

c o p y

Sioux City, Iowa  
August 20, 1958

Dr. Bernard Vonnegut  
Arthur D. Little, Inc.  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

An article in the Sioux City, Iowa Sunday Journal of July 12, 1958, the Associated Press Science Reporter - Alton Blakeslee said that the theory that lightning causes tornadoes is being revived and that you would appreciate hearing from observers. This storm started near Merville, Iowa. My brother was watching an approaching thunderstorm. He said there was a great bolt of lightning and immediately the funnel dropped to the ground. It zig-zagged in its travel coming within a block of their home and traveled along the river in a North Easterly direction.

The debris you see at the foot of the funnel is the first farm it touched near buildings and destroyed the small outbuildings. There it then veered to the northwest to pick up an eight-room newly constructed home placing it on top of their great farm barn burning all. This home had a full basement and to store their canned fruits they dug a cave off the basement, and they hadn't placed the doors at the time. The family of 6 or 7 crowded into that little niche. After the house was lifted off the foundation these people came out of the cave with faces and arms burned like a severe sunburn. They reported the excessive heat while the storm was picking up the house.

One thing I personally remember was a sulphur or yellow appearance in the sky - seemed to permeate the air. My husband and I noticed the brightness and decided to see what sort of sunset we were having and there hanging in the western sky was that horrifying funnel shortly before it reached the place where this picture was taken. After destroying the large farmhouse, the cloud just disintegrated. That is as close as I care to see one.

Hope my report is of some use to you in your investigations.

(Sgd.)  
Mrs. Bertha Bauvia  
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Sioux City, Iowa