

FLOOD DAMAGE SERIOUS

Morattock Service Last Sunday Draws About 1,000 People

Elder Boswell and Dr. C. C. Crittenden Were Principal Speakers

"Dictators not only say that democracy is worthless, but the rulers of the totalitarian countries have ambitions of overthrowing this system of government, as evidenced in their overrunning of Poland, Denmark, Norway, Belgium, France and now they are battering England," Dr. C. C. Crittenden, executive secretary of the State Historical Commission told about 1,000 persons attending the celebration of the 155th anniversary and the second annual pilgrimage to Morattock Church on Sunday.

These totalitarian countries teach that the individual exists for the State and is a servant of the state while the democracy in this country holds that the state exists for the benefit of the individual, pointed out the speaker, adding that the rights of the individual had been revoked in totalitarian states while in this country, citizens retain their freedom of speech, freedom of the press and other citizenship rights.

The settlers who came to North Carolina were among the most democratic of the states because they were among the middle class of inhabitants of this country. They were not planters or shippers or men of affairs, but home-builders and church builders. Many of them as Baptists held that there should be no established state church; they were among the first to protest British tyranny; they started democratic control of the church, a control by the people and not the leaders, said the speaker.

J. C. Baskerville, of Raleigh, executive secretary of the Governor's Hospitality Committee and a representative of the advertising division of the State Department of Conservation and Development, told the crowd that he was glad to see that the historic church had been repaired to give it "eye-appeal", as this was one sure way to attract visitors. "What we want," he said, "is to doll up North Carolina and then tell the people about it." Three million visitors last year spent \$102,000,000 in this State, according to the speaker.

Col. George Hyde Pratt, geologist of the University of North Carolina and president of the North Carolina Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, said the Morattock Church building had become a community center, a shrine for the county, state and nation, admitting worshippers of any faith, as denominations are only departments in the Christian movement.

The speaker also pointed out that those who had left the community might return to their church home for these annual services.

D. Thomas Singleton, of Elizabeth City, presented a tablet to the church upon which was inscribed the following: "Morattock Church, established 1785; in memory of its pastors: Silas Mercer, John Page, Martin Ross, Amariah Biggs, Micajah Ambrose, Elder Barnes, Micajah Perry, Miles Everett, Arnet Waters, William Gray, Clayton Moore, Redin W. Peacock, Newsum H. Harrison, William B. Clifton.

"Destroyed by storm in 1937, restored by public contributions directed by John W. Darden, 1939. Tablet presented by D. Thomas Singleton in memory of his mother, Mary L. Singleton, and her sister, Florence Allen." Elder Ernest Clifton, of Florida, Primitive Baptist minister and a brother of the former pastor, William B. Clifton, accepted the tablet for the church.

Elder Robert H. Boswell, of Wilson, moderator of the Black Creek Primitive Baptist Association, preached a stirring sermon in the morning and lunch was served picnic style to the crowd on the grounds at noon.

Defense Drive Will Cut Down Jobless

What Uncle Sam's "all-out" defense drive will mean in employment when it really gets into actual assembly-line speed, is beyond estimating with accuracy, but here are the figures of Sidney Hillman, labor member of the commission, on the employment phase of the situation, to date: About 80,000 persons are taking training for jobs in defense industries; the shipbuilding industry is now employing almost 40,000 more people than at the 10-year peak in 1937; the aircraft industry is employing 50,000 more than at that time; the machine tool industry, 18,000 more—and the same is true of the engine industry.

Encouraging Prices Noted on Border Tobacco Markets Today

An encouraging note came from along the border today as auction tobacco sales got underway at sixteen points there and in close-by South Carolina towns. First reports from the early selling activities placed the general average from 17 to 20 cents.

Direct reports stated that farmers were very well pleased, that based on activities around the markets the outlook was encouraging. Few tags were reported turned during the early selling.

Sale prices ranged six cents to 28 cents on one of the border markets and Lumberton reported a 17 cent average. However, the Associated

Press report from 16 markets gave an estimated average of 20 cents. This general average was drawn from sales made up to 11:30 this morning.

The quality of the tobacco was, compared with last year, reported to be only fair and in some quarters it was said to be poor.

No official report can be made of today's sales but comparative estimated figures would indicate an increase of two to three cents over last year. In 1939 opening sales were reported from 17 to 18 cents.

