

WESTERN END OF RIVER FILL

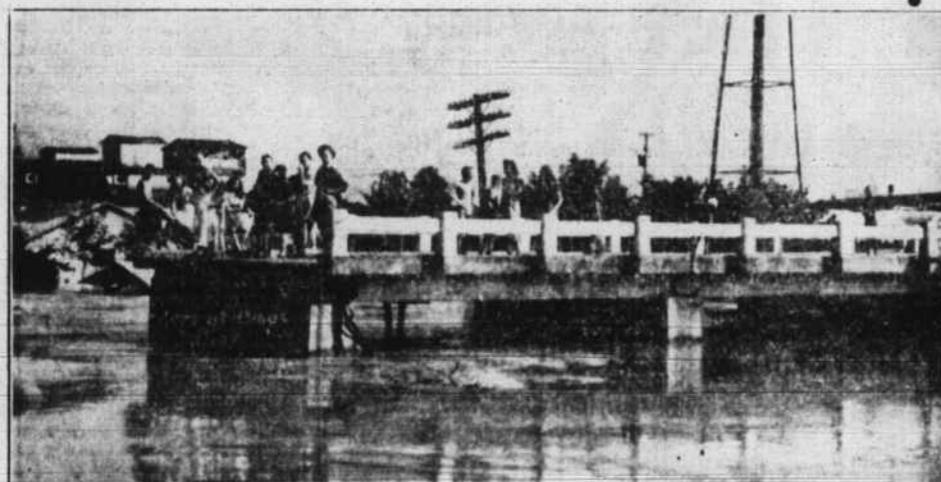


AWAITING THE BLITZKRIEG



With three or more feet of dirt snuggly packed on its north side, the Roanoke River fill early last week peacefully awaited what twenty-four hours later turned out to be a water blitzkrieg of vast proportion. The picture, taken by Professor Harry Hughes, shows the eastern end of the fill looking west.

ABRUPT STOP IN THE HIGHWAY



Using special ferry boats, thousands went to the end of the road (bridge) here last week to see the Roanoke in record flood. The river, lapping the 20.4-foot mark on the official gauge, had just completed its blitzkrieg and was starting to recede when Harry Hughes, Providence, R. I., professor, snapped the picture.

MAN GOT HIS GOAT



Learning the sad fate of goats up the river, the man pictured above got his goat before the flood waters reached Williamston a week ago. Other than about 300 hogs, very little livestock was lost in this county.

Flood Waters On
Rampage In The
Williamston AreaPictorial History Recorded in
Thousands of Pictures
By Amateurs

The angry Roanoke, after going on one of its greatest rampages, is today almost within its banks, but its ravaging antics of last week will live for years to come in the thousands-of-pictures-snapped-by-expert but mostly by amateur photographers. Hundreds of rolls of films were sold during the week, and film rolls and packs were shipped away in sugar sacks to the developers and printers. Most of the "shots" were executed on the western end of the fill, but occasionally a picture found its way around a circuitous route to the high land on this side of the flood waters.

Pictured top left on this page are the flood waters pouring over the eastern end of the river fill, near Bertie high land. Very little of the fill had washed away when the picture was taken the early part of last week. The receding waters started lapping at the soft dirt late last week and today the highway forces still have the great part of a mile of fill to restore.

On right, top, are pictured Coast Guardsmen making ready on Tuesday of last week for a trip to the island section of Williams Township. The crew was manned by Chief Vernon Tillett, of the Oregon Inlet Station. The ocean boys were a bit baffled by the flood waters at first, but they soon accustomed themselves to the strong current, and a slap in the face by a tree top or a knock against a tree were brushed aside without complaint.

