

1937 SCRAPBOOK, IMAGE 038

(Handwritten date: Monday, April 19, 1937)

FILES SUIT FOR DIVORCE

Floyd Schindler Seeks Freedom From Edna Schindler

On the grounds of cruel and inhuman treatment, a divorce has been asked by Floyd Schindler, now of Decatur, from Edna Beer Schindler, of Berne. The divorce was filed in the Adams county circuit court at Decatur.

The plaintiff charges that his wife asked him to leave home and obtain work elsewhere, and come home on week-ends only, and further that she has falsely accused him of associating with other women. Summons were ordered returnable April 29.

(Handwritten date: Monday, May 24, 1937)

MUCH DAMAGE IS CAUSED BY STRONG WIND

Barns and Other Buildings Wrecked; Two Men Have Narrow Escape

A miniature cyclone or tornado played havoc south of Berne Saturday afternoon, causing property damage estimated at thousands of dollars. It was the worst storm experienced in this community since the tornado in March, 1920, when several people were killed and hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage was done.

Many buildings were demolished in Saturday's storm and great damage was done to orchards. Two men had a close escape from death, but as far as could be learned today no one was injured. The wind struck with fierce force and made kindling wood out of large buildings.

Low black clouds moving at great speed gave advance notice of the approaching storm. The wind preceded a heavy rainstorm which drenched the community and some hail also fell. Several people heard the low rumbling sound made by the approaching storm. David J. Neuenschwander of southwest of Berne, reports that he saw a black, funnel-shaped cloud strike at his father's place, Peter Neuenschwander. The cloud dipped down at his father's place, then rose again, passed over his own farm and swooped down again on the Farlow farm east of the Neuenschwander place.

GENEVA SUFFERS

The town of Geneva felt part of the tornado. Some buildings were unroofed and large windows blown in. Many electric line poles were blown down and many large trees were uprooted. Parked cars were moved several feet down the street and light posts were broken down.

MOVED SOUTHEASTWARD

People in the path of the storm report that the low black clouds came out of the northwest and moved southeast. At the Eli Stucky farm just south of the Wabash river where Joel Augsburger now operates a filling station the windmill was doubled up indicating that the wind was very strong. The sheep shed was also torn down. West of Geneva the storm also struck with great fury. The Jess Lybarger barn was blown over and demolished. Several horses were in the barn and had to be freed out of the wreckage. The animals escaped with little or no injury. Two or three other barns in that vicinity were demolished. Jim Fidler saw his woodshed demolished and the debris blown away. He

sought refuge in a cyclone cellar when he saw the storm come. At the Ed Stahly farm the twister ripped through his orchard, demolishing about fifteen fruit trees. At the Chester Roth home, the roof was blown off the barn and other damage was done.

CEYLON IS HIT

The little town of Ceylon was also hard hit. At the Elmer Bailey home it tore down the porch on the west and south side of the home. At the Elmer and William Bailey home four large barn doors were ripped off. Two windows were broken out of the house and the granary was badly damaged. The wagon was blown out of the barn. The wind picked up the wagon and (Cut Off)

HAS NARROW ESCAPE

Elmer Bailey had a narrow escape from death when he attempted to hold three horses which were hitched together. They almost trampled him under their feet when the storm came, but he was soon rescued.

At the Logan Baumgartner home the garage was torn down and large trees were felled like toothpicks.

HEAVY DAMAGE

Peter Neuenschwander, living south of the tile mill, was probably one of the heaviest losers. This 82-year-old farmer also had a narrow escape from death. He was back of the barn when the storm struck, and with objects hurtling all around him, he finally reached the house after battling with the storm. A 70-foot windbreak was torn down on his farm and made into kindling wood. The corn crib was blown off its foundation and sections of a slate roof were blown off the large barn. A tin roof from his silo and two brooder houses were picked up and carried across the road and deposited in the orchard of his son's home. Many large trees were blown down. Two 9 x 16 brooder houses were picked up and deposited in the lane close by. Trees were torn down at the David J. Neuenschwander home and the corn crib was badly damaged.

At the Russel J. Long home south of the Neuenschwander farm, the roof was blown off a large tile chicken house. Tile walls caved in, killing eight hens. The large windmill was blown down and just missed falling down on the house by a few inches. The wind ripped tops of trees like they had been shot away. The roof on the chicken house was bolted down but the bolts were twisted off by the storm.

Nathan Sprunger had his garage wrecked by the wind and fruit trees were demolished or uprooted.

At the Joe Peel home the barn was unroofed. At the Abe Lehman home the roof was torn from a shed.

One farmer reported that a tin water tank was picked up and carried near a half mile by the wind.

Many other farmers suffered damage, some heavy, others less severe. As far as could be learned today, the livestock loss was light. The storm cloud is believed to have dipped down in some places, cut a swath, then lifted again. Here, the force of the wind was not so great, but the clouds were moving with great speed and were very low.

Adams County Historical Museum

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Transcribed by Karin King