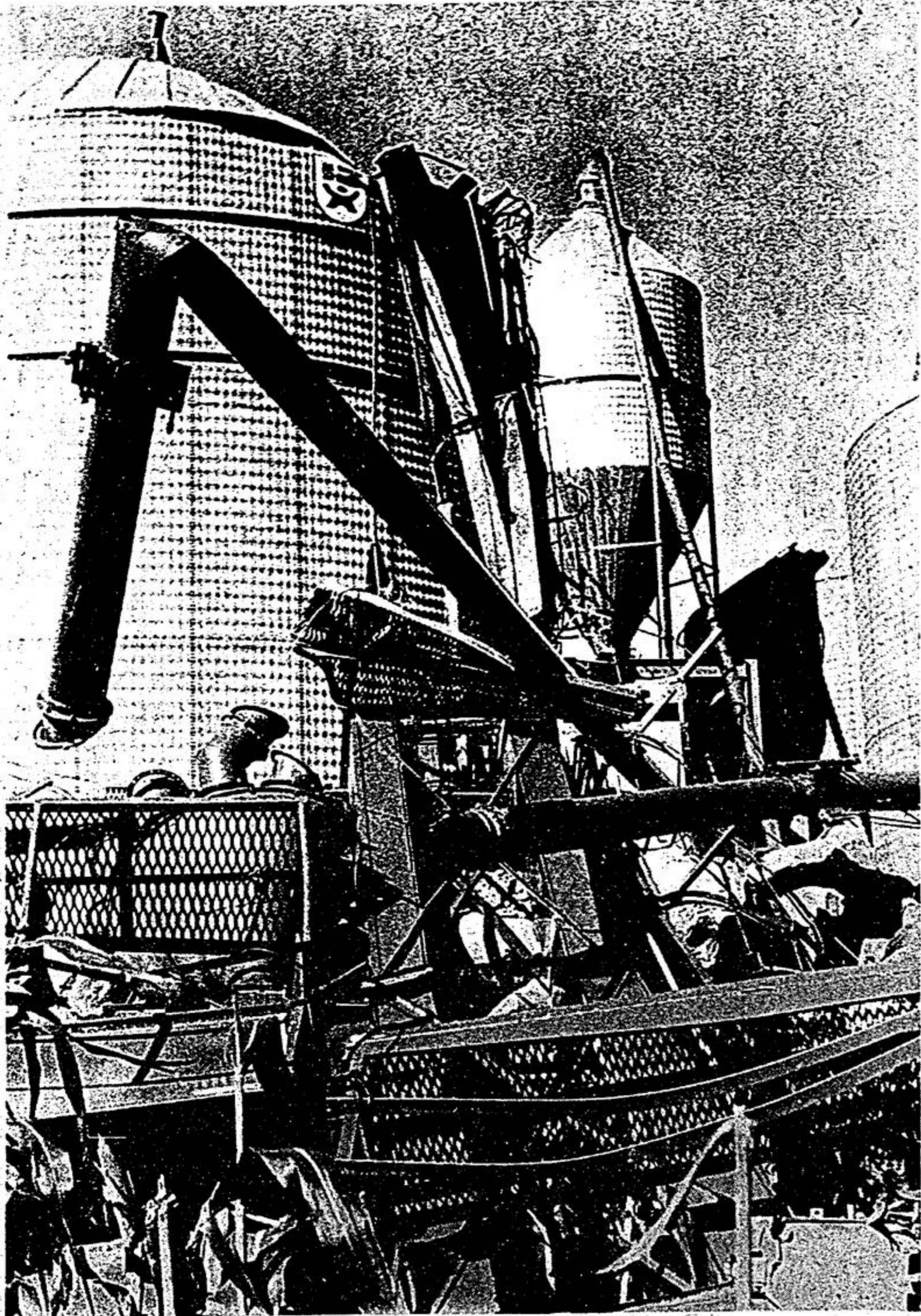


Freak twister hits Claremont



The sky darkened ominously last Saturday afternoon as anxious chefs tended the roast beef and corn at the Ballantrae Lions Barbecue.

Shortly before the dinner was to be served sheets of rain torrented down from the north-west and as the wall of water hit both cooks and would-be-diners, they made a scramble for the security of the community centre, food temporarily forgotten.

