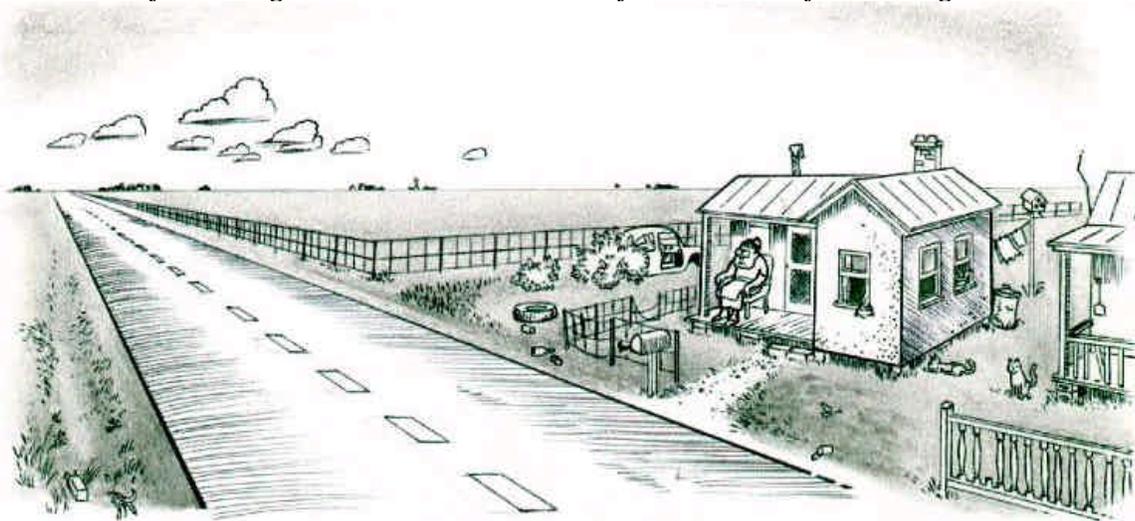


## I. COMMENTARY

The last Storm Track prompted several more stories of chase experiences from readers, which are included in this edition. The Editor is very grateful for these and all submissions. Your accounts make up the "news" in the newsletter, which is what ST is all about. Its popularity reflects your input. Whatever I add, whether grouping like accounts, editing the text, or illustration, cannot even begin until your dramatic, interesting and amusing contributions are received. Thanks again.

Basically, this issue is a continuation of the last one and wraps up April's storm experiences. However, colorful and varied as they were, one of the many recollections that returns to me is a somewhat, curious and somber one that, in contrast, underscores the good fortune of those who do what we do. Between memories of the hum of tires on racing pavement and magnificent cloud towers, ever beaoning the eager chaser, are those occasional -almost haunted- images of small towns passing by, farm-lean and business-poor; slowly and sadly drying up. Most disquieting are the even more meager outskirts of these small communities, where an old man or woman sits on a shaded porch of a patched and peeling three room house, silently watching the wheeled world whiz by ... with only their legs to



move them unsteadily from home to store to home. Failed farmers, lonely widows and their working children, growing up through constant struggles and too soon old. One memory, especially, of a small, muddy stucco house in west Texas where I still recall the old woman on a porch chair, with soiled apron, who turned her head as I drove by after 400 miles of chasing nothing but clouds, while she sat contemplating her next meal or just curious about the next town down the road ... the road just in front of her door (to everywhere), which she would likely never travel. --- Curious and disquieting, but worth our note lest we forget the quirks of fate in this short life -- this brief flicker in Time.

## II. ROSTER

The Roster lists names, addresses and brief biographies of those interested in or willing to correspond with others about storms. Normally, only recent entries since the last issue are included.

Name	Address	Chase country - range
Shane Mayor	Forest Hill Weather Station 1229 Walters Mill Road Forest Hill, Maryland 21050	

(Biography: Age 19, native of Hartford County, Maryland and a sophomore meteorology major at Millersville University of Pennsylvania. Before attending the University, Mr. Mayor recorded four years of detailed, daily weather data. "I am extremely interested in meteorological instrumentation and have tons of weather instrument catalogs. If anyone needs a specific piece, maybe I can help find the right company and a better price. I am not fanatic about chasing storms like you guys are but love to monitor rainfall, wind speed and direction, and pressure and temperature changes when the T-storms pass over my home. I also enjoy working with a new Osborne One personal computer." Among other activities, Mr. Mayor devised a plastic probe shield for remote temperature probes (Instructions

in the April, 1985 Weatherwise, pp. 70-71). "I like to correspond and am looking forward to hearing from ST readers."

