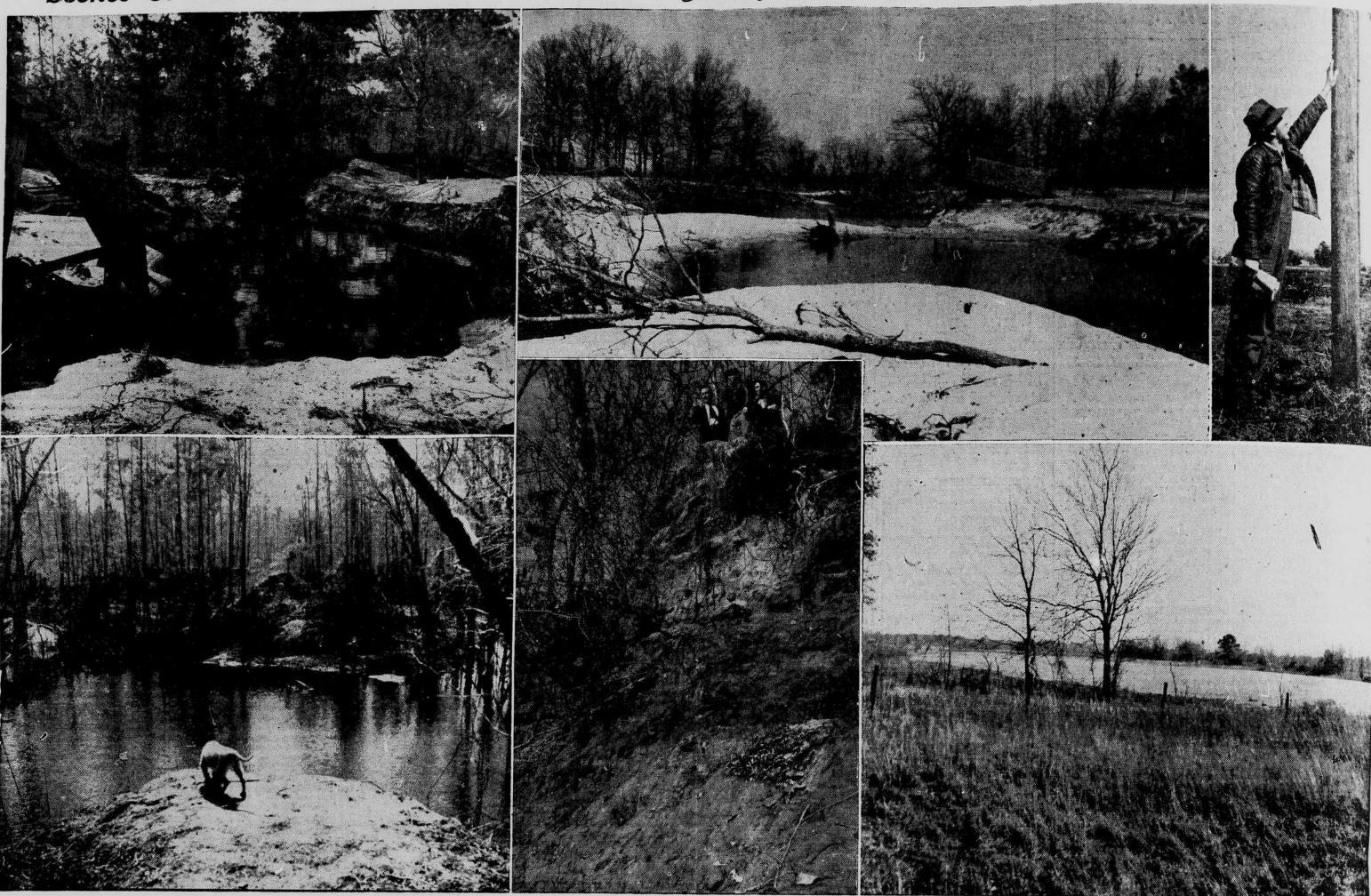
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1946

