

Mt. Vernon Signal

Library of Kentucky

Thursday, March 24, 1977

SECTION TWO

State's Tornado Season has Arrived

Tornado season is here. The months of March through June are generally looked on as "tornado season" in Kentucky, according to B.J. Barfield, of UK's Agricultural Engineering Department and a weather specialist.

Severe weather in Kentucky is most frequent in the form of thunderstorms and tornadoes are usually spawned during thunderstorm conditions, Barfield noted.

Thunderstorms have been reported in Kentucky during every month and so have tornadoes. But according to weather records, tornadoes are sighted in the state most often in the four-month period of March through June, and that is the period in which the most severe thunderstorms generally occur.

The most devastating severe weather which occurs in Kentucky is caused by tornadoes. An individual tornado exists for only a short period of time, usually less than a half hour, Barfield said, noting it is normally a local storm and that its intensity often leaves a path of terrible destruction in its wake.

On the average, six tornadoes will be reported in Kentucky during a year, but the totals vary widely. There have been some years without the report of a single tornado. In 1967 a total of 16 were reported and on April 3, 1974, there were 27 in a single day.

Barfield said the most likely period of the day for tornadoes to occur is the six-hour span between noon and 6 p.m., with about half of all tornadoes in Kentucky having occurred in that period of the day. He said the second most likely period is from 9 p.m. to midnight, when about 25 per cent occur. The remainder are evenly distributed between midnight and noon.

Tornadoes are formed several thousand feet above the earth's surface, however, they must touch the ground to be considered a tornado, Barfield said. This type of storm can occur in almost any section of the state and in any terrain hilly or valley bottom.

In Kentucky a greater number occur in the western and northern sections of the state, Barfield commented, with fewer being reported in the eastern sector. He noted, too, that since the funnels are comparatively short-lived, they could occur in less

densely populated areas and go undetected visually—often the number of tornadoes reported depending on the density of population.

Weather history indicates 80 percent of all tornadoes approach from the direction ranging from the southwest to west.

At times a series of two or more tornadoes is associated with a single severe thunderstorm, Barfield said. "As the thunderstorm moves, tornadoes may form at intervals along its path, travel a few miles and then break up," he added. Tornado paths are usually only a quarter of a mile wide and seldom more than 16 miles long, with a forward speed ranging from virtually nothing to 70 miles per hour.

Understanding the terms weather forecasters use concerning tornadoes is very important, Barfield said, noting the term "tornado watch" means that conditions are such that tornadoes could and may develop. The term "tornado warning" means that a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. He recommended that in the case of a "tornado watch" announcement, persons should keep a battery-operated radio or TV at hand and listen for further information. But when a "tornado warning" is issued, persons should seek proper shelter and listen to the radio or TV for additional advisories.

"There is no way to stop a tornado, but it can be seen and people can seek shelter," he said. Due to the full force of a tornado usually being concentrated in a relatively small area, much of the burden of warning, evacuation and shelter falls the responsibility of the individual communities and even individual citizens.

"If you spot a tornado, immediately contact the local law enforcement agency which, in turn, will notify the proper authorities," he said. "Proper authorities" are the National Weather Service, radio and television stations, which will all issue further details and warnings.

When a "tornado warning" is issued, persons should seek inside shelter—in a storm cellar, basement or a reinforced building. A particular advisement was to stay away from windows. "If a tornado is in the immediate vicinity, curl up so your head and eyes are

protected," Barfield said. In a basement, the southwest corner was termed as offering the greatest safety against tornadoes, with shelter to be sought under sturdy furniture or like objects, if possible. "This lessens the threat of being struck by flying objects, since tornadoes usually travel from the southwest to northwest," Barfield said. "In homes without basements, take cover in the center part of the house, on the lowest floor, in a small room, such as a closet or bathroom, or under sturdy furniture," he continued. "Keep some windows open, but stay away from them."

People in office buildings should go to an interior hallway on the lowest floor, or to a designated shelter area. "Do not get in hallways with doorways at either end," Barfield warned. Most schools follow advance plans to take shelter in an interior hallway on the lowest floor, he said, noting that auditoriums, gymnasiums and other structures with wide, free-span roofs should be avoided.

In open country, people are advised to move away from the tornado's path at right angles and if there is not time to escape to lie flat in the nearest ditch or ravine. "Never sit in a parked car during a tornado warning," Barfield said. Mobile homes are especially dangerous places during strong winds, since they could be overturned, he pointed out. He added that mobile home damage can be limited by securing it with cables anchored in concrete—but even so, he advised persons in a mobile home to seek shelter elsewhere.

"Trailer parks should have a community storm shelter and werden to monitor broadcasts during a severe storm emergency," Barfield said. "If there is no shelter nearby, leave the trailer park and take cover on low, protected ground."

The National Weather Service, through local Civil Defense organizations, offers free weather spotter training to any community that wants to establish a community warning plan, Barfield said. The program instructs volunteers the proper procedures in setting up an observer network to recognize severe storms and alert residents of a community. "The program involves volunteers spending little time to buy a few seconds that could save many lives," he emphasized.

