Charlotte, N.C., was timed at more than 111 m.p.h. Friday in practice runs for Sunday's Southeastern 400 Grand National race at Bristol International Speedway. Rain showers washed out qualifying for the top ten positions and qualifying for all 30 starting positions is set for Saturday at 10 a.m. EST. While Baker's speed was over the track record of 110.162 m.p.h. held by Cale Yarborough, other fast practice laps were recorded by Yarborough and Dodge driver Dave Marcis. Yarborough was clocked at better than 110 m.p.h. and Marcis was running at 109 m.p.h. Sunday's 400 lap NASCAR race is scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

Path of tornado



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Surveying the wreckage

It was a sad walk yesterday afternoon for Mrs. Wayne Gibson, 6976W County Road 450N, and her son on their property. Their home was levelled by the tornado which struck Coolspring Twp. (News-Dispatch photo by Jim Messina)

Was there sufficient warning?

Was there sufficient warning? City, county and state police agencies apparently were caught by surprise when the tornado hit here yesterday afternoon. The closest warning to the violent storm came in the form of a severe thunderstorm and hail warning issued at 1:55 p.m. by the National Weather Service for Eastern Illinois, Northern Indiana and Southwestern Michigan. It wasn't until 2:45 p.m. a tornado warning was issued for this area by the National Weather Service, according to state police. But Indiana State Police already had cited a funnel cloud along

County Line Road and issued a warning at 2:30 p.m. The state police had been on an alert watching for tornadoes after a funnel cloud sighting was reported from DeMotte, Ind. Michigan City and county police received tornado reports here before the state police confirmed the tornado's presence. County police said they received a funnel cloud report in the County Line Road area at 2:05 p.m. Michigan City police dispatched at 2:10 p.m. a notice a funnel cloud had been sighted at County Road 300N and U.S. 421 after having received several telephone calls about it.

Hearst case will go to jury soon: Bailey

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — While Patricia Hearst nursed a case of flu and her jurors had a day off, the heiress' lawyers, prosecutors and judge worked in court Friday on the last legal details of her bank robbery trial — jury instructions. Miss Hearst's chief attorney, impatiently declaring the trial's end "long overdue," joined in predictions that the case would go to the jury soon. F. Lee Bailey said Miss Hearst's health problems would not stop the planned resumption of testimony Monday, the start of the trial's eighth week.

trying to frighten his daughter "into silence by bombings and threats on her life." A defective bomb partially exploded late Thursday night at Wynton, 250 miles north of San Francisco, but caused little damage. Terrorists took credit for the attack.

U.S., U.S.S.R. join in project

MOSCOW (AP) — Heart specialists from the United States and the Soviet Union slit open the chest of a 200-pound calf and implanted an American-made artificial heart Friday. The surgery was part of the first operating room tests in a two-year-old artificial heart research program of the two countries. More than 50 medical personnel and newsmen jammed into an operating room at the Moscow Institute of Transplantation of Organs and Tissues for the demonstration on the six-week-old calf. The animal was anesthetized and tightly bound to an ordinary operating table.

The calf was to be unhooked from the heart and permitted to die later in the day, as was the case with another calf the Soviets used Thursday to show the Americans how they implant Soviet-made artificial hearts.

Today is more or less a demonstration of our basic techniques in the implantation of the heart," said the leader of the American team, Dr. George P. Noon of the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Tex.

"This will now serve as a base line for the comparison of our work up to the present and give us a better idea how we can collaborate and develop in the future."

By law, the defendant has a right to waive being present during testimony Bailey indicated earlier he would seek to avoid Miss Hearst's absence. The 22-year-old defendant, described by her lawyers as coughing a great deal and plagued by "aches and pains all over her body," was allowed to sleep late at her San Mateo County Jail cell and spent the day resting. Jail officials reported she no longer had a fever.

Miss Hearst's parents, who have been present for every day of her bank robbery trial, skipped Friday's largely technical session. But Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Hearst issued angry statements berating law enforcement's failure to prevent a terrorist bombing at the Hearst family retreat of Wynton.

"The FBI is playing checkers while the terrorists are playing chess," declared Catherine Hearst. It was the second terrorist bombing at Hearst family properties in the past month. Hearst accused the attackers of

Reactions: Two Rogers students 'shocked' watching twister from gym . . .

By KAREN BROWN
News-Dispatch Staff Writer

There was more action in his high school gym class yesterday than 17-year-old Jeff Hanke ever expected.

"We had gotten dressed and right before we went (to the class), I noticed it was getting really dark outside. I didn't think too much about it. It just seemed like a regular storm," Jeff said.

He began having second thoughts when a heavy rain began leaking into the room.

"We were playing volleyball, and water was dripping in. It was really weird. Then there was a big crash — a big crack of thunder — and all the lights went out."

Jeff and another Rogers junior, Norm Brock, groped through the dark, able to distinguish only the outline of a door to the outside. The door is located on the southeast corner of the school.

"We stood there just looking out the door. Then we saw this big thing making its rotation down," Jeff said. "We were more shocked than anything else. We must have stood there five or 10 minutes, watching it come down in a V shape

only about a quarter mile away. "Always before, I made jokes and kidded about tornadoes, you know, but it's a strange feeling, watching one," he added.

