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Wind, Rain Damage Heavy At Centerville



WIRES CLIPPED ALONG NC-58 SOUTH



TOBACCO BLOWN AND WATER-LOGGED ON NELMS FARM



CAR SMOTHERED BENEATH FALLEN TREE



TRAFFIC SNARLED ALONG NC-58 NORTH

Centerville residents are busy today clearing away fallen trees and other debris following one of the worse storms in years which hit the eastern Franklin community shortly after 9:30 P.M. Wednesday night. Scores of trees were blown over; several across busy highways snarling traffic in at least two directions. Limbs and leaves were strewn across all roads leading into the crossroads community.

There has been no estimate of the damage in the area but at least one car, owned by Clemon Nelms, was heavily damaged when a tree in the Nelms yard was felled across the vehicle. A large tree was blown down across the Centerville-White Level highway near the home of Howard Lee Griffin. This tree blocked traffic on this road for more than two hours.

A car load of fishermen returning home narrowly escaped injury when the car came to halt right at a fallen tree on the Centerville-Warrenton highway. There were no injuries reported in the area and while some roofs were damaged, no heavy loss of property was reported.

Heavy rains accompanied the thunderstorm and damage to crops in the area was heavy. However, C. T. Dean, Jr., County Farm Extension Chairman, said this morning that if there was no hail in the area, he did not believe the overall crop damage would be extensive.

Hail did hit on NC-98 on the farms of Horace Baker and Raeford Baker inflicting what Dean described as a 25 percent loss. The Baker brothers had suffered hail damage earlier this month. Heavy winds also were reported in White Level but damage there was not as great as in the Centerville area, according to reports.

Centerville was without electricity and telephone service for several hours as lines were knocked down by falling trees. The northern section of Louisburg was without electricity for an hour and a half last night and some areas north of Louisburg to the Warren County line reported no electricity by midmorning today.

Trees were blown down in the yard of Centerville Mayor John Neal but no other damage was reported. A fallen tree did some damage at the home of Bennie Ray Gupton when it struck the roof of a porch. The heavy downpour of rain which accompanied the storm, and continued for some time thereafter, hampered road crews and volunteers in their efforts to clear the highway. Homeowners, for the most part, made no attempt to clear up the damage last night.

The rain, according to Dean, was general across the county with Bunn receiving 1.6 inches and Louisburg reporting 4.5 inches. Nelms, in addition to losing his car, also reported the loss of some young pigs and that lightning had killed one of his prize horses over the weekend. He reported the wind storm lasted about 7 to 8 minutes.

Deputy Sheriff Lloyd Gupton reported hearing a whistling sound and compared the storm with a small cyclone. Gupton apparently had no major damage at his home.

There was a report that one Centerville resident had said the storm blew his television set out of the house, but the source insisted that the story not be attributed to him. The storm apparently was confined to a relatively small area generally around Centerville-White Level and the Gold Sand School section of the county.

Two Missing Boys Found Unharmed In Maryland

Sheriff William T. Dement reports that two boys missing from their homes since Tuesday night, June 3, have been found safe in Westminster, Maryland.

Wesley Earl Smith, 17, and Charles Wayne Piper, 14, both Franklinton High School students, were first reported missing over two weeks ago. The boys' parents traveled to Maryland Tuesday night after being alerted as to the whereabouts of the boys through an insurance company.

The 1961 Chevrolet, owned by Ben Smith, Route 1, Kittrell, father of one of the boys, was involved in what was apparently a minor mishap in Maryland and the insurance company there reported the incident to a Louisburg insurance agency.

According to reports both boys were working at a cement plant in the small town, twenty miles from Baltimore. It was learned that the Smith youth decided to remain in Westminster and continue his job. The Piper youth returned home, according to reports. Neither boy was hurt or harmed, it was reported.

The pair had been the object of an all-state alert for the past two weeks and the Sheriff's department had conducted an extensive investigation and search for the youths. A number of false leads had been run down by Sheriff's officers and parents of the youths.

