

No House, No Barn, No Cars 'But We Have Each Other'

(Continued from Page A40)

the remains. Everyday neighbors prepare meals for the hundreds of volunteers. It's a great sacrifice of time and money. While they worked, they shared memories.

"This valley has had its share of disasters," said Phoebe Butler, a neighboring farmer. "There've been fires and wind storms. Everyone works together to clean up."

In fact, the Kurtz family had a previous disaster exactly 18 years ago when 32 of their dairy cows were killed when lightning struck a

power line that crossed the meadow where the cows were grazing.

The Kurtz farm wasn't the only Berks County farm hit by tornado or storm. At the Mertz family dairy farm, within eyesight of the Kurtz farm, neighbors also were helping clean up.

The Mertz farmstead had its house roof ripped off and some exterior damage. A cow had died from the shock.

Most neighboring places had no damage. However, three miles away, the tornado heavily damaged 20 homes in a two-block

area of the village of Lyons.

Although the Kurtzes' neighbors reportedly heard the sound of a rushing train that is affiliated with a tornado, the Kurtz family could not recall or describe any impending noise.

There are endless decisions to be made and sleepless nights, but the Kurtz family will survive this, stronger and happier than ever.

How do I know?

Because Judy is my sister. She is

always bubbly, seeing the bright side of things—always helping and caring for others, always making things beautiful. Her husband Luke is strong, hard working, dependable. I think of Jon, who risked his own life by leaving the safety of the basement to rescue his father, and of Tammy who so closely mirrors her mother's per-

sonality, a 16-year-old who claims her mother as her best friend.

I love my sister, Luke, Jon, and Tammy. I want the best for them.

And so does the God in whom they put their trust. He promises, "I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you, and not harm you. Plans to give you a future, and to give you hope."

Gov. Ridge Requests Aid For Storm-Ravaged Counties

On Sunday night and again on Tuesday night, a series of tornadoes and severe thunderstorms raced across the state, leaving a trail of disaster in Allegheny, Berks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Monroe, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Pike, Somerset, and Wyoming counties.

At least three Pennsylvanians were killed, hundreds hurt through injury or damage to property. Numerous farms throughout the state had buildings destroyed or received significant damage.

Gov. Tom Ridge issued a disaster emergency declaration for those counties. He requested President Clinton for a presidential Major Disaster Declaration to trigger state and federal financial assistance for eligible victims of the storms.

Marko Bourne, press secretary for Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)

said that preliminary and cursory estimates were being made of the damage to establish that a disaster has occurred.

After the initial findings are received and a rough estimate is made of the loss sustained, it takes more time for all the specific tangible losses to be reported, and the total adjusted for a more accurate assessment of loss.

Bourne said that the initial raw number is to be used to help support the state's case of suffering a disaster to receive further assessment effort from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He said assessment teams would be in the field for the coming week.

Although the people of communities with storm damage don't need a technical analysis to know that the storms were disastrous, the assessment is a prerequisite for federal aid.



During cleanup, a hole is dug in which to bury debris. In the distance is the Mertz farm, where the house roof was taken off and some other damage. A cow collapsed from fright, but other than that the herd was undamaged.



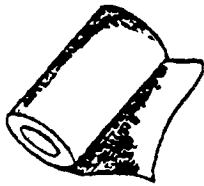
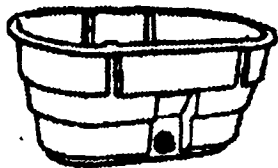
At the rear of the house is the master bedroom, from which more than five tons of brick were removed during cleanup. If the tornado had struck an hour later, the couple no doubt would have been in bed and faced instant death from the bricks that scattered a three-foot-high layer over the room. The clothes remained hanging in the bedroom closet, only one example of many idiosyncrasies of tornado behavior.



June Is Dairy Month SPECIALS for the DAIRYMAN

RUBBERMAID
150 Gallon
STOCK TANKS

SPECIAL PRICE **\$98⁰⁰**



CO-FLEX
HOOF
WRAPS

\$1.15
4" x 5 yards

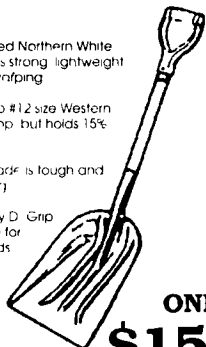
UNION
ABS Grain/Snow Scoop

- 29 lacquered Northern White Ash handle is strong, lightweight and resists warping

- Equivalent to #12 size Western pattern scoop, but holds 15% more

- ABS resin blade is tough and long lasting

- Big Grip poly D Grip is extra wide for gloved hands



ONLY **\$15.95**

Made in USA

Item No. 79-770

**WHITE
SALT BLOCK**

50 Lb. **\$4.25**

**Good Selection Of
FLY SPRAY & BAIT In Stock!**

Specials Good Thru June 30, 1998

**HUBER'S
ANIMAL HEALTH SUPPLIES**

810 Tulpehocken Rd., Myerstown, PA 17067
717-866-2246

Hours: Mon. 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri. - 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Tues. & Wed. 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat. 7:30 a.m. to Noon

P. L. ROHRER & BRO., INC.

Supplying The Seeds and
Products That Help Grow
the Feeds for Dairymen

AgriPro
SEEDS

AMERICA'S
Alfalfa
The brand of opportunity.™

**JUNE IS
DAIRY
MONTH**

**ROHRER
BRAND
SOYBEANS**

**CROP PROTECTANT
PRODUCTS**

Store Hours
Monday-Friday 8:00-5 PM
Saturday 8:00-12 Noon

Smoketown, PA 17576 PH. 717-299-2571

