

DAY OF EXCITEMENT

We were turning through the pages of The Tribune file late that evening, thanks to the for 1940 when we chanced across the issue of August 15, Duke Power Company who rigged which was published the day after the record flood of the Yadkin river of August 14, and which contained numerous pictures and other news of the event.

Since getting into the newspaper business, first in Greensboro, then Durham, and lastly here, we have bumped into considerable excitement, including train wrecks, murders, million dollar fires, etc., but we believe the day of the flood on August 14, 1940, was the most exciting day of our life-to

We drove back home then so the family could become more suitably dressed and then came

Company, the Carolina Ice &

We took some pictures and stood around to watch. Already

boys from the CCC Camp had started unloading freight cars on sidings back of Cash & Carry

while worried merchants watched

basements of Main street stores.

ped itself and took off down stream. A few minutes later the

eddying waters had pushed it

against the grandstand of the

Chatham Athletic field, and a live wire (it is believed), set it on fire. The fire siren screamed, a black

pillow of smoke went high into the

overcast sky, and people living on higher ground near the ball park

were pretty sure all hell was

Rushing to the scene went the Elkin fire truck, only to find it

couldn't get near the blaze due to

the flood waters. And the grandstand burned down standing in

Up town excitement continued

to mount. Now the Yadkin river had entered numerous basements. The Penney Company store base-

ment was awash with enough

water to float a large motor boat. The Eagle Furniture Company and

Haves & Speas had water in their

basements measured in feet. And as the yellow flood came higher,

it entered the basement store of Spainhour's, flooding the lower

part of the store to a depth of

In the meantime the approach to the old bridge suddenly turned

upon its side, swung around, and disappeared beneath the water.

And the White Swan Laundry

biggest and most modern building

in the bottom, suddenly gave up,

and much like an old lady gathering her skirts about her, sudden-

There was little anyone could do

but watch. Already the waters had backed into Big Elkin creek

and covered the bridge. Until the water became too deep, many cars

attempted to cross, some making

it and others stalling. Some motorists disconnected exhaust pipes

and came across that way. As for

us, we waded it twice, with water

almost up to our hips. Then someone got the idea that the bridge

was unsafe and all traffic — even

But other troubles were upon

is. Due to damage to power lines, electricity went off. Outside

communication with the world

was cut off when telephone lines

failed. Western Union was in the

same picklement. In West Elkin

the water was off. Things were

wading — was halted.

sure happening fast.

ly nosed off down stream.

breaking loose.

several feet of water.

about 15 inches.

Remember how an ordinary back down town. By that time thundercloud came up in the west the water was snaking along the on the afternoon of the 13th? And ground of Mrs. Ipock's coal yard, how it began to rain, but instead while down on South Bridge it of clearing off after a while, it had reached a height where it was just kept on raining? A steady flowing between the railroad and downpour that continued on and on into the night.

The Elkin Bottling Company. The Elkin Lumber & Manufacturing

We were working here at the of-fice that night, and could see the Service Station were already steady downfall from the front flooded. Several old wooden buildwindow by the light of a street ings down the street had already lamp. Just before leaving for gone out. home about 9:30 we remarked to Howard Windsor that if it kept raining like that the river would likely get out of its banks by

Then we went home to bed, thinking little more about it. But Store and F. A. Brendle & Son, ing Howard called us and said the creek was the highest he had ever around 7 o'clock the next morn-So we dressed and got swiftly, the waters were over the into the car, along with the entire railroad tracks advancing into family, and drove down town.

When we crossed the creek Shortly thereafter as merchants bridge the water was already in and their sales forces worked the home of John Ratledge, on frantically to move as much mer-Front street, and was rising fast. chandise from threatened base-On South Bridge street it was ments as possible, the large Texaflowing swiftly across and creep- co gasoline storage tank down ing up for entry into the Ford near the White Swan Laundry up-

ADMINISTRATRIX'S NOTICE Having qualified as administratrix of the estate of William R. Welborn, M.D., late of Surry county, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the un-dersigned, whose address is Elkin, C., duly verified on or before the third day of June 1944 or this notice will be pled in bar of their right to recover. All persons in-

debted to said estate will please make immediate settlement. This the third day of June,

MRS. WILLIAM R. WELLBORN. Administratrix of the Estate of William R. Wellborn, Deceased.

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JEWELER Phone 56 REFAIR PARTS ON HAND FOR

RACTICALLY EVERY WATCH MADE At noon the water reached its

of buildings, lumber and other as- pictures. sorted debris.

