

Damage Exceeds Several Million

Hurricane Helene hissed, whistled and roared through the county Saturday, leaving in its wake damage estimated at several million dollars. There was no loss of life.

The greatest concentrated property damage was in the small area of about a block in the eastern end of Morehead City where Freeman Brothers Wholesale roof was taken off and the Morehead City Shipbuilding's shed and other structures, blew down. In the same immediate area, Parker Motors lost large glass display windows.

There were countless other small losses—shingles blown off, windows blown out, boats slightly damaged, and trees blown down. The trees took terrific punishment. Those that were not uprooted lost limbs.

Weather Data

According to records kept at Cherry Point 4 1/2 inches of rain fell at the height of the storm. The highest winds were clocked at 6:30 p.m. at 97 miles an hour and the eye of the storm, according to the Marine base reports, passed off the coast 40 miles southeast of Cherry Point.

Winds were higher at Cape Lookout station where Harold Yeomans, officers in charge, reported their measuring instrument broke at 4:30 p.m. while registering winds at 125 knots (134 miles an hour). He believes that winds later exceeded that velocity. The station's radio beacon antenna blew down.

Yesterday, Helene was boiling northward far out at sea off Portland, Me. The next storm, Ilsa, seems to be staying far out at sea. Hurricane trackers think the two storms may join forces in the North Atlantic in about two days.

Beach Report

A. B. Cooper, mayor of Atlantic Beach, yesterday roughly estimated beach damage at \$520,000. Most of the damage occurred to porches and chimneys which were blown from their foundations.

There was, however, little erosion. The sea walls have paid off," Mr. Cooper said. "They not only held the sea back but sand was built against them."

The Club Colony section, where there are no extensive sea walls, suffered from wave wash. The "hurricane cottage" built there on an experimental basis by a brick and tile company after Hazel, stood up well. There is a sea wall in front of it.

No one was allowed on the beach after 1 p.m. Saturday and all persons living there were evacuated by 2. Atlantic Beach roads were not seriously damaged. A town crew, with the help of a state crew, had things cleaned up by Sunday morning when spectators were allowed on the beach.

While the beach was vacated, guards were on duty to see that there was no looting. Mayor Cooper commended all agencies and individuals who assisted during the storm. "We had the most efficient help we've ever had," he said. "Everything worked smoothly."

Governor Visits

Gov. Luther Hodges and his train of officials and photographers left Wilmington at 3:30 Saturday afternoon and arrived at Morehead City at 6 p.m. He went to the beach and was just about caught there in the last furious half of the storm.

The Morehead City municipal building, served by emergency generator, was set up as disaster headquarters. At an afternoon meeting, Red Cross, Civil Defense officials and the sheriff's department coordinated plans on communications and shelters. At the request of the mayor, the National Guard unit was put on active duty. By midnight, the persons, numbering about 75, who took refuge in the municipal building, had gone home, as had persons in the other shelters throughout the county.

Insurance adjusters had set up office in the Morehead City recreation building yesterday morning and insurance offices in Beaufort and Morehead City were swamped with persons reporting their losses.

Preparations Good

Mayor Dill was pleased with the preparations made for the storm. "We've done things wrong so many times," he added, "that anything we did different would be an improvement."

Beaufort seems to be the only

place where a dwelling, located in the colored section, collapsed. The town suffered much loss in trees. The local radio station was hampered by intermittent power flow, even though attempts were made to supply power with emergency generators.

A warehouse at Huntley's Hardware was demolished by the wind. Dan Walker, Beaufort town manager, estimated yesterday that 600 loads of debris will have to be hauled from the streets.

Because of this extra work, garbage will not be collected on schedule and the town asks homeowners and business owners to be as patient as possible. They'll get the garbage picked up as quickly as they can.

One hundred persons took refuge in the courthouse and approximately 250 were at Queen Street School. There was no light in the courthouse. Generators were used to supply power to the fire station and to keep radio communication flowing between Beaufort and Morehead City.

Emergency rescue squads with ambulances and generators arrived in Beaufort from Graham and Hickory. They were requested by the Beaufort Rescue squad.

Power Problems

The power and telephone companies had their usual headaches. George Stovall, manager of Carolina Power and Light, said the overall outage occurred at 3:45 p.m. when a piece of tin blew into the high power line at 5th and Bay Streets, Morehead City.

Prior to that time, however, power had failed in certain sections. Newport and Havelock had power most of the time, Mr. Stovall reported.

W. C. Carlton, manager of Carteret-Craven Electric Membership Corp., reports extensive damage to the REA lines all over this area. All power crewmen stopped work at 11 p.m. Sunday night after working round the clock from Saturday night on.