DAR Meets

The Rockcastle Chapter of the DAR met Friday, March 18, at the Rockcastle County Library with Regent Janie Ramsey presiding. Miss Ramsey was assisted in the ritual by Mrs. Ann Henderson and Mrs. Jean Towery read the President General's message. The

chapter welcomed one visitor, Mrs. Rachel Griffith. After a brief business meeting, Mrs. Mary Gregory, who is the chapter's National Defense Chairman, gave a most informative report of her findings concerning local preparedness in an emergency. The members were shocked to learn that Rockcastle would

be very poorly prepared in the event of a local disaster of any kind. An informed source in Frankfort state that on a scale of 0-100, Rockcastle rated less than 10 in Civil Defense. This source blamed a lack of interest on the part of the general public and Congress' failure to allocate money for Civil Defense supplies for this

sorry state of affairs. Refreshments were served by the hostess, Mrs. Ann Henderson and Mrs. Belle Huff.

The jellyfish has no skeleton, and more than nine-tenths of its body is jellylike.

KET leads you into a world of DRAMA

PBS Movie Theater, The American Short Story, First Night of Pygmalion and Masterpiece Theatre are representative of the drama found on Kentucky Educational Television (KET) all year long.

Festival '77, KET's third annual fund-raising and public awareness campaign features some familiar, some unusual performances April 2-10.



"Hamlet" ponders the age-old question, "To be or not to be" at 9/8 p.m. (CT), Saturday, April 2, on PBS Movie Theater.

it must have been like to be part of the rehearsals and conceptual development by George Bernard Shaw for the opening night of "Pygmalion" in 1914.

Using letters, quotes and other extraneous bits of writings from newspapers and other periodicals of the time, the CBC relives the intellectual and witty relationship existing between Shaw, Mrs. Patrick Campbell and Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree as they pursued the bumpy road leading to the very successful production of "Pygmalion."



"I Am A Woman" is a dramatic tour-de-force with Viveca Lindfors celebrating what it means to be a woman. Excerpts of material from D. H. Lawrence; Girardoux; Betty Freidan; Anne Frank; Shakespeare; George Bernard Shaw; Bertold Brecht; Anne Sexton; and many others - some not so famous - are used, leading finally to the climactic Helen Reddy hit, "I Am Woman."

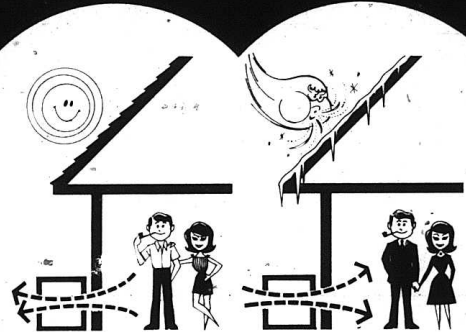
Celebrate! All this and more, during Festival '77, on KET.

The Bellamys travel to Scotland during one Festival episode and the other finds Georgina, reassociated with some irresponsible young socialites, involved in a tragedy.

The premiere of "Six American Families" Monday, April 4, at 8/7 p.m. (CT), begins a documentary series focusing on six U. S. households from different geographic regions and reflecting in microcosm, the strengths and tensions of family life in America today.

Wednesday, April 6 at 9:30/8:30 p.m. (CT), the Canadian Broadcasting Company creates a dramatic re-enactment of possible preparations, and what

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An Electric Heat Pump—a space-age system which heats and cools. • A heat pump conserves electricity, producing about two times the energy it uses. It provides you with year-round comfort, too. Even on the coldest winter day, there is "solar" heat in the air. A heat pump absorbs this warmth and delivers it into your home. The same unit cools in hot weather, removing excess indoor heat. • Investigate a heat pump system. It could be the heartbeat of your home.

KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY

AUCTION

Of
Mr. Sam Gregory and Mr. Danny Gregory's
9 BUILDING LOTS
Saturday, March 26, 1977-3 p.m.

Orlando Subdivision, Orlando, Ky.

LOCATED: 4 Miles East of Mt. Vernon, Ky. at Orlando, Ky. Turn off U.S. 25 at Burr and follow Hwy. 1004 (the Brush Creek Road) to the property, watch for auction signs at the property.

Due to the Gregory's living in Clay County and not being able to be here to attend to their property, they have decided to sell, at auction, these building lots in one of Rockcastle County's growing neighborhoods. These lots are in the Orlando Subdivision. The following is a description of each lot:

- Lot #7 - approximately 100x168, city water, fronts on Blackberry Lane.
- Lot #8 - approximately 100x174, city water, fronts on blackberry Lane.
- Lot #9 - extra large lot, measures approximately 100x320, city water, fronts on Blackberry Lane.
- Lot #10 - approximately 100x208, city water, fronts on Blackberry Lane.
- Lot #11 - approximately 100x170, city water, fronts on Blackberry Lane.
- Lot #27 - approximately 100x258, city water, fronts on Ky. 1004 (Orlando Road).
- Lot #28 - approximately 100x252, city water, fronts on Ky. 1004 (Orlando Road).
- Lot #29 - approximately 100x234, city water, fronts on Ky. 1004 (Orlando Road).
- Lot #31 - approximately 126x164, city water, fronts on county gravel road.

If you are in the market for a good building or mobile home lot with plenty of room for a garden - look no further!

FINANCING AVAILABLE

Contact Selling Agents Prior To Sale Date

LOW MONTHLY PAYMENTS

TERMS: 20% down day of sale, balance in 30 days upon delivery of deed.

For additional information, contact the owners, Mr. Danny Gregory and Mr. Sam Gregory at Hima, Kentucky or:

FORD REALTY & AUCTION CO., INC.
Mt. Vernon, Ky.

Col. Sam Ford Realtor - Auctioneer
Col. Bill Randolph Auctioneer
Col. Roy Adams Auctioneer
Col. Jerry Ham Auctioneer
Col. Danny Ford "Whip" - Auctioneer

Office - Phone 256-1545 - Night 758-8400

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