

Special Homecoming Edition

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SMOKE SIGNALS

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STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF CHOWAN COLLEGE



Hurricane Gloria's high winds caused this tree to fall, blocking the drive around the campus.

World's Largest Paper Mill is in Franklin, Virginia

Franklin, in western Tidewater and only eight miles from the North Carolina line, is the home of the largest printing paper mill in the world—Union Camp Corporation's Fine Paper Division. Six paper machines at the plant turn out a daily average of 1,900 tons of paper and paperboard.

Paper is made by a method developed in China before the time of Christ. Simply suspend fibers of some sort in water and drain off the water to leave a flat mat with the fibers felted or interlocked for strength. Modern paper machines do the same thing, but thousands of times faster than the early Chinese papermaker could comprehend. Union Camp's Number 6 machine turns out as much as 30 tons of paper in rolls 25 feet wide in an hour.

Franklin is typical of southern paper mills in that wood is cooked in giant pressure cookers until it comes apart. The fibers are washed, blanched if white paper is the goal, and, in a water suspension, flowed onto an endless moving, screen belt. The water drains through leaving the fibers matted just as in the ancient Chinese method. Moving from 1,500 to more than 2,000 feet per minute (depending on the type) through the four hundred foot long machine, the paper is quickly dried, ironed smooth and rolled.

The Franklin plant concentrates on what are called "communication" papers. Their Jamestown and Williamsburg lines list offset printing paper, book papers, typing bond, tablet papers, and papers for the growing office copying machine markets. Computer print-out papers and business forms papers are also expanding in the sales picture.

The home owner often sees Union Camp products in the direct mail advertising left in his mailbox. A varied line of envelope papers roll off the machines, from brown, business type to white grades with printing characteristics allowing eye-catching graphic styles. Envelope papers vary from other grades such as typing paper because of increased strength requirements.

The products from the east bank of the Blackwater go to customers throughout the nation from Miami to Maine as far west as Denver. While most papers and boards are sold as raw material directly to end users, printers or envelope makers, for example, a share goes to paper merchants who distribute to printers, offices, and stationary stores. Union Camp sales offices are located in most major cities in the eastern half of the United States.

In addition to the paper operation, the

lumber mill claims another offspring, a particle plant, which started up in 1972 and utilizes a lumber-making by product, planing mill shavings.

Union Camp forests are the homes for wildlife of many types. People visit Union Camp forests for hiking, birdwatching, fishing, nature study, and hunting.

Some Union Camp land that has a special ecological or historical significance has been preserved through the company's Land Legacy program. A colonial plantation home in Virginia; The Great Dismal Swamp, now a National Wildlife Refuge; Chowan Swamp, slated to become a center for environmental study; and other donations represent Union Camp's acknowledgement that certain lands should be protected for the public benefit and made available to this and future generations.

The company was founded in 1887 by the three Camp brothers and now has corporate offices in Wayne, N.J. Overall there are 18,000 employees worldwide and 2,600 in the Franklin plant and area.

Each year, the company provides a scholarship for deserving college students in its local area.

Hurricane Gloria

Rain began falling shortly after noon Thursday, Sept. 26, giving the first visible signs Hurricane Gloria was fast approaching the eastern portion of the state.

As Gloria came closer to the N.C. mainland, residents to the Roanoke-Chowan area began taking the hurricane more seriously and started last minute preparations.

Hours before the rain began to fall, emergency personnel had started preparations for what has been described as one of the most severe hurricanes of the century.

Ahoskie and Murfreesboro High Schools were opened Thursday afternoon as shelter areas, with both sites expected to handle any influx of coastal