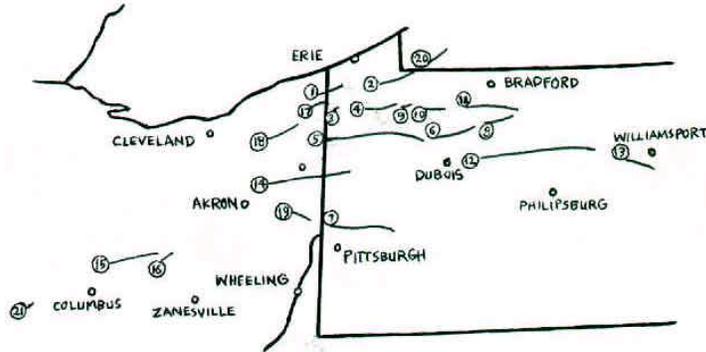
### III. LETTERS/PHONE CALLS TO THE EDITOR

An unknown correspondent from Dallas sent a news clipping from the Dallas Morning News, Monday, April 22, 1985 on the April 21 tornadoes, which were somewhat lightly treated in the last newsletter -- watched but unphotographed by an over-awed ST observer near Throckmorton. Storm Track now dutifully reports the grimmer side of that day -- of which it was unaware at the time. Less than 15 miles northeast of this town, near Elbert, three members of one family (A.K. Curtis, 88; his wife, Beulah, 85; and their son, Malcolm, 64) were killed "when a tornado demolished their isolated ranch house and barn" about 6:15 PM ... "Deputy Smith was one of the first to arrive ... 'When I first drove up, it looked like a bulldozer had plowed down everything. ... Everything was in a shambles. Trees uprooted and scattered everywhere. The house and barn were leveled. All that was left standing was the foundation of the house. It must have struck with tremendous force. ... There was no evidence that a house was even there, except that the debris was scattered all over the pasture where the three bodies were found.'" (Ed.: A little later in this newsletter Feature the ST observer of this tornado will recount his chase experiences on this dynamic storm day).

Patrick Market writes from Newcastle, Pennsylvania that the deadly May 31 eastern U.S. tornado outbreak just missed his area: "Miraculously, every county around mine (Lawrence) had some tornadic activity. ... Things began between 5-6 PM I didn't comprehend the effects until about 9 PM. By then, it dawned on me that our world had, indeed, been 'turned upside down'. A shopping plaza that I had often frequented was wiped out by a 1/8 to 1/4 mile wide tornado. I was shocked to know it happened here! It had always been somewhere else. It just goes to show that all tornado outbreaks aren't in Texas, Oklahoma, Iowa, etc. This is what we locals call 'totally awesome'."

Roy Britt, who has done substantial research on this May outbreak, sent a copy of the preliminary National Weather Service report, prepared by its survey team. He also included an annotated map, identifying 21 tornado locations, which is adapted here for ST. NWS report:

"The outbreak of tornadoes which lashed areas of Pennsylvania and Ohio and touched down in southern New York May 31, among the most widespread and violent on record nationally, spun along 21 well defined tracks; one as long as 56 miles. There were also eight tornadoes in Ontario, Canada ... and a number in central New York. The most violent twister ran from Ravenna Arsenal, Ohio (northwest of Youngstown) 41 miles to Mercer, Pennsylvania. It generated indicated



winds of 300 miles per hour in Niles, Ohio and Wheatland, Pennsylvania." The NWS survey team "found that these tornadoes stayed on the ground continuously for as long as 50 miles... their paths varied in width from a few yards to 2.2 miles... and they moved at speeds from 35 to 60 MPH. Tornadoes are classified according to intensity of the internal winds they generate... On a scale of ferocity from zero to five, eight of the recent tornadoes were in the F4 category (internal winds up to 250 MPH) and one was F5, about 300 MPH." The following is a brief listing of these tornadoes by path length, width and intensity: (length and width are in miles, unless otherwise specified)