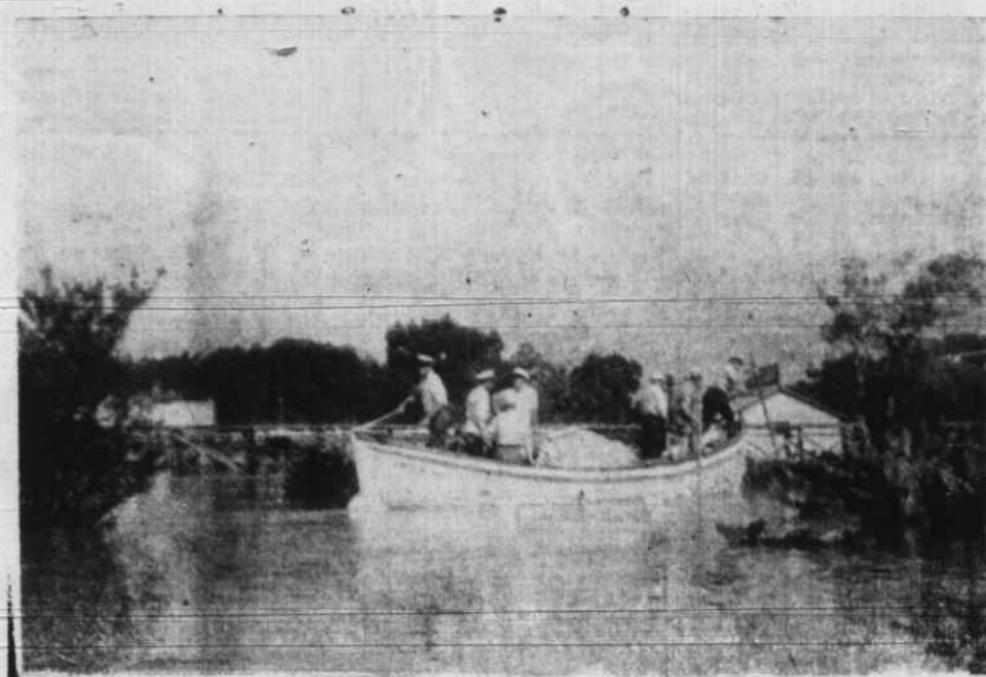
Williamston made the front page in daily papers over a wide area, but the town and its people will gladly forego any and all publicity in the future if it is going to cost in proportion to the cost of the damage done last week by the flood waters.

While several persons were "spilled" in the flood waters, no lives were lost in this county during the hectic period.

According to reliable reports, the flood waters last week were at least two feet higher than the flood of 1877.

Cuts, showing the Coast Guard, the eastern end of the fill and the goat, appear on this page through the courtesy of Editor Herbert Peeler's Elizabeth City Advance.

MAKING READY FOR THE RESCUE



WILLIAMSTON STREET UNDER WATER



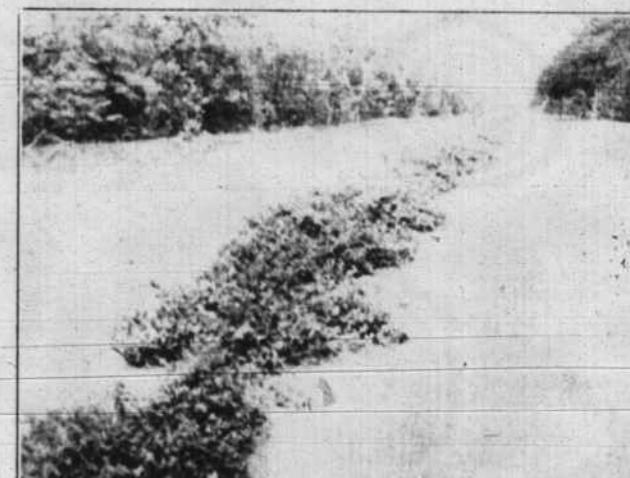
Crawling up Williamston's east main street last Wednesday, the flood waters were met at the foot of the hill, about four blocks from the town's main business district, by thousands of visitors daily. It was estimated that as many as eight thousand people milled to and from the water's edge during one day last week, that possibly 30,000 persons came here from over a wide territory to see the high water. Many daring souls braved a shaky railroad bed to get closer to the river.—Photo, courtesy Irving Smith, Robersonville, N. C.

