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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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TORNADO CELLARS

The construction of tornado cellars--popularly called "cyclone cellars"--was vigorously urged years ago by Lieutenant (now Colonel) J.P. Finley, who devotes a large amount of space to this subject in his book on tornadoes, published in 1887.

A tornado cellar should not be located under a house or other building, partly because a structure wrecked by a tornado frequently catches fire and partly because the roof of the cellar, unless extremely strong, is likely to collapse under falling débris. Even when detached from the house the cellar must be either buried so deeply underground or so strongly roofed that heavy objects falling on it will not cave it in.

More than forty years ago the Burlington Insurance Company, of Iowa, offered a prize of \$200 for the best plans for a tornado cellar. There were 122 competitors and the winner was John R. Church, an architect of Rochester, N.Y., whose plans and drawings will be found in Finley's book.

Since that period the universal use of concrete has provided a building material well adapted for the construction of these refuges. A well-built concrete cellar is a dry, cool place for the storage of fruit and vegetables, so that the tornado cellar is a good thing to have on the premises even if a "twister" never comes along.

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