Although there were still some sections of the county without power last night, the power company managers said they expected most everything to be back to normal today.

Mr. Carlton paid special tribute to George McNeill and Ray Davidson, ham operators, who obtained extra power crews from Goldsboro.

Mr. Stovall said people were most considerate and helpful. Herbert Kelly at Ann Street Esso, Beaufort, kept the power trucks loaded with gas all night.

Water continued to flow without interruption to homes served by Carolina Water Co. Persons who use an electric pump to pump water were out of luck unless they had drawn plenty of water prior to the storm.

Phone Troubles

L. A. Daniels, manager of Carolina Telephone and Telegraph, said that Marshallberg and Atlantic toll service was expected to be back to normal by last night.

Between 15 and 20 poles on Highway 70 to North River must be replaced, as well as six poles at Camp Glenn. Extra crews have been at work on the telephone lines. Crewmen have been working night and day.

Hospital Rides Through

Morehead City Hospital was supplied with emergency power during the storm by generators from Cherry Point. One generator failed, and the hospital ran on candle power for about an hour. Then a second arrived from the Marine base and was connected.

David Willis, hospital administrator, said a baby was born at the hospital while power was being supplied by a generator.

At Cherry Point Hospital, two babies were born "by flashlight" when one of the generators there failed. The babies were on the way and Nature wouldn't wait until another generator was hooked up.

Glenn Adair, Red Cross disaster

Freeman Wholesale Damage Estimate Nearly \$300,000

A. B. Roberts Jr., of Freeman Wholesale Co., Morehead City, yesterday estimated the firm's loss at between a quarter of a million and \$300,000.

Helene took off the roof and damaged everything inside. Mr. Roberts said that he's still in business and is getting new merchandise in. Customers can call the office as usual.

The former L&H Motors building, across the street from THE NEWS-TIMES will be used as a warehouse until the present building is repaired.

Mrs. Blanda McLehon, Ruth Grantham and Walter Edwards saw the roof go, as well as some people staying across the street at the Jefferson Hotel.

The roof was lifted upward several feet from the walls in a terrific roar and then collapsed inside the building. Parts of it went over the west wall and fell on the ground. A truck parked close to the building was damaged.

The business offices were not damaged. But in the warehouse portion, supplies were blown over, soaked with water — cigarettes, feed, flour, sugar — all of it a jumbled mess.

A salvage company is due today to take over salvage operations. The building and supplies in it were insured.

chairman, reported that the following places were opened as shelters, in addition to the Morehead town hall, courthouse and Queen Street School: Camp Glenn School, W. S. King, Ann Street Educational building, Free Will Baptist Church at Davis; a church at Atlantic and the First Baptist Church education building, Morehead City. All, however, were not used.

Farm Front

Harry Venters, assistant farm agent, said that the corn crop suffered. Because stalks have been beaten down, it will probably be impossible to gather the corn with mechanical pickers.

Soybeans and sweet potatoes seem to have come through all right. There has been no report of saltwater flooding farmlands.

There may have been some damage, however, to tobacco stored in packhouses, if the packhouses leaked or the roofs were blown off.

No authoritative report on tobacco loss was available. B. H. Russell, Russell's Creek, lost his pecan crop. The immature nuts were blown from the trees. Other pecan trees throughout the county were uprooted. Some farm buildings were blown down.

Sheriff Hugh Salter kept in touch with things throughout the storm and checked on roads before persons in the Beaufort shelters were given the OK to leave. He got to bed at 3:30 a.m. Sunday.

County Roads

J. L. Humphrey, county road superintendent, said Sunday, "We got out pretty lucky this time." The biggest problem was the Cedar Island road where the tide deposited tons of marsh grass on the highway after 10 p.m. Saturday.

Bull donors were needed to clear it. One-way passage was cleared by Sunday night.

Three buses blew off at the Atlantic Beach draw, one at the Beaufort draw, one at the Thoroughfare bridge and one at the Morehead City draw.

The industry-operated Tree Farm program is now active in 46 states.

Beaufort Residents Give Their Opinions on Water

THE NEWS-TIMES conducted a survey of Beaufort residents last week asking, "Have you noticed any improvement in your water recently?" The persons questioned were also asked to say whether or not they thought the new well had been connected to the water mains. The results of the poll follow:

Mrs. J. E. Arrington, 110 Live Oak St.—"No, I can't really say that I have noticed much difference. The water is not so cloudy as usual and I haven't noticed the bad odor recently."