A few hardy souls ran out to close car windows but the majority stayed put, enjoying a few cold beers, as the crowd inside the hall swelled.

Ballantrae experienced heavy rain and gusting winds, Gormley area residents reported cherry sized hail stones while Stouffville huddled in the midst of a power blackout after uprooted trees fell across main feeder lines. Service in a strip of Whitchurch just north of town was not restored until near dawn Sunday morning.

However, the hardest hit area was a section of 5th Con. Uxbridge. Residents there got the full force of a twister. Barns were wrecked, whole sections of roofs were torn off and whirled away and scores of tall trees were uprooted.

Roy Lewis was particularly hard hit. He is now missing half a barn and will have to retrieve the roof from a neighbouring field, several hundred yards away. His corn elevator was reduced to a mass of twisted metal and several mature trees were uprooted. He plans to

install a fireplace to utilize all the wood so suddenly dropped in his lap.

The Friedrich family half a mile down the road also suffered great losses. They had laboured all summer to build a barn, only to have it torn down

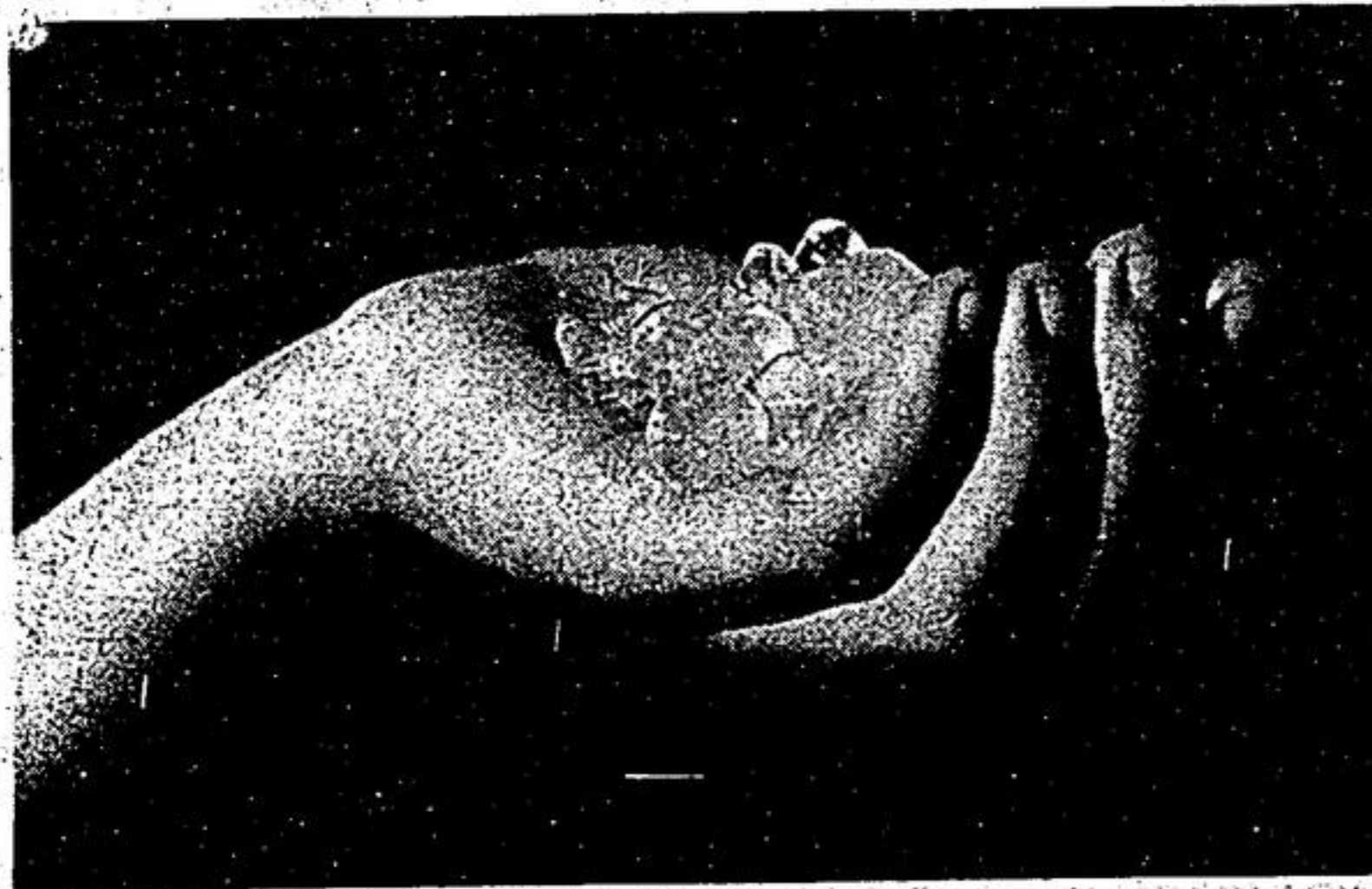
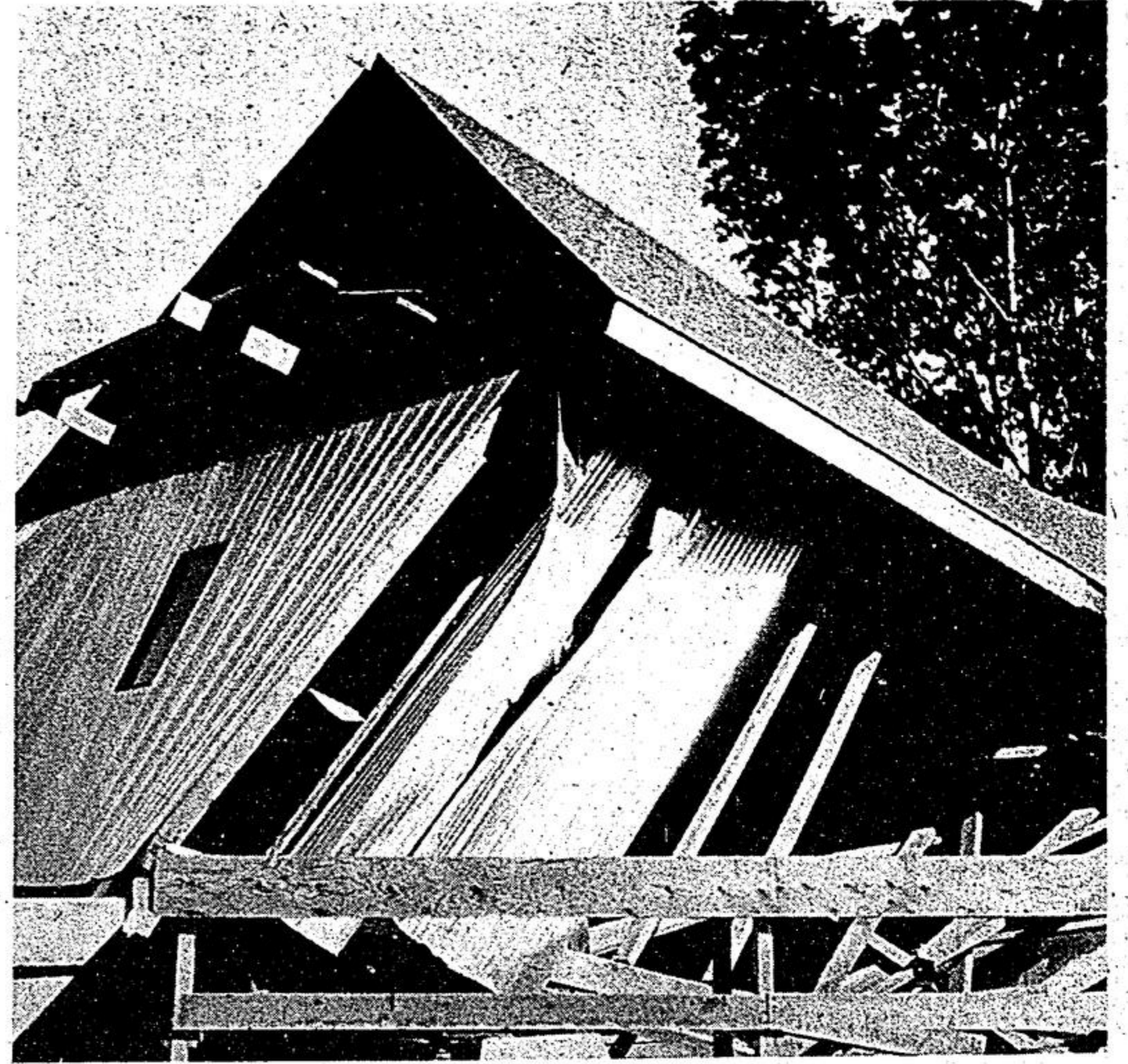
by the storm just as they were ready to put on the finishing touches.

