

Excerpts from correspondence with

Mrs. Philip Anderson
3132 McCord Road
Toledo, Ohio

The twister (April 11, 1965) came through here up high. From southwest to northeast. We expected a storm. There was hard wind. I was outside. Suddenly there was no wind. My eardrums felt like they would burst, very intense. I heard a far away roar and at the same time it was all around me. No wind. Then a great wall of white came. There was hard wind and all white. I could not see through the white. There was very little damage here.

Aug. 19, 1966

Dear Mr. Vonnegut,

I want to thank you for sending me the preprint on the article you prepared on the tornado in Toledo. I found it very interesting and educational. It makes me very happy to be a part of it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Philip Anderson

A

see other side
for address →

Feb. 4, 1966

Dear Sir,

You asked for information on
the Palm Sunday storm in Toledo.
This isn't so much but maybe it
will help some way. My location
is in Sylvania Township. About at
Mc Cord rd. and Central Ave. The
twister came through here up high.
From South - West to North - East.
we expected a storm. There was
hard wind. I was outside. Suddenly
there was no wind. My ear drums
felt like they would burst. very intense.
I heard a far away roar and at the
same time it was all around me.
no wind. There a great wall of
white came. There was hard wind
and all white. I could not see through
the white. There was very little
damage here. Sincerely,

Please sign and return this copy.

Mrs. Philip Anderson

August 9, 1966

Mrs. Philip Anderson
3132 McCord Road
Toledo, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Anderson:

I thought you might be interested in having the enclosed preprint of the article we have prepared on the tornado that swept through Toledo on May 11, 1965.

I have recently been pleased to learn that Science Magazine has accepted this article for publication, and it should be appearing soon.

I am very grateful to all of you kind people in Toledo for your help and cooperation in this effort to further our knowledge of tornadoes through the writing of this article.

Sincerely,

Bernard Vonnegut

BV:spm
Enclosure

A

see other side
for address →

Feb. 4, 1966

Dear Sir,

You asked for information on the Palm Sunday storm in Toledo. This isn't so much but may be it will help some way. My location is in Sylvania Township. About at Mc Cord rd. and Central Ave. The twister came through here up high. From South-West to North-East. We expected a storm. There was hard wind. I was outside. Suddenly there was no wind. My ear drums felt like they would burst. very intense. I heard a far away roar and at the same time it was all around me. no wind. I saw a great wall of white come. There was hard wind and all white. I could not see through the white. There was very little damage here. Sincerely,

Mrs. Philip Andersson
3132 M^cCard rd.
Toledo, Ohio.

Toledo tornado

February 7, 1966

Mrs. Philip Anderson
3132 McCord Road
Toledo, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Anderson:

I wish to thank you for your letter of February 4 in which you tell me of your experience during the Palm Sunday storm in Toledo. I was particularly interested in your account of how your eardrums felt for this indicates a very low pressure and I was also interested in your statement that, "then a great wall of white came." I am most curious to know what this white could have been. Is it possible that the whiteness might have been caused by the formation of a fog that was illuminated perhaps by the lights in your home, street lights, or automobiles? Was this white that you report very bright? Is it possible that the whiteness, whatever it was, might have been giving off a light of its own?

I certainly thank you for having taken the trouble to write me and I hope you will be good enough to give me your best guess to the questions that I raise.

Sincerely,

Bernard Vonnegut

/ep

Feb. 10, 1966

Dear Mr. Vonnegut,

In answer to your letter on the storm, this thing is very hard to describe.

About the pressure - my husband felt the pressure inside our house at the same time I felt it outside. Our house was closed up at the time.

This wall of white was not illuminated by any lights reflecting on it or through it. There was a long brick and steel building beyond it. No lights on. The white wall blocked my view of the building.

This white didn't look like it gave off its own light. It was a flat, dull white moving toward me.

This stuff seemed much thicker than fog. I would say - as a person standing on the ground looking at the big white clouds

up in the sky - this white stuff
looked like those clouds on a day
without the sun shining.

