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WEATHER: Wind and rain

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TORNADO KILLS MAN



"It came across the paddocks, about two or three storeys high. It passed over the Martin house and when it moved on the house was just gone" - this was how a witness described the tornado devouring this house in Waiteika Rd. Most of the seven occupants were in bed at the time. All except two are in hospital.

A young man was fatally injured, several other persons were injured and houses were wrecked when a tornado smashed across 10 miles of coastal Taranaki yesterday morning.

Dead is Mr Clarence Furness (20), Te Aroha, who was visiting relations whose home was struck by the tornado.

Ten other people were injured. Five were still in hospital last night, two were treated and discharged, and two were treated for minor injuries at the home of Dr J. E. H. Hefford, Opunake.

Admitted to Hawera Hospital were: Mr Brian Ray Martin (27) contract milker, Waiteika Rd, concussion, lacerations, condition fairly satisfactory.

Mr Gregory Allen Furness (20) suspected fractured ribs, condition fairly satisfactory.

Sharon Marie Winter (18 months) internal injuries, condition fair.

Admitted to Taranaki Base Hospital were: Mrs Vynvnee Martin (27) concussion, shock.

'Like Bad Dream' Farmer Ian Winter in Skeet Rd had just finished breakfast with his wife and two children. They were relaxing in the lounge of their luxurious home. Outside it was blustery.

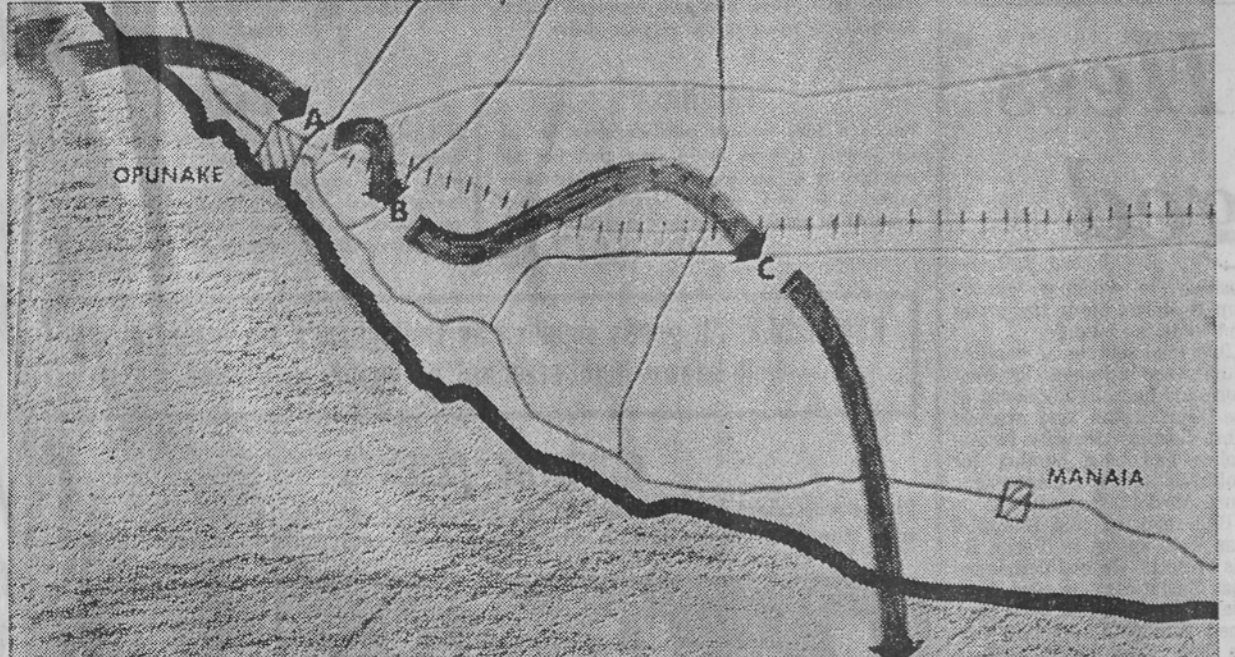
A dazed Mr Winter recounted events: "It started blowing a bit, but the noise wasn't excessive. The wife and kids went into the kitchen. I remember seeing 515 feet off the ground."

