

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed Oct. 18, 1935

TORNADO CELLARS

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Authority on Meteorology

That celebrated American contrivance, the tornado cellar, is otherwise known as a tornado cave, tornado pit, cyclone cellar, cyclone pit, storm cave, etc.

S. D. Flora, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, whose hobby is tornadoes and who is stationed in Kansas, tells us that almost every farmer in that state makes an excavation a few steps in the rear of his kitchen, primarily as a cool place for storing fruits and vegetables. This cave is generally lined with boards, and a foot or so of soil serves as a roof. The size varies. Average dimensions would be, say, 6 to 8 feet long and 5 feet deep. The cave is available for use as a refuge during a tornado.

Complete plans and specifications for constructing tornado cellars were published by Col. John P. Finley in his book "Tornadoes" (New York, 1887). This work has long been out of print but is found in many libraries.

Plans for constructing combined storage and tornado cellars of concrete can be obtained free, on application, from the Portland Cement Association in Chicago or from its numerous branch offices in other cities.

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