#### PENNSYLVANIA

1. F-4 (220-250 MPH), 14 mi. long, 0.2 wide.
2. F-4, 18 mi. long, up to 1/2 mile wide.
3. F-2 (120 MPH), 4 mi. long, 1 block wide.
4. F-3 (200 MPH), 23 mi. long, 1/8-1/2 wide.
5. F-4, 56 mi. long, 100 yards to 1/4 wide.
6. F-4, 30 mi. long, up to a mile wide.
7. F-3, 39 mi. long, 1/8-1/4 mi. wide.
8. F-2, 17 mi. long, width uncharted.
9. F-2, 8 mi. long, up to 1/2 mi. wide.
10. F-3, 13 mi. long, up to a mile wide.
11. F-4, 26 mi. long, up to 2 miles wide.
12. F-4, 50 mi. long, 3/4 to 2 miles wide.
13. F-2, 24 mi. long, 1/2 to 2 mi. wide.

#### OHIO

14. F-5 (300 MPH), 41 mi. long, 1/4 wide.
15. F-3, 29 mi. long, 50-100 yards wide.
16. F-3, west to east, 11 mi. long, 50-75 yards wide.
17. F-2, 10 mi. long, 1/8 mi. wide.
18. F-3, 15 mi. long, 1/8-1/4 mi. wide.
19. F-2, 13 mi. long, up to 1/8 mi. wide.
20. F-1, short distance.
21. F-1, short distance.

"The team did not survey" the Canadian or central New York areas. "Results of their study will be published later this year by NOAA."

Rocky Rascovich recounts a rare hail fall near Palm Beach, Florida, around the 28th or 29th of May 4-5 PM between Lake Worth and Lantana (reported in the Palm Beach Post Times). Golf ball and larger hail fell, breaking car windows, causing widespread damage and accumulating 2-3 inches in depth. Thereafter, the storm quickly dissipated in 15-20 minutes, then the sun came out. With almost no wind, a dense ground fog quickly covered the new hail carpet, as the warm ambient air settled over it (transforming a central Florida coastline into a ghostly Transylvanian landscape). Several tornado reports were received (roaring heard), but none could be confirmed.

Robert Beasley wanted to reply to ST's lightning article, concerning Gene Moore's experience near Katie, Oklahoma. "Unfortunately, I had a similar experience while watching a thunderstorm at my parent's house in McKinney, Texas last year. I was awakened about 4:30 AM, August 7 by very loud thunder. I went out on our driveway, which is quite open, to get a better view. An intense but isolated nocturnal thunderstorm was located to our west and northwest. The storm contained intense cloud-to-ground lightning, especially on the leading edge. As is so often the case in the summer months, and especially in Texas, the upper flow is weak. Therefore, the storm showed little movement; perhaps a slight drift to the southeast. For the next 30 to 45 minutes, the bulk of the storm remained to the northwest and west of my house, and throughout that time we only had a few brief but heavy showers. However, by 5:15 AM the showers were becoming more numerous and heavier. Also, at this time, a large cumulonimbus was developing overhead. The cloud-to-ground lightning was very close at this time, with each bolt followed by sharp cracks of thunder. At 5:30, while standing on the driveway and holding an umbrella to keep dry, everything lit up around me. I saw a spark accompanied by a loud cracking sound travel from the end of my hand to the driveway! The main bolt was somewhat to the east, so I was fortunate that nothing more happened. My hand had a tingling sensation for the next couple of hours. The main thunderstorm, throughout the entire event (4:30-9:00 AM), remained just to the west of my house; but we did manage to get nearly 2.50 inches of rain from it.