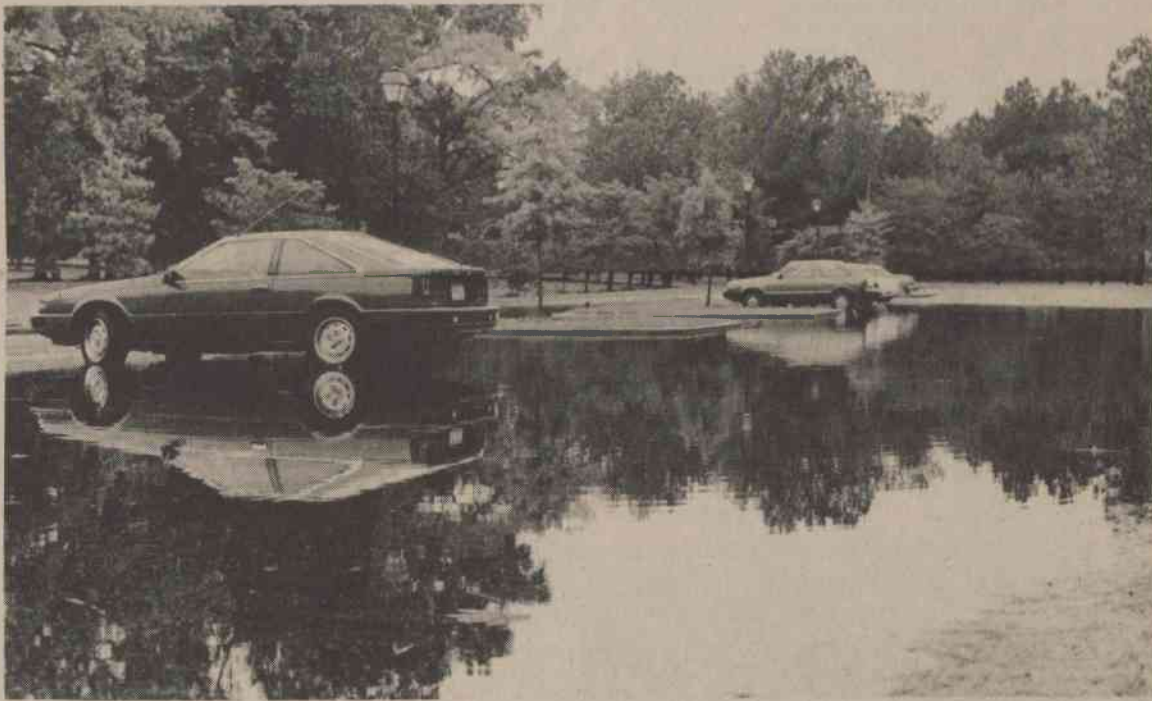
residents, creating increased traffic on area highways. Area gas stations reported heavy sales of gas, as motorists elected to fill their gas tanks in anticipation of the storm.

National Weather Service personnel at the Cape Hatteras station issued a hurricane watch Wednesday afternoon, upgrading the watch to a hurricane warning early Thursday morning.

Gloria was expected to reach landfall early Friday morning at Cape Lookout, just east of Morehead City. The hurricane's winds dropped slightly, putting it into a Category Two hurricane. Wednesday the hurricane had reached Category Four and Five status, dropping to a Category Three status late Wednesday night.

Officials at Roanoke-Chowan Hospital met throughout the day Thursday to make plans for the expected effects of Gloria.

Students at Chowan College anticipated the storm. While many of them left campus, the majority stayed in their dorms and awaited the hurricane. Showers began falling that afternoon and the wind started to pick up. When everyone awoke the next morning there was a sigh of relief. The only repercussion of Gloria was a brief power outage on parts of the campus. Chowan College escaped what had been expected to be the worst hurricane of the century with only a lot of standing water and broken limbs covering the campus.



Heavy rains left most of Chowan's parking lots flooded.

Reading Causes Difficulties

Reading is "perhaps the greatest single effort the human undertakes." Jane Houser quoted John Steinbeck as she addressed the Wilson County Council of the International Reading Association Tuesday.

Ms. Houser, a consultant with the Scott Foresman Publishing Co. and a former reading coordinator with Winston-Salem schools, used the quote to remind the 30 assembled teachers and parents that adults sometimes forget how difficult it is to learn to read.

"Sometimes we forget what it is like for a child to take a set of squiggles and comprehend them," said Ms. Houser.

The organizational meeting, held in the library of Vinson-Bynum Elementary School, was conducted in order to bring people together with the common goal of promoting reading in the community.

Those who attended were presented a copy of the organization's proposed by-laws, to be adopted at the next meeting, and a slate of proposed officers. The officers were installed by N.C. Council of the International Reading Association President Emily McCleary.

The group will meet the fourth Tuesday in February, April, September and November, at 4 p.m. at Vinson-Bynum.

Ms. Houser said she believed there was a strong relationship between good writing and good reading.

"Our largest vocabulary is our listening vocabulary," she said. "Followed by our reading vocabulary and thirdly, by our writing vocabulary."

Because good readers are often good

writers and good writers are often good readers, she said the emphasis needed to be placed on improving the child's ability to write. "If the child learns to write well, his reading skills will improve as well," she said.

Just as a teacher, in teaching a child to read, will use the formula "teach, practice, apply and assess," there must also be a method of how to teach a child to write.

"Writing involves four phases: pre-writing, writing, re-writing and presentation," she said.

"Pre-writing is like a sponge," she said. "Reading and forming ideas is the soaking up, and writing is the wringing out. The difference is that we have a brain that can organize those ideas and sort out what we can use."

Pre-writing is also personal. "Students usually write best about things that strike home with them."

The writing phase means actually getting those thoughts down on paper, in an organized manner, she said.

"Writing is the making of reading," she said. "When a child learns to write, he gets a better understanding of what he reads because he understands how the writing process works."

In re-writing, the child should try to edit and improve someone else's writing, then work on his own.

"A child can usually find the mistakes of others easier than he can find his own," she said.

In the final writing step, presentation, Ms. Houser said, a child learns to "write to communicate," rather than "writing just to write."

As the child improves in his writing skills, he takes greater care in his punctuation, so the reader "will read it the way I meant for it to be read."

Ms. Houser told the teachers, "You should be careful with students because you never know where your influence will stop. You might have another Steinbeck in your class."

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