Scenes Of Past And Present Destruction Wrought By The Cape Fear River In Bladen County



Damage estimated at \$500,000 has been done to farm | Thus, a rise of even two feet in the river is reflected in a | district U. S. Engineer, has scheduled a meeting with the | with white sand. Potter never has found a trace of his barn. Tands in the Bladen county district in the area of the White corresponding rise in the millpond, which overflows and local group, known as the Flood Control committee, in Kelly Top row, right, R. K. Henry, farmer, rural mail carrier Oak swamp and Lyon swamp drainage districts, since the sends water into the farm section around Kelly. Two weeks to review damage done by the river waters and to formulate for 30 years, and member of the Flood Control committee,

September, 1945, freshet of the Cape Fear river. The damage extended into Pender county also, when the White Oak and Lyon levees broke under the pressure of the rushing waters of the Cape Fear. And the damage continues today. as these pictures illustrate, when the river stage at Fayetteville reaches 20 or 30 feet, a not unusual occurence. The levees have not been repaired because the farmers of the area, without a 1945 crop harvest, do not have the money to do the work. The major break in the Lyon swamp levee, shown in the lower left photo, above, was at a mill-pond of exactly the same water level as the nearby Cape Fear.

ago the river stage reading at Fayetteville was 40.5 feet. The picture in the lower right-hand corner shows the result: 30 acres of corn and soybeans on the farm of J. B. Owens were flooded. The farmers of the affected areas have sent a delegation to Washington to tell congressmen that unless immediate relief is given them, chances for 1946 crops are faint. Another delegation has requested an audience with Gov. R. Gregg Cherry to seek State aid in re-building the levees. Built in 1905-1906 and in 1911-1912 by the farmers themselves, the two levees broke in 1928. Farmers, with State help, repaired the breaks. Col. George W. Gillette,

plans for the temporary and permanent relief of the area. in the event the Federal government takes a hand. The above panel of pictures, taken by Pete Knight, Star-News staff photographer, illustrate the precarious position in which the farmers find themselves today. Top row, left, is a view of one of the breaks in the Lyon levee and a pool of stagnating water-good breeding ground for malaria. Top row, center, former site of a two-story barn on the farm of T. E. Potter, Kelly-when the levee broke at 8 p.m., Sept. 20, 1945, the water swept the barn away, dug up a pump shaft 18 feet in the ground, and covered a peach orchard | farm of J. B. Owens.

indicates with his hand the height the September water reached on an electric light pole in front of his house i Kelly. Lower row, left, is the widest breach in the Lyo swamp levee-120 feet-at the site of the mill-pond. Lower row, center, Kelly residents Earl Bradshaw, center, and Pvt. Eugene Owens, right, stand with Star-News Reporter Jay Jenkins on the edge of the Lyon swamp levee at the point the levee broke. The levees, made entirely of dirt, are constructed on a ridge of high ground, are approximately 20 feet in height and width. Lower row, right, is the flooded

Records Indicate Lower Bladen, Pender Will Be Flooded 10 Times During 1946

mile, east of Elizabethtown, was flowings to render the area as

Grain Fields Flooded

LEVEES BROKEN

Unchecked High Waters Of Cape Fear Turning Farm Land Into Bog

> By JAY JENKINS Staff Writer

KELLY, Feb. 23-There was a deep, omnious rumble in this small Bladen county community at

levee

1945, and a long, lingering growl damage was done in Pender, too, highest ground in the area.

through the breached Lyon Swamp the only artificial brake to the eral and state governments for get under way at 1 o'clock in the News, secretary-treasurer. overflowing Cape Fear river be- aid in the repair work. Restoration Earl Bradshaw, farmer, was in- tween Kelly and the ocean.

