

Hurricane Season Preparations

Now that the hurricane season is upon us, Southern Bell is busy making preparations to keep the telephone network operating in Kings Mountain in case a hurricane or severe storm should strike the area.

R. B. Moore, local Southern Bell manager, said today that emergency batteries and generators are maintained at all times to take over and supply electricity to Kings Mountain phone system should normal power service be temporarily interrupted by storm damage.

Emergency crews are also kept ready to deal with any damage a storm might do to telephone equipment. Hurricane season preparations are begun in May of each year when restoration teams are set up in key locations in North Carolina. These groups meet and lay the groundwork for storm preparations. Company personnel are briefed on their individual responsibilities, emergency supplies and materials are assembled and checked and the capabilities of emergency telephone lines and civil defense circuits are reviewed.

When an actual hurricane is sighted precautions are accelerated. Western Electric, the Bell System's supply division, is alerted to stockpile emergency repair equipment, poles and cable at strategic locations. These supplies can be quickly transported to emergency areas. Also, telephone people in other areas are notified to be prepared to move in if they are needed.

The advance preparations and the close teamwork of Southern Bell employees during past disasters have paid big dividends. When Hurricane Hazel cut a broad swath of destruction through the Carolinas a few years back, advance planning helped minimize the time required for restoration of service. Restoration crews consisting of more than a thousand men, skilled in repairing telephone lines and cable, rushed from Charlotte, Gastonia and Greensboro to telephone exchanges in stricken areas of the state. Help also arrived from Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee. Because of the Bell System's standardized equipment, training and operating procedures, the "borrowed" repairmen were able to begin work immediately.

As a result of teamwork and dedication, the last of the 15 exchanges isolated by Hazel were long distance connections re-established within 30 hours after the storm struck. Of the 38,000 telephones silenced by the storm, over 18,000 were operating at the close of that long weekend. Planning ahead, Southern Bell hopes to be able to maintain, or at least provide early restoration of, telephone service in North Carolina communities their times of greatest need—during and immediately after natural and man-made disasters.

14 pt — GRACE METHODISTS... **Grace Methodists To Have Picnic**
Sermon topic of Rev. N. C. E. Sh, pastor of Central United Methodist church, at Sunday morning Holy Communion services will be "Table in the Wilderness".

Following the services a church-wide picnic will be held at Lake Crawford, Shelter No. 1, with dinner to be served at 12:15.

Haskins Home From Vietnam

Sgt. Andy Haskins, son of Mrs. Hattie Haskins and the late Howard Haskins, has arrived home after a year's tour of duty in Vietnam.

After a 30-day leave here, Sgt. Haskins will report for duty at England AFB in Louisiana. Sgt. Haskins arrived home Tuesday.

Two-Party System Offers THE Solution

Dallas — Jim Atkins, Republican candidate for the N. C. State Senate, told a federal government class at Gaston College on Friday that "the two-party system offers the only practical solution for preserving our democracy".

"It's really nothing new — we have always known that power has a tendency to corrupt", Atkins said. "Whenever one group pulls strings for too long a period, they create a cesspool of government which is stagnant and

polluted and does not serve the best interest of anyone." "The democrat party has been in control of our State for 70 years, they have controlled our federal administration 28 of the last forty years, they have controlled our Congress all but four of the last forty years — they deserve a fair amount of credit for the progress and a fair amount of blame for the things that are wrong."

Atkins went on to explain why he switched to the Republican Party. "It was hard to close my eyes to what was going on. I believe in people and not self-perpetuating machines. The abuses of power at the local and state levels were more than I could take. This, capped by the election of Lyndon Johnson, made

up my mind for me. Later events have only confirmed my belief." "Charging that Bob Scott was "the most powerful Governor of North Carolina since Governor Tryon," Atkins said, "It hurts to see the little man pay unnecessary taxes. There was no reason for the gasoline tax in the last legislature, and they know it. The soft drink crown tax was inexcusable, and they know it." Atkins opened the meeting to questions ("something that I have consistently done, but that my opponent refuses to do"), and stated that he was for a change in the electoral college, but not a direct vote. He commented that Republican leadership had been responsible for most progressive federal legis-

lation, but that they had not sought to publicize it in the manner of the democrats. "Basically, the people in both parties want the best for their nation and their communities. Most of them don't know what goes on within the ranks of their own party. I don't always agree with Republican leadership and I don't always disagree with Democrat leadership. Still, I don't like the power structure that produces Bobby Bakers and Billy Sol Estes and I think that the interest of the people is best served with two strong parties. I therefore, think that anyone really interested in people in North Carolina must look toward the Republican Party."

Horse Show Plans Given

Grover Rescue Squad will sponsor a horse show Saturday, October 24th, at 6:30 p.m. with trophies and ribbons to be awarded in each class and with proceeds to benefit the squad. Howard Treadway will be judge. Arnold Philbeck will be ringmaster and Duke Anthony will be master of ceremonies. Admission will be \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children under 12. Entry fee is \$3 per class. The showgrounds are located 1 1/2 miles southwest of Grover with directional signs. A concession stand will also be operated.

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