Jeff said he didn't see the twister touch down. "It still does something to you. I wouldn't ever want to run up against one again," he said.

After the tornado faded from his view, Jeff said, the lights in the gym came on again. They had been out about 20 minutes.

"We ran back inside and everything was really disorganized. The teachers said we were under a tor-

nado watch, but I was just shocked," Jeff said. "There was one good thing, about it, though. I guess if you've ever had any anger in you toward any other kids, a thing like that brings you closer together."

Jeff doesn't expect to shake off the effects of his experience easily.

"If I had to pick between being in a tornado and being in anything else, I think I'd pick anything else," he said. "You know, all my life people around here have told me they don't have tornadoes. Well, there's no way I'm going to believe that now."

Rumble 'freezes' shoppers . . .

By KAREN BROWN
News-Dispatch Staff Writer

First the lights flickered. Then the shaking began.

In Marquette Mall, the shaking started as a long rumble. It was too long — too unbroken — to be thunder. By the time shoppers were dreading out of shops to stare up at the mall's ceiling windows, the rumble was a stampede.

Bullets of hail pelted the windows. A baby whimpered. The

mustard-green sky faded into dirty gray. The roar was louder.

If anyone in the mall supposed the train-like noise was a tornado, those feelings were confirmed. Hasty shoppers froze to the noise, sacrificing uneasy smiles to the mall ceiling. The ceiling was shaking. Lights flickered madly — for 30 seconds, for 60 seconds.

A wrinkle-faced man sat under the windows, sipping coffee. The windows rattled, blurred by pellets of rain. The pounding noise

stretched seconds into minutes. It drowned out the mall's piped-in music.

"It's a twister, Dorothy!" laughed one little boy. Alone in the middle of the mall, the man frowned in the direction of the youngster.

The rumble suspended everything — shoppers, cashiers, children — everything except the man and his coffee. Shoppers craned their heads toward the mall ceiling. They stood firing-squad style

across storefronts, waiting and listening.

The rumble began to fade. The man took a sip of coffee, and another sip.

Except for the piped-in music, there was silence. In slow motion the shoppers returned to movement. A cash register rang, echoed by another cash register in another part of the mall. A few glimpses of sunlight sparked off the windows.

The man with the coffee cup tossed it into a trash can and wandered back to life.

Coolspring School stays cool...

"Everything remained cool at Coolspring School," Charles Stevens, principal of that school, said yesterday afternoon after a tornado luckily skipped by the elementary school at 9121W County Road 300N.

Stevens explained what happened.

"The bus drivers were waiting in the school's parking lot for school to let out, when they saw the tornado approaching the school they came into the office and reported it to me. I also saw it coming from the southwest and set off the alarm," Stevens said.

"We have tornado drills, so when

the siren alarmed they (the children and teachers) knew what to do," Stevens said.

"I had to talk to the children through a megaphone which I have in case the electricity goes out, Stevens said. "The electricity did go off."

"The children were led into the

hallways and laid on the floor face down," he explained.

"The children remained calm and there was no screaming," Stevens said.

In 10 minutes the children were up from the floor and allowed to leave for home.

...And Bratcher chases twister!

Michael Bratcher followed a tornado.

The Portage resident was about four miles west of Michigan City on Interstate 94 when he saw off to the south the tornado that cut a north-eastern swath of destruction through the Michigan City area.

"It got to U.S. 421 about the same time I did," Bratcher said. "It touched down and crossed the highway, then went into the farmlands."

"About five miles on the other side of 421, it was at I-94, but it was

back up in the air again. I followed it all the way to New Buffalo, driving about 50 miles an hour to keep up with it."

Bratcher said the tornado would start to touch down "every once in a while, then go back up. It kept dropping shingles and branches. It was really weird to see it up in the air, just about a half-mile circle of debris swirling around. It sounded like a continuous thunder roll."

All along the drive, he saw cars pulled off to the side of the road, maybe 50 of them, the occupants

watching the tornado. Bratcher turned around at New Buffalo and followed the tornado's path once again.

Before he turned back, he saw the tornado "kind of stop, then drift a little south. It never did come down again."

Driving back, he saw the damage.

"I guess I hadn't comprehended the damage the tornado was doing. I thought maybe it was picking up paper and garbage. And then I saw what it had done. . . .

"I saw trees uprooted, houses leveled, a barn had blown away in Jackson Twp. in Porter County, they were lucky. The tornado's path missed houses, a lot of them by only 100 feet."

After the chase and the drive back, Bratcher got scared.

"I had never experienced a tornado before; I had never seen that kind of damage. I just couldn't believe it. I was chasing that tornado and thinking it was really exciting. Now, I don't think I ever want to get that close to a tornado again."



Bicycle salvaged

Wearing a jacket loaned by a neighbor, Mrs. Edgar Hellman, 1381N County Line Road, lifts from her home's wreckage a bicycle which had been left undamaged. (News-Dispatch photo by Bill Swedenberg)

Hospital staff takes emergency in stride

By MARK MORROW
News-Dispatch Staff Writer

The emergency room at St. Anthony Hospital resembled a nightmare — something we've all had at one time or another — but usually goes away once we've awoken.