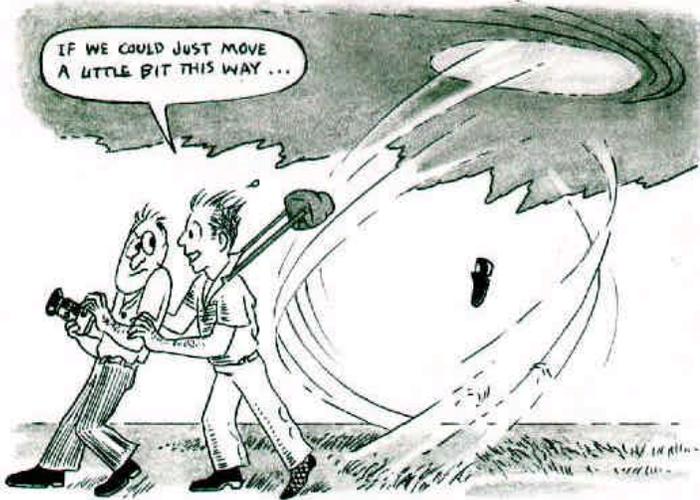


The lightning continued very intense and was in all directions from my house, except to the east. I really don't think the storm moved much at all, because the WSR-57 radar pictures from Oklahoma City showed a 55,000 foot top storm centered along the Denton, Collin County line (about 8 miles west of my house) and extending about 15 miles east from that location. ... One is never really safe from lightning. My brother had lightning travel between two walls in his house when he lived in Gainesville, Florida."

Gary Livingston, from Arkansas, had a good question about how to tell when a severe storm was more likely to be a "hailer" than a tornado producer. He had read about this characterization both in earlier Storm Tracks and in a newspaper account about early assessments of the May 31 Pennsylvania storms by local meteorologists. --- Basically, a storm system that develops in a line, where towers build close together along a band 50 or more miles in length, is likelier to produce only hail, heavy rain and high wind. However, if the towers build in an isolated cluster or widely separated clusters, 30 or more miles apart, they are more likely to produce tornadoes. Isolated clusters or solitary, large cells don't have to compete with nearby adjacent cells for inflow winds and can develop their own structure. Storm cells close together will be limited in size and will lack good, deep rotational organization. Also, storms that develop early in the day, say before 2 PM, are more likely to be "hailers." This is because convection has taken place too soon - before enough low level heat, and moisture could collect beneath the inversion "cap." A later storm will have more latent instability to draw upon. Also, anvils from an early storm line may already cover half the state, suppressing maximum temperatures beneath and ahead of it - and defusing at least one ingredient (heat) in destabilizing the atmosphere. Of course, there are many other characteristics to producing severe weather, and this is only a shorthand sketch of some of the visible features that are usually good indicators. In summary, a line storm, especially one that begins early in the day, is likely to be a "hailer."

Michael Rowland from Texas asks what is a "pendant" funnel? My understanding is that a pendant funnel is one extending below, or hanging from, a cloud base. It is somewhat redundant, since by definition almost all funnels are attached to and extend down from a cloud base. A very few small ones can form, completely detached, in clear air ahead of a vigorous cell or storm line. A larger minority can also form from the sides of cumulus towers (I have photographed several). Therefore, a "pendant" funnel is more formally correct, but the exceptions are so few as to make the term almost archaic, and unnecessary in normal usage.

Michael continues: "Recently, I went on my first storm chase. The thunderstorm that I was chasing was severe, producing large hail and funnel clouds, which I did not observe but heard about on the scanner-receiver in my car. ... While under the rain-free base, I observed a light, circular area surrounded by the dark clouds at the base. This area was 300 to 600 feet in diameter and northeast of my position. The light circular area was expanding and contracting in diameter. I would appreciate an answer in Storm Track regarding what it was that I saw." --- It is believed that Mr. Rowland observed



the core of a developing tornado vortex, that did not fully form, possibly extending upward to near an outer and lighter wall of the tower overhead. This is at variance with the Editor's earlier view that it was the core of a mesocyclone. My understanding is that a meso-cyclone can only develop deep within a cell and is normally found surrounded by dense, precip laden cloud mass. Therefore, to develop a clear opening would suggest an unusually strong meso-cyclone, extending 40,000 feet or more almost to the storm's top, with an even rarer, mostly rain free core, opening all the way to the storm's base. Such a monster should have produced more than just a few funnels as this one did.