of the levees and immediate relief side his house but he heard it. "It Today the damage being done has been the theme of the pleas. sounded like a train," he said. by the river to Kelly and other Farmers here are willing to wait, "As soon as I heard it, I told my lowland farm communities along even glad to do so, for permanent

wife, 'The dam's broke',' said R. the Cape 'ea is not being done improvements in the drainage sys-"It was almost as loud with the sudden, dramatic intensi- tems if they can get immediate Alleged Axe Wielder K. Henry. as a crack of thunder." ty of a flood. The breached levees, relief. But two experts, agreeing There was a medley of sounds. unrepaired because the farmers that the levees first of all will have The Cape Fear's part in the eerie made no money in 1945 and hence to be repaired, say the entire sys-

River stage reading at Locks

No. Two, Browns landing, one

Damage Set At \$500,000

orchestration was that of a bass cannot finance the work, are spill- tem will have to be improved and musical background. Audible were ing water into the land every time expanded in order to afford the Howard, Navassa Negro, today, the excited cackling of chickens- the Cape Fear river stage in Fay- farmers a measure of permanent had been reelased under \$500 bond 935 were lost—the squealing of etteville reaches a height of 20 to security.

pigs-152 were drowned-and the 30 feet, a common happening. lowing of trapped cattle. There A one-foot rise in the Cape Fear neering specialist from N. C. State entering and assault with a deadwas also the sharp sound of break-causes water now standing in the College, surveyed the levees and ly weapon, according to Rural ing timber. major levee breach to rise one estimated the amount of soil Policeman O. W. Perry, Bruns-

Farmers of Kelly and vicinity foot. In effect, the river's water-whc were on higher ground than level is extended two miles inland 56,400 cubic yards—adding, "In Negro. Howard is alleged to have be used to warn the public of these dangers." their neighbors close to the where it is in position to flood the my opinion to rebuild them as they broken into the home of Bertha dangers. breached levees of Lyon Swamp farms under the slightest impetus were will not be sufficient.' and White Oak, went into action of high water.

Col. George W. Gillette, district and to have assaulted her with a with wagons, trucks and tractors. In 1944, the river stage reading U. S. engineer, as early as 1939 hatchet. They hauled human beings first, at Brown's Landing, far below recognized the temporary nature and then began rescuing the live- Fayetteville, 11 times reached of the levees and undertook a study stock until the height of the water more than 37 feet in 10 months. of the area. He expects immedimade further work impossible. During the first nine months of ately to resume that study in the Camp Lejeune, the Marine base, 1945, readings there went higher light of recent flood conditions in

dispatched jeeps and boats to the than the 37-foot mark more than the section. stricken area. Other boats came 19 times.

More than 200 new types of from Pender and surrounding Unless the breached levees are More than 200 new types of counties. As the rescue work proceeded, whole families were moved community and others ranged in ing the war.

into temporary quarters at White the lowlands along the river face Lake for 10 days; when they re- the dire prospect of watching their Dial 2-3311 For Newspaper Service the United States in 1945.

turned they found a morass where rich lands disappear under muddy Brigade Boys, Jaycees water about 10 times this year. Plan Paper Collection It will not take that many over-

afternoon.

The Brigade Boys' club and the 49.4 feet. On Sept. 21, the reading valueless as the worst bog in Junior Chamber of Commerce will conduct a paper scrap drive Sun-Courier.

climbed to 52.2 feet, the Sept. 22 reading was 54 feet, and on Sept. 22 Fastern North Carolina. Last year day March 3 finds of which will reading was 54 feet, and on Sept. riastern North Carolina. Last year day, March 3, funds of which will some of the Kelly farmers planted day, March 3, funds of which will

C. W. Patterson, Jr., of the High W. A. Stewart, New Hanover It is still coming, still adding feet at Fayetteville, and that was almost exactly 8 o'clock, Sept. 20, 1945, and a long, lingering growl amage was done in Pender, too, be considerable be considerable amage was done in Pender, too, be considerable considerable be considerable considera as the Cape Fear river tumbled because the two levees constituted Appeals have been made to fed-through the breached Lyon Swarm the output is a stilling to the source of the Burlington Times-

The paper will be collected, rain or shine, Stewart said, with the burg, S. C., Howard Cooper of salvage to be delivered to the Wil- Greenwood, S. C., C. A. Eure of mington Paper Stock company.

