

Traces Of Devastation

# All Sorts Of Bad Thoughts Went Through McDougald's Mind

**Special To The Post**  
**Winston-Salem** - As he called on stores March 28, Atlanta salesman James McDougald noticed the "bad-looking clouds" that gathered and moved swiftly overhead. But he didn't give them a second thought.

Hours later at home, McDougald received a call from an aunt in Maxton, N.C. As she tried to describe the destruction of his childhood home by a series of tornadoes, his thoughts turned to his grandmother and eight relatives living in the home.

"All sorts of bad thoughts went through my mind," recalled McDougald, an area sales representative with R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. "I remember bad thunderstorms there when I was growing up, but it always seemed that South Carolina got it worse than we did."

But this time, Maxton and nearby Red Springs, N.C., weren't spared the death and destruction from the tornadoes that struck along a 260-mile strip through North and South Carolina.

Images of destruction and the faces of his loved ones flashed repeatedly through his head as McDougald drove for what seemed like an eternity between Atlanta and Maxton.



WINSTON-SALEM - Carie Purdie (wearing hat) sits with her family at a public housing apartment in Maxton after killer tornadoes destroyed their homes in Maxton, N.C. Mrs. Purdie is the grandmother of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. sales representative James McDougald of Atlanta, Ga.

"I began to see traces of the devastation as I neared Laurinburg and all the way to Maxton," said McDougald. "When I saw Maxton, it looked like a testing site for A-bombs. Everything was leveled; things—washing machines, water heaters, refrigerators, cars—were strewn all over the place." As he pulled down the street where his home once

sat, he was struck by the "selectiveness" of the tornado. "Some homes were spared, some suffered minor damage and some were totally destroyed—gone," he said. After a teary reunion with his family, McDougald heard first-hand the tales of destruction. His grandmother, Mrs. Carie Purdie, told him as soon as she heard the deafening

roar, she knew exactly what was about to happen. "The storm cloud came and I looked out the window. I looked up and it was black and there was wind and rain, and I told everybody to get in the hallway," Mrs. Purdie recalled. "I'll never forget it as long as I live. I'm 77 years old and I'll never forget it. It looked like fire in the

sky. O hope I never see another one as long as I live."

No sooner did Mrs. Purdie, her daughter (Mary J. McDougald), four grandchildren and and three great grandchildren got to the hall than a fierce tornado ripped off the roof.

During the few minutes the nine people in the hallway, all of their furniture and possessions were sucked up by the storm. When the tornado passed, all that remained were the front and side walls of the brick house and the two interior walls that formed the hallway that saved the family.

"I worked my way through the house and couldn't believe it," said McDougald. "It was like a giant vacuum cleaner had sucked up everything."

Amazingly, no one was hurt.

"God took care," Mrs. Purdie said. "He sure did."

Mary Jane McDougald, James' aunt, said that luckily the home was insured. Reconstruction of the home should take about three months.

Like somewhere among the ruins were the trophies and other reminders of McDougald's years as a premier running back at Wake Forest University.

"I hope they'll turn up some time," said McDougald. "I kept them at the house for my grandmother."

I have all those memories in my mind. But for my grandmother, they were something special. I think that many of the victims are more concerned about losing those

special things, like photographs and other memories, than personal possessions that can be replaced."

The outpouring of support, relief and aid from all over the country impressed McDougald. But it was the overwhelming response from other North Carolinians that will stick in his mind.

McDougald's employer, R. J. Reynolds, donated money and food and tobacco products valued at

nearly \$500,000 to residents of the stricken areas. The company contributed \$100,000 cash to each of the tornado-ravaged states to

be used for emergency relief. In addition Reynolds Tobacco delivered

100,000 cans of Del Monte canned vegetables and fruit and 24,000 cartons of cigarettes.

## Knox: Cooperation Needed To Realize Day Care Potentials

**Chapel Hill** - Democratic gubernatorial candidate Eddie Knox called on business and industry to become partners with the state in meeting North Carolina's day care needs.

"Through tax credits and other incentives, businesses can benefit from offering day care to its employees either on-site or in conjunction with existing facilities," Knox said. "Smaller businesses can form consortiums to provide this benefit for their employees."

Knox said if properly developed, the cooperative efforts can create an environment where everyone involved can improve their situation. Business can take advantage of the incentives for offering day care; employees will have the advantage of the services provided by their employer; and the state will have met some of its massive day care needs.

"I realize that we have to be aware of the needs of the private-for-profit and the non-profit day care centers in this state," Knox added. "Yet, I still believe if we all

work together for one common goal - bettering the lives of our children - we can succeed."

Because nearly 60 percent of the mothers with preschool children work outside the home, more than 200,000 children under

### Of Tobacco

## Jim Martin Calls On Reagan To Restrict Unfair Imports

**Washington** - In a letter to President Reagan, Congressman Jim Martin and a bipartisan group of House colleagues have called upon the President to immediately impose trade restrictions on unfair tobacco imports. A similar letter was sent to Agriculture Secretary John Block.

After releasing the letter, Martin called upon the President to "declare an economic emergency in the tobacco industry and recognize that domestic tobacco sales have been hurt by unfair foreign competition. We've seen evidence of hidden subsidies for fo-

reign tobacco producers, and it's a simple matter of equity that we protect our own American farmers from such practices."

In the letter sent by Martin, Congressman Charles Rose, and other colleagues, the Representative said, "We think these factors necessitate a change in the position of the Administration with respect to the imposition of import quotas, and we ask you to consider the petition by the Tobacco State Farm Bureaus, as well as our request, in making your decision."

Martin noted that President Reagan has the legal authority, under section 22 of the Agriculture Adjustment Act of 1933, to restrict tobacco imports up to 50 percent. Martin engineered the four-cent per pack reduction in the cigarette tax through the Ways and Means Committee. Martin said, "Tobacco farmers have carried too heavy a load for too long. We've helped ease the tax burden the Government heaped on them, and now it's time to ease the burden they carry from unfair foreign competition." Martin also pointed out that the Department of Agriculture supported im-

ported homes," Knox said.

Knox said that the only alternatives to providing more adequate and affordable day care were involving the private sector in meeting the needs or relying totally on the government.

"It is obvious to me that a cooperative effort between the private sector and the government would be the most cost-effective way to solve our day care problem." "I intend to move children to the forefront of all our efforts," Knox said.

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