"I just can't believe it's happened. I have to keep looking at the house to remind myself that it's not a bad dream," said Mr Winter, who was suffering shock when he delivered his injured family to Hawera Hospital.

JUST GOING ON PATROL A traffic officer, Mr Graeme Barsanti, saw the tornado yesterday from his Ihaha Rd home.

"I was just preparing to go out on patrol. I heard a roar, looked out the window and above the macrocarpa trees I could see the funnel of the tornado. It was moving at about 5-10 m.p.h. I didn't think much of it at the time, it didn't appear to be very fierce. I saw it take the roof of Langton's house and move across the road. It was exactly 8.30.

"I rang the telephone exchange to tell the tolls supervisor to notify the Post Office there were lines down. He had already received a call from Waiteika Rd for a doctor and ambulance. I thought there had been a road accident and it wasn't till I saw the demolished Martin house that I realised what had happened," he said.



The path of the twister which carved a 10-mile swathe through coastal South Taranaki yesterday is shown in this map. The tornado originated at sea, possibly from a water spout, and came inland at about Arawhata Rd, just north of Opunake. It crossed Ihaha Rd on the town outskirts (A) badly damaging one house, and partially de-roofing two others and moved on to Waiteika Rd where a

fore all property is returned to its owners. A farmer breakfasting at Otakeho found it was "suddenly raining pine and bits of trees" and another farmer in Oeo Rd reported finding a pair of trousers and a pack of cards in his paddock.

Four families are temporarily homeless - the Martins, Winters, Droughts, and the Nelsons, who were renting a cottage in Skeet Rd from Mr Winter. Little is known of their movements. The house was wrecked and they moved out, apparently unhurt, shortly after.

Speedily Police and Civil Defence authorities moved speedily to help the homeless and patch up the homes which had suffered lightest damage. Furnishings were removed from the Ihaha and Skeet Rd houses as a precaution against looting.

Senior Sergeant L. F. Miles, of Hawera, the senior officer in charge, expressed appreciation for the manner in which residents, business firms and authorities offered and supplied assistance.

Power had been restored last night to all but the uninhabitable houses and most telephone line breakages had been repaired also.

More pictures of tornado on page 3.



Dazed and weary, Aurora farmer Mr Ian Winter, of Skeet Rd, contemplates the rubble of his \$24,000 home. After the tornado wrecked the front of the house, he found his wife and two children lying outside in the debris, battered and bleeding. "I thought they were all gone," he said.

Nothing was left salvageable after yesterday's tornado had ripped apart the home of the Martin family on Waiteika Rd.

The house was blasted into small pieces and the debris scattered across several paddocks.

All that remains intact are the piles and concrete water tank.

A deep freeze, washing machine, electric range, the toilet and handbasin, were all damaged beyond repair. The carport was found a quarter mile away.

Mr Armstrong's house had half its roof removed and a late-model caravan was flipped over in the backyard. Richard Furness' garage was lifted off its foundations and dumped several feet away.

On the farm, two haybarns were wrecked. Of one there is no trace but a few splinters of wood.

Hours after the holocaust, bedding was being returned to the Martin house from three miles away. There were also reports of roofing iron being carried several miles by the twister.

house was destroyed (B) seven occupants injured and two other houses damaged. Then the whirlwind made a long sweep inland, crossing the Opunake branch railway, and smashed through two houses on Skeet Rd where three members of one family were injured. After this it appears to have gained altitude, and headed back out to sea, dropping assorted debris en route.

Tangled In Debris

Most of the injured in yesterday's tornado were occupants of a farmhouse in Waiteika Rd on Mr John Armstrong's property, which was totally demolished by the whirlwind and the remnants scattered over paddocks.

Inside the house were Mrs Vynvnee Martin, her son, daughter and baby and her two brothers visiting from Te Aroha. They were found tangled up in the debris after the tornado passed.

