

Lightning Strike on a Moving Car

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Lightning struck a car driven by Mr. Joe Macoine of Greenville Mississippi, Thursday April 3, 1980 at 10:50 am. Mr. Macoine was travelling along Highway 49, five miles south of Yazoo City, Mississippi, on his way to Jackson. An intense thunderstorm was moving to the northeast at 30 knots in an almost opposite direction to Mr. Macoine's car. Weather at the time was light rain with overcast skies. The car was well away from the storm center. The pavement was wet.

The car was moving at 55 mph and dropped into a dip in the road when one individual in the car heard a loud explosion, like dynamite. The car bounced, and there was a smell of smoke.

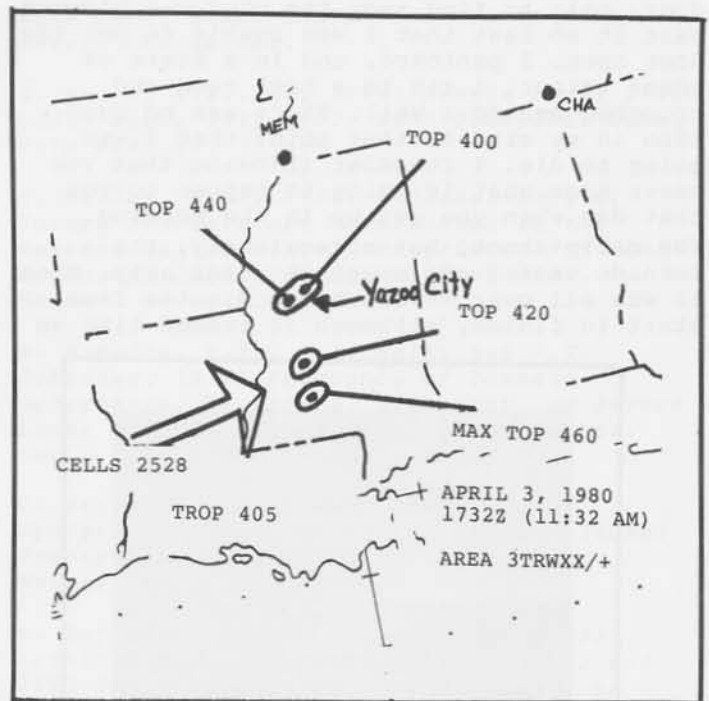
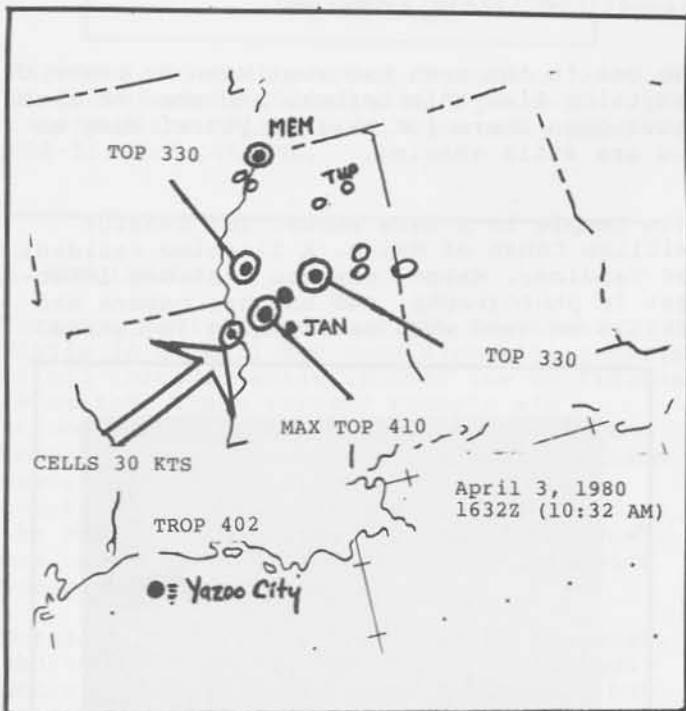
A car behind them was driven by a highway department employee. He observed a ball of fire and smoke, and described the car as being engulfed in a brilliant light. Such

was the visual impression that the employee assumed the occupants must be seriously injured or dead.

There was, however, no injury to either occupant of the car. Lightning destroyed the external radio antenna. The radio was on at the time and never ceased to function. Paint on the car roof was speckled and paint was peeled from around the antenna base. Chrome trim was knocked from that side of the car and there was a light colored area on the nearest tire. The electric clock stopped at 10:50 am.

Driver of the car:

Mr. Joe Macoine
P.O. Box 4700
Greenville, MS 38701



SCHEMATIC PICTURE OF RADAR REPORTS, APRIL 3, 1980



Figure 1. Picture of the top of the car, a late model Honda. Note the radio antenna mount damage and the speckled paint area. Photo credit WJTV Channel 12, Jackson, Ms.



Figure 2. Left front tire. The whitened area is due to the lightning strike. Note burn mark on the rim. Photo credit WJTV Channel 12, Jackson, Ms.