The nightmare at St. Anthony's didn't disappear.

Eight tornado victims were admitted to the emergency room between 2:40 and 3:14 yesterday afternoon — but one victim didn't leave. Roger Parkhouse was dead on arrival at 3:05.

A woman underwent surgery for a thigh injury, and unidentified eight-month-old baby was still in X-ray at 4:20; there was no word on

three others, while two men had been treated and released by 4 o'clock — at which time Jack Murray, director of safety and security at the hospital, said the worst period appeared to be over.

Two ambulances, who checked in with the hospital via walky-talky for what seemed to be an eternity, were still combing the area for possible victims at 4:30.

There was a lot of confusion, which is to be expected. The constant sounds of ringing phones, the banging shut of the emergency entrance door time and time again, and the rat-a-tat-tat of busy typewriters filled the air.

Long faces, anticipation, low-key whispers from the numerous nurses and hospital personnel, the

cries of the dead man's widow, the eight-month-old's mother scrambling back and forth to check the baby, and the wheeling in-and-out of patient carts made for a long, dreary day — a hard-to-stomach experience.

But through all the hustle and bustle, the St. Anthony staff performed with the precision of a surgeon's knife. There was no panic, no touch-and-go situations that got out of hand. Everyone had a job to do and they did it — almost as though it was part of a daily routine.

The first victim arrived at 2:40, just as I was coming down the corridor to the emergency room entrance. It was the start of a shock-

ing experience. He was torn up badly.

Murray was the first to greet me as I displayed my presscard and asked for the use of a phone. You could tell by his cool, calm manner everything was under control.

"We don't know the extent of the casualties," said Murray, who lit a cigarette as he listened to ambulance personnel calling in. "We're ready for whatever is to come. We have a St. Anthony disaster plan. I just hope we don't need it."

He referred to it as the "SADA" — St. Anthony Disaster Action — plan. "We go into it, all of our teams quickly move into emergency action." Fortunately, the plan wasn't needed.

The last person admitted was the baby. Her mother was frantic, but Murray later said "the baby is in X-ray and, from the information I've received, it doesn't appear serious."

Of course, most of the information received was hit-and-miss. One radio message indicated a woman had had the heart attack; it was Roger Parkhouse.

Mrs. Parkhouse was in another room, but the walls were thin, and her sadness seeped through. Her son arrived about 3:30 or so. It was a sad reunion.

The funeral swooped down, made an "S" around the Coolspring School and missed it but smashed the Parkhouse house near County Road 400N.

The rat-a-tat-tat of typewriters collecting information was still noticeable. But the situation appeared under control. A calm filled the room. The painful atmosphere was gone.

"We'll keep the ambulances out searching for victims a while longer," Murray said around 4:30 when the worst appeared over. "It'll be a few more hours before we'll have all the information available."

Others were admitted and treated. The extent of their injuries was not known when I departed through the emergency entrance — hoping there would be no more blaring sirens...no more victims — but still thinking about that little baby and praying for the best.



I'm okay, you're okay

A man embraces his mother upon finding her safe in tornado-ravaged Franklin Park, Ill., (a western suburb of Chicago) Friday afternoon. The woman was in a home severely damaged by the twister.

which destroyed scores of homes and businesses in the northwest area of Chicago. (AP)

Twisters do damage to Chicago area, too

CHICAGO (AP) — Tornadoes struck the Chicago area Friday and high winds damaged an industrial headquarters a short distance from where President Ford was traveling to deliver an address.

There were no injuries in the President's party and his schedule was not interrupted.

However, more than two dozen persons were injured when a tornado touched down in the western suburb of Northlake, near O'Hare International Airport.

A spokesman for Northlake Community Hospital said "More

than 28 persons are in the emergency room and more are coming in. Extent of their injuries are not known now or if there are any deaths."

President Ford, in Illinois for a campaign visit, arrived without incident at a motel near O'Hare for an address and news conference during the turbulent weather.

High winds damaged the headquarters of the National Can Co., located about two blocks from the motel, about 15 minutes before the President was scheduled to speak.

A twister reportedly touched down at Lisle, 20 miles southwest of Chicago, and another was detected by radar at Naperville in the same vicinity.

"Light poles were ripped out of the parking lot and flying debris damaged some of the cars in our lot," said Mike Sitrik, public relations manager at the National Can Co. office. "One employe in the lot was cut by flying glass."

Sitrik said roofs were ripped off of several smaller buildings in the area and "we saw flashes like hot wires striking the ground"



Tilt

The Edgar Hellman home, 1381N County Line Road, was picked up off its foundation by yesterday afternoon's tornado. Mrs. Hellman and her eldest

son, who were inside the house, escaped unhurt. (News-Dispatch photo by Leo Morris)

Boone Trail preservation is urged

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House subcommittee on national parks and recreation was asked Friday to preserve the old Daniel Boone Trail in North Carolina because of its historic significance.

The advocates were R. Ivey Moore of North Wilkesboro, N.C., who served as Daniel Boone and chief scout when the first Daniel Boone Wagon Train started from Boone, N.C., in 1963, and Carl W. Ramsey of Hillsborough, N.C.

