

Leeward side tornado safest

By SUSAN L. SILK

If you'd head toward the southwest corner of your home as a tornado approaches, you may be operating under the old myth that could bring disaster.

Hovering in the southwest corner puts you directly in the path of the worst of the winds forces. Now scientists say the leeward side of your home, the direction away from the twister, is the safest spot to seek shelter.

Recent scientific investigations indicate that the northeast—not the southwest corner—of most structures is the safest, said John Dent, director of the Oakland County Disaster Control center.

MOST TORNADOS blow into Michigan during May from the southwest direction at wind speeds of between 300 and 500 miles an hour. A glass is blown out of win-

dows, the building pressurizes inside and a "ballooning" effect spins winds vertically, evacuating air and debris out the top of the structure.

In Michigan the average home built to code will withstand about 20 pounds of pressure per square foot.

THE AVERAGE "fantastic forces" of a tornado place 350 pounds of pressure per square foot on the structure, Dent said.

"A tornado does a lot of initial damage but may quickly dissipate," he said, explaining that the wind's force and destruction will be greatly reduced by the time it reaches the northeast corner of a structure.

Schools in Oakland County, particularly those built recently without basements or shelters, are the focus of Dent's current effort to educate the public, he said.

"Today schools are virtual greenhouses of glass. And some are just little missiles," Dent said. Several years ago steps were routinely taken to make schools adequate disaster shelters but that has "all fallen by the wayside now," Dent said.

Citing the Pine Lake Elementary School, in the Bloomfield Hills School District, with a kindergarten facility "almost completely of glass," Dent said that is the kind of structure that "could be disastrous."

Dent is presently attempting to organize a meeting of county school district administrators to outline simple measures that could and should be taken to prevent disasters.

"Some schools ought now to be thinking about transporting the kids home, of getting the kids out of the schools because they are so unsafe," Dent said.

Monitoring systems, transistor radios, a bullhorn, teachers instructed in first aid, a reevaluation of floor plans and the use of hallways as shelters should be initiated by area schools, Dent advocates.

NEXT ON Dent's list of priorities is informing mobile home park residents in ways they might protect themselves.

"Most of the tornado-related deaths in Michigan have been in mobile home parks."

"These structures are just lifted up and thrown around," Dent said.

The office of disaster control will tell mobile home dwellers of inexpensive warning systems that may be installed for the entire complex.

Dent said he will also recommend that trailer park residents consider the construction of concrete shelters.

Slain officer commemorated

By SUSAN L. SILK

OAKLAND COUNTY — A slain police officer was commemorated at the Thursday (May 2) meeting of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

Martin D. Chivas, 23, the Troy police officer allegedly slain April 22 by two suspects identified by police as escaped Marquette prison inmates, was honored by the board in a resolution introduced by Commissioner Henry W. Hoot, R-District 14, which includes Troy.

The "tribute in memoriam" to Chivas briefly told his history as a police cadet, his military training and his service with the Troy police department.

Chivas was killed while investigating an apparent break in at a gasoline service station on Rochester Road, near I-75 on April 22.

He was killed by a gunshot fired from within the station, police said.

"THUS ENDED tragically a promising police career of a 23-year-old police officer who was dedicated to his duty in the protection of private property and the rights of law-abiding citizens," the resolution said.

By unanimous board action, a certified copy of the entire resolution is being forwarded to Chivas' surviving parents, who live in Royal Oak.

In another ceremony, Oakland University was honored for its 15th anniversary by a resolution introduced by Commissioner Fred D. Houghten, R-Rochester, and accepted by university president Donald D. O'Dowd.

Since graduating its first class in 1959, the university has "opened its doors to 60,000 students" and will

have conferred 10,000 degrees this year, the resolution said.

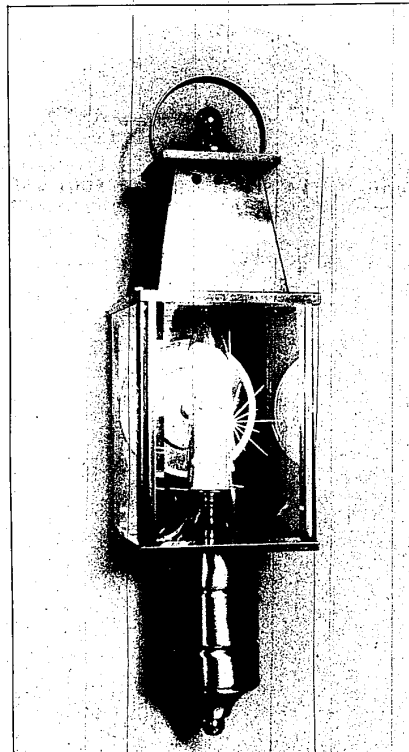
"Oakland University, in every manner of academic, cultural and social conscience, has demonstrated an enviable record in its 15 years of growth and service to the southeastern Michigan communities and the state of Michigan," the resolution said.

HOUGHTEN'S RESOLUTION urges county residents to attend the university's 15th birthday party Open House scheduled for Sept. 29.

The much-publicized life support unit of the Southfield Fire Department was honored in a resolution introduced by the five commissioners who jointly represent Southfield.

Those commissioners include: Alexander C. Perinoff, D-District 21, Lawrence R. Pernick, D-District 20, Lillian V. Moffitt, R-District 15, Mary M. Dearborn, R-District 22, and Wilbur V. Brotherton, R-District 27.

The life support unit consisting of 19 fire fighters, was cited for averaging three lives a month saved as a result



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Chairman

William R. Jenkins of Birmingham is serving as Wayne County chairman for Michigan Week, May 18-25. Jenkins is manager of public service and communications for the Detroit Free Press. He has been involved in numerous public service activities including Project Pride and the International Freedom Festival. In 1973, Jenkins was elected to the Birmingham Board of Education.

O.U. gets ok for courses

Oakland University (O.U.) is one of five Michigan colleges and universities authorized by the state board of education to establish new academic programs starting next fall.

New O.U. programs approved include bachelor's degree offerings in classical civilization, language arts, nursing, medical physics (radiological technology) and environmental health.

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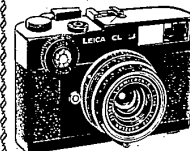
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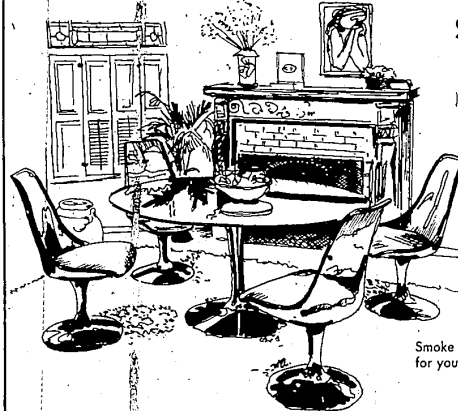
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