

Walter Litkovitz's Tornado Story (as remembered by his son, Ted Litkovitz) typed by Ted 4-28-2024

I mentioned that my family was involved in the aftermath of the tragedy. My father, Walter Litkovitz Sr. was 17 years old on that that Saturday and was surveying the damage to the downtown after the tornado had dissipated.

As you know, the National Guard was dispatched from Cleveland after the storm to handle the aftermath and cleanup. They recruited all able bodied men and women in the area to help. My father was one of them. He was asked with others to help the survivors and remove the deceased from the State Theater. He also assisted on getting the victims to the temporary morgue which was at the Lorain High School a few blocks away.

After the day's duties were completed the "volunteers" were transported to Lorain High School to stay overnight, "under guard" until their escorted assistance was again needed downtown the next day and through Tuesday of the following week. They were "guarded" throughout these days so they couldn't leave the area.

Strangely, my mother said my father never spoke of these tragic days again. It was very traumatic for him and it was after some years later that I learned of the tornado.

The tornado's southern path followed east down 13th Street to Broadway and crossed over the Black River to continue its destruction on the east side of town.

My mother Bernice Litkovitz was 13 years old when she witnessed the tornado from ONE BLOCK away at her home on 14th street and Oakdale Avenue.

Some years later Dad met and married Mom as they had something in common and as a result.....here I am at 81 years old !!!