Rep. Roy A. Taylor, D-N.C., spoke on behalf of legislation before the House Interior Committee panel that would amend the National Trails System Act to study whether the Daniel Boone Trail should be included in the system.

The proposed trail-study route extends 250 miles from Statesville, N.C., through the Blue Ridge Mountains to Fort Boonesborough State Park near Winchester, Ky.

Moore told the subcommittee that the trail should be preserved because "there is not a trail in America that can offer as much in history as the Daniel Boone Trail, and it would prove to be of great interest to future American generations."

Ramsey said that the thousands of North Carolinians who went west on this trail were the forebearers of leaders like Sam Houston, Davy Crockett and Kit Carson.

The people who followed Daniel Boone to Kentucky helped settle Missouri, Southern Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, Ramsey said.

He also said the trail should be maintained as a tribute to Boone.

"Kentucky has adopted Daniel Boone as their own and made a great man of him. They have preserved all they could find relating to Boone, whereas, North Carolina, from where he came to Kentucky and where the whole thing began, has practically no relics of him," he said.

Tornadoes cut swath through NW Indiana

By The Associated Press

A string of tornadoes strafed northern Indiana Friday, cutting a path of destruction which left four persons dead, several others injured and extensive property damage, authorities said.

One person was killed when a twister slammed through a farmhouse outside of Demotte in the northwest corner of the state. Two persons, one in a rural area of northern Newton County and the other in Michigan City, died of heart attacks when the twisters swept through those areas. The fourth victim, a woman, died when a mobile home in northeast Allen County blew over, pinning her beneath it.

High winds crumpled houses and mobile homes, wrenched down power lines and uprooted trees along the tornado alley which stretched from Gary to Fort Wayne. Two private planes hangared at the Demotte Airport were tossed about by the twister, which roared through the farming community about 3 p.m. EST.

In Starke County north of Knox, a woman and her daughter were injured slightly when a school bus was plucked aloft and overturned. State police said the woman was en route to a school to pick up a load of

pupils. Tornadoes were reported to have touched down on Gary's south side, north of Knox, north of Demotte, south of Michigan City in the Waterford and Otis area.

State police closed off Indiana 10 between U.S. 41 and Interstate 65 to keep sightseers out of the area.

High winds downed power lines and stretched them across both sides of I-65 in the Kankakee River area, prompting authorities to close the highway to traffic. Emergency vehicles were dispatched down the median strip to repair the electrical lines. Telephone and natural gas service was interrupted in Demotte, reportedly the area hardest hit by the twisters.

State police said Mary Rahmoeller, 83, was killed when a twister slammed into a farmhouse outside of Demotte. In the community of Waterford south of Michigan City, Roger Parkhouse, 58, died of a heart attack when his home was destroyed by the tornado, authorities said. Judith Ann Nowak, 37, was killed when her mobile home in northeast Allen County blew over, pinning her beneath it.

State police in Newton County were investigating reports that a fourth person died of a heart attack when a twister hit his home.

Army demands ouster of Lebanon's leader

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — The Lebanese armed forces command, unable to muscle a defiant Christian president out of power by ultimatum, demanded Friday that parliament unseat him legally.

President Suleiman Franjeh, barricaded in his hilltop mansion behind loyal troops, refused a resignation order and fought a "radio war" with the coup leader, Brigadier Aziz Ahdab, a Moslem. Ahdab, commander of the Beirut

garrison, took over the state radio Thursday and demanded Franjeh's resignation within 24 hours as a solution to the Christian-Moslem civil war that ravaged Lebanon for nearly a year with 12,000 dead.

Franjeh refused. His supporters took over a small radio station in the Christian heartland and called on Lebanese citizens to preserve democracy by rejecting the coup.

Accident injuries are fatal to truck driver

A Lake Odessa, Mich., truck driver injured in a rear-end collision of two semi-trailers on I-94 Jan. 15 died yesterday afternoon in St. Anthony Hospital intensive care unit.

Marvin C. Weygandt, 51, died at 1:25 p.m. following surgery for his injuries.

At the time of the accident, Weygandt told state police trooper Larry Deutscher he had apparently fallen asleep at the wheel causing his truck to ram the rear of another semi driven by George W. Workman, 52, Norton Shores, Mich. The accident occurred at 6:25 a.m. three-fourths of a mile west of U.S. 421.

Weygandt had been admitted to the hospital suffering from internal injuries and lacerations of the left arm and forehead. He had been dismissed later from the hospital and had returned for the surgery. Damage to his rig owned by Admiral Leasing of Indianapolis was listed at \$15,000.

Workman had complained of bruises but had not been admitted to the hospital. Damage to his truck owned by Midway Truck Leasing, Muskegon, Mich., was \$3,000.

Funeral service for Weygandt will be Monday at Pickens-Koops Funeral Chapel, Lake Odessa.

Two get nose injuries following accidents

Steven E. Sanders, 17, 4797 N. Lindsay Lane, was treated and released at St. Anthony Hospital for nose injuries suffered in a two-car accident yesterday afternoon.

Sanders was waiting on Pals Road to turn onto Lindsay Lane when the car driven by Earl B. Brown, 124 E. 11th St., ran into the rear of the car driven by Sanders. Damage was estimated at \$500 to the Sanders car and \$700 to the Brown car.