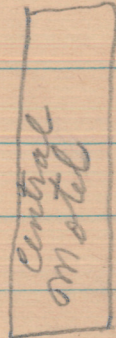
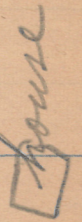
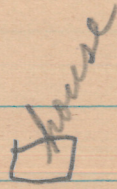
It seemed like I might reach out
and take a handfull of the stuff.
After I went into my home and
turned on the lights, I could see
the white through the windows.
My house lights made it look
more white. I am sorry I have
forgotten the time that this
happened. I know it was late
afternoon.

Sincerely,

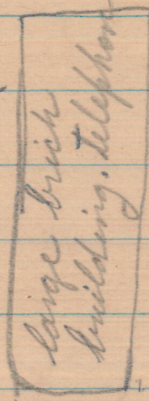
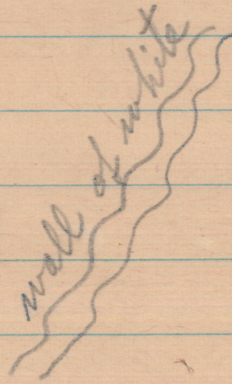
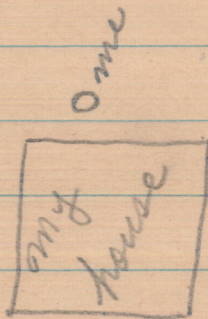
Mrs. Philip Anderson

E.

North-East



N.



Central Ave

S.

McCord rd

no street lights.
we live out of town.

South-West

W.

February 17, 1966

Mrs. Philip Anderson
3132 McCord Road
Toledo, Ohio 43615

Dear Mrs. Anderson:

I wish to thank you for your letter of February 10 answering my letter concerning the storm. It is good of you to give me an additional description of the "white substance" that you saw out of your window.

I am somewhat puzzled concerning what it was that you saw, because from your statement, that you turned on the lights in your home, I gather that it may have been night outside. My understanding is that the tornado occurred around 9:00 or 9:30 at night and it must have been dark. However, from your letter, I gather that your observations were made in the late afternoon. Do you think that what you saw may have occurred sometime before the tornado, or is it possible that you may have forgotten the time and that it was in the evening rather than the late afternoon.

Thank you again for your help in answering all of my questions.

In the event that I decide to use your observations in the scientific paper, I wonder if you would be good enough to give me your permission to publish them.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard Vonnegut

/fr

Feb. 19, 1966

Dear Mrs. Vonnegut,

I am sorry I confused you on the time of the storm. I had forgot the exact time. It was about 9:30 P.M. It was dark here.

You have my permission to publish my observations.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Philip Anderson

March 17, 1966

Mrs. Philip Anderson
3132 McCord Road
Toledo, Ohio 43615

Dear Mrs. Anderson:

I am still at work preparing a report of some of the observations that were made during the Palm Sunday tornado. I am still very much interested in your observations and thank you for your help in providing me with the drawing and with the description.

There is still one point about which I am unclear, and this concerns the "wall of white" that you saw out of your window. In your letter of February 10th you say that you do not think that the wall of white was illuminated by any lights reflecting on it or through it. Then you say that the white wall blocked your view of the long brick and steel building beyond the wall of white. Since it is my understanding that it was a dark black night at the time of the tornado, I am a little puzzled by your statement for it seems to me that even if the white wall had not been there, you could not have viewed the building. I guess the thing that I am really still quite unclear about is how it was possible for you to see this flat dull white stuff moving toward you on what I presume was a dark night.

I am sorry to trouble you, but I think that your observation is certainly of importance and I would greatly appreciate your help.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Bernard Vonnegut

/fr

March 22, 1966

Dear Mrs. Vonnegut,

I did not see a "wall of white" out my window. Please refer to my previous letters. I tried to make it very clear to you exactly what I saw, felt and heard. I never make up stories and I will not change anything I have said.

That was just what happened here.

I can add very little to it. I have given your letter of March 17th a lot of thought. I am used to living away from the city. They call this area, out in the country. It was not a dark black night here to me, just dark.

