

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 pm on April 3rd I was on an American Airlines flight from Los Angeles bound for Louisville with a short stopover in Memphis, Tenn. I was returning from my attendance at the American Association of Health, Phys. Educ., + Recreation national convention.

Exactly at 3:51 ~~am~~ was in Memphis waiting for the new passengers to board the plane for the continuation of the flight to Louisville. ~~It~~ had a great flight - sunny - clear skies - & we landed in Memphis 15 min ahead of schedule due to tail winds.

Approaching Louisville (30 min south) we circled ^{+ ascended to} ~~to wait for~~ turbulence (the pilot said "heavy squalls") to pass out of the Louisville area. No mention was made of tornadoes.

In fact that morning I listened to the Today Show ^{on TV} and the weather forecast for the midwest was "Severe thunderstorms over Eastern Mo - Ky, Ill, Ind, + Western Ohio area."

My ~~initial~~ initial reaction was one of disgust of the prospect

— 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.

X This material may be published without restriction.

Signed

Charlene Byne

Date

4/23/74

of arriving just in time for part of the annual -
Southern Indiana "monsoon" season.

As much as I detest rain to say the least it would
have been much preferred to the destruction caused
by the severe tornado.

~~It~~ It was dry upon arrival at the Evansville airport
and it was not until we walked out to the parking lot
that some "minor" damage to cars were noticed.

I snapped 2 pictures to show the "folks" at Hanover
what Evansville looked like - not realizing that
in Hanover - pictures would be much more ~~descriptive~~
descriptive.

No destruction at all was seen in Jeffersonville, Charlestown, or
New Wash - therefore we assumed Tornado had gone up I-65.

It was not til we saw some of the homes on State Rd 56-62
near Lexington - Chelsea that we started worrying.

As we ~~approached~~ ^(approx 7:10 pm) the Hanover Nursing Center - I got
alarmed since my mother was still at work there &
a fire truck & ambulance ^{with} siren ^{having} & screeching tires wheeled
into the home. Luckily the Lord had protected the Home
& no damage except loss of electricity resulted.

When I saw my mother was fine I told her to wait
patiently & I would come back for her as soon as we
could get to the college & I would get my car which I left
parked in the car port by our apartment.

It took 35 min for us to travel the mile & two tenth distance from the nursing home to our apartment.

My mother had tried to get into the college around 4:30 but the lady who ~~also~~ ^{was} driving her over to see how things were could only get as far as Main Cross & Main & decided to turn around & just wait at the ^{hurrying} home.

Therefore, I was the first one of our family to see the destruction. It wasn't until I saw

Limonegas & the Barnes Funeral home that the impact of the tornado was coming into clear view. It was the site of the Foxworthy's home that also concerned me & then when I saw the Theta home old & new I quickly looked to Long Gym to see if it had a roof & was glad to see that it looked a hundred times better despite extensive window damage & debris all over. ~~It wasn't~~ ^{It wasn't} til we were at the HO home that someone

remarked about the Phi Mu house & I turned & see the loss they had suffered & realized it was their debris that covered Long's grass.

We asked people on the road when it hit & they asked where we were, etc. and someone remarked to me that my car was "crushed" & I only said is the apartment

standing?

Finally we made it down to faculty row & as soon as we turned the corner I was relieved to see my apartment standing with the roof basically on!

Damage was broken windows - curtains blown off - books, ^{papers} & trophies on the floor but basically the 4 rooms looked in tact.

Again, ~~it~~ wasn't til the rains came that evening that we realized our roof was a sieve.

We ^{the entire apartment plus Seibert & myself} were downstairs in the bottom apartment by the fireplace when someone said they heard water leaking & we went up to investigate - only to find rain coming in hundreds of tiny holes in the living room & coming out of the light fixture in the kitchen. The kitchen floor had the greatest ^{concentrated} amount - approx 3-4 inches by the time we came upstairs. Someone said put buckets underneath & I commented I didn't ^{think} there were enough buckets on campus to take care of all the leak holes in the living room alone.

Our smaller bedroom was leaking all down one wall & in the closet where my mother's clothes are kept.

My bedroom in the back was our only dry room.

The bathroom leaked over the sink - the only "Convenient" leak on the entire place.

We are thankful to God that no one in the college community was killed + considering some of our neighbors' damage we are grateful that our biggest loss was only my car. (not quite) 24 hrs old
My car was the only one in the carport
+ the carport flew over + threw my car +
Then a medium size tree fell on the back end!
My 4 door ^{Oldsmobile} hardtop became a 2 door convertible in only 5 minutes. :-)

Office damage ^{consisted of} ~~was~~ broken windows + debris on ~~our~~ floor but nothing lost ~~just~~ ^{only} duty + full of glass.