In a four-car chain reaction accident at 7:54 yesterday morning,

Lorraine J. Schlung, 6909W County Road 300N received nose injuries. Two cars were stopped northbound on Carroll Avenue at Barker Avenue, when she ran into the rear of the second car driven by Roger M. Beccue, 202 California Ave.

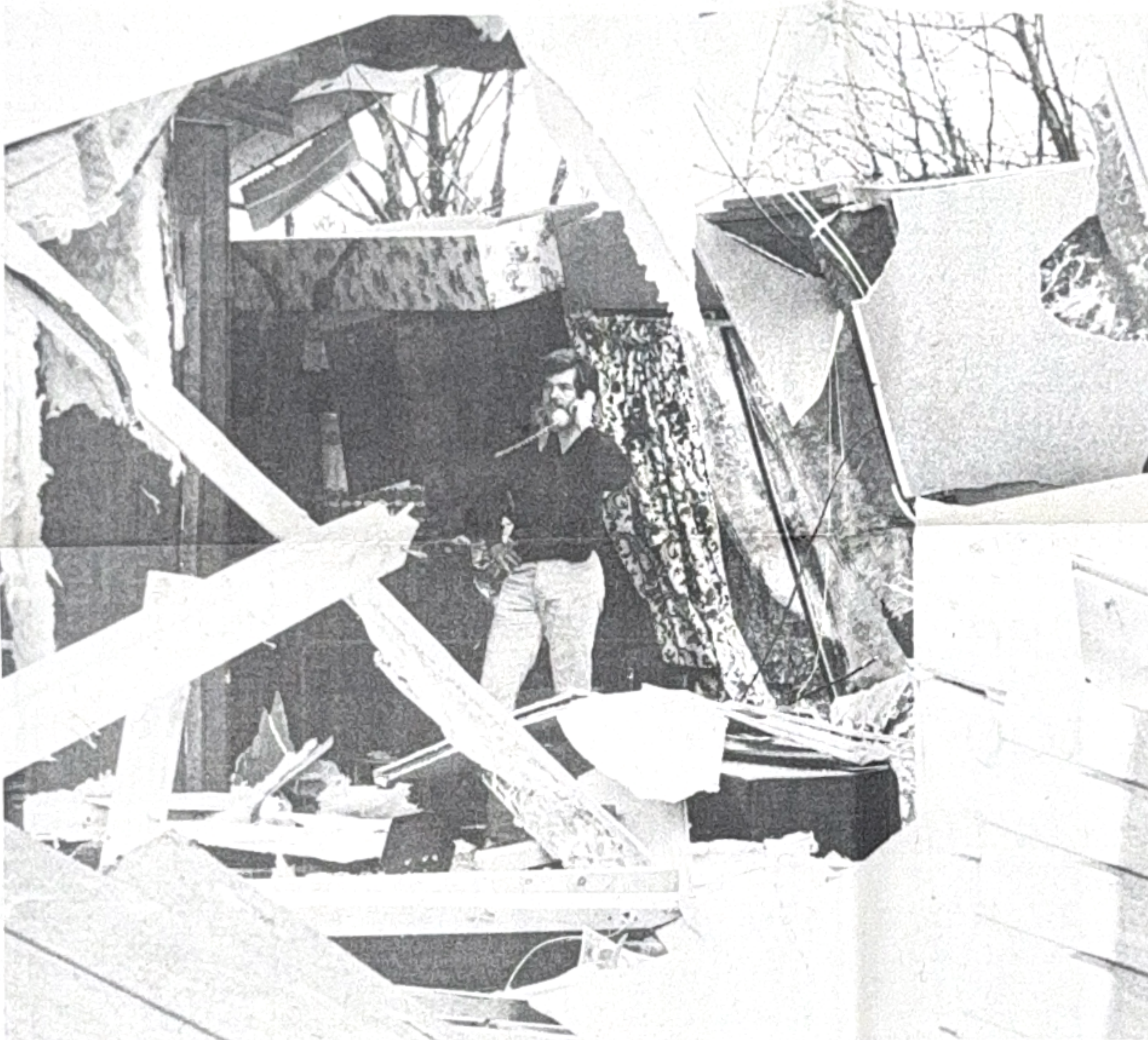
Beccue's car rammed ahead into the car driven by Richard M. Rudolph, 604 Pine Tree Court. Rudolph's car then collided with the car being driven on Barker by Mary Wozniak, 1708 Ohio St.

Damages to the four cars totaled \$2,600.