One Killed

Former Local Man Injured In Vance Wreck

A former local resident now living in Raleigh was admitted to Maria Parham Hospital in Henderson following an automobile-truck accident on US-1 south of Henderson Tuesday around noon. The driver of the truck was killed.

Cecil Robert (Bobby) Sykes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Sykes of Louisburg was not believed seriously injured when the small foreign car he was driving was struck in the rear by a panel pickup truck. Jerry Woodard, 22, of Route 2, Four Oaks was killed with the truck overturned pinning him underneath.

Sykes received a whiplash-type injury, the officer explained, and complained of head and back pains.

Both vehicles were southbound on U. S. Highway 1 at the time and the truck apparently ran into the rear of the small auto. Upon impact, the truck overturned on its right side and Woodard momentarily was pinned in the vehicle. Trooper B. R. Sutton pointed out. Passerby's freed the victim from the wreckage before Vance Ambulance Service ambulances arrived at the scene, then both men were moved to the hospital.

Damages were estimated at some

\$500 to each vehicle, to the rear of the auto and to the front and right side of the truck.

Immediately following the crash, Sykes told officers at the hospital that he could not remember exactly what happened to cause the crash and about all he could remember was that he was driving south on the highway, Trooper Sutton said.

More Budget Study

Board Fails To Act On Zoning

The Board of County Commissioners continued its lengthy study of the 1969-70 budget here yesterday and reports say that still another session is on docket for Monday.

The Board again declined to act on a request by the Industrial Development Commission and the County Planning Board toward gaining authority to zone certain areas of the county. The request was made last week that the Board pass a resolution seeking to have the Franklin delegation introduce a bill in the General

Louisburg Sportswear will hold open house here Sunday afternoon between the hours of 1 and 5 and a plant official emphasized today that "everybody's invited". He said the celebration is for "friends in town and also in the county and we want everybody to come."

With Sunday's open house, the local plant, which manufactures knit shirts for men and boys, will mark its seventh year in Louisburg. The facility first began operations in July, 1962.

Announcement of the location of Sportswear here on February 15, 1962 brought new life to industrial advocates in the area. It's the largest plant to announce location here in several years. At the time it was said that the plant would employ 150 persons with an annual payroll of \$400,000.

Today, however, Sportswear employs 200 people with an annual payroll of \$775,000. The original 30,000 square foot building has grown with a recent expansion to 51,000 square feet. At the outset, it was announced the firm would employ mostly local people. One spokesman said recently he believed that two employees lived just across the Franklin line in adjoining counties. The others, he said, are local people.

Donald Hartness is plant manager and Robert T. Hayes is Sewing Room foreman and Robert Tanner is foreman of the Cutting Room.

Line Supervisors include Elizabeth

Redmond, Dorothy Lambert, Margaret Gilliam, Rosa Lee Gupton, Danize Neal, Rose Stroud, Madge Shearon and Margaret Gupton.

Snead Carey, Jr. is Head Mechanic and Kirby Holt is Shipping Supervisor. Neil Strickland is Office Manager, Irene Shearin is Personnel Supervisor and Jane Griffin is Training Supervisor.

The plant ships out an average of 6800 dozen shirts each week. Open House Sunday will include guided tours of the plant with explanations of the plant's operations, it was announced. Refreshments will be served and favors will be given children attending the event.

Locals Get Food Stamps

Atlanta, Ga. - U. S. Department of Agriculture food programs aided 222,229 needy persons in North Carolina during April. This was 5,936 persons less than the number that received food assistance in March. In Franklin County, 2,942 persons received food stamps. Franklin does not have a Family Food Distribution Program.

USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service said the family food distribution program aided 146,913 persons in 59 counties, 8,741 persons less than the number of recipients in March. C&MS officials attributed most of the decrease in this program to seasonal employment.

The foods distributed had an estimated value of \$100,000. (See FOOD Page 8)



TREE BLOCKS STATE RURAL 1451 AT CENTERVILLE