"The poor washing quality of the water is what I don't like. It is hard to get clothes clean and soap doesn't seem to work very well in this water."

"I do not know if the new well is in operation yet or not. There have been other times when the water did not smell so bad and then got worse again."

Mrs. C. A. Brooks, 112 Moore St.—"Yes, I have noticed that the water is clearer and has lost that odor. I think it has been about a week that my water has been better."

"Of course the water has been so bad that any improvement makes a lot of difference. I think everyone will be satisfied except for one thing. Is this going to make our bills any higher?"

"My water bills have been higher than usual this summer and I would hate to think that the price of the water has gone up," Mrs. Brooks said she did not know whether the company had connected the new well to the water mains.

Mrs. Fred Hooper, 117 Marsh St.—"I noticed some time last week that my water was better. It was clearer and did not smell bad."

"No, I don't know if the new well has been connected or not. I suppose it has, though," Mrs. Hooper concluded.

Mrs. Maude Garner, 206 Ann St.—"I haven't noticed the water and I have always been satisfied with it. I have been using that water ever since it was put in and I'm used to it," she concluded.

Mrs. John Jones, 210 Orange St.—"I haven't noticed the water at all. There hasn't been much odor, but that is off and on. It gets all right for a while and then gets worse. I don't know anything at all about the new well."

Roy Eubanks, Eubanks Photo Studio—"I haven't had as much trouble with my chemicals in the past week or so as I had for while. As for drinking water, I go to my apartments (Channel Apartments) where I have a deep well. I take the water home and keep it in the refrigerator."

At one time if Mr. Eubanks left pictures in tap water over night, the next morning they would be "toned" or have a deep brown cast to them.

Mrs. Leonard Saffrit, 1512 Front St.—"I can't say that I have noticed any change but I'm not very observant about things like that. I don't know whether the new well is being used or not."

David Jones, Guthrie-Jones Drug Store—"I don't drink any water. I drink coffee and fountain drinks here at the store. We have a water softener at the store and at home, for what good one will do. No, I don't know if the new well is in use yet or not."

W. E. Kirk, Ann St.—"The water doesn't smell as bad as it used to. I don't recall when I first noticed it but it is much better. I heard that the water company has connected the new well but I'm not sure about it."

Mr. Kirk was one of the first persons in Beaufort to complain about the water and try to do something about it. In May 1957, he went to the Utilities Commission asking for relief. At that time he was unsuccessful in his efforts, but public sentiment later was instrumental in getting the new well drilled.

Mrs. Clarence Guthrie, 1513 Ann St.—"I think it's the funniest thing I've ever heard, their not wanting to say whether they've connected the new well or not."

"I have noticed in the past couple weeks that there is no odor and there doesn't seem to be as much rust, but this has happened before. There would be an improvement for a few weeks, and then it would go right back to being just as bad as it had been."

"We were away the last two weeks in August and a spigot dripped in the kitchen. When we came back, there wasn't a rust spot in the sink, it was black! I'd never seen anything like it. There's still a white sediment in the pans after you boil water, but maybe that's because the water is hard."

"If the new well has been connected, it's about time. But I can't say that the improvement now is going to last. It hasn't lasted before."

"My husband," she concluded, "says he doesn't want to have anything to do with water, in heating or cooling, or anything, if he can avoid it."

Traffic Judge Declines Gift from Defendant

Minneapolis (AP) — Pleased at his treatment on a minor traffic charge, motorist O. Elmer Dixon told Traffic Judge Tom Bergin:

"I'd like to give you a nice dish of strawberries from my garden, or some sweet corn when it's ripe."

"Heavens no," declined his honor, "the grand jury might get after me."

Ballou-Sledge Case Non-Suited

Non-suited Friday morning in the office of A. H. James, clerk of superior court, Beaufort, was the case of Mrs. Ward Ballou vs. Mrs. Betty Sledge, both of Morehead City.

Mr. Ballou states that his wife had agreed to a non-suit Aug. 27, upon his agreeing to pay her \$4,000. The papers were drawn up but never signed, nor were costs paid, according to Mr. James.

Final legal procedures took place at the courthouse Friday morning and the costs were paid by Mr. Ballou, whose legal counsel was Wiley Taylor Jr. Representing Mrs. Ballou was Harvey Hamilton Jr.

In the suit, Mrs. Ballou had alleged that Mrs. Sledge had alienated the affections of her husband, Mr. Ballou.

The plaintiff requested damages totaling \$30,000.

Fort Macon Point Hard Hit

Fort Macon State Park suffered its major damage at the point where waves washed over an embankment and flooded the fort parking lot.

