

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

At 3:51 p.m. the Mulletts were picking themselves up off the family room floor and carefully getting broken glass off themselves — the tornado had hit our house and subdivision a minute before it got to the campus. Two neighbors had joined us about four minutes earlier, and none of us suffered any injury beyond some very small cuts. The house, however, no longer had a roof over the eastern half, and two bedrooms upstairs had been half blown away and half caved in. The carport roof was gone, but the car held its ground and was operable. As soon as it was possible to drive out of the neighborhood, we made a frantic trip with two injured people from several houses away, attempting first to reach the hospital in Madison and finally having to go to Louisville General Hospital. One of the injured, a three-year-old boy, was

— 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. [over]

— 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 Frederic Mullett

Date June 10, 1974

dead on arrival [the arrival is recorded in a newsphoto in the April 4 Louisville Times]. My wife thinks he probably let go of life about 20 minutes before we reached the hospital. The other casualty was only relatively serious and was released two days later from the hospital.

One of the curious responses or reactions to the tornado that we experienced was not the disbelief at what had happened to our house, neighbors, and neighborhood, but rather the extreme surprise at discovering what the tornado did after it passed through us. We simply, for the moment, did not realize that it went any further on the ground once it had devastated our neighborhood. [Of 22 houses on our street only ~~three~~ are habitable nine weeks after the tornado.] The discovery that the college campus had been utterly ravished was an extreme shock, even in our own personal misfortune.