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Dresden recoveri

By MARTHA GIBBS
Staff writer

In its brief duration the tornado which ripped through the Village of Dresden in the late afternoon June 27 left a path of destruction with damage estimated at more than \$1 million.

In its wake the tornado left the entire Village without power until Wednesday morning, splintered trees and slashed crops on farms outside the village. Fortunately, only two residents suffered minor storm-related injuries.

After inspection of the disaster scene Wednesday meteorologists from the National Weather Service office in Rochester determined the storm was a tornado and estimated the resulting damage in excess of \$1 million.

Although tornados are rare in New York State, there is a possibility of a tornado when a severe squall appears, as it had when the tornado struck, according to meteorologists.

At the U.S. Naval Underwater Testing Station located on Seneca Lake off the Dresden shore, Gordon Hansen, facility manager, noted a high wind reading of 80 miles per mile on the barge during the storm before electric power was interrupted.

A state of emergency for the Dresden area was issued for about three days

following the storm with auxiliary police posted an entrances to Dresden to cut down the flow of curious sightseers.

Dresden Mayor Carl Eskildsen said, "I think the Lord was looking out for us. We only had minor injuries."

He continued saying, "It's sad we have had to lose such nice trees. The storm has really ruined quite a few of them."

"I'm happy about all the cooperation we have had," the mayor said. "Almost immediately everyone was pitching in helping. Farmers brought in their chain saws to help cut up and remove the many trees and branches that clogged our streets."

Mrs. Jennie Kingsley of 71 Main Street, Dresden, warned by the darkening sky, had just brought in the laundry and was trying to close the windows when the storm came.

She described the sensation as being similar to being in the middle of a car wash with nothing visible through the water swirling around. "It sounded like the roaring of a train going through a station," she added.

"It certainly was a surprise," she said. "Hurry up, bang-bang and it was over. We had no idea where to look first (after it was over)."

But when the family opened the door and looked into the parsonage backyard they saw four apple trees which "all went down in a row." Ironically, the one tree they had thought of cutting down was still standing. "If apple trees could laugh, that one's laughing," Mrs. Kingsley said Friday.

"It's really a shame for the properties were really enhanced by the big trees," she said about the severe damage sustained by the trees. She said she did not know if this might have some effect on property values.

"We are fortunate we never had any real tragedies and are glad we have so much help coming in to help clean up," she said.

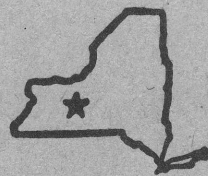
Besides electric and telephone company crews, various highway departments, Burce Hansen's City Hill Construction crews and volunteers all have aided in cleaning up the storm's aftermath.

Mrs. Kingsley, noting human nature, said, "These things bring out the best in people helping each other, but also some of the worst — like scavengers coming in to get wood when there are many people in Dresden with fireplaces."

Cora LeShure of Charles Street was inside the house when the storm

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ng from tornado

started.

"The first thing I did was to unhook the television antenna," she said. Then she started closing windows—"but everything got soaked," and when she opened the screens to close the storm windows she got hit by hail stones. "All I could see from my windows was leaves and wind and hail," she recalled.

One of two persons sustaining minor injuries from the storm, Mrs. LeShure suffered a sprained wrist when she fell coming back into the house after she had been outside when the wind was worst.

"I didn't have time to be scared," she said, recalling she had her two daughters, who were scared, sit on the couch in the middle of a room to prevent injuries in case the windows broke.

"It hit so fast nobody could do anything," she said. "When I got my bedroom windows shut it was all over. But what a mess."

"I'm thankful no one was seriously hurt, but there was lot of damage," she added. "All the beautiful shade trees are gone—that's what gets you."

"It tipped my camper over and I just got through packing it since we were going to go away for the weekend. Now

(Continued on Page 4)



Still waving

ance to the village stands bent and mangled
high winds of June 27. (Photo by Heidi Davis).