Frank Milcarek (left photo) 82, 9375W County Road 300N, looks on with disbelief at his tornado-ravaged home (right photo). He is staying with his daughter and her husband in the wake of the tornado's strike. (News-Dispatch photo by Bill Swendenberg)

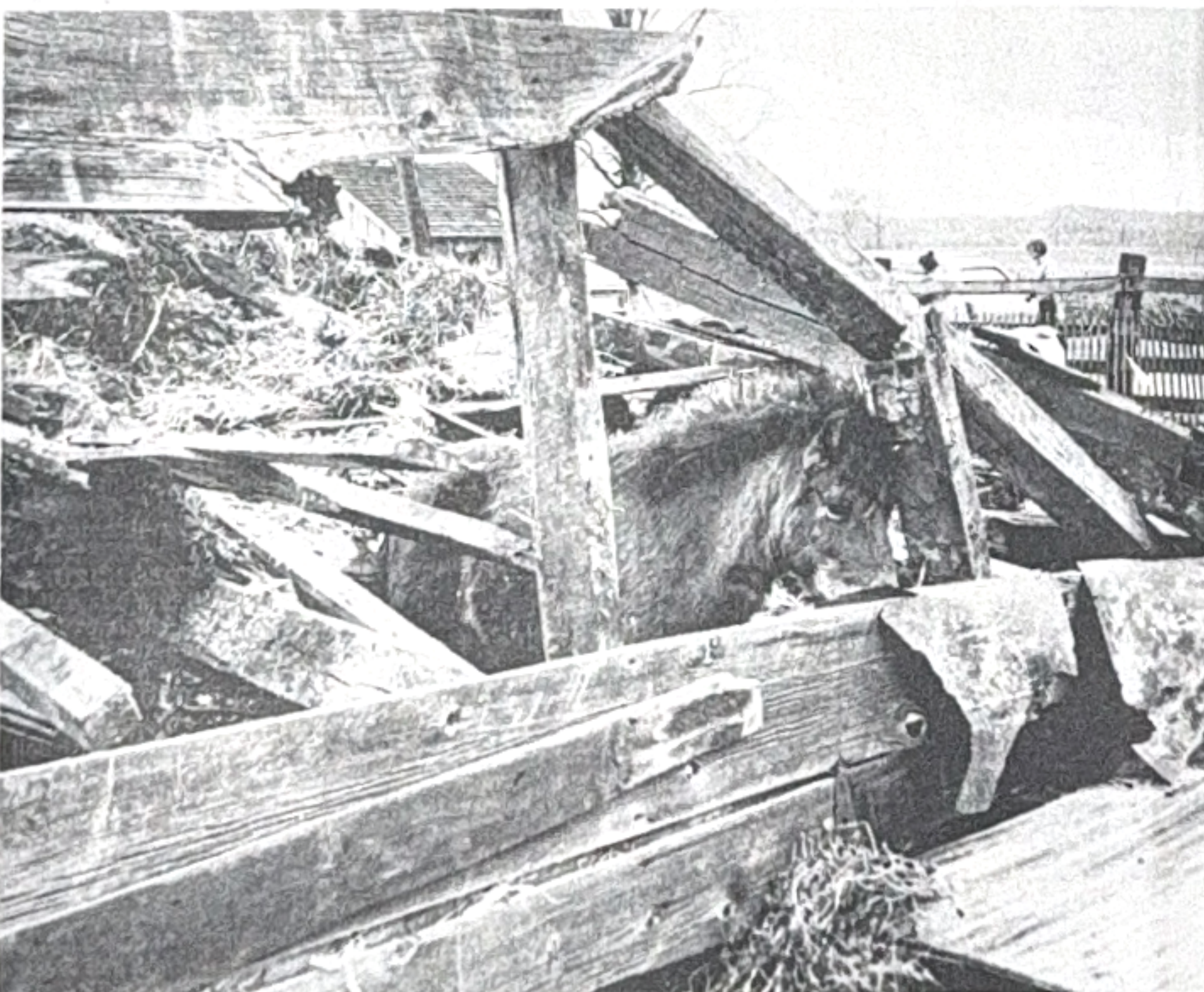
Tornado



Wayne Gibson, 6976W County Road 450N, found himself answering the ringing of his telephone, amid the rubble of his tornado-damaged home. (News-Dispatch photo by Jim Messina)



Members of the Raymond Potempa family, 1411N County Line Road, carry out their belongings. Mr. and Mrs. Potempa hid in the basement while the tornado ripped the roof from their house. Their children were in school. (News-Dispatch photo by Bill Swendenberg)



This pony escaped uninjured when the barn owned by Oscar Nowatzke, 8997W County Road 300N, was demolished. A highway department worker, Nowatzke had just come home and put down his lunch pail when he heard the rumble of the tornado. (News-Dispatch photo by Bill Swendenberg)



When the tornado struck a barn owned by Stanley and Katherine Kabcinski, 2688 North U.S. 421, nearly half of 150 adult rabbits were lost. Afterward, neighbors helped the family round up some of the missing animals. (News-Dispatch photo by Charles Robinson)

Election '76

Milzarek files for county clerk

Wayne Milzarek, 24, 206 Miller St., LaPorte, filed yesterday for the Democrat nomination for county clerk. He will oppose Robert Behler Jr., Michigan City, in the primary.

Milzarek attended Purdue North Central and the University of Central Texas, is a member of the LaPorte Jaycees and served two years in the U.S. Army. He is a member of St. Joseph Church.

Area branch manager for the Chicago Daily News, he is married and has three children.

"Being a lifelong resident of LaPorte County, I feel the people need new representation here. I will commit all the time needed in giving them an equal voice in government and providing the new ideas, integrity and complete dedication which is necessary in any public office."

James Fisher, 702 Gardena St., filed for the Michigan City District "A" seat.

Carl Meyers, Box 62, New Carlisle, filed for the New Prairie school board District 1 seat.