Mrs. Friedrich is grateful that the damage went no further, however. She said her daughter was out in the yard when the storm struck and two galvanized sheets went

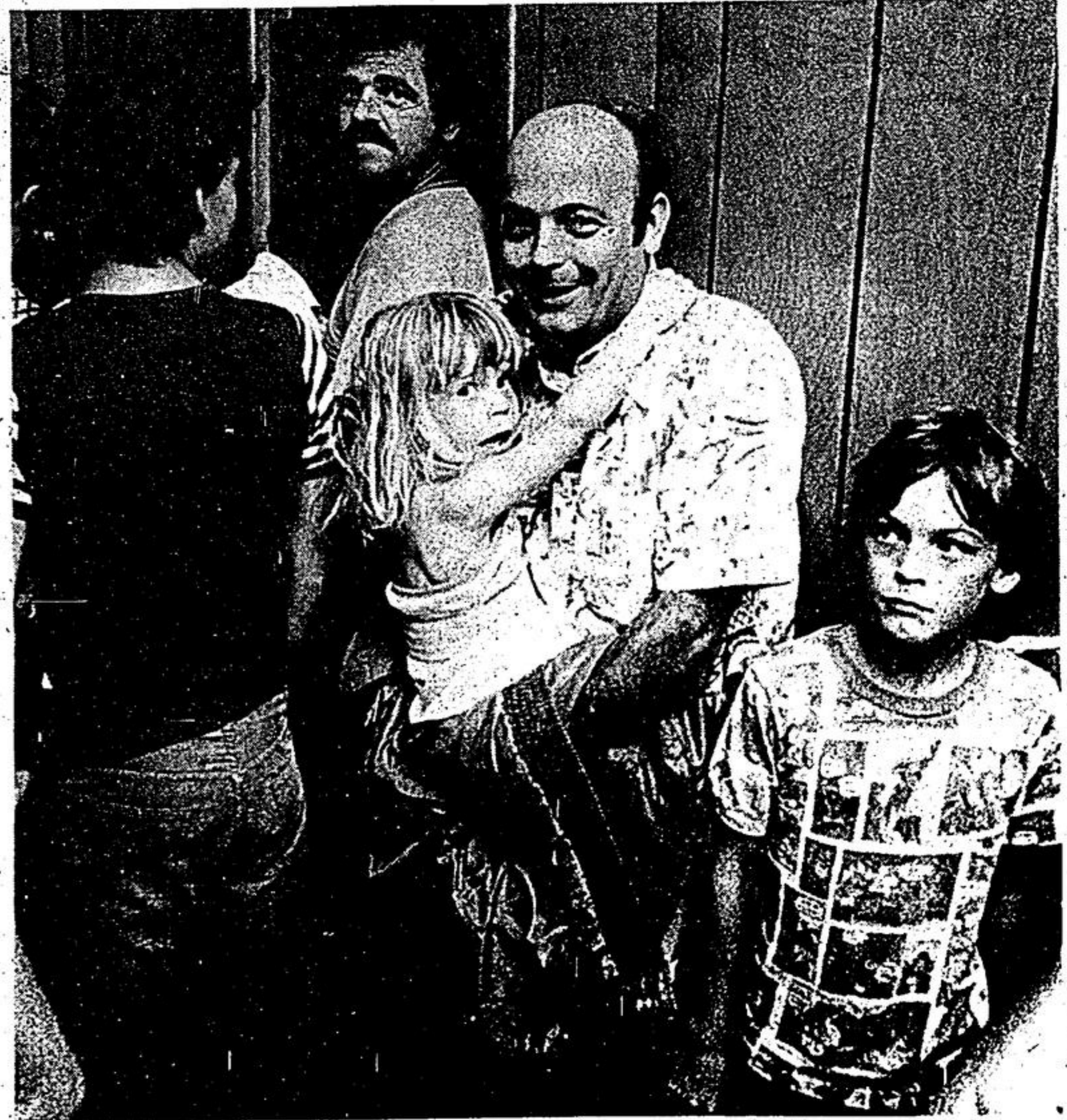
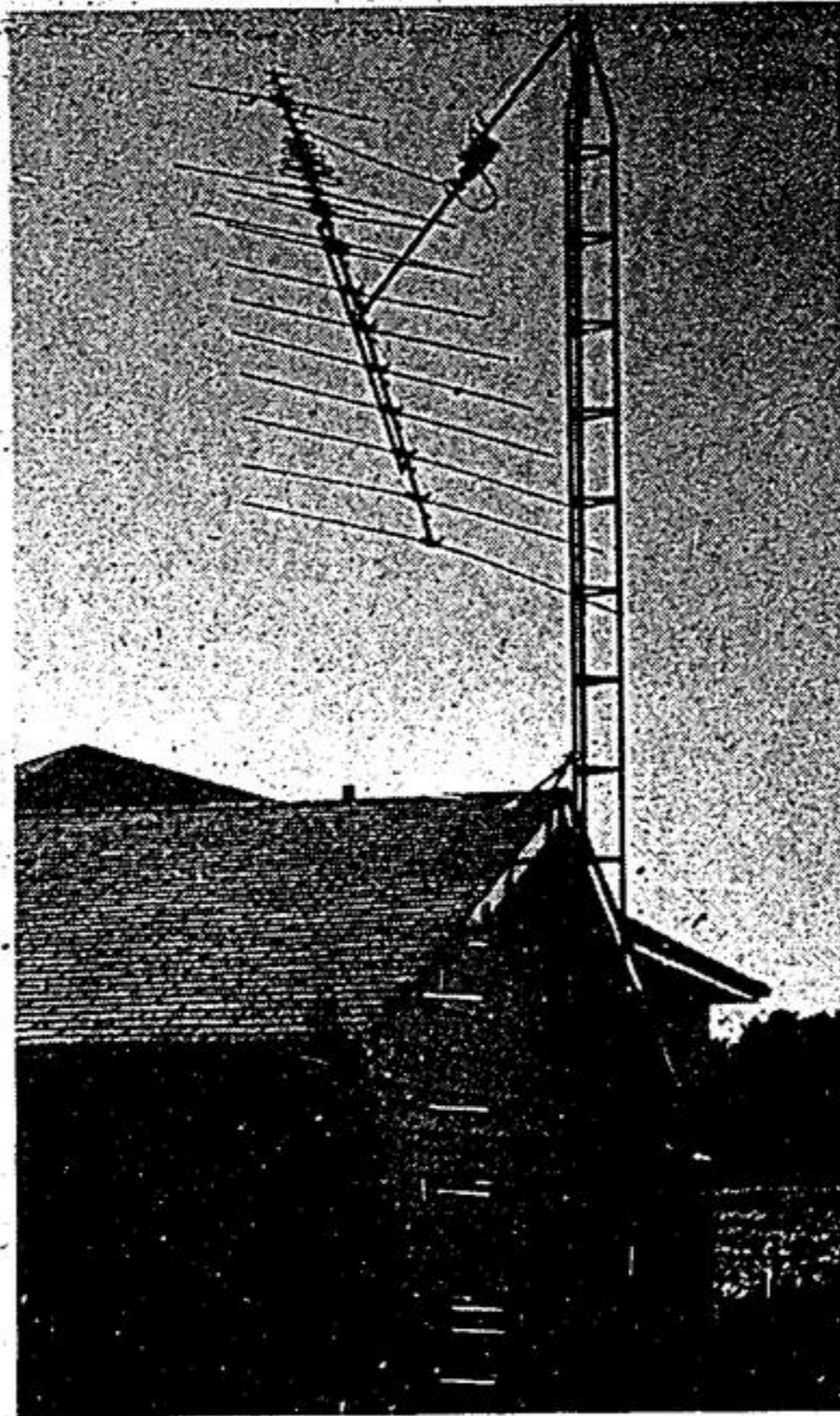
flying by her. "They missed her by inches—she was just so lucky", she said. Mr. Friedrich also got the shock of his life. He was just attempting to help some chickens into the barn when the structure suddenly came apart and he had no place

to put them.

The storm also interrupted a wedding reception at the Sleepy Hollow Golf and Country Club, when the power failure there turned the reception into a candle light affair.