Likelier, it was an incipient tornadic core, perhaps even with small funnels along the light/dark boundary, observable at a distance but unseen when looking up into the dark cloud base. Other reports exist in the literature of open holes in storm bases that were beginning tornadoes, sometimes accompanied by hissing or buzzing sounds. This is far likelier than that it was a meso-cyclone. Perhaps Mr. Rowland is even fortunate to be writing to us at all. He is certainly advised to try future observing at a slightly greater distance, if he wishes to continue/survive such a pastime.

(The Editor has taken somewhat longer on this section than originally planned, since it won't be possible to really get into the May account until the next ST. A letter was recently received, which has become the Feature for this issue and has, necessarily, bumped some of that material. However, I think you will find it absorbing, exciting and timely, regarding a key story in the last issue.)

IV. BULLETIN BOARD/COMMERCIAL MARKET -S- FOR PICTURES      V. CAMERA TIPS      VI. TRAVEL TIPS

VII. FEATURE

The Throckmorton Supercell of April 21, 1985

By Sam Barricklow

(Editor: ST takes an unusual departure in this story by presenting copy exactly as submitted. Mr. Barricklow obviously has devoted much time and effort in its development. Moreover, the copy is clear, and the characters traditional -- with "descenders" -- and readable. ST encourages more such contributions by other writers, keeping in mind the need to use wide margins, as in the newsletter, and close spacing to make optimum use of available space, usually at a premium in each issue.)

Regarding the letter from Tim Marshall (Vol. 8, No. 4 ST), I am the lone ST chaser who saw "it" and never took a single picture! In the words of Paul Harvey, THIS IS--

THE REST OF THE STORY...

April 21, 1985 was perhaps the biggest chase day of the year in North Texas. An upper level system was approaching from the west by way of Northern Arizona. The main surge of upper level energy from the system was expected to be in Texas the 22nd. However, when I awoke the morning of the 21st, I checked the Stephenville radar, through the local cable system. A thunderstorm complex was in the Abilene area with several cells having VIP 6 cores. Hmmm...

I called Alan Moller at the NWS Fort Worth to check the forecast for the afternoon. An upper level impulse was due to rotate around the main system and pass over the Panhandle. Alan suggested that I head toward the Childress core. I coaxed my wife, Patti, into going with me... The chase was on! We left around 10 am.

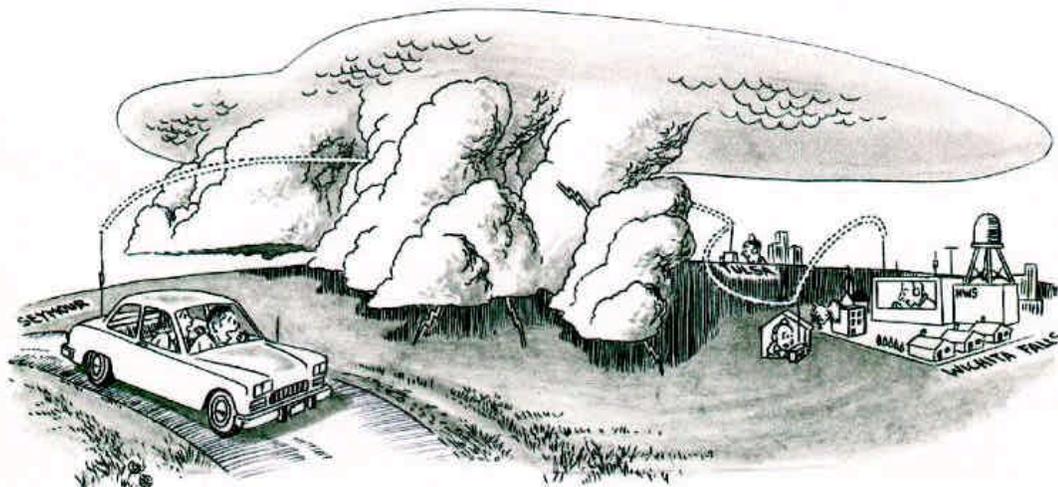
The morning thunderstorms observed earlier on radar were dissipating, and were moving NNE through the Wichita Falls area. As we approached Wichita Falls, I kept thinking about convergence along the outflow boundary left by the morning activity. Unknown to me at the time, the progs that would arrive at noon at the NWS would show an area of very strong upper level diffluence over the old outflow boundary. Warm moist low level advection was rushing toward the Panhandle on a collision course with the outflow boundary. The Stephenville lifted index was near -11!