SUITABLE FOR BOATS



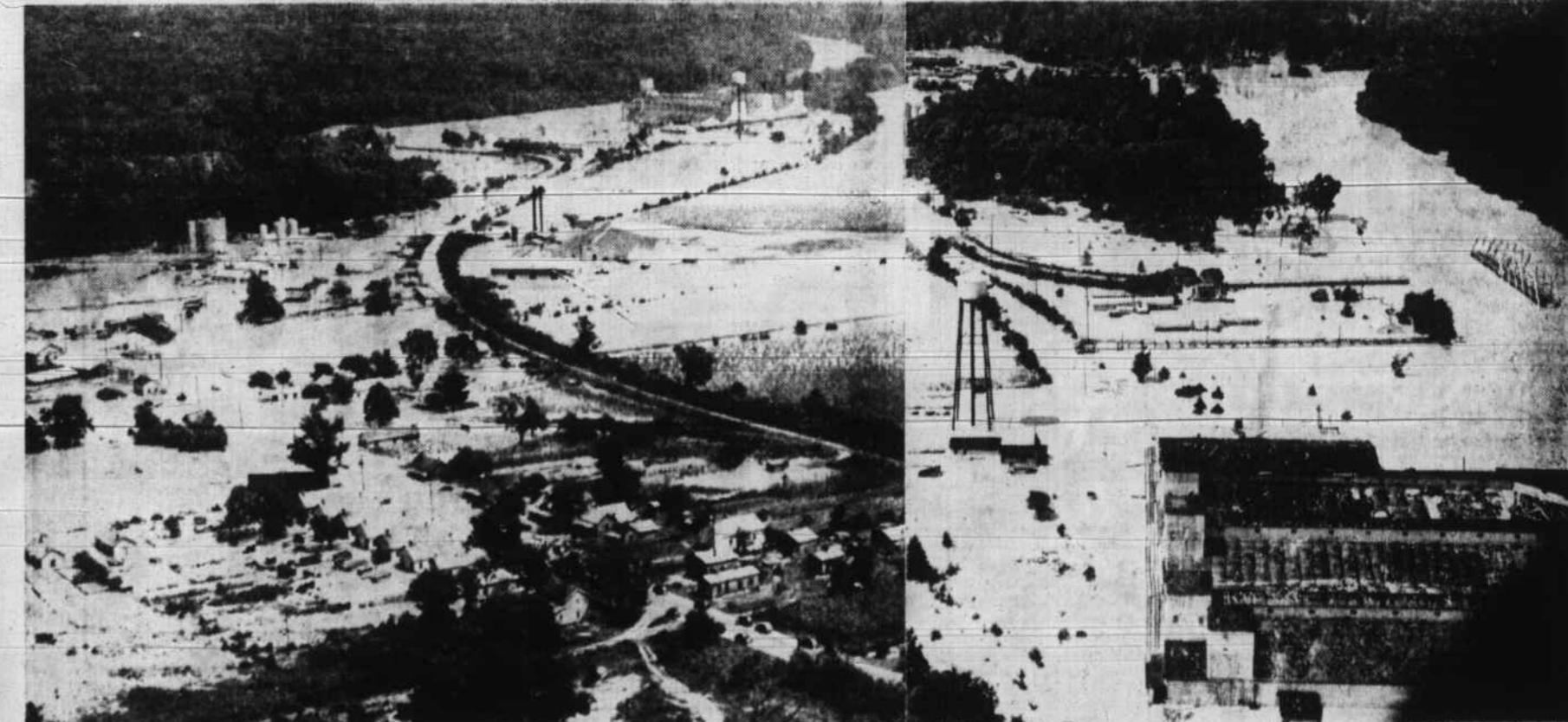
Williamston's scenic honeysuckle highway was more suitable for boats than motor vehicles a week ago when Professor Hughes snapped the above picture 110 yards from the east end of the bridge here.

HONEYSUCKLE FLOODED



Pictured above are the fence honeysuckle as they defied the flood at its height near the western end of the river fill. The water at this point was about four feet deep on the highway.

WILLIAMSTON'S RIVERSIDE AREA UNDER WATER



Striking with great fury and rising with surprising rapidity, the swollen and angry Roanoke paralyzed industry along the eastern section of the town on August 20, rendering hundreds homeless and damaging property valued at approximately \$125,000 in this county.

Today, rehabilitation work by health, Red Cross, and Works Progress Administration workers, is nearing completion in the flooded area "down the hill." Industrial activity is rapidly returning to a normal schedule, but the effect of the high waters will be noticeable for many months. Thousands of gallons of water have been used in cleaning out

the homes that were flooded, but the obnoxious odor of the low grounds, aggravated by decaying vegetation, refuse and animal matter, is still more pronounced than ever.

In the lower left corner of the photograph on the left may be seen the margin of the flood and the untouched homes and dry ground. The rest of the area, the manufacturing district along the river front, is under water at varying depths. The well defined curve in the center of that picture is the railroad spur which services the Standard Fertilizer plant, upper right. The highway may be followed by starting among the houses where the automobiles are parked and tracing the line of telegraph poles around, roughly

paralleling the railroad to where the well defined curve swings off to the left to the river. The final curve is the highway reaching out to the highway bridge, the top of which may just be seen above the trees. The main channel of the river passes along the upper part of the picture and curves off in the upper right corner. The photograph at the right is a close-up of the roof of the Standard Fertilizer plant, the water tower and the highway approach and bridge. The bridge, which is a turn-table bridge, is open to offer least resistance to the current and prevent it being swept away by trash and debris.—Courtesy Durham Herald-Sun Papers.