

TORNADO: Death Dips From Storm

By Elson Armstrong, Jr.

A few Sundays ago, Jesse D. Vick waited at an intersection for traffic to pass following a shopping trip near his home in Zebulon, a small, quiet town in eastern Wake County. A gentle summer rain pelted the top of his car.

Suddenly, witnesses said later, a tornado swung out of the clouds, snatched Vick's car from the ground and slammed it against a brick wall several hundred yards away.

Vick was killed instantly. Both the tragedy and its suddenness graphically illustrate the dangers of a tornado. They often come without warning. On the day that Vick died, the temperatures hovered in the mid-70's, and no storms were predicted in the forecast. This tornado developed and disappeared so quickly that meteorologists at the National Weather Service at the Raleigh-Durham Airport say they never saw it on their weather screens.

Weather fronts such as have rippled across the Triangle area over the past several weeks are almost perfect tornado breeding grounds.

North Carolina tornadoes usually bounce out of a parent storm cloud and quickly disappear.

The weather service says tornado habits are very frustrating because often when a tornado warning is issued the twister has already run its course.

Therefore, you should keep an alert eye on the skies when the weather is threatening and take the following precautions if a tornado warning is issued or a telltale funnel is spotted in your area.

Seek safe shelter if you're outside and the funnel is approaching rapidly. Lie in a ditch or other low lying area, cover your head.

If you're in your home and it has a basement, go there. If not get under a sturdy table or bed. If possible, cover yourself for your protection against falling or flying debris.

In schools or office, buildings stay away from windows. If there's time and one is available go to a storm or defense shelter. If nothing else is available climb under desks.

Never try to outrun a tornado in your car or truck. The funnel, even a seemingly harmless one, can pick up your vehicle and toss it like a child's toy.

If you spot a funnel and you're at a safe distance call your local police or fire department and inform them of the location and direction that the storm is moving.

Avoid large trees and power poles which can be uprooted or just snapped by the force of the wind.

Nothing is safe in the paths of these unwelcome visitors. Trees, buildings, animals, and people can be swept up into the powerful winds and crushed. Buildings explode under the tremendous force. Even straws can be blown through bricks. But often as quickly as they come, tornadoes are gone. If you've survived, you'll never forget it.

Tornadoes, also called cyclones or twisters, are definitely the strongest windstorms on the face of the earth.

Although no accurate wind speed has ever been measured in the center of a tornado, it has been estimated that these violent rotating masses of air can reach from 75-mph (small tornado) to over 500-mph in the giant or maxi-tornadoes which often hit the Great Plains or Midwestern States.

Most people living in North Carolina have never seen an actual tornado, because the state is not considered a part of the infamous so-called "Tornado Alley" that runs from Texas eastward to Alabama and Northward to the Dakotas and Midwest.

Although North Carolina is not in the center of the most tornado-prone region of America the state has its share of them. They also have hit the Triangle Area. Already this year, parts of the Triangle have been hit on at least three occasions by tornadoes.

On January 4, a line of heavy thunderstorms was moving eastward out of Orange County around 7:30 a.m. Suddenly, without warning, a small tornado swung out of a storm cloud and touched down between Hillsborough and Durham, moving east-north-east. The storm (Continued On Page 16)

AARP/NRTA Applauds Action

Lifting Medicaid Restrictions

RALEIGH — The N.C. Chapter of American Association of Retired Persons/National Retired Teachers Association (AARP/NRTA) and representatives of the statewide organization which represents low-income people in civil legal matters, has jointly

applauded the General Assembly for making available prescriptions and medical care to elderly and low-income persons.

As part of the FY 1983 budget approved yesterday and today by the General Assembly, the number of prescriptions which can be filled under Medicaid was raised from four per month, with no exceptions, to six per month with exceptions in life-threatening situations. The budget also removed limits on the number of mental health visits that Medicaid will pay for annually, and increased the number of Medicaid-paid physician visits from 18 per year to 24.

"As a result of previous restrictions enacted a year ago by the legislators in response to federal budget cuts, large numbers of elderly and low-income persons across the state were forced to choose among vital drugs prescribed to them by physicians," said AARP/NRTA Legislative Committee Chairman Ms. Rosalie Andrews of Charlotte.

"Many of these elderly people were having to do without one or more necessary prescriptions because they could not afford to pay for them."

Ms. Andrews cited one person who has a fixed income of \$250 per month. In addition to being elderly and poor, this person also has cancer and her bill for pain-killing drugs exceeds \$400 per month. "Under the previous restrictions," said Ms. Andrews, "this person was having to do without other needed drugs so that she could use her prescription 'allowance' to obtain the drugs she needed to help her endure the pain caused by her illness."

In leading efforts within the Joint Appropriations Committee to lift certain of the restrictions, Reps. Ruth Cook and Al Adams of Wake County urged lawmakers to "maintain a strong sense of compassion for the elderly and low-income citizens of this state — even at a time when tax revenues are down."

legislative assistance from Reps. Cook, Adams, and Watkins in the N.C. House. Ms. Andrews also praised the efforts of Senators Hardison, Royall and Walker for their assistance in getting the measure through the Senate.

Besides showing compassion, the legislators who actively supported this measure also showed good fiscal sense," said Jean Cary, a Legal Services attorney from Raleigh. "If elderly and low-income citizens can continue to receive the prescription drugs they need and medical care at home rather than being hospitalized at state expense under Medicaid, it saves money for the state and the taxpayers."



TRY TRIAMINIC TABLETS.
TO RELIEVE
NASAL CONGESTION
AND HEADACHE
DUE TO COMMON COLD
OR FLU.



By the way...

By Joe Black

I have never said that racism does not exist in these United States, because racism has been a part of our society since 1619 when John Hawkins first brought us into this country as slaves. And I do say that too often Black people use the word racism as an excuse for our inadequacies. Quite often these are the same people who, in a bragging fashion, talk about Harriet Tubman and the "Underground Railroad," Crispus Attucks and the Boston Massacre, Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., encouraging our people to strive for independence and equality of opportunity. But those same people are not doers; they seem to have lost that fighting spirit. Thus, I keep saying that racism is an excuse, not the only reason why Black Americans fail to achieve our anticipated socio-economic growth.

We must admit that some of our failures are because too many of us have allowed apathy and welfare to make us lazy and abandon the fighting spirit of "We Shall Overcome." Well, somebody up there must like us and is giving us a second chance to destroy this unconcerned listlessness and put forth the needed effort.

My friends, it is no longer a request but an ultimatum that Black Americans become more involved in the political process. Black people failed to put forth the necessary efforts during the last national elections and are now grumbling about budget cuts and loss of jobs. Procrastination and postulation can no longer be tolerated because the survival of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is dependent upon pressures from millions of Black people. To impress you with the importance of the voting act to Black America, let me cite a statistic from the Voter Education Project:

"Since passage of the act in 1965, minority voter registration has increased by a thousand percent in Mississippi, more than a hundred percent in some other Southern states; additionally, the region now has 2400 Black elected officials as compared to less than a hundred prior to 1965."

So, write to the President, your senator, and congressperson. Remember! The vote you save may be your own.

Joe Black

Vice President
The Greyhound Corporation

HOUSTON—Owning a home is an American dream many people can no longer attain. But when Ms. Verna Bush found the house she wanted she literally took it. The 28-year-old mother of three made no down payment and signed no loan agreement. She claimed the house as a squatter; one of a growing number of people nationwide willing to face the risk of eviction to move into unclaimed, abandoned homes. (UPI Photo)

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