The sales on the border markets were said to be lighter than they were on opening day last year.

TRAFFIC

Motor vehicle traffic over United States Highway No. 17 reached an all-time high peak at this point last Sunday when North-South traffic and sight-seers poured into the thoroughfare from roads blocked by high waters in other sections.

Based on an authentic count, it is estimated that more than 6,000 motor vehicles used the river bridge here from seven o'clock Sunday morning and 7 o'clock that evening. During a three-hour period Sunday afternoon nearly 1,700 vehicles crossed the bridge. Possibly more than half the number was local traffic or sight-seers.

Official Results Of Quota Referendum

Official results of the flue-cured tobacco referendum held July 20 have been announced by E. Y. Floyd, AAA executive officer of N. C. State College. The state-as-a-whole approved three-year quotas by a margin of 87.1 per cent. The total vote was 12,863 for three-year quotas, 2,073 for one-year quotas, and 16,307 against quotas.

The vote in Martin County was 2855 for three year quotas, 15 for one year quotas, and 39 against quotas, for a percentage of 98.2 in favor of three-year quotas.

Among the larger counties in the State, where more than 60 votes were cast, Greene County gave the three-year plan its largest margin of approval, with 99.2 per cent of the growers favoring restricting of production in 1941, 1942 and 1943. Following in order were the following other counties which cast 95 per cent or more percent of their votes for three-year quotas:

Martin, 98.2 per cent; Edgecombe, 97.9; Pitt, 97.6; Lenoir, 96.3; Granville, 96.2; Wilson, 96.1; Hoke, 95.9; Chowan, 95.5; Nash, 95.4; and Robeson, 95.0.

Only two counties in the State failed to give the three-year plan the necessary two-thirds approval. These were Sampson, where only 55.2 per cent of the growers favored three-year control, and Pamlico, where the vote was 66.5 per cent in favor of three-year quotas.

The official vote in other counties in this section was: Beaufort County, 1643 for three year quotas, 54 for one year quotas, and 333 against quotas, the percentage in favor of three year quotas being 80.9; Bertie County, 1695 for three year quotas, 16 for one-year quotas, and 99 against quotas, the percentage in favor of three-year quotas being 93.6.

Martin County, ranked in the list of major tobacco producing counties, gave the referendum the highest percentage support.

Public Urged To Protect Game In Flooded Sections

Warden Bill Abbitt and other game officials are directing an earnest appeal to the public urging as much protection as possible to wild life routed from its grounds by floods now raging in the Roanoke lowlands. Deputies have been added to the force during the past few days in an effort to preserve wild life.

It has been pointed out that people living along the flooded areas could do much to preserve the game by tying their hound dogs and warning hunters that it is unlawful to hunt game at this season.

Several live deer have been taken in this county during the past few days, but in all four cases the fleeing animals were returned to safety, Warden Abbitt said early today. It is feared that many deer will be lost and that numbers of wild turkeys will be drowned before the flood waters recede.

Oak City Negro Is Beaten To Death Saturday Night

Raymond Powell Is Arrested Soon After Fatal Attack On W. W. Mitchell

Willie Walter Mitchell, 21-year-old Oak City Negro, was fatally beaten near the old Odd Fellows' hall there last Saturday night about 10 o'clock. He died about five hours later without regaining consciousness. Raymond Powell, young Negro man, was arrested later that night by Chief Edmond Early in connection with the brutal murder, and a search is now being conducted for Sam Powell who is believed to have had a part in the fatal attack.

Details of the killing could not be learned immediately, and Powell when questioned in the county jail refused to talk or throw any light on the cause of the attack. Powell's brother, Sam, immediately left the scene of the attack and had not been heard from at noon today according to reports reaching here.

According to information gained from Chief Early, Oak City officer, Mitchell had been drinking and was believed to have had an argument with Raymond Powell in Herman Burnett's store. "I passed Mitchell on the street with another man. He told me that he had placed a nickel in a pool table in Burnett's store, and that they would not let him play. Mitchell also claimed that they threw him out of the store." Continuing his story, the officer said that he advised Mitchell to go home. "He (Mitchell) assured me that he was going home," the officer added.

