



THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

May 2014 – Week 2

Air Date: May 11 – May 17 (Sunday – Saturday)

TITLE: THE WACO TORNADO

MAY 1953 AND A TEXAS TORNADO MAKES HISTORY.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

MAY 11, 1953. WACO. IN THE MIDST OF A DROUGHT, A THUNDERSTORM APPEARS SOUTH OF TOWN OVER LORENA. BUT ACCORDING TO INDIAN LEGEND WACO WILL ALWAYS BE SAFE... FROM TORNADOES.

YET A FUNNEL CLOUD FORMS AND MOVES NORTH, AGAINST PREVAILING WINDS. WITH 300 MILE AN HOUR WINDS, THE TWISTER SLAMS INTO DOWNTOWN WACO.

OVER 500 BUSINESSES AND 800 HOMES WERE DESTROYED OR DAMAGED. 145 PEOPLE WERE INJURED. 114 KILLED. IT IS THE WORST TORNADO IN TEXAS HISTORY.

MANY SAY DOWNTOWN WACO HAS NEVER RECOVERED.

THE WACO TORNADO BLEW INTO TOWN 61 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

Roger N. Conger, "WACO, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hdw01>), accessed May 01, 2014. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Roy Sylvan Dunn, "TORNADOES," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/ydt01>), accessed May 01, 2014. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

"LOOKING BACK AT THE WACO TORNADO OF 1953 AND THE LESSONS LEARNED...", *Texas Department of Public Safety* (<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/temo/archives/2013/Vol60No5/articles/article2.htm>), accessed May 01, 2014.

"1953 Waco tornado outbreak," *Wikipedia*, (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1953_Waco_tornado_outbreak), accessed May 01, 2014.

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