Mr Armstrong told of meeting Mr Brian Martin, who had been outside, covered in blood from cuts, screaming: "Everyone is dead."

They went to the remains of the Martin house and found the occupants "all tangled up in the debris. I asked someone to call a doctor and ambulance and managed to get the injured people into one of the cars for warmth. They were all in pretty bad shape."

Dr J. E. H. Hefford who treated the injured before they were taken to Hawera and Taranaki Base Hospitals, said Mr Clarence Furness was lying in the middle of a pile of wreckage. He appeared to have been thrown on to a broken door. Mrs Martin was hit by flying timber. Two children were thrown into the paddock.

IN COWSHED Paddy Mullen (19) of Waiteika Rd watched the tornado approach the cluster of farmhouses and outbuildings on the Armstrong property. "I was washing out the vat in the cowshed. I heard a roar and saw this big whirling funnel of debris, coming across the paddocks. It didn't move in a straight line, it wandered about. It clipped the cottage and Mr Armstrong's house. Brian (Martin) was walking back to his cowshed. He walked right into it and was flung about.

"It just tore the Martins' house to bits. When I got

there they were all huddled in the car, the parents, the kids and some people staying there. They all appeared to be badly injured."

The Martins and Furnesses are related. Richard Furness lived in one house, the Martins in the other. Clarence and Gregory Furness, visiting from Te Aroha, were staying with the Martins.

EASTER TOLL ALREADY 14

Wellington. New Zealand's Easter road toll stood at 14 late yesterday afternoon - only one less than the final death toll on the roads last year, the Transport Ministry reported here last night.

The Easter holiday period began officially at 4.30 p.m. on Thursday and ends at 8 a.m. tomorrow.

The Transport Ministry said all 14 officially reported deaths so far this Easter occurred before midnight on Thursday.

Chief traffic officers in charge of the ministry's 22 traffic districts throughout the country yesterday reported to headquarters in Wellington that a total of 322 accidents were attended or reported in a period of 64 hours from 4 p.m. on Thursday.

GIRL'S DEATH The victim of an accident in Timaru a week ago was found to be dead on arrival at the Dunedin Hospital on Saturday evening after she was transferred from the Timaru Hospital.

She was Miss Wendy Margaret Toms, (15), Canada St, Timaru.

She was admitted to Timaru Hospital on April 15 after the car in which she was a passenger hit a bridge two miles north of Pareora.

TE PUKE MAN A Te Puke freezing worker, Mr Eric Bailey (21), was killed in a collision near Te Puke on Saturday afternoon.

LONE DRIVER A man was killed when the car he was driving ran off the road between Waimana and Opotiki at about 9 p.m. last night.

He was Mr Sam Moeau, (60), farmer, Mangutaki, Gisborne.

Mr Moeau was the only occupant of the car.

MEADS ORDERED OFF New Zealand's famous forward, Colin Meads, blotted his copy book at Piopio on Saturday by being ordered from the field during a Rugby match at the Piopio Domain.

The game was between Waiteke and Piopio and before it finished two other players joined Meads on the sideline.

Meads was reportedly ordered off for foul play and the other two players, John Lang, a Waiteke prop, and Pat Tapa, a Piopio forward, were ordered off after they traded punches.

Storm, Then Bikinis An electrical storm over Auckland on Saturday morning caused brief power blackouts in the central city and most of the eastern suburbs.

Water covered lengths of roads and highways for a time, but without causing much disruption to holiday traffic.

The weather cleared in the afternoon. Bikinis reappeared on beaches yesterday.

Easter Snow Snow fell in central Rome on Saturday for the first time Romans could remember at Easter.

Following a blockade by snow of the Autostrada del Sole (Highway of the Sun) motorway in the Apennines, Italy's main roads were open yesterday, and despite the unseasonal cold weather the Easter holiday rush was in full swing, especially towards the ski resorts.

Costarred In 1930s Classic

Santa Monica, California Actor Robert Armstrong.

Armstrong portrayed a film director in the 1933 production, appearing opposite Bruce Cabot and Fay Wray. He died at a local hospital following a short illness.