Ten minutes later a commotion was heard near the old lodge hall, and the officer learned that Mitchell had been beaten almost to death. Investigating the attack, the officer learned that Mitchell had walked across the railroad in the company of Wheeler Lynch and Elijah Baker, presumably to look for some illegal liquor. They had hardly reached the old hall when Sam and Raymond Powell ran up. A short argument followed, Lynch and Baker claiming they tried to quiet them and prevent a fight. Sam Powell started closing in and Mitchell struck him with a stick. Powell then turned, picked up a heavy stick and knocked Mitchell down, according to information gained from the Oak City officer. Hardly had Mitchell fallen to the ground before Raymond Powell was said to have jumped on him and started pounding his skull with a half a brick. The man's skull was fractured, possibly in several places before Buck Bunch went to the scene and pulled the Powell Negro off of him.

It was reported that Mitchell, his head battered and blood spurting from his ears and nose, went crazy and that four men found it difficult to hold him while Dr. E. E. Pittman made an examination.

No hearing has been scheduled in the case, Chief Early stating that it would be delayed pending the outcome of the search for Sam Powell.

Lions Will Hold Special Program

By CHAS. A. LEONARD
On Thursday night, August 22, the Lions Club of Williamston will celebrate Ladies' Night jointly with District Governor's Night.

Lions from the Hertford, Plymouth, Edenton and Washington clubs along with their wives and sweethearts are expected to be here for the meeting.

An interesting program has been planned, and the principal speakers will be District Governor James H. Parker, of Clinton, and Zone Chairman Norman Trueblood, of Hertford.

The meeting will take place at the Woman's Club building at seven o'clock. A record attendance is anticipated.

Under the leadership of Lion Rev. S. J. Starnes, it is hoped that the local club will be able to take an unusually active part this year in the civic advancement of our community.

Tremendous Loss Is Reported In the Flooded Sections

State Prison Farm and Federal Farm Project Have Big Crop Losses

Destruction accompanied by tales of woe is following the muddy Roanoke as it pours its raging waters mile by mile down an irregular course to the sea. Property losses, ranging well into the millions, not to mention the loss of human life, are being left as the stream abandons its conquered territory and reaches out after a greedy fashion for more.

Roanoke Rapids and Weldon today are taking their first check of the damage as the raging waters moved out fairly rapidly after reaching all-time high marks. No accurate estimate of the loss there is available, but it will run well into the millions of dollars.

Ranging southeastward, the muddy stream struck a heavy blow at the State Prison farm, near Tillery. One hundred out of about 6,000 acres of cropland was untouched by the raging waters which swept hundreds of cows, thousands of hogs and numbers of work animals and goats from the farms and low-lying lands. Getting a first-hand report on the loss at the State farm Sunday, Farmer Harrell Everett stated that 150 cows were drowned, that every hog on the farm, possibly more than 1,000, had been washed away.

On the resettlement farm, the tenants saved an occasional chicken, but hogs and other farm animals were left behind to a definite fate.

Weldon is still without its regular water supply. Traffic over 301 was resumed there yesterday afternoon as the flood started moving rapidly for the lower reaches along the stream.

Employment was dealt a heavy blow at Roanoke Rapids where hundreds of men and women were thrown out of work when the muddy waters flooded the textile mills and caused a damage that will require weeks and possibly months to repair.

Thousands of acres of crop lands have been flooded in several counties, including Halifax and Northampton where the losses were apparently centered. The peanut crop bore the brunt in Northampton, but in several Virginia counties considerable damage was done to tobacco.

Two Hurt In Auto-Truck Wreck Near Everetts on Friday

Oil Truck Turns Over in Creek Between Parmele and Robersonville

Two persons were injured, one of them seriously, and two others were slightly bruised in two motor vehicle accidents in the county last week-end.

H. M. Shives, badly injured about the head and neck, is confined to a local hospital for treatment. His brother was cut about the face and head, but he continued to his home after spending one night in the hospital. The driver of a large oil truck was slightly bruised when the truck he was driving turned over on a bridge between Robersonville and Parmele last Saturday morning.

