

Spot Where Cape Tornado Started



Where the tornado first hit! This aerial photo shows what is left of the Albert Spalding farmstead on the Gordonville Road about a mile west of Cape Girardeau following the Saturday storm. Buildings on this farm were the first damaged by the big funnel. Before it struck the buildings it did some damage to timber to the west of the farm.

At the left is shown lumber scattered from a stack, the site of a barn and other small structures. The dwelling was partly unroofed and otherwise considerably damaged. No members of the family were reported injured.

After sweeping across this farm the funnel roared uphill, knocking out a strip of trees in the Schonhoff dairy farm woods,

which rests in a curve to the northwest of the road, and took a big bite out of woods on the east side of the road and swooped down on the Frank Miller dwelling, virtually demolishing it and felling many fine trees on the premises.

The funnel's path then was across the old fairgrounds site where it played havoc with a grove of tough old cedars which had previously withstood generations of weather beating. Crossing over the road just west of the Cape LaCroix Creek bridge the wind demolished the C. C. Eddleman dwelling, then roared over and leveled the Leming Orchards Co. building and the Airline, thence got down to destruction in earnest as it blasted across the city.