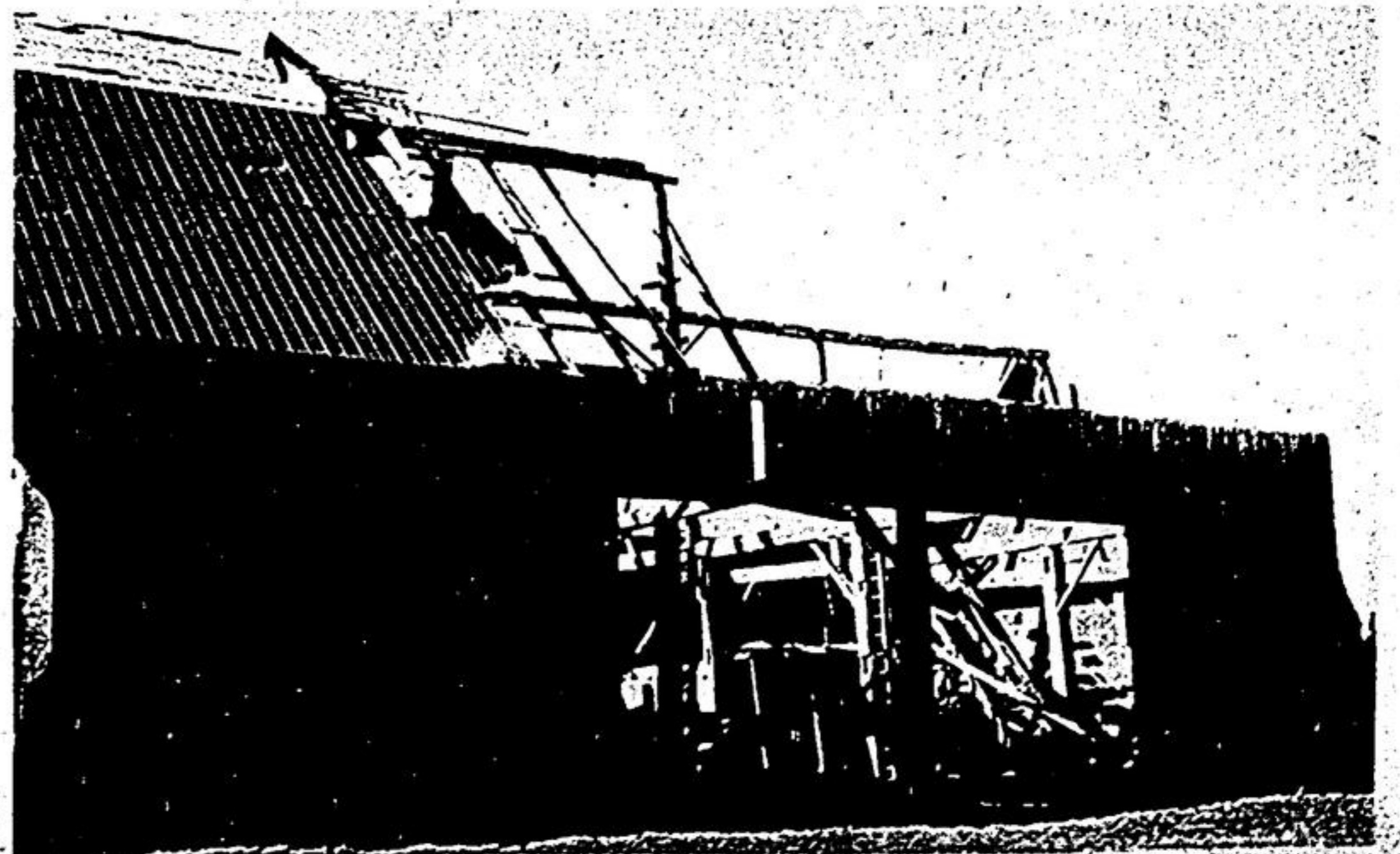


Hailstones the size of cherries fell in Gormley during last Saturday's storm. Children collected them by the handful and put them in the freezer. Below, work crews clean up.



A soaking wet Joe Van Binxteren of West Hill carries his equally sodden daughter into the Ballantrae Community Centre just after Saturday's storm broke. Luckily the hall was big enough to accommodate all the patrons of the Ballantrae Lions steer roast!

Photos and story by Annegret Lamure



Roy Lewis' barn on 5th Con., R.R. 1, Claremont was totally demolished by the

storm and his corn elevator (top left) reduced to wreckage.