

Excerpts from correspondence with

Mrs. Florence Angus  
2820 Northward Avenue  
Toledo, Ohio

It was 9:30 PM when I turned on the TV and the tornado warning was being given. I immediately turned it off and said to my family, jokingly, not realizing we were in its path, "I'm going to the back to see what it looks like." I went to the back door (glass) and all I could see was this huge reddish yellow light, making the remark, "It looks like some one's house is afire." I turned around and that was the last I knew. (tornado of April 11, 1965)

August 9, 1966

Mrs. Florence Angus  
2820 Northward Avenue  
Toledo, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Angus:

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

April 15, 1966

Mrs. Florence A. Angus  
2820 Northwood Avenue  
Toledo, Ohio 43606

Dear Mrs. Angus:

I wish to thank you for your recent very interesting letter in which you tell me in detail of your experience not only with the Palm Sunday tornado a year ago, but also of some of the other reports of which you are aware. What you have to say is of considerable scientific interest, and your letter is a valuable addition to our files.

I will probably make use of your letter in two different ways. First, since I am primarily interested in the Toledo tornado, I am planning to quote the sections of your letter describing your observations. I am referring to the part of your letter in which you tell about looking out of the back and seeing the advancing light, presumably caused by something associated with the tornado.

At the present time I now have about nine or ten observations along the tornado path, and your observations are of particular interest to me because yours is the last observation along the path of damage. I do have one further observation from Oregon, Ohio, about ten miles across the lake from your position, but yours is of particular interest because it was the last one and because you were right on the path of the tornado, which I don't need to tell you.

I can understand from what you have told me in your letters that it has certainly not been an easy matter for you to write to me telling me of all the details that you have. One thing that I wish to assure you is that, in my opinion, the effort that you have put into this has been well worth while because it is only from people such as you who have actually been close to and have seen a tornado and lived to tell the tale that scientists can learn what is happening.

April 15, 1966

-2-

Mrs. Florence A. Angus  
Toledo, Ohio 43606

It is my hope that within a few weeks or a month I will have the article that I am writing in shape and ready to send off to a scientific magazine. I am sure that eventually it will be published, and as soon as it does appear, you may count on me to send you a copy so that you will have the complete picture of what I have discovered and how your observations fit into it. Again, I certainly thank you for all of the excellent help that you have given to me.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard Vonnegut

BV:spm



Toledo, Ohio, April 9, 1966

Dr. Bernard Vonnegut  
% Arthur D. Little, Inc.  
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Dr. Vonnegut:

I am sorry I have delayed in replying to your letters of February 23 and March 17, however circumstances have been such that my personal affairs have been long neglected.

Whether the statement of my experience of the Palm Sunday Tornado, April 11, 1965, and that of my sister's will be of any value to you I do not know, however, I'll relate it as I experienced it.

*Reddish x-ray*

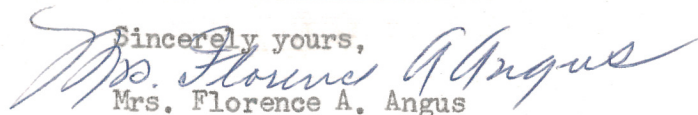
It was 9:30 P.M. when I turned on the T V and the Tornado warning was being given. I immediately turned it off and said to my family, jokingly, not realizing, we were in its path, "I'm going to be back to see what it looks like". I went to the back door (glass) and all I could see was this huge light, making the remark, "It looks like some one's house is afire." I turned around and that was the last I knew - never knew what struck me. I was thrown back of the garage, which had vanished, approximately 100 ft., and when I was coming to (I thought I was having a bad dream but soon proved a reality) something seemed to be smothering me and I was having severe chest pains. I felt heavy porcelain on top of me, which happened to be the flush tank from the bathroom. I succeeded in pushing it away from me and managed to stand up, facing north, where I saw nothing but a string of lights which were lights from the police cars and ambulances, trying to get thru by sawing down trees, etc., and then I heard my sister calling for help. I turned around and learned the house was gone with a car placed within its foundation. I now was facing Ottawa River. The sky was clear and the moon smiling upon me - the brightest I have ever seen it.

I called my sister again but no response, when finally the neighbor next door heard me and called to me. He was not injured but home badly damaged. He managed to get me into his home when his wife noticed my leg severely lacerated and bleeding profusely - thanks to her from keeping me from bleeding to death.. By that time Coast Guardsmen had arrived and they went to find my sister and invalid husband, who were practically buried beneath the rubble of their house and were rushed to the hospital. I was taken later to another hospital and it was 11:30 P.M. when I entered the Emergency Room of St. Charles Hospital.