Filing for state delegates were:

Republican — William Babb III, Kingsford Heights, Union Twp.; Beryl Burgwald, 1914 Greenwood, Michigan City, Ward 5; John Mitchell, R.R. 2, New Carlisle, Hudson Twp.; John Bayler, 2012 Welnetz Twp.; Coolspring 2, and Raymond Sheely, Box 333, LaCrosse, Dewey Twp.

Democrat — Don Kopach, 2111 Monroe St., LaPorte, Ward 4; Dennis Neary, 2406 St. Lawrence Ave., Long Beach; James LaRocca, 114 Tryon St., Michigan City, Ward 1; Arthur Kemp, 613 E. Maple Ave., LaPorte, Ward 4; John Thomas Sr., 414 E. 10th St., Michigan City, Ward 2; Norman Ramion, 510 Greenwood, Michigan City, Ward 2.

Filing for precinct committeemen were:

Republican — Stan Lauer, 115 Ripley St., Michigan City, Ward 2, Pct. 2; Herbert Link, 908 Chicago Pct. 2; LaPorte, Ward 3, Pct. 1; John Mitchell, Hudson Twp.; Nelvie Mitchell, 2445E County Road 350N, Kankakee Twp.

Democrat — Stan Przybylinski, 1620 Wabash St., Michigan City, Ward 2, Pct. 2; Robert Bannwart, 1716 Indiana Ave., LaPorte, Ward 3, Pct. 3; Joseph Spesiak, 210 Grandview, LaPorte, Ward 4, Pct. 4; Raymond Ambers, 174 Longwood Drive, LaPorte, Scipio Twp.;

Ormel Bull, 5426N County Road 325W, Springfield Twp.; Robert Belue, 301 Beech St., Michigan City, Ward 4, Pct. 2; Eugene Turczynski, 3066N County Road 850E, Wilks Twp., and Elbert Place, R.R. 3, Walkerton, Johnson Twp.

Will land SST if it shows

WASHINGTON (AP) — The controversial Concorde supersonic passenger plane will be landed by federal air traffic controllers at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport if it shows up next week as announced, the head of the Federal Aviation Administration said Friday.

The statement by Administrator John L. McLucas put the federal agency, which operates the nation's air traffic control system, in a possible direct confrontation with the operators of Kennedy Airport.

Those operators, the Port

Authority of New York-New Jersey, announced Thursday that they were barring the Concorde from landing at Kennedy for six months while a study is made of the plane's operations elsewhere.

In New York City, meanwhile, Gov. Hugh Carey said he felt the Port Authority decision was "a binding one" by "a bistate agency that was created and sanctioned by the Congress."

In another development Friday, a federal judge ruled that he had no authority to temporarily bar the Concorde from landing at Dulles International Airport.



She's got lots of ginger

Actress Ginger Rogers takes to the outdoors by bicycling in Central Park in New York Friday. She's in the city appearing at the Empire Room of the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria. In the background is the Plaza Hotel. The glamorous actress is 64 years old. (AP photo)

Theft charges against Daher to be re-filed

Theft charges against former insurance representative Michael Daher will be re-filed in Starke Circuit Court, LaPorte County chief deputy prosecutor Walter P. Chapala said yesterday.

Daher was indicted on seven theft charges last October by a Superior Court grand jury. He was accused of failing to turn over about \$108,000 in Michigan City city employes insurance payments to the Golden Rule Insurance Co.

Golden Rule cancelled the city employes insurance last September, saying premiums had not been paid for three months.

About two weeks ago, Starke Cir-

cuit Court Judge Marvin McLaughlin ruled in favor of a defense motion to dismiss Daher's theft indictments as being too vague.

Chapala yesterday said the grand jury will be called back into session, probably next week, to reword the original indictments. He said the prosecution has until March 24 to re-file the theft charges.

Daher also has been indicted on bribery charges in connection with the insurance investigation, along with former Michigan City mayor Randall Miller. Daher's bribery trial has been moved to Pulaski Circuit Court. He has not been arraigned yet.

Study planned on prison system

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indiana Correction Department has hired a New Orleans consulting firm to compile a study recommending improvements in the

prison system. James E. McCart said the \$180,000 contract with Folsie HDR prison consultants will produce a five-year master plan for improving and expanding the Hoosier prison system.