Having lived here ten years, I know where all the buildings are located from my house. I could see my white garage and the end of the dark building next to me.

(I believe I left out my garage on the

drawing. It is on the back of our lot, and over at the left.)

The "white wall" blocked out the front half of the building facing McCord road. The bricks of the building were not clear to me. Just dark looking. I was not trying to see bricks at this time.

I was standing out on my back porch looking up in the sky in the wrong direction. I was looking - North West. Sounds dumb. Then my ears felt pressure and the noise came. I like weather. I like to see, hear, feel and smell it. That is why I was outside. That happens to be the kind of person I am. I like nature. But getting back to where I was. I walked over to my right and faced South West and then I saw the "wall of white" coming at me. It was plenty plain to see. Just as I have already described it. It was just like a huge blank wall about 30 feet away from me and that is too close. time for

me to move - fast. I went into the house. I looked at my windows and they were full of flat white. I could not see through it. Can you see through a cloud when you are standing away from it? If you shine a light on thick fog, it looks whiter and more dense. When I turned on my kitchen lights the white through the windows looked whiter.

I can't tell you this "wall of white" gave off light, when it didn't look like that to me. I read the stories of what people said, in the papers and I have done a lot of thinking about it.

Do you think a twister could pick up light from street lights, house lights, signs and etc. and carry it up into itself because it is rotating so fast and at the same time pull down into itself cloud material and give off the

4

glowing look the picture of the
twin twistess showed?

Now following this line of thought -
there wouldn't be much light for it
to pick up out here just before it
got to my house. I came through a
lot of open country out here. There
would only be car lights and house
lights. The houses are far apart and
lots of open field and woods. Also
bear in mind that it was bouncing.

As I have said before this twister must
have been up high as it came
through here because we are
still here.

I have remembered so many details
and there just isn't any more to tell.

very Sincerely,

Mrs. Philip Anderson

I have something else to say.

I did not say in the February 10th. letter that - I did not think that the wall of white was illuminated by any lights reflecting on it or through it. I stated it as a fact. There were no lights. I do not care to play games with you.

I think - without the "wall of white", I would have been able to see that bricks building as a long dark object. I would be able to see that something was there, disregarding the fact that I know it is there.

Tornado
(Anderson)

March 28, 1966

Mrs. Philip Anderson
3132 McCord Road
Toledo, Ohio 43615

Dear Mrs. Anderson:

Thank you for your letter of March 22nd in which you were good enough to answer the many questions that I raised concerning your observations of the tornado. What you saw is of great interest because of the several reports that I have, yours is the only one that was made before the tornado touched down and began its destruction. It was for this reason that I asked questions in such detail evidently, unintentionally, in such a way as to make you wonder if I was "trying to play games." I assure you my only intention is to be sure that I have not only an accurate description of your observations, but also one that meets with your complete approval.

Because of the limited space that is available for a scientific article, I will not be able to quote your, or indeed any of the eyewitness accounts in their entirety and in order to save space I plan to quote only the most significant portions of your and other observations.

It seems to me that the first letter you wrote to me on February 4 gives an excellent summary of what you saw, and if you will be good enough to give me permission, I would like to quote the portion of your letter that I have underlined in the enclosed copy. You will note that I have omitted the portion of your letter telling of your location because I plan to put your location on a map that I will use, and a copy of which I enclose.

If I may have your permission to use the underlined portion of your letter, and if I have correctly located your home on my map, please be good enough to sign one of the copies of your letter and return it to me in the enclosed envelope. The other copy of your letter is for you to keep.

Thank you for all the help you have given me.

Sincerely,

Bernard Vonnegut

/fr

enclosures

Dear Sir,

I understand and I am happy I could
be of help to you. You have placed my
location wrong. I am sending map back to
you with my correct location on it. This
has been very interesting.