As we neared Wichita Falls, towering cumulus was developing in the area between Abilene and Mineral Wells. On my VHF, 'two meter', amateur radio, I contacted W5GLG in Bowie, TX and asked him to call WB5FPI in Fort Worth, who in turn called Alan Moller at the NWS. With the new info yet to arrive, the stronger activity was still expected to be along the dryline in the Panhandle. We continued westward, but with ever increasing interest in the developing activity to the south.

Passing Wichita Falls, in the distant west we could see thin cirrus blowoff from the storms in the Panhandle, still several hours of driving away. But to the south, the towering cumulus near Abilene was anvilting out and looking strong. We contacted W5GLG through the Wichita Falls 'two meter' repeater again, to get another update from Alan.

The aforementioned noon data had arrived. Storms forming along the old outflow boundary were developing rapidly, with promising radar signatures. By then we were nearing Vernon, TX. We turned south on Hwy 283 toward Seymour. Nearby cumulus was beginning to be suppressed, taking on a stratiform appearance. Dense anvils with sharp, well-defined edges were erupting from the storms to the south. Large, staccato lightning bolts flashed under the developing anvils.

As we neared Seymour, new activity was firing up to our southwest in Jones County, while the older, more mature activity in Shackelford County still intensified. Not desiring to do a core punch with my wife along, I turned at Seymour and went southwest on 277 toward Munday, TX, trying to flank the storm and approach from the west.



Just south of Seymour, we lost contact with Wichita Falls. There were no other two meter repeaters in range, so we switched to the HF rig. On 3.900 MHz, we contacted a station near Tulsa, OK. He raised K2UFA, an amateur radio operator who is very active in the Skywarn program in Wichita Falls. The Tulsa station relayed info to us -- storm warnings, radar reports, etc. -- and relayed reports to K2UFA, who in turn sent them to the NWS at Wichita Falls.

Nearing Munday, we saw a rain-free base to the southwest of the newly developing Jones County storm. The storm was moving due north from Jones County into Haskell County. Under the rain-free base, from behind the rain, a large, low-hanging, well developed wall cloud emerged. We rushed toward it. We turned at Munday toward Knox City, hoping to intercept the wall cloud from the west. The precip area was approaching rapidly. Just east of Knox City, the precip area overtook us and we were caught in heavy rain and 3/4" hail. This part of Texas is very open, and there aren't too many places to hide. Luckily, a barn with an attached awning was just off the road. We made use of it until the hail passed.

As we drove back to the road, the first tornado warning was issued on the Shackelford County storm, which had moved into Throckmorton County. We elected to leave the storm overhead and chase that storm since its position further to the southeast suggested it would receive a richer, uninterrupted supply of warm moist inflow from the Gulf of Mexico.

A course south on 277 through Haskell was plotted, again, attempting to approach the storm from the updraft side. Driving south on 277, new development was occurring along the outflow boundary and parallel to the road to the immediate west. A skinny, 'turkey neck' wall cloud developed about a mile west of the highway. Even though the wall cloud was skinny, it exhibited very rapid vertical motion and weak rotation. Dust was being raised in the fields to the south, moving toward the wall cloud, even though wind at our location east of the wall cloud was still coming from the precip area to our northwest. Surface based inflow apparently had cut through the outflow field and was streaming toward the wall cloud. As we watched and photographed the wall cloud, a second tornado warning was issued for the Throckmorton storm. We left as the wall cloud to the west began to dissipate. Just north of Haskell we came out from under the clouds along the outflow boundary and, to the east for the first time, we could see the hard towers of the Throckmorton storm.

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The Throckmorton County storm of April 21, 1985, was the most impressive multiple-flank supercell storm I have seen. It had at least three, and at one time possibly four flanking lines, all converging on the precip area. The WSW flank, the closest to us, exhibited tremendous convection. The flanking towers were stair-stepped and leaning toward the main updraft. Extremely hard in appearance, they were growing at an unbelievably explosive rate.

