

June 16, 1977
Hysham Echo

Up to golf ball size . . .

Hail storm strikes Hysham on Tuesday

A thundering hail storm struck at Hysham Tuesday afternoon about 5 p. m. Driven by hard winds, the golf ball size hail destroyed crops west and north of the town.

The storm roared into Hysham breaking windows, damaging mobile homes and spreading debris throughout the town.

Hardest hit crops were those of John Welch, Kolb brothers, Harold Hert, Maynard Simmerman and Ernie Icopini. Sugar beets and corn received the heaviest losses. Grain was broken off in many places and knocked completely flat by the force of the wind.

Three funnel clouds were sighted just before the storm. One touched the ground northwest of Hysham. Two dropped out of the cloud and then went back up.

The town of Hysham had little warning. With a roar like a locomotive, the storm struck at 5 p. m. It came first from the west and then from the north. From the north, the storm reached its peak.

Wind-driven hail fell so hard that it bounced as high as 10 to 15 feet in the air after striking the ground. The ground was white in minutes.

The force of the hail broke windows all over town. Some mobile homes suffered severe damage to their exteriors. Branches from the trees littered the streets.

Water backed up from the torrent and covered the streets in nearly every section of Hysham. Hail piled up in corners, under trees and in doorways of homes.

All of the west windows of the porch of Mrs. O. A. Kolb were broken during the storm. The shop windows on the west

side of the Kolb farm were also broken.

Traffic was stopped on Highway I-91 during the height of the storm. A mud slide under the Hysham interchange also dindered traffic that moved after the storm.