At the office, although it was day of the week for The Tribune, day. With the electricity off, machines wouldn't run. As for us, we took dozens of pictures, dozens more than we really needed, and us a temporary line from the telephone office, where power had been restored, we were able to develop and print a dozen or so of the best shots for the paper next

But troubles didn't end there. A member of The Tribune staff worm in Mexico.

crest and then began to recede, took the photos, still wet, and leaving muck and slime over headed for Winston-Salem to everything, and wreckage every-where. Where once had stood the was attempts to cross the Yadkin ties in the United States. Nearly laundry was only wreckage and between Yadkinville and Winston- 500,000 placements were made in mud covered machinery. Where Salem failed because the guards two months. once had stood brick filling sta- there were afraid the bridge was tions were prostrate brick walls. n't safe, so back to Yadkinville Where once had been the Elkin and on to Winston-Salem via Motor Car Company's used car lot
was a tangle of overturned automobiles, piled one upon the other.

Banked high against the Hugh

The whitsoft-Saeli via
the wington, where after getting a
member of the engraving staff
out of bed in the night, the plates
were made and brought back to Chatham bridge were numerous Elkin early next morning. It was gasoline storage tanks, wreckage all night business, but we had our

By morning the river had again entered its banks and was soon Wednesday and always the busiest down to normal. But many a month passed before the destruceverybody practically took a holipartly erased. And if you will take a stroll down through the bottom today and look around, you can stil see signs of Old Man River's biggest spree.

PINK BOLL WORM

At the request of Mexico, the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture is aiding in the control of the pink boll LABOR

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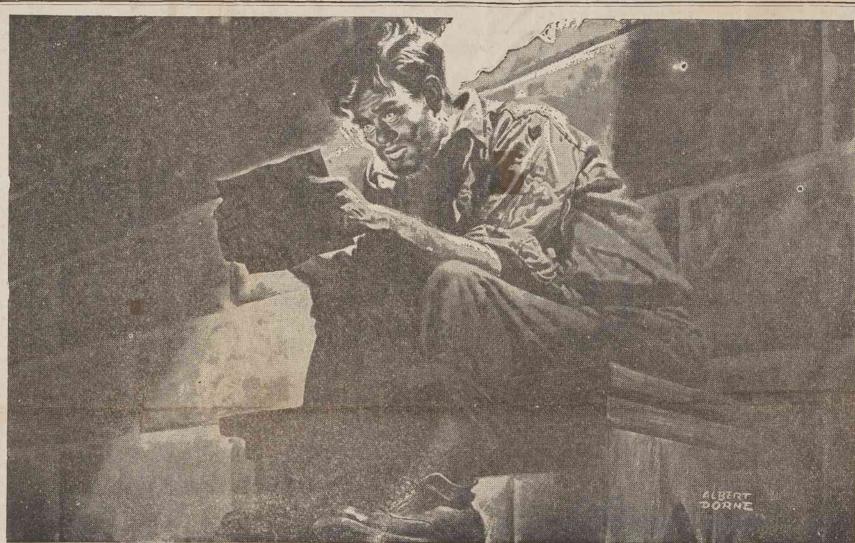
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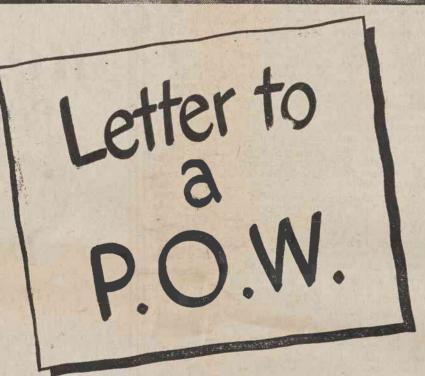
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WILL YOU WRITE A LETTER to a Prisoner of War ... to-

Maybe he's one of Jimmie Doolittle's boys. Perhaps he was left behind when Bataan fell. Anyway, he's an American, and he hasn't had a letter in a long, long time.

And when you sit down to write, tell him why you didn't buy your share of War Bonds last pay day.

"Dear Joe," you might say, "the old topcoat was getting kind of threadbare, so I . . . "

No, cross it out. Joe might not understand about the topcoat, especially if he's shivering in a damp Japanese cell. Let's try again. "Dear Joe, I've been working pretty

hard and haven't had a vacation in over a year, so . . . Hell, better cross that out, too. They don't ever get vacations where Joe's staying.

Well, what are you waiting for? Go ahead, write the letter to Joe. Try to write it, anyhow.

But mister, if somehow you find you can't finish that letter, will you, at least, do this for Joe? Will you up the amount of money you're putting into War Bonds and keep buying your share from here on in?

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---NOW DO YOUR BEST!

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