A niece talked to my sister the next day at the hospital, who had a severe back injury and will have to wear a brace the rest of her life. This is the story she related to my niece: She felt the house swaying and then the removal of the roof. She threw herself on top of her invalid husband after she managed to get him under the hospital bed and then saw the TV split wide open and go out the top of the house and then she felt like something lifted her out of a pit of fire and that was the last she knew. The irony of it all is that she cannot now remember anything about the tornado striking, etc, which may be due to her cerebral concussion.

I know you are only interested in the ball of fire which follows a tornado, which is phenomenal we must admit, but I wish to relate a story that was told to me by a friend and her son (both deceased) about their experience in seeing a tornado that occurred in the Genoa area - approximately 12 miles south of Toledo - in the early twenties. They lived across the road from her sister and brother-in-law when the tornado struck the latter's farm, which was approximately one-half mile from my friend's home and she and her son watched the entire procedure of this tornado from their doorway. The house, garage, barn and fruit farm were in line with one another, and the tornado leaped over the house, laid the brick garage flat, leaped over the barn and then tore their fruit trees right out of the ground. This was followed, she related, by the largest indescribable ball of fire which vanished after it left the orchard. She did not say, however, what the color of this ball of fire was, but the light I saw was of a reddish yellow and, as above stated, looked like a house or some building ablaze.

Be as it may, it was an experience which I do not wish again to experience, and trust the little information I have furnished will prove of some assistance in your scientific research.

Sincerely yours,  
  
Mrs. Florence A. Angus

2820 Northwood Ave.  
Toledo, Ohio 43606



Tornado

March 17, 1966

Mrs. Florence Angus  
2820 Northward Avenue  
Toledo, Ohio 43606

Dear Mrs. Angus:

As I told you on the telephone, I am still working on a scientific article describing some of the things that happened during the Palm Sunday tornado.

I thank you very much for the information you gave me on the telephone, but one thing puzzles me a little. I wonder if you would be good enough to help me. In checking on the map, it appears to me that your address is somewhat south of what I understand was the area of tornado destruction. I wonder if you could tell me if I am right in assuming that you were living at a different address when the tornado struck. If this is the case, I wonder if you would be good enough to tell me this address.

In addition to learning what people saw at the time of the tornado, I am also very much interested in determining the exact tornado path. I suspect that living in Toledo, you probably have a pretty good idea of some of the regions of damage produced by the tornado. I would appreciate it if you would be good enough to indicate them on the enclosed map.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Bernard Vonnegut

/fr

enclosures

February 23, 1966

Mrs. Florence Angus  
282 Northwood Avenue  
Toledo, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Angus:

Thank very much for talking with me about the tornado the other night. I was particularly interested in what you saw and what your sister saw and I hope that you will be good enough to write it up for me and send it to me in the enclosed stamped envelope.

One of the things that I forgot to ask you was the address of your sister. Would you please let me have it so I can see where she was on my map.

Thank you very much for your help in this.

Sincerely,

Bernard Vonnegut

/ep  
Enc.

DRAFT

Phone call with (Feb. 21, 1966) ~~wx~~ Mrs. Florence Angus , 2820 Northwood Ave., Toledo, Ohio, 43606.

*seems off towards left*

We were in it I'm telling you. I looked out of the door and saw a lot of lightning and turned and that's the last I remember. I was knocked unconscious and carried several hundred feet.

Although I didn't see this tornado I have friends who watched a tornado some years ago and they said that the tail end of it was one great ball of fire.

I have a sister who was injured in the recent Palm Sunday tornado in Toledo. She was badly injured and in the hospital she told one of our relatives ~~that she had~~ of her experience. She said that she felt the house shake and lean and she saw her TV break in two and then she said it was like being in a big ball of fire. ~~WX~~ She was in the hospital for two months. ~~WX~~ She had head injuries as I did too. The funny thing about my sister's experience is that she can not remember anything about her experience now and when we tell her what she said she just says, "Did I say that? I can't remember a thing that happened."



Mrs. Florence Angus  
2820 Northward Avenue  
Toledo, Ohio 43606

Re letter Mar 22 -

Dear Dr. Vonnegut -  
Sorry I have delayed answering your letter

7 Feb 73 -  
I have had a very, very ill sister in hospital  
since Feb 11 and have had to be in all evening  
at hospital since that time - However, brought  
her home last Saturday, and it will be an  
other week before I'll be able to give you  
a full report on our experience <sup>with the tornado.</sup>

I was visiting my sister in <sup>Shoreland</sup>  
Ohio that week - I lived in <sup>Port Clinton</sup>  
Ohio - I was hospitalized one month -  
She and her husband I was - They  
were completely wiped out - I got help  
my home in <sup>to</sup> <sup>to Toledo</sup>  
to make a home for her and her husband -  
He died in November, so my sister <sup>is</sup>  
now living alone at the present address -  
She suffered a coronary attack -

I have encircled the area in red to  
show where she resided -

Again I must say I'm sorry for  
not replying to your letter sooner but  
I assure you I'll get a full report  
off to you next week - I'm glad to  
help you in gathering your data on this  
tornado - It was an experience!