For the record

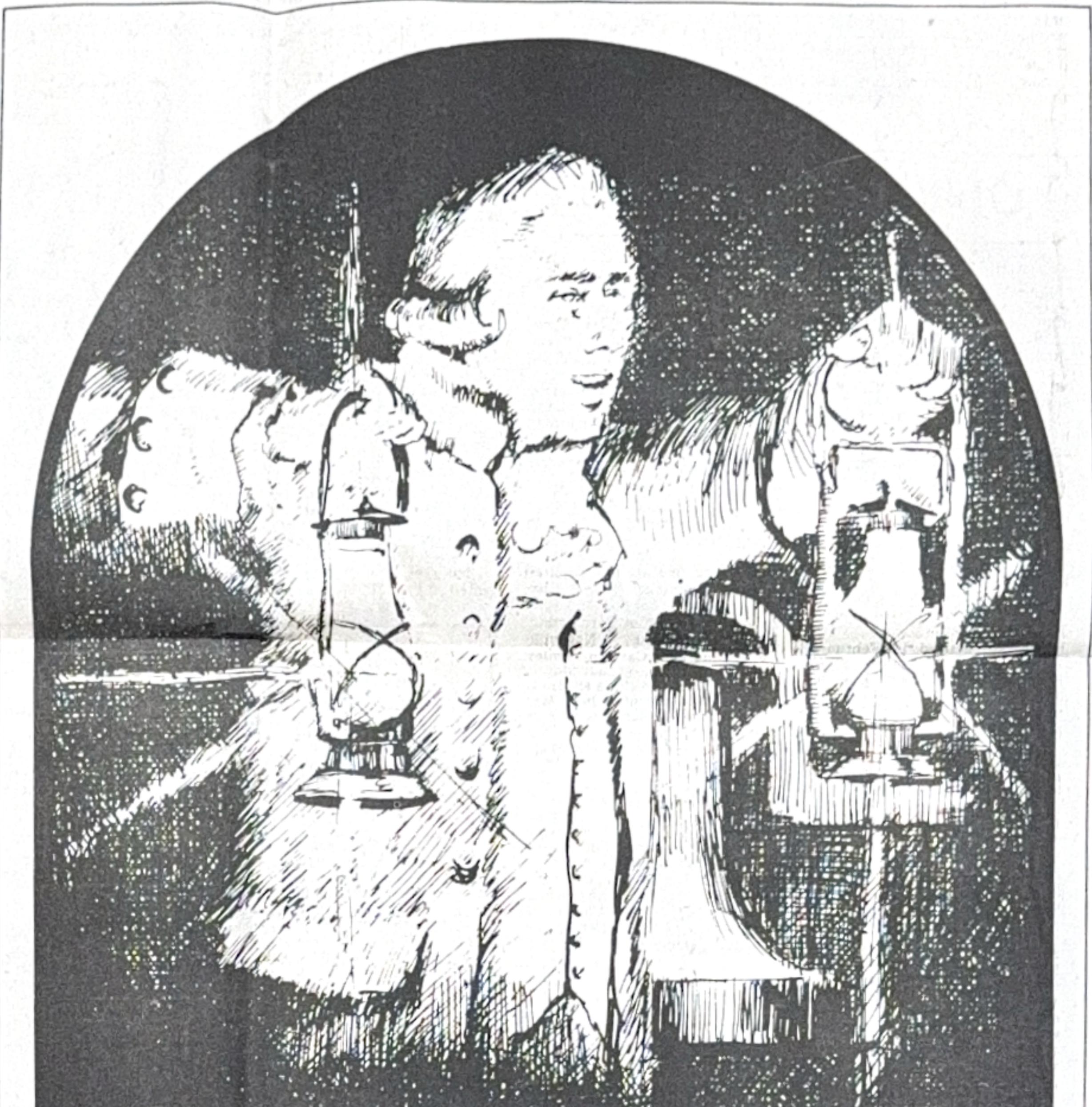
Meetings

TODAY
Michigan City Area Schools Employees Local 773, 10:30 a.m., Occupations Building cafeteria.
Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 p.m., 211 E. Sixth St., open meeting.
MONDAY
County commissioners, 10 a.m., Circuit Courthouse, LaPorte.
United Way, noon, Pottawatomie Country Club.
Beverly Shores town board, 8 p.m., administration building.
Parents Council, 8 p.m., Therapy Center.
Miller American Legion Post, 8 p.m., clubrooms.
Port Authority, 8 p.m., Washington Park Marinas office.
Lake Michigan Chapter No. 98, OES, stated meeting, 8 p.m., Masonic Temple.

Phi Deltas, 8 p.m., clubrooms.
5081st Army Reserve (RTU), 7 p.m., police building.
Alcoholics Anonymous, 8 p.m., Barker Hall, closed meeting.
Ambassadors of Harmony, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church.
Michigan City Duplicate Bridge Club, 8 p.m., YMCA.
YAFT (Young Adults Finding Themselves), 8 p.m., 211 E. Sixth St., for information phone 872-4139.

Births

ST ANTHONY
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Johnson, 1535 Louisiana Ave., The Pines, a girl, yesterday.
LAPORTE
Mr. and Mrs. Joel F. Maresu, P.O. Box 335, Lakeside, Mich., a girl, yesterday.



Get the message?

"One if by land; two if by sea", was the way the famous signal was originally given.

First Federal of LaPorte County borrows from history to send their Bicentennial message to all the good citizens of Michigan City.

The two lanterns signify that First Federal now has two convenient offices in Michigan City. The main office is located at 720 Franklin Square with the new south side office at 3710 South Franklin Street.

So see the lights and hear our message — "Two if by Loan, Two if by Save — and Two if by any other savings and loan services your family may need".

One gets you Two at First Federal



Now, for your added convenience, use First Federal's new Southside location at 3710 South Franklin Street near Barker Road. All services including 4 drive-up teller windows.

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First Federal Savings and Loan Association of LaPorte County
720 Franklin Square Michigan City 3710 South Franklin Street Michigan City 801 Monroe Street LaPorte

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