



STEEPLE HIT—Lightning struck the steeple of the Congregational church in Pelham, N. H., during the violent early-morning electric storms today. The bolt smashed through the top of the steeple, scattering shingles onto the roof and lawn.

Hit Hardest

Pelham, N. H., received the brunt of the first storm. There scores of trees were felled and whole areas of the community were without lights or telephone facilities. At noon today many telephones were still out and many homes were without electric power. Three streets, Marsh road, Sherburne road and Woodbury avenue, were closed to traffic for several hours yesterday afternoon and evening as work crews labored to clear the highways of trees and dangling wires.

Steeple Struck

In today's early morning storm, the Pelham Congregational church was struck by lightning, the bolt smashing into the steeple and scattering shingles over the roof and lawn, leaving a gaping hole in the steeple.

Every community in the area reported wires and trees down, although no major inconveniences were reported.

Tuesday afternoon's electrical storm in addition to occurring in the midst of a record heat wave, caused some damage and freak happenings in the Greater-Lowell area. One of the most unusual incidents took place in Pelham, N. H., during the height of the storm and was witnessed by a crew of men working in a cemetery. The storm practically covered the green grass of St. Casimir's cemetery with large hail stones, some almost the size of golf balls. Two of the men, Gene Barretto of 15 Broadway Graniteville, and Howard Carlson of Groton road, Westford, gathered several of the hail stones in a bucket and brought them to the offices of The Sun to verify the oddity of nature's work. The two men stated that they measured several of the hail stones with the average measurements being about two and three-quarters by two and one-quarter by one and one-half inches. The surprised fellows had gathered several of the largest pieces of fallen ice into a bucket, and although they had melted somewhat by the time they arrived from Pelham to The Sun office there were still some good sized hail stones in the container.