Ray Pardue, superintendent, said Sunday night's high tide washed right in and yesterday morning water was about a foot deep on the lot.

There was slight damage elsewhere. Sand fences were blown down, there was some erosion on the beach, and much of the embankment sand was blown away. Shingles on buildings and some screens were blown away.

Equipment that went to the park last week to begin hurricane-protective work was moved to a protected area near the Coast Guard station.

The "toothache tree" (so-called because of the many bumps on its trunk) and an old cedar in the parade ground of the fort were uprooted. Mr. Pardue said the toothache tree has been set up and staked in hopes of saving it.

Being moved in by rail now are the rocks that will be used to rebuild the jetties around the fort. Twelve hundred tons will be used for the repair work which started last week and is scheduled to cost \$50,000.

WAC Willie J. Dixon Named Honor Student

Fort McClellan, Ala.—WAC Pvt. Willie J. Dixon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie F. Dixon, Lennoxville Rd., Beaufort, was named class honor student upon recently completing the clerical procedures course at the Women's Army Corps school, Fort McClellan, Ala.

Private Dixon entered the Women's Army Corps last March and completed basic training at the fort.

She is a 1955 graduate of Beaufort High school and was formerly employed by R&N Furniture Co., Morehead City.

Sequence of Storm

FRIDAY

Afternoon — Partyboats were forced to return early due to rough seas offshore.

Night—Most vessels along waterfronts throughout the county had been taken to protected harbors.

SATURDAY

10 a.m.—Light rain in squalls, wind in light gusts.

11:45 a.m.—Carolina Power and Light reported a few nuisance interruptions in power flow, due to tree limbs hitting lines.

Noon—Rain had increased, wind was blowing 25 miles an hour in gusts.

1 p.m.—Atlantic Beach, Salter Path and all other Bogue Banks areas had been ordered evacuated. Wind was blowing 32 to 38 miles an hour. Rain no longer squally but coming down steadily.

2:30 p.m.—Power in Beaufort-Morehead City area went off. Winds were of gale force. Before power went off, wires on Morehead City fire alarm system were snapping together, causing periodic tolling of the fire alarm.

3:10 p.m.—Rain extremely heavy, being pushed horizontally by winds 55 miles an hour. Gusts so heavy that persons in buildings had the feeling that doors and windows were being blown open (some were).

3:20 p.m.—Day grew darker. Rain lashing against the windows sounded like sleet in a winter storm.

3:35 p.m.—Winds continue up to 75 miles an hour in gusts. Homeowners kept busy mopping at sills and doors where wind blew rain through unpluggable cracks.

3:55 p.m.—Wind still to northeast, as it was all day.

4:20 p.m.—Wind continues to blow at better than 55 miles an hour. Heavy, constant rain. Houses and buildings shake. Limbs torn off trees.

5:05 p.m.—Rain has let up slightly. Wind shifts slightly to north northeast, indicating that storm is passing to the north.

5:25 p.m.—Rain resumes heavily again, being pushed in wet clouds along streets and against buildings.

6 p.m.—Wind continues strong from the north. Eye of storm has passed offshore. Barometer had hit lowest point 28.65 and was rising slightly.

6:30 p.m.—Wind still to north, blowing at whole gale force. Rain pelting down. This was beginning of tail-end of storm, commonly known as "back-lash," which frequently brings more damage than the first half of storm.

7 p.m.—Shingles blowing on roof sound as though somebody is on roof jumping up and down. House tremble, rain heavy.

8 p.m.—High tide. This is full moon and very high tide even without storm conditions. Wind still to north, however, which served to sweep back water 400 residential areas facing south. The same wind, however, caused water to sweep forward on areas facing north.

8:40 p.m.—Clouds began break, hint of moonlight showing through. Wind gusty, to northwest 32-38 miles an hour.

9:25 p.m.—Wind remains northwest, blowing in gusts up to 38 miles an hour. Low-hanging clouds scud past full moon.

10 p.m.—Wind continues strong in gusts; no rain, but moon has been obscured again.

11 p.m.—Storm about over. Cleaning up the debris will start with morning.

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Helene Pulled Streaky Trick

Every hurricane always pulls new one out of its bag of tricks.

The peculiarity about Helene was that damage seemed to be caused in streaks, or swaths. For example just a middle section was taken out of Mom and Pop's fishing pier in Bogue Sound.

The vicinity of Freeman's Wholesale was badly hit, and in other sections of the county, the damage seemed to be caused in streaks that closely resembled the path of a tornado.

Ocean fishing piers weather the blow all right, as did most of the inshore piers.

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