



Tribune Photo By William Yates

A Lemont woman stands alone amid the havoc wrought in that suburb by Sunday's killer tornado.

After the storm: Disbelieving, sorting, planning

By Jeff Lyon
and David Axelrod

THE VILLAGE of Lemont nestles against the huge Argonne National Laboratory, which stands as a monument to man and the power of his science.

But walking through Lemont's tornado-scarred streets Monday, that power seemed puny indeed.

The supercharged winds which cut through a residential section on the town's highlands for 10 short minutes Sunday night had transformed the area.

POSSESSIONS—bowling shoes, toilets, lasagna packets, princess phones, dishwashers, cheese graters, Christmas tree lights, and wagon wheels—lay set out as at some grotesque garage sale.

But the garages, along with most of the homes, arns, and trees along McCarthy Road

from McCarthy Street to Walker Road, are gone.

Only separate, jagged piles of debris remained where once homes had stood. Telephone poles sagged. Cars and tractors lay on their backs, and at least one auto rested precariously in a surviving tree.

A HELICOPTER'S whirr and a rooster's crow were the only sounds interrupting the silence which had settled on the area as the homeless sifted through rubble for mementos and salvageable items.

One of them, working under the mocking sun in an area denuded of shade, was Carol Devereaux, 33, of Lockport.

She balanced on the leveled beams and wall-board of her parents' two-story three-bedroom house at 1106 McCarthy Rd.

"Nearly the whole family was hit," she lamented. "I've got two sisters over on Hillcrest Drive, just over there. All that's left of their

two homes is a kitchen, a utility room, and a frame."

"But right after the tornadoes, with the roof and walls gone, the phone rings and my brother-in-law is standing there answering it and looking at the sky. Isn't that crazy? his phone still worked."

MRS. DEVEREAUX' parents weren't at home when the twisters hit. Her mother, staying at a friend's, refused Monday to come see the shards of her home, and couldn't grasp that it had been destroyed until a family member took a load of debris over to her to prove it.

Her father, Casimir Mierzwa, 59, a labor union official, was in the hospital suffering from a heart condition. He was brought briefly to the scene Monday.

Mrs. Devereaux, whose own home in Lockport was damaged by a tornado 10 years ago, was stunned by the destruction around her. She was especially amazed at the shorn, twisted

willow trees, where her mother's green couch now sat on a branch 10 feet off the ground.

FOR SHEER dollars lost, no one matched Joyce and Charles Arnold, 1265 McCarthy Rd., whose splendid colonial home lay half in ruins Monday amidst their 12½ acres of oaks and landscaping also ruined.

"It happened so suddenly. I was planting geraniums when it hit," said Mrs. Arnold, whose two porterhouse steaks — Sunday's dinner that wasn't — still are in her oven.

Their Cadillac lay upended against a tree a foot of silt was in their closed refrigerator. One of their ponies is dead. But their worst loss was \$100,000 in uninsured antiques, including a restored four-seater surrey, five barber chairs, and gas pumps with their original Standard Crowns.

"Right now we've thoroughly lost hope in rebuilding. Sure we can rebuild the house, but we can't replace the trees and nature. And that's why we bought it," said Arnold.



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Fred Polson, 72, of 507 6th St., Lemont, sits in dejection on the bare mattress underneath which he hid when tornado struck Sunday



Tribune Photo by James O'Leary

Cleanup starts where twister hit

The devastation just east of Lemont brought out Commonwealth Edison crews (center) to restore power Monday morning. Sunday's fatal twister struck mightily at these dwellings but left homes just beyond them virtually untouched. Stories on page 2, more photos on Back Page.

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Morning after in Burbank—wet



Having swimming pools in back yards seems incongruous following Sunday's heavy rains which left parts of suburban Burbank under water Monday. Rain that

struck Chicago's South Side and Southwest suburbs was described by the National Weather Service as "the kind that comes along every hundred years."



Burbank residents pitched in to clean up debris and mud, or move stalled cars. Others, and especially the children, used

the flood waters to swim and do a little boating. More photos on pages 1 and 2, stories on page 2.

Tribune photos by James O'Leary and Frank Hanes