We turned east on Hwy 380, a narrow two-lane road with only a hint of a rocky shoulder toward the town of Throckmorton. Under the WSW flank we saw a dense rain area to the northeast with almost constant cloud to ground lightning. To our east, another flanking line extended to the SW, and to the east of it, a third flank extended to the SSE. We decided to head for the SSE flank, since the warm moist inflow would likely be stronger there. The usual obstacle course of pick-up trucks and farm vehicles had to be traversed.

As we approached the intersection of Hwys 222 and 380, we entered an area where heavy rain had recently fallen. There was water flowing over the road, coming from adjacent stands of Mesquite trees, in this flat semi-arid land.

As the sky darkened under the WSW flank, a wall cloud could be seen near the precip area to the north, but it appeared to have been undercut by

outflow. I carefully watched the flat base of the SSE flank, still some 8 to 10 miles to the east.

Suddenly, 8 to 10 miles ahead, directly from the flat rainfree base of the SSE flank, about 4 to 5 miles SSE from the rain area, a ragged multiple- vortex tornado formed. Instant tornado! In the distance, debris was being torn from the ground. This had to be a monstrous supercell to produce such a violent tornado, without the forewarning of even a trace of a wall cloud.

As a ham radio operator and a Skywarn volunteer, my first priority, as always, was to report the tornado to Wichita Falls via the ham in Tulsa. The tornado was estimated to be 5 to 6 miles SSE of Throckmorton. (Amateur radio operators in Ft. Worth and Dallas had joined the group on 3.900 MHz. They relayed my report to NWS in Ft. Worth -- this allowed a timely warning to be issued by NWS). Meanwhile, we were trapped behind a slow moving pick-up truck and in front of several vehicles waiting to pass. With no shoulder to stop on, I passed the truck and raced toward the tornado.

Putting down the mic, I looked for a place to stop. Perhaps 2 to 5 minutes had passed since the tornado formed. Suddenly, rain and hail began to fall from the flanking line above. The visible vortices of the tornado ahead abruptly vanished, leaving behind a wall cloud. The rain grew heavier until we could no longer see more than a few feet in front of the car. We slowed to a snail's pace. Then I realized that somehow, between being stuck in traffic, reporting the tornado and being caught in heavy rain and hail, I'd had no opportunity to photograph the first and only multiple vortex tornado I have seen, after years of chasing. Damn!

We came out of the rain and hail, as we entered Throckmorton. The cloud motions overhead were very chaotic and turbulent. The storm organization was no longer easy to discern. We were now under the SSE flank and could see another flank or inflow band to the east, converging on an area hidden from view by intervening precipitation. We drove a short distance south of town to get our bearings. Heavy rain was to the northeast through northwest. Strong surface inflow, as evidenced by smoke about 2 miles east of our location, being pulled north toward the area obscured by precip to the northeast. We raced back north and then east again on 380. We penetrated the rain curtain about three miles east of Throckmorton. A large, low wall cloud maybe two miles north of our location came into view. I stopped briefly to check the wind direction; we were in outflow. This wall cloud was undercut by outflow. There was another thin rain curtain to the east. The real action had to be further east still. We penetrated the next precip curtain, which consisted of light rain and scattered golf-ball and smaller sized hail. As we cleared the precip, I looked north, five or so miles away to see a column shaped tornado embedded within a ragged wall cloud. The wall cloud hung around the vortex like wide ribbons from a Maypole. The tornado and wall cloud were being illuminated by dim skylight coming from the distant clear area to the southeast. Located very near the precip area, it was barely visible in the darkness to the north. We were repeatedly jolted by thunder produced by constant cloud to ground lightning striking in all directions. Approximately a mile to the south, I could see a thin veil of precip rapidly wrapping to the east. Scattered chunks of hail, golf-ball size and larger, were crashing to the ground around us. We must have been inside the mesocyclone circulation of the parent thunderstorm. The tornado disappeared into the darkness toward the town of Elbert. I tried to report this tornado, but the static crashes from lightning made this impossible. Perhaps the multiple vortex tornado seen earlier had evolved into this single vortex; or more likely, this was another in the series of an estimated seven produced by this one storm.