Freed Under \$500 Bond Charlotte.

GO SOUTH, YOUNG

MAN, GO SOUTH

Salem, and F. Earl Crawford of

"The trend in America toward authoritarian government is un-SOUTHPORT, Feb. 23-David mistakable, but many people are unaware of it because most of the

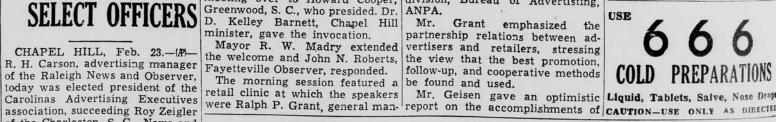
steps in that direction have been for appearance in Recorder's court taken in the name of emergency or engi- here on charges of breaking and with the promise of security and a better way of life," he said. "They are dangerous trends, and I believe

Mr. Neal addressed the banquet Kelly, Navassa Negro, Thursday, session at the Carolina Inn of the mid-winter meeting of the Carolinas Executives association which drew more than 100 advertising executives from North and South Caro-

lina for the two-day program. ATLANTA-(AP)-In Georgia the Mr. Neal was introduced by Rex accent seems to be on youth.

Ellis Arnall governor, who was Winston-Salem Journal-Sentinel. Dr. George B. Cutten offered invocathen 35, the youngest in the nation. The program opened with tion. An estimated 57,209 million music by a string trio from the Uni-

quarts of milk were produced in versity Music Department.

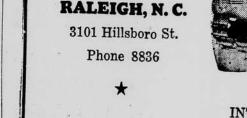


ADVERTISING MEN

of the Charleston, S. C., News and

Election of officers was a feature of the concluding business session 23, the reading had gone up to 55 feet. The water came on and on. Damage Set At \$500,000 Damage Set At \$500,000

Zeigler, C. E. Godfrey of Spartan-



Greenwood, S. C., who presided. Dr. ANPA.

Construction, Industrial and Logging Machinery BRANCH OFFICES CHARLOTTE, N. C. 2 Miles South Route 21

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ASHEVILLE, N. C.

Sweeten Creek Road Phone 789

INTERNATIONAL STATE DISTRIBUTORS FOR:

president of the association, opened ager of Ivey's, Asheville, and John the ANPA's bureau of advertising

partnership relations between ad-

NORTH CAROLINA EQUIPMENT COMPANY

the morning session and turned the Geisen, New York, director, retail and outlined future plans.

meeting over to Howard Cooper, division, Bureau of Advertisting,

International Crawler Tractors, Industrial Wheel Type Tractors and Diesel Engines.	F	Vance Sawmills, Edgers, etc. Rogers Trailers
Carco Logging Winches American Preformed Cable	W	Euclid Hauling Equipment Northwest Shovels
Bucyrus-Erie Scrapers—Bulldozers Disston Chain Saws	D	Galion Graders & Rollers
Cedar Rapids Asphalt Plants & Crushers Diesel Marine Engines	Trucks	Jaeger Mixers, Pumps, Hoists, and Paving Equipment. Elgin Pick-Up Sweepers

We also sell many other lines of popular equipment. A complete stock of parts and trained mechanics are included in our service program.

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Phone 9724, Wilmington, N. C.

Three years ago the state elected Freeman, advertising manager,

Roy Zeigler, Charleston, S.

New Bern, M. F. Murdaugh of Durham, I. W. Williams of Charlotte, Rex Freeman of Winston-

MAIN OFFICE

Directors elected today included