Sincerely,

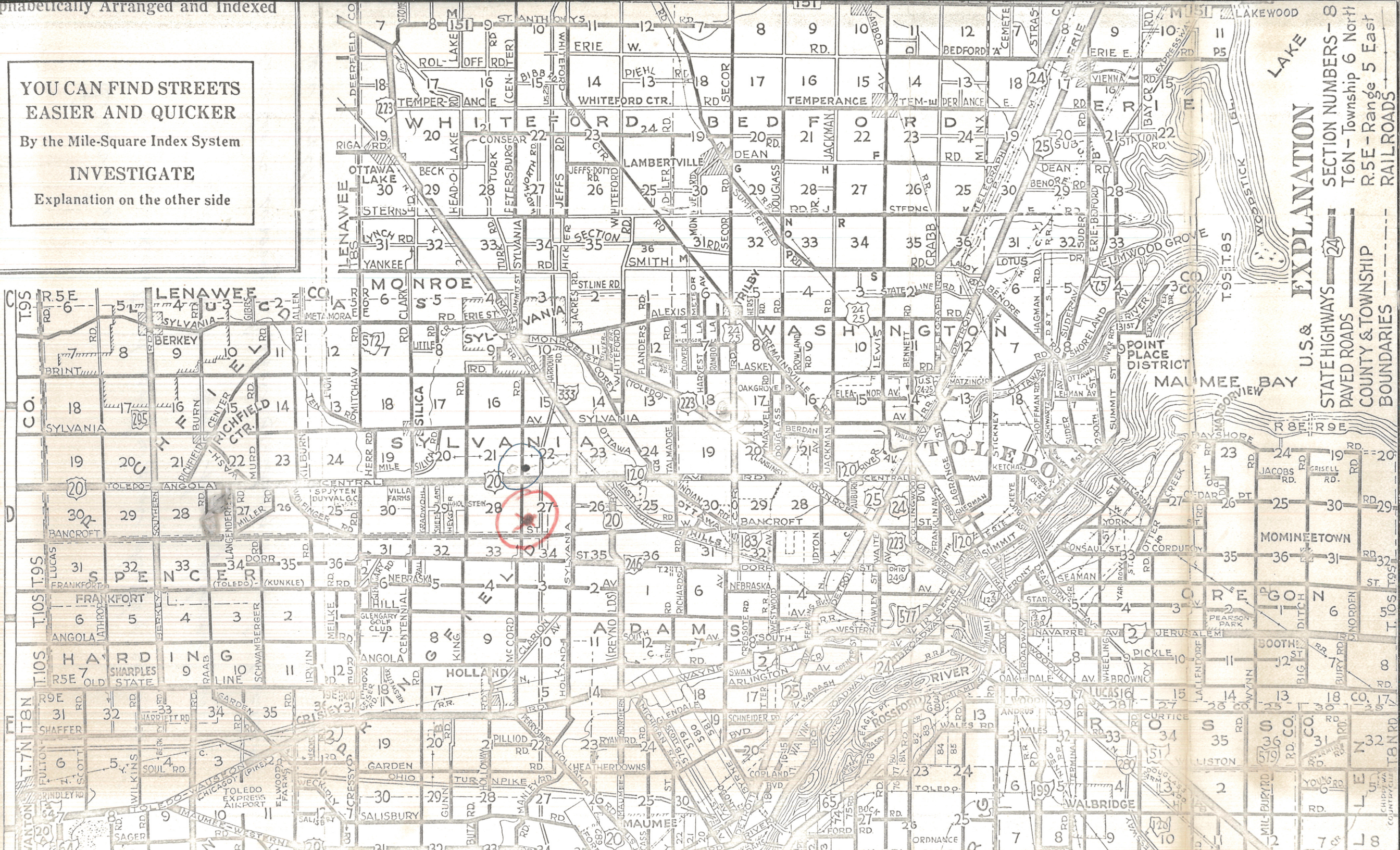
Mrs. Anderson

YOU CAN FIND STREETS EASIER AND QUICKER

By the Mile-Square Index System

INVESTIGATE

Explanation on the other side



U.S. & EXPLANATION

- STATE HIGHWAYS
- PAVED ROADS
- COUNTY & TOWNSHIP BOUNDARIES
- RAILROADS
- SECTION NUMBERS - 8
- T.6N - Township 6 North
- R.5E - Range 5 East