Robert McCotter, operating a large transport truck for J. S. Mann, of Merry Oaks, was driving west on U. S. Highway 64 when he started to slow up for the driver of an old Model A Ford to turn into the Bailey road, one mile east of Everetts. William Frederick Shives, driver of a Studebaker, said he did not see the truck that he had his foot on the accelerator when his car

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Damage to Tobacco Crop Will Possibly Boost Market Prices

It's an ill wind that blows no good, and while they are not happy over the other fellow's loss, some Martin County tobacco farmers are of the opinion that damage to the tobacco crop in the flooded areas and in other sections where excessive rains have fallen will effect an increase in market prices this season.

The extent of the damage has not been determined, but unconfirmed reports maintain that a large acreage in the Old Belt and large areas in other belts had been damaged by the flood waters. In addition to the flood damage, excessive rains are believed to have aggravated the condition of the crop and effected a still further reduction in the anticipated production.

River Fill Is Reported Broken; Serious Loss to Property Now Anticipated in Immediate Area

Ole Man River Wins Battle Over Workers on River Fill

Hundreds of convicts, brought here from several county camps and working with extra forces, lost a hard-fought battle with Ole Man River at 6 o'clock this morning. Starting a feverish attempt last Saturday to hold the muddy waters off the causeway, the approximately 300 men and convicts moved in thousands of loads of dirt and filled thousands of sandbags, but at two o'clock this morning the tide of battle was turning against the hard-pressed forces. The first water, moving in across the sand pit at the other end of the fill at that time, continued to gain in force and at six o'clock this morning Highwaymen Peabody and Hayman offered a complete and unconditional surrender. Within a few minutes water start-

ed creeping onto the fill in other spots, and by noon today the muddy waters covered large portions of the causeway.

"We held the river back until it had reached more than a foot and one-half above the level of the concrete, and we saw that we were fighting a losing fight," District Superintendent Dewey Hayman said this morning. Highway forces then left the fill to its own fate, withdrawing to this end and stopping long enough to build a strong barricade.

The last passenger traffic went over the causeway at a few minutes past 6 o'clock this morning, J. A. Pritchett, of Windsor, making the trip. "If I had known what I know now, I would not have attempted a crossing," Mr. Pritchett was quoted as saying.

Negro Boy Drowns In Roanoke Near Hamilton Sunday

Christopher Powell, 10, Third Boy To Drown in County This Summer

Christopher Powell, 10-year-old colored youth, was drowned in the flood waters of the Roanoke at Hamilton early Sunday afternoon. He was the third drowning victim of the summer in the county, two other colored boys having lost their lives: one in Sweet Water Creek at the old road bridge and the other at Tar Landing in Gardner's creek.

Powell and two companions had been going swimming in a small canal feeding into the Roanoke at Hamilton. Failing to take into consideration the flood waters backing in from the Roanoke, the boy plunged into the little stream and found it over his head. Unable to swim, he called to his companions for help. They offered him a stick, but it broke, and becoming frightened the two companions fled, leaving the boy to his fate. No report of the drowning was given by the two boys, and when first questioned they declared that he had started swimming but just before he got ready to go into the water he thought he heard someone coming, picked up his clothes and fled. The drowned boy's relatives searched all night for him, and after failing in their search for him they questioned the boys again and learned that he had drowned. His body was recovered near the spot where he drowned yesterday morning at 10 o'clock by Wesley Baker.

Investigating the drowning, Coroner S. R. Biggs stated that there was no evidence of foul play and that no inquest was considered necessary.

Flood Victims Advised To See Welfare Department

Miss Mary Taylor, head of the Martin County Welfare Department, has requested that anyone needing blankets, or staple foods, due to the flood waters in Williamston, or throughout the county contact the welfare department at once. This is not an open invitation to everyone, day of September, 1940, at twelve o'clock by the flood. If in need, because of high waters, the welfare department will be glad to be of assistance, if contacted.

Delayed Date For Opening Schools To Be Considered

The possibility of delaying the opening of the schools in this county was mentioned in education circles here today when a call was issued to members of the Martin County Board of Education for a discussion of an opening date at a special meeting here tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Tentative plans for opening the schools on Thursday, September 5, have been advanced by several of the school principals, but reports from patrons point out that tobacco harvesting is unusually late this season and that the opening of the schools should be delayed at least a week, if not longer. The board members are expected to act in accordance with conditions as they exist in their respective communities, but a uniform opening date is virtually certain.

