

Smallwood

4-22-74

Members of the college community,

I will greatly appreciate it if you will take time before details slip away to write down what you (and your family) were doing at 3:51 p.m. on April 3rd, what damage the tornado did to your property, any unusual incidents connected with the tornado and its aftermath you were involved in or observed, and any personal reactions to the tragedy. We believe that this material should form part of the historical record of this day which now joins July 4, 1837 (tornado) and December 19, 1941 (Classic Hall fire) as Hanover's third major disaster. I plan to use some of the material in an extended spread in THE HANOVERIAN and possibly as background for a somewhat more ambitious publishing project. Please check below the appropriate permission and then sign and date the sheet. You may, of course, attach other sheets of data if you wish. And do you mind dropping off your contribution to the information desk in the Ad. Bldg. or put it in the campus mail addressed to me? Sometime this week hopefully?

Frank Baker

3:30 PM 4/3/74 Time had come for nurses to change shifts. Mrs. Strahm who had worked day shift left for her home 4 miles away. As she left she reminded me of the tornado warnings on the radio. I watched the rolling black clouds in the S.W. sky. As the clouds became darker and movement became more furious in appearance I could hear a roaring noise, as if an approaching near by train. I grabbed a flash light and started for the basement. At this time Sue Scardina came in the front door. I took her to the basement with me. Thank "Goodness" that there were no students hospitalized at nearby. We were in the basement a very short time, maybe a minute. The noise stopped. Sue and I came up the steps and went to the front door. Horros! The sight we saw. "Oh! God" Sue cried, "Look at the Phi Mu House." her sorority house and she took off in that direction. "I was so shocked I just felt numb. This can't be real!" Surely some must be killed or badly injured" I thought. Within the next hour Mrs. Strahm returned safely. We learned the next day that Mrs. Fiese, the third nurse, had lost her

This material is not to be used for publication in any form but only as historical record material to be housed in the college archives.

— This material may be used for publication as long as my name or the names of my family are not used.

✓ This material may be published without restriction.

Signed Lene Smallwood

Date 4-27-74

over

home but her family was safe. while it broke
my heart to see all the destruction around &
thanked God again and again that the campus
had survived with no fatalities. I still haven't
recovered from the shocked, numb feeling that
this cannot be real and I will awaken
from a dream.