

"House Fell In"

Aron Armstrong of West Dallas said, "The house fell in on top of us . . . The walls did, I mean, and the roof went somewhere else."

Armstrong had a head injury and had brought his injured sister-in-law to the hospital. His wife and two children escaped injury.

"My wife and kids and sister-in-law laid down on the floor, but I was watching and I got in a sort of trance and just didn't move.

"This whirling wind was full of dirt and planks and when it got so close to me I didn't know what to do, so I just stayed there.

"I heard my kids crying and I found them and my wife and then my sister-in-law. I knew she was hurt bad because she was bleeding so much. I was bleeding, too, so much I could hardly see . . . It was a terrible thing."

"Big and Ugly"

Bob Ford of the Associated Press said he went to a window and, "There she was, just as big and ugly as I had always heard.

"It was very tall and thin. At times it was black and at times it turned to light gray against the background of clouds following it."

"I watched it for at least 10 minutes as it approached . . . It stretched almost limitlessly into the clouds and appeared to be several thousand feet tall. I stepped onto the front entrance way for a better look. I could see debris flying into the air."

Miss Eulalia Sterren, 24, said she heard it coming and it sounded like a whirlwind. She said she lay on the floor on top of her sister's 7-day-old baby. She said the brick house collapsed. The baby was hurt badly, but Miss Sterren apparently was not.

Overland Driver said he was working at a church when the storm hit. He said he lay down in front of the altar and prayed. He then went out and picked up four injured people and took them to the hospital.

Some Panic

Tremendous traffic jams developed and there was panic. Many abandoned their automobiles, fearing the tornado was heading toward them. Screaming ambulances and police cars fought for right of way on the main traffic arteries.

A tearful old man cried and begged: 'I've got to get out of this jam—it's hitting my house and my wife's home.'

An estimated 197 homes were destroyed in a 13-block area of West Dallas. Sheriff's Deputy Bob Krause said some looting had taken place and officers were rushed to the area.

Krause said they were evacuating the 13-block area because of gas and live wires.

An officer walked through the section with a portable loud-speaker, advising, "There is no smoking, wires are down and hot. Gas is leaking. Everyone who does not belong here, please leave."

Power Lines Out

Power and telephones were knocked out in some areas. Gas meters were broken and gas was smelled in the damaged Negro district, but there were no fires reported.

Debris clogged the streets in many places. Power lines were down and snapping dangerously. Men, many apparently volunteers, helped direct traffic and pull power lines out of danger. Some wore work clothes, others were in business suits.

In some places autos were turned over. Beams were driven into houses not otherwise touched by the twister.

At one place the funnel ripped through a trailer park, blowing