

High Water Flooded With News Oddities

Distorted Stories Heard; Number of Boats Turn Over

Not So Many Will Doubt the Flood Warnings Along River in Future

Oddities have packed the news in this flooded area during the past week, and stories, stretching the truth, have been numerous. But out of the disaster comes a greater recognition of the value of flood warnings from up the river.

Advised on Friday before the full fury of the flood struck here on the following Thursday that the highest waters in history would swamp this section, many local people paid little attention to the warning. Direct telephone calls from the victims at Roanoke Rapids and Weldon, warning the people and urging them to brace themselves for the greatest flood ever seen by living man in the Roanoke.

"I'll bet you I can take a rocking chair and sit and read a newspaper on the fill while the flood is at its crest," Warren Biggs was quoted as saying just a short time before a five-foot rise sent the yellow waters over the dam. Mr. Biggs strongly declared the statement was made by Will Parker. Either one of them would have had to crowd close to the concrete bridges to prove the statement, and then the uncertainty would probably have broken their nerves.

There was the story about a goat. Some one saw a goat floating on a raft at Weldon. When the bleating animal reached Williamston he saw that he could not float under the bridge, so he ran forward, jumped the bridge and caught the raft on the other side. It's hardly worth pointing out that the truth was forgotten and that wild imagination figured in the story.

Following the goat on down the stream, it was reported that he was rescued at Jamesville. A few hours later the goat was seen floating by Plymouth. A last report heard so far maintains that the animal was rescued in Bachelor Bay in the Albemarle Sound. There is some doubt if the goat was ever seen on the raft. But, leave it to ingenuity, and the poor goat will be the victim of a Nazi submarine in the North Sea after crossing the Atlantic.

Bruce Wynne, John A. Manning, A. J. Osteen and Carl Mobley did not get wet in Conine Creek last Friday. Their boat turned over after they had crawled up on the concrete Conine bridge. They landed safely on the bridge, and tried to pull the boat across. Caught by the current, the boat dipped water and went to the bottom in a few seconds. Marooned on the bridge, the four men were taken off about half an hour later by L. P. Lindsley and his "ocean-going" flat.

The river fill was not dynamited or bombed. Ole Man River handled the job very well himself. Many airplanes flew over the river last week, but most of them were sightseers or army engineers from Norfolk and Fort Bragg.

While the Coast Guard did a splendid work making sure that the flooded areas were deserted by human beings, the men from the coast actually rescued only one family. Eh Bryant and his brood were removed to safety from their flooded home in Concho. The number of flood victims in this territory did not run into the thousands. Hardly 500 persons were driven from their homes, and less than 100 were sheltered in the refugee camp in the colored graded school. Neighbors, relatives and other friends absorbed most of the victims in private homes.

The muddy water from the Roanoke reached over a wide territory and caused small creeks to run up stream as far away as the Old Mill Inn on the Washington Road.

One farmer is said to have used a canoe to harvest a barn of tobacco.

Wild rabbits, trapped in the windows of flooded homes, were rescued, one report stating that the bunnies sat perfectly still in the boat until high land was reached and they scooted to the bushes in great haste.

A thousand reports were heard about the river fill. One report would state that the fill had hardly been damaged. Another one would say that the fill was gone in its entirety. Still another report would say that the concrete bridges were cracking and that the steel bridge was ready to topple over at any time.

An Associated Press story by one Hoke Norris declared that the Roanoke at one time was rising at the rate of a foot a minute. The stream did rise as much as five feet in 24 hours.

Pointing out that Caledonia Farm authorities should have removed the stock before the flood and declaring that highway forces should have started work sooner on the river fill here, "Farmer" Hugh Burras was found Tuesday in water over his knees gathering corn from a small patch near Roanoke River. "It won't quite rip," Mr. Burras declared in explaining why the flood caught him.

Cleveland 4-H Members Take Interest In Preparing Exhibits

Cleveland County 4-H Club members are taking much interest in preparing individual exhibits for fairs this fall, reports L. E. Thornton, assistant farm agent of the State College Extension Service.

INSURANCE MAN



Associated with the Fowden and Simpson agency of the Security Life and Trust Company here, Mr. Garland Coltrane has made many friends in the insurance field during recent months.

Pleads For Safety On Highways This Marketing Season

Human Life More Important Than a Load of Tobacco

An appeal to tobacco farmers of Eastern North Carolina to think about something "much more important" than sales and prices during the coming tobacco marketing season has been issued by Ronald Hocutt, director of the North Carolina Highway Safety Division.

"A number of North Carolinians were killed last year in traffic accidents while hauling their tobacco to market or returning home from markets," Hocutt asserted, "and I plead with every tobacco grower in Eastern North Carolina to do his part to see that the 1940 tobacco season in our state sets a new kind of record—a safety record."

Hocutt stressed the importance of proper loading, so as to give even weight distribution, and of careful inspection to tires, brakes and trailer couplings. Inasmuch as much tobacco is hauled during hours of darkness, he also urged the importance of careful inspections of running lights and clearance lights before each trip to market.

Pointing out that numerous persons have been killed in the past in this state while making repairs or changing a tire on the highway, the safety director suggested that every tobacco hauler carry flares and flags, the flares for use in case of emergencies at night, and the flags for protection in case of daylight break-downs on the highway.

Another thing about which Hocutt warned is the practice of carrying passengers on the rear of a flat-bodied truck. In past seasons, he said, he has observed that many drivers on their way back home after selling their tobacco make a habit of loading the back of their trucks with neighbors. Several persons have been killed in the state this summer as a result of falling off or being bounced off the rear end of trucks, he said.

"A human life is much more important than a load of tobacco," Hocutt added, "and tobacco growers should think not only of getting their tobacco out of the barns and on the warehouse floor, but also of getting themselves and their helpers to market and back home again alive and whole. It's all right to think of prices and the chant of the tobacco auctioneer, but anyone who has any hauling to do over the streets and highways of North Carolina should give some serious thought to safety, too."

Latest Additions To The Enterprise Mailing List

Listed among the recent additions to the Enterprise mailing list are the following:

Mrs. A. E. Griffin, Williamston; Simon D. Griffin, Williamston; Lora Sleeper, Williamston; Edith Whichard, Sanatorium, N. C.; Mrs. G. C. Lilley, Dardens; A. R. Roberson, Everett; J. H. Fagan, Aurora; Willie Whitehurst, Creeds, Va.; Mrs. M. F. Stalls, Hamilton; Mrs. Johnny Wynn, Washington, N. C.; Oscar Little, Robersonville; Arch Griffin, Robersonville; D. B. Mobley, Robersonville; Mrs. T. M. Hopkins, Williamston; Wendell Peel, Jamesville; Mrs. Jas. Scott, Ossining, N. Y.; W. H. Roebuck, Aberdeen, Md.; Mrs. M. D. Beach, Hamilton.

Community Farm Tours Are Proving Educational

Community farm tours have proved both interesting and educational for farmers and farm women of Henderson County, says D. W. Bennett, assistant county agent of the Extension Service.

Colerain Farmer Saves 1,700 Pounds Of Seed This Year

F. W. Leary, of Colerain, saved 1,700 pounds of crimson clover seed this year, of which he will sell 1,300 pounds, reports R. D. Smith, assistant farm agent of Bertie County.

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Fine Blend Reversible Blankets

A Belk-Tyler special in good quality blankets. Be sure to see these Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

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