Armstrong's career spanned 50 years and included appearances in more than 100 films. Among them were "Blood under the Sun" with James Cagney, "Sea of Grass" with Spencer Tracy and "Paleface" with Bob Hope.

Press-button Window Kills

Manitowoc, Wisconsin. A 10-year-old boy died when his head was pinned in the power window of the family car.

Death Fall

Dunedin. A Ministry of Works plumber, Mr Llewellyn Ross Ralston (32), married with 4 children, died in Dunedin Hospital on Thursday night of injuries received when he fell through a skylight on the concrete floor of a MOW store in Alexandra that afternoon.

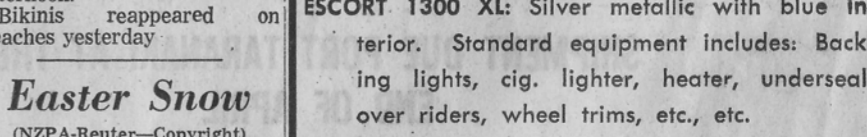
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SHOCK FOR BREAKFAST

Mr Sam Drought of Ihaha Rd, Opunake, had just returned from church with his son when it happened.

He walked into the kitchen where the table was set for breakfast and an unlatched window started banging as the wind increased. There were seven people in the house.

"Suddenly the wife shouted 'tornado' and we just managed to get into the passage when it hit. The table and chairs were picked up and thrown against the wall. I hate to think what might have happened if we'd been sitting here and if the boy and I had been outside we wouldn't have stood a chance," he said.

The 1700 sq. ft spacious brick home, built last October at a cost of \$24,500, was badly damaged by the whirlwind. Part of the roof collapsed, the kitchen wall was blown out and at least half the house will have to be completely re-built.

Mr Drought's son, in the garage, dived under the car when the garage started to lift off its foundations and parts of the roof and walls caved in.

Outside they found a half-ton forage harvester which had been picked up from the farm

Drone In Rain Pool Rotorua. A fifteen-month-old girl, Meredith Jane Cessell daughter of Mr and Mrs D. G. Cessell, drowned on Saturday at her home at Ngakuru, 15 miles south of Rotorua.

She had apparently crawled unnoticed from the house and ventured into a paddock where she was found lying in a pool of water left by recent rain.

Their Cross (NZPA-Reuters-Copyright) Lima. An Easter passion play here had to be cancelled because one of the actors ran off with the costumes, police said.

He was playing the part of Judas.

# IN PATH OF TORNADO



The Martin house in Waitetika Rd, blasted out of existence. Nothing is salvageable, not even electrical appliances. Debris can be seen scattered over the paddocks (rear). Bedding was picked up three miles away.



Mr Sam Drought's new home in Ihala Rd, Opunake. The 1700 sq. ft. brick home was built six months ago at a cost of \$24,500. Most of it will have to be re-built. The whirlwind punched in the windows and doors at the front and forced its way out through the roof and kitchen wall. The family sheltered in the passage. They had been about to sit down for breakfast.



A view from inside the wrecked garage at Mr Sam Drought's house in Ihala Rd. The foundations were blown away.



Friends and neighbours mingle in the wreckage of Mr Winter's Skeet Rd house. The roof is gone and the group of people at rear are standing in what was the lounge, built over a double garage.



A \$2000 caravan, tossed over like a toy in Mr John Armstrong's backyard in Waitetika Rd. Mr Armstrong, an agricultural science student at Massey University, was just preparing to go out to study in the caravan when the tornado hit.



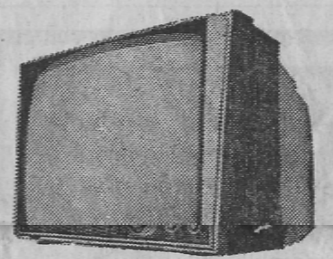
Furness' partially de-roofed cottage on the Armstrong property in Waitetika Rd. The garage was lifted off its foundations and dumped (right) without scratching the cars.



A shelter belt of large macrocarpa trees on the Opunake-Eltham Rd, uprooted, splintered and stripped of foliage by an awesome force.

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