

# Hurricane-Speed Winds Rip Off Roofs, Tumble Buildings And Trees

**BY LOU ANN GOOD**  
NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — When the morning sky turned black and lightning exploded like the fourth of July fireworks, Jonas Nolt and his family rushed to the cellar of their East Earl home on Thursday.

Pieces of tin, glass, insulation and tree limbs sailed crazily through the air.

It lasted about two minutes," Nolt said. "Then it got quiet."

Only two minutes, but those brief, hurricane-speed winds left a path of destruction. Nolt's chicken house lay crumbled, trees were twisted, and a roof was torn off his pig pen.

Within minutes, friends and neighbors gathered on Nolt's farm. Soon chain saws were humming as men cut up the fallen trees. Others stacked the fallen boards and gathered up the tin roof pieces.

Nolt said, "All I can say is that I have a lot of good friends."

During those same two minutes, Nolt's neighbor, Adam Oberholtzer was in the house, oblivious to any danger, when he heard a crack and saw tin flying.

"It was pouring rain and dark. The electric had gone off, but I never suspected the storm was this bad," Oberholtzer said as he surveyed his partially destroyed barn. The roof had been ripped off, and the one end had collapsed. Broken telephone poles and fallen

electric wires lay among the tin and lumber debris.

Several hours later, Oberholtzer was smiling. "As long as it wasn't worse, I can't complain," he said.

In the lower level of the barn Oberholtzer's 56 cows and 20 young stock were unharmed.

His wife and two sons were not hurt and for that, Oberholtzer is thankful.

The New Holland area of the county was the most severely damaged. The roof was torn off of Garden Spot Junior High School, but students were not injured. Many homes and buildings reported damages and electric and telephone service were disrupted.

Louis and Nettie Martin, New Holland, were going about their daily chores when the storm struck. Louis said, "I was in the barn and things got so noisy that I went to the barn door to see what was going on."

He saw, the chimney on his house tumble down. The house roof and one of his barn roofs peeled off.

Inside the house, Nettie watched window panes blow out and another chimney inside the house crumbled.

She didn't run for cover. "I didn't even think about being scared at the time," Nettie said. "I just went looking around to see what all had happened."

When the house roof disappeared, windy gusts tore through the house, but Martin said, "Fortunately it didn't rain much after that so we don't have much damage on the first and second floors."

In addition to the house and barn damage, a silo roof disappeared, a wire corn crib lay in a crumbled

heap, and trees fell.

Family members and a carpenter were working on the roof within hours of the storm. Although it was still windy, the sun was shining.

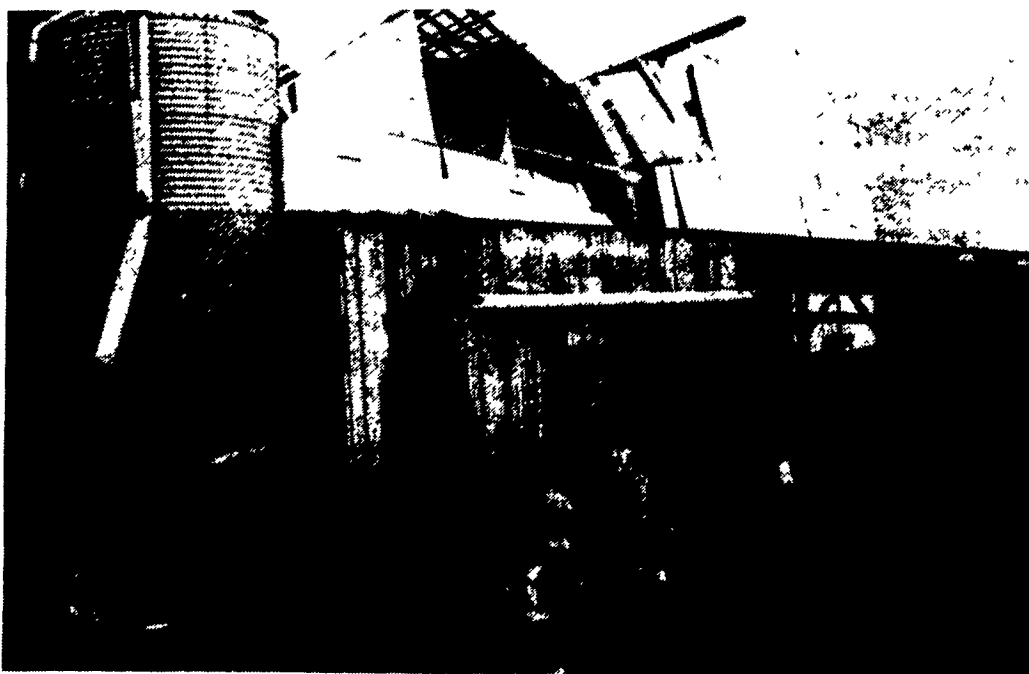
"Something like this makes you a little quivery inside," Nettie said. "But I'm just glad it isn't raining now. I'll be glad when everything is fixed up again."

The storm was blamed on a cold front that spun off deadly tornadoes in the South and Midwest and continue up the East Coast.

A few claimed they saw a funnel-shaped cloud, but the weather station said it was hurricane-speed winds that tore across the county.



Scenes like this were familiar in many yards of New Holland and East Earl residents after hurricane-speed winds tore through the area. This is only a part of Jonas Nolt's yard in East Earl.



Adam Oberholtzer and his sons Brian, 4, and Burnell, 6, surveyed part of the damage to their barn. The roof was ripped off and the one end collapsed, but the livestock were unharmed.



Edwin Oberholtzer of East Earl said, "I plan to rebuilt. I can't complain as long as it wasn't worst." His son Burnell stands with him.



The chicken house of Jonas Nolt collapsed, but within minutes of the storm, friends and neighbors were cleaning up. Said Nolt, "All I can say is that we have good friends."



Hours after the storm struck, the sun was shining and helpful friends and neighbors were cleaning up the destruction on many area farms and homes in Lancaster County.