

and send it spinning through the air. Small stones become bullets that shatter windshields.

Over the years, Jeff Piotrowski has witnessed more than 850 tornado strikes. Few people appreciate the terrifying power of tornadoes better than he does. Still, nothing prepared Jeff for what he would later witness in Joplin, Missouri.

## FALSE ALARMS

Like most people in Joplin, the Satterlees heard that severe thunderstorms were predicted for later that day. That was disappointing; they'd have to move Bennett's afternoon party from poolside back to their house. Weather forecasts warned of a tornado risk, but few in Joplin paid much attention.

True, Joplin had been struck twice by deadly tornadoes in the 1970s. In 1971, a twister badly damaged parts of the city and killed a college student. Just two years later, another tornado

Joplin residents clean up after a tornado that struck the city in 1973.



Good Morning  
Today In  
Saturday, May 12, 1973  
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## The Joplin Globe

JOPLIN, MISSOURI—TWENTY-EIGHT PAGES

Mild  
Partly cloudy; high today in upper 60s or low  
70s; low tonight 44-50

PRICE 10¢

More Than 100 Injured . . .

# Tornadic Windstorm Kills 3 Persons, Causes Estimated \$20 Million Damage

The Joplin area is still reeling from the onslaught of the severe weather which struck the entire city Friday morning, causing millions of dollars in property damage, claiming the lives of three persons and injuring more than 100 others.

The storm struck the city shortly before 7 a.m., with winds estimated to have reached speeds of 70 to 100 miles per hour, accompanied by hail.

No section of the city escaped at least partial damage during the brief storm. Numerous manufacturing plants, businesses, mobile homes and other buildings were destroyed or heavily damaged.

City officials estimate that 11 were destroyed or heavily damaged.

West Side Trailer Court, located on West 7th Street about three miles west of Joplin.

Mrs. Loyd Gilpin, who with her husband owns the trailer court, says 23 mobile homes were in the park and that 11 were destroyed or heavily damaged.

Miller Manufacturing Co., Inc., located in southeast Joplin at 27th Street and Davis Boulevard. Employees estimated that 11 were destroyed or heavily damaged.