



MONOPOLY WAS A GOOD WAY to pass the time at the West Brunswick shelter for Kim Allen of Seaside.



DAVID MONROE of Laurinburg secured his boat, "The Other Woman," before pulling it inland.



HELENE MILLER of Kinnelon, N.J. kept an eye on her granddaughter, Melissa Inman of Supply, at the West Brunswick shelter.

Locals Face Gloria In A Variety Of Ways

BY DAWN ELLEN BOYD

"I pray to the Lord this storm will go away before it gets here," said Veda Robinson of Shallotte, echoing the feelings of many as Hurricane Gloria neared the Brunswick coast.

Thursday morning, before Gloria turned northward, local residents prepared for the storm many different ways.

At Hughes' Marina at Shallotte Point, people sat around drinking their breakfast coffee and discussing the approaching storm.

Ray McQuaig tried to add some levity to the situation by explaining how he prepared for the storm: "I have 10 cases of beer, four cases of Vienna sausages, and I worry."

Martha Jo Hall said, "I've got to go tape up my windows."

Other restaurant patrons talked about a sailboat that was stuck up the Shallotte River without a motor.

"I bet they're having a fit right now," said Samantha Hughes.

Huston "Blue" Crumpler of Boone's Neck said he had just driven over to Hughes' to see how things were across the river. "I know people will be coming to see me," he said. "They know I prepare for storms."

Ocean Isle Beach was busy in the morning hours also. Residents went by the town hall to purchase stickers that would allow them back on the island after the storm, and others breakfasted at the Islander Restaurant.

"People don't seem to be too worried here," said Liz Cohler, cashier at the Islander. "I'm not worried till the last minute they tell me to evacuate, then I'm gone."

One customer walked in laughing loudly and asked for "a bowl of hurricane soup to go."

Some people were even fishing and surfing. Joe Waters, a surfer from Ocean Isle, said "This is pretty good for around here. I've been surfing about an hour. I'm thinking of going up to Wilmington where it's even bigger. You just have to take advantage of it."

Herman Maynor of Pembroke and Warren Snow of Kannapolis tried their luck fishing on the pier. Maynor pulled a spot from the rough surf, and Snow laughed, "I've got to be a little weak upstairs."

Curtis Williamson, who runs the Ocean Isle Pier, said, "When it comes time I'll take the money and go—and there's not much change to carry!"

One tourist on the beach's west end scoffed as he packed his car. "I have to leave today anyway. Huh! I lived through an earthquake in Alaska; I can handle Gloria."

At Sunset Beach, John High and Nellie Hardee of the Calabash Volunteer Rescue Squad warned each driver that crossed the bridge that it was mandatory to be off the beach by noon.

"People are taking it seriously here," said High. "It's a serious matter when you can be wiped off."

Added Hardee, "We have taken all precautions. We will stay at the squad building for as long as we can. We'll be transporting elderly people to safe places, too."

Nell Harrelson had her restaurant, Big Nell's, on the road between Sunset Beach and Ocean Isle, all boarded up in anticipation of the storm.

"We're getting prepared," she said. "I've even taken the pictures with glass on them off the walls—I just hope it blows the fish in!"

By midafternoon, approximately 285 people had evacuated to West Brunswick High School, one of the county's official shelters, according to Evelyn Johnson, social work supervisor.

William and Estelle Feathers of Pine Burr Acres near Sunset Beach had been at the shelter since early morning.

William Feathers said, "I boarded up my house, got ready and came here early. Lots of people could come much later and could regret it."

The Feathers stayed at West Brunswick last year during Hurricane Diana. "People hung on last

year until they couldn't hang on any more," said Feathers. "People came in with babies last year at the height of the storm."

Lois Smith and Mildred Root of Holden Beach came to the shelter for company as well as protection.

"We're alone," Smith said, "and you get more upset if you just wait for the winds and rain."

The storm took Helene Miller of Kinnelon, N.J., by surprise. "We came down to help our daughter move into her new house," she said. "Obviously, they're not moving today!"

The school provided food for the evacuees.

Arvella Marlowe, West Brunswick cafeteria employee, sat at the end of the food line getting a plate count. "I have to work all night and tomorrow," she said, "but I love people. I don't regret it at all."

Photographer Michael Broads of Atlanta, Ga., was visiting his mother at Shallotte Point when they had to evacuate to the shelter.

Broads said, "I like to photo lightning. I was kind of hoping for a hurricane to photograph. I don't want anyone to get hurt, but I would like to get some shots of trees flying through the air."

Sheriff's Deputy Renny Lewis monitored the shelter to insure things ran as smoothly as possible. "There haven't been any problems," she said. "A little boy fell down and hurt his head, but he didn't even have to go to the doctor."

There were even fewer problems as the night wore on and Hurricane Gloria bypassed the South Brunswick Islands.

By Friday morning the sun was out, the sky was blue and people were leaving their shelters and moving back home.

Around noon Friday, an unidentified older man stood observing the docks and boats near Hughes' Marina. He spit out some tobacco juice and grinned before he spoke.

"We sure were lucky this time."



BRANLEY FULLWOOD of Cedar Grove helped his family by carrying drinking water into the shelter at West Brunswick High School.



WARREN SNOW of Kannapolis decided to try his luck fishing off the pier before evacuating Ocean Isle Beach.

"Have Your Disability Benefits Been Cut Off or Denied?"

Call for a **FREE** Consultation
762-6091

Kathleen M. Shannon, Attorney
Specializing in Social Security Law
113 Dock St. Wilmington

INVENTORY SALE

FHA Vinyl in stock \$3.99 sq. yd.
All Wallpaper..... 20% OFF

—You Must Come See—
Patch Rugs \$9.99 and \$17.99
They Are Beautiful!

Professional Installation **SEASIDE CARPETS** FREE Estimates

Hwy. 179, Kings Plaza
Between Ocean Isle & Sunset Beaches **579-7592**

SHALLOTTE GLASS & MIRROR Co.

ACROSS FROM HARDEE'S
FREE ESTIMATES
Residential—Commercial

- Store Fronts
- Mirrors
- Table Tops
- Window Glass

24-HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
MAIN STREET, SHALLOTTE
754-9950

True Value
BARGAINS OF THE MONTH

EVEREADY

4.99 While Supplies Last
Halogen Flashlight with batteries is extra bright. Rugged and waterproof. 725-4911. QUANTITIES LIMITED.

Harvard

9.99 While Supplies Last
2-Pc. Multi-Purpose Knife Set. 4 1/2 and 8-in. stain-free steel knives. Serrated blades. 44191. QUANTITIES LIMITED.

GOODYEAR HOME SUPPLY
Main Street
Shallotte 754-6792



JOHN HIGH of the Calabash Volunteer Rescue Squad warned drivers they needed to be off Sunset Beach by noon Thursday.