

POST FOR
STAFF

Cincinnati, Ohio 45211
April 6, 1974

National Weather Service Office
Greater Cincinnati Airport
Cincinnati, Ohio 45275

Re: Tornado - April 3, 1974

Dear Sirs:

Thought you might be interested in the situation at the Cheviot Weather Station a few nights ago. After hearing severe weather warnings while at work (in Queensgate area), I arrived home about 5:20 P.M. Heavy clouds were all around and as I was taking the temperature readings for the day (time of observation for Cheviot Station 5:30 P.M.), rain and thunder started. Within a few minutes, hail started to fall (stones approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1") and continued to do so for about ten minutes. No dents in roof of my car were visible, however, my father's VW has a cloth roof and it has numerous cuts in it from the hail. We sustained no broken windows and as far as we can tell, no damage to the roof.

After the hail and rain stopped, I thought I'd collect some hail samples so I went outside in the back yard. Noticed immediately the complete quietness - no wind, rain, no birds singing - only sounds of cars passing on road and the shouts of the people a few doors away. Another thing I noticed was that our dog, who usually follows me around all over, refused to come out of the house. Even calling to her didn't help. Went out to front of the house and heard a man shouting "Get inside". We have a phone company building a few doors up the street to the East of our house (Nolan and Bridgetown) and he was looking out of the doorway and shouting to anyone he saw outside. He pointed to the West and there the funnel cloud was spotted at approximately 5:45 P.M. on 4/3/74. I immediately took cover in the basement of our house. The funnel was approximately 2 - 3 miles West of our house and later we learned it struck areas of South Road, Danville Road, Kildare, Ebenezer, Hutchinson - all in the Mack-Bridgetown area. As stated above, there was no wind, rain or hail accompanying the sighting of the funnel at this station. All electricity went out at 5:45 P.M. and remained out until 9:35 A.M. the next morning. Phones were operative but we had to wait a while to get a dial tone.

As a side note, my parents were returning from Indiana and as they exited the I-74 and Harrison Avenue ramp, they encountered larger hail stones. They were traveling East up Harrison Avenue (Route 52) and were West of the Dent Theatre when the hail stones became as large as golf balls completely covering the street. Funnel

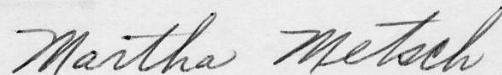
was traveling from SW to N and this area was in its path. My parents escaped any injury, however, their car did sustain hail damage to its roof and hood. By the time they arrived home (area they were traveling was about 2 miles West of our house), the funnel was breaking up in the northern sky.

One of my co-workers, Frank Altenau, who lives on Biscayne, was able to take two pictures of the funnel cloud as it was over the Mack-Bridgetown area. Enclosed is a photocopy of both pictures - since these were taken with a Poloroid, Frank is attempting to have copies made and if he is successful, we'll send you the actual pictures when received.

This is a supplemental report to our regular monthly information sent to your office. Notations will also be made with that report, however, we felt you would like to know what conditions were at that time at this station.

If any additional information is needed, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Martha Metsch
Cheviot Ohio Weather Station

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Encl.

P.S. Forgot to mention that the sky at the time the funnel was spotted was a mixture of black clouds to the North, East, South while the S/W to Western sky was yellowish.



Twister over Western Hamilton County - 4/3/74 - approx. 5:45 P.M.

Photocopies of actual photos taken by co-worker Frank Altenau

Cincinnati, Ohio 45211

Mr. Altenau took these photos with a Poloroid camera and at the present time is attempting to have duplicate pictures made. When these are received, we hope to have copies of the original pictures and will send them to your Dept. at that time.

Martha Metsch
Cheviot Ohio Station
Hamilton County
4/5/74