Sincerely yours  
Florence Angus

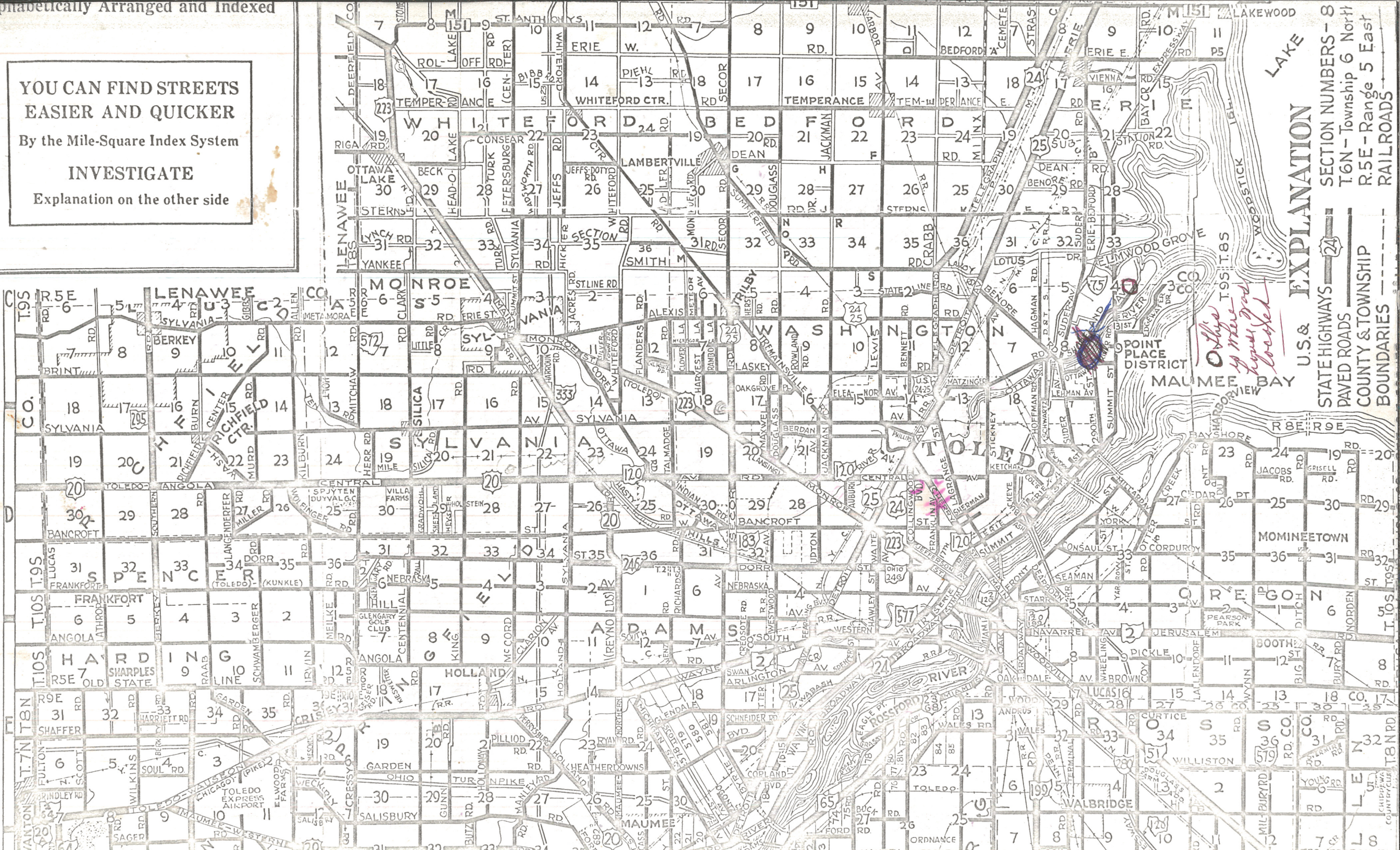


# YOU CAN FIND STREETS EASIER AND QUICKER

By the Mile-Square Index System

## INVESTIGATE

Explanation on the other side



## U.S. & EXPLANATION

- STATE HIGHWAYS — 24
- PAVED ROADS —
- COUNTY & TOWNSHIP BOUNDARIES —
- RAILROADS —
- SECTION NUMBERS — 8
- T.6N - Township 6 North
- R.5E - Range 5 East

*Office of mine Dept. located*