

## **Palm Sunday Tornado Outbreak – April 11, 1965**

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Meteorologist and pilot Conrad Johnson worked at WMT in Cedar Rapids, Iowa from the late 50s until his retirement in the early 80s. His genius and greatness were vastly under-recognized. He's one of the nation's first to understand the importance of weather radar and led by personally installing an old military radar at WMT (the first of its kind west of the Mississippi River). Conrad partnered with the Weather Bureau in 1966 to develop the tornado watch/warning system which saves so many lives today. He also was instrumental in organizing the spotter network SKYWARN across the country as a result of the Palm Sunday Outbreak. His forthright professionalism always shone through when Iowa's weather was unpredictable.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=au11EamZ8uo>

A violent F4 tornado ripped a path of destruction one-half mile wide and 20 miles long across Cedar county, Iowa first touching down 3 miles east of Tipton at 1245 pm. The tornado then lifted in the northeast corner of Cedar county before reaching Toronto. The tornado in the Lowden-Clarence area brought destruction to homes, farms, trees, livestock, and took the life of a Clarence farmer. The photo below shows one of the farms after it was struck by the tornado.



Photo provided courtesy of Steve Gottschalk, CO-OP observer in Lowden, IA, and is from The Gazette (Cedar County, IA) in the days that followed.