During the past several years, the schools in this county started the fall term on the first Thursday in September.

ANOTHER RECORD

Old river men, men who have followed the activities of the Roanoke for nearly three-quarters of a century, declared this morning they had never seen anything to equal the present rampage.

Holding a normal depth on the first of this month, the river showed an irregular rise from day-to-day until early yesterday morning. The reading at that time was just eight inches over "flood", the gauge standing at 10.8. This morning, 24 hours later, the gauge recorded a reading of 15.8, a rise of exactly five feet and an all-time record.

A record number of visitors is also in the making.

Water Pollution Is Health Menace

Our great menace from flood waters, as far as health is concerned, is pollution of water supplies with typhoid, dysenteries, and diarrheas following.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Therefore the best advice we can give is, when in doubt boil the water before drinking it. Of course, those coming to high ground will find better water. It is when they return to the homes that all wells and even pumps should be chlorinated and plenty of lime scattered around the premises. There will be someone from the health department to vaccinate against typhoid fever at our clinic points throughout the county. Every Wednesday morning at Jamesville and Robersonville. Every Saturday morning at Williamston and Oak City. If groups of people will meet us, we will go to any place suggested carrying the protection as close as possible to those needing it because of high water.

There is no danger of water pollution for the town, as a whole, but residents in the flooded areas are warned to guard their source of water.

Automobile Drivers Warned To Be Alert

The killing of several persons in private driveways and yards in the state this summer has prompted Ronald Hocutt, director of the North Carolina Highway Safety Division to remind drivers that their responsibility does not cease when they are not on a public highway or street.

"Drivers should be just as alert and cautious in the operation of their vehicles on private property as they would be on a public thoroughfare," the safety director declared. "In fact, since playing children and other persons going about their normal pursuits in a private yard or driveway do not expect to encounter a motor vehicle and therefore are not as alert as they would be in the street or roadway, the driver should be doubly cautious on private property."

Stressing the importance of caution on the part of drivers when on private property, Hocutt referred to the recent accident in which a salesman drove into a yard and ran over a blanket under which two children were playing, killing one of the children. In another recent accident, the driver of a coal truck parked his vehicle in a back yard without setting the handbrake or leaving the truck in gear. The truck rolled down a slight incline and killed a woman in the yard.

"From the time your car leaves its garage or overnight parking place in the morning until it returns at night, wherever it may be, standing or moving, it should be handled safely. You are always responsible for what your car does."

Coast Guard Will Locate Temporary Headquarters Here

Late Predictions Are That Water Will Flood Road By About Four Feet

EVACUATIONS COMPLETE

Seriousness of Flood Threat Grows For Riverside Plant Here

Striking suddenly and with full force, the waters of the Roanoke early this afternoon had spared human life in its wake, but claimed property worth thousands of dollars. While they girded for a record flood, farmers and others along the lowlands were helpless to cope with the situation. In most instances, the inhabitants fled with only meager personal belongings, leaving much stock, household goods and fine crops to the wrath of the ever-mounting flood.

Eighteen or more inches short of a predicted crest of nineteen feet, (about nine above the banks) the river was said to be rolling down over a four-mile swamp at nearly six miles an hour, the resulting damage to be determined only after the waters recede; the latter part of the week.

During the early stage of the flood at this point, the damage brunt was borne by Wicomico Lumber Company and the Saunders and Cox Lumber mill. The scene then shifted to the Roanoke River fill, one unconfirmed report stating that the four-mile dam had broken in two places, but that the width of the breaks could not be determined. Early this afternoon, the rising waters were bearing heavily upon the large plant of the Standard Fertilizer Company, threatening to damage the stocks valued at approximately \$100,000. The Goldman Package Manufacturing Company suspended operations late yesterday, and early this afternoon water was rising rapidly inside the plant. Workmen, in large numbers, were at especially assigned posts during the greater part of last night shifting electric motors and throwing a dam around the large fertilizer stocks inside the fertilizer plant.

Aside from the industrial front at this point, a heavy damage is reported on lowland farms. The Lindsley Ice Company reported 200 acres of beans and peas ruined. Most of the cattle and stock were saved on that farm. Rapidly rising waters are expected to claim a small number of farm animals in the islands section of Williams Township where rabbits were seen climbing trees and squirrels.

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