Remembering the earlier 'instant' multiple vortex tornado, and since darkness was fast approaching, we decided to make a hasty retreat toward home, east on Hwy 380.

As we passed through Newcastle, we picked up the Skywarn group in Graham on the 'two meter' ham band. Reports of possible tornado fatalities near the town of Elbert were coming in, relayed from the Throckmorton County sheriff's office. Three members of one family had been killed when the tornado totally destroyed their house, throwing their bodies tens of yards through broken mesquite thickets. Next, a report that the town of Olney had been hit, with several homes destroyed and two more fatalities. As we came into VHF 'two meter' radio range of Fort Worth, I relayed the first factual reports of the fatalities and damage to the Fort Worth NWS and to the local Fort Worth newspaper, through a reporter who is also a ham operator.

I thought that you might like to hear the rest of the story!

(The Editor notes that Sam's forfeiture of a few pictures resulted in a "timely warning" by NWS on a killer tornado system! Many lives may have been saved by his selfless act, as otherwise complacent people were prompted to take another look outside and seek shelter. Storm Track salutes Patti and Sam Barricklow! It also hopes that their next maxi-encounter lingers a little longer, and just tosses about a few coyotes.)

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Here's an "oldy but a goody" from the Norman, Oklahoma Transcript of March 18, 1984, as sent by Randy Zipser. The following excerpts are quoted from the article by Tom Sharrock of The Lawton Constitutions "If a tornado tale seems unbelievable, you can believe it." ... "If you hear something unbelievable about a tornado, go ahead and believe it. The odds are it's true. . . A Texas salesman, driving between Vernon and Wichita Falls in 1979 on the night both towns were devastated, was having an animated conversation with his father. He noticed he was going a bit too fast and touched the brake. Nothing happened. Then he noticed the car was 8 feet above the highway. It settled gently, and he continued his somewhat nervous way. . . When the 1947 tornado hit Woodward, a man parked in front of the courthouse found himself and his automobile floating in the air. He watched the courthouse pass beneath, and returned to earth with the car parked one street over from the point of takeoff. . . Most tornadoes go from southwest to northeast. At Devol, in 1958, it came from the north. They knew it was coming. Melba Wyatt paused to snatch down her brand new kitchen curtains and thought, 'Save my curtains, lose my life!' The Wyatts never did get to shelter. She and her husband stood in the kitchen and watched the linoleum, except for a patch beneath their feet, rip apart, and rise to the ceiling. . . Mostly remembered is the Sunday sermon, preached that morning: 'What if the end of the world comes tonight' . . . even at Wichita Falls, the massive storm was capricious. A reporter stepped through what was left of a wall to interview a lady, salvaging belongings in what was left of her house. She told of how she raced the tornado to her home and lost. Or rather, won. It got there first. But she was cheerful. Quite a bit could be salvaged, including her precious phonograph records scattered over the floor. She was brushing them with a flannel cloth. Then she peered closer. 'Country and western? Country and Western? These aren't my records!'"

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A final note, for those of you who have cable television and receive the Nickelodeon channel (77 on the east coast). Sunday, August 18, National Geographic will show a 15 minute film on storm chasing at 5 PM EDT, 4 PM CDT, 3 PM MDT and 5 PM PDT. It was taken this May in Oklahoma and Texas and includes shots of several chasers (Jim Leonard, Chuck Robertson, Don Burgess, my daughter Sarah, and myself, as well as others). It is a general, non-technical show that you might enjoy. It shows brief scenes inside the Norman Doppler radar dome, an artificial vortex chamber and, of course, the real thing. However, all of the tornadoes were taken from NSSL file footage from other years, since the Geographic film crew didn't see any during their week there. In fact, no chasers got any tornado pics during this time, a generally flat period, storm-wise. Oh yes, when you see the hail (three inches minimum) bouncing off of Jim Leonard's car one evening, it was doing \$2,700 damage -- also cracking the front window. Chuck Robertson's is the other voice whooping and hollering at this time (the National Geographic magazine article isn't expected until the fall of 1986).

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Just phoned in from Mike Watts in Florida -- Get the latest issue (August 3) of TV Guide. It has a good article on how to negotiate deals with television stations on selling your video. It also gives a few horror stories on what to avoid.