

The Great North Carolina Heat Wave Of 1968

By Elson Armstrong

The lyrics of the old southern song state that "it's summertime and the living is easy" but residents of North and South Carolina will tell you that the living in August, 1968 was anything but easy.

Many who sweltered through that hot and dry month will tell you that at times it felt as if the very gates of Hades had been opened and Carolinians were being directly punished by Satan for past sins.

Hot summers in this region of the United States are nothing new but this was even too hot for many of the areas life long residents to endure.

The weather system that brings the heat and humidity to the Southeastern U.S. is known by meteorologist as the Bermuda High. Coming up from the Caribbean usually beginning in mid-April, this very strong high usually stays until September making the region a virtual frying pan and the only relief from the stifling heat is usually afternoon thunder showers and storms which are of short duration. The Bermuda High effectively blocks all frontal systems from the north.

North Carolina had experienced extremely hot summers before such as those in 1941, 1954, and 1966.

Mother nature had forewarned Tarheels of what she had in store for them in June and July of 1968 when on several occasions the thermometer had surpassed the century mark but when compared to August this was merely the squalls preceding the hurricane.

On August 1, the center of the Bermuda High shifted from its normal position off the Carolina Coast to central Georgia and like an unwelcome guest refused to leave. Since a high pressure system is a region of dry air and with the normal wind flow from the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico now cut off the weather over the Carolinas then took on the appearance of the San Joaquin Valley of central California. The humidity dropped thus the usual fair weather cumulus clouds that normally dot the summer sky disappeared.

Temperatures began to soar to record levels immediately. 100 degree reading became common place in nearly all areas east of the Appalachian Mountains and even in the

highlands the thermometer soared into the nineties.

One region in particular was singled badly by the record heat. This was an area that stretched from Columbia, S.C. northeastward to Fayetteville, Raleigh, Durham, and Henderson, N.C.

On August 8, Columbia hit 100 degrees and Durham 102. On the 9th Durham roared under a boiling sun which sent the mercury to 109 setting an all time high for the city. As hot as these readings were the worst was yet to come.

By mid August the long hot days were taking their toll on vegetation in the Carolinas, there had not been a general rain since mid-July and crops were literally burning in the fields. In the cities residents were helpless to aid dying lawns because with the heat and drought, many areas were experiencing water shortages.

On August 17, 100 plus degree heat in the Fayetteville area caused the army to curtail training at near by Fort Bragg and many of these men were being trained for warfare in the tropical jungles of Vietnam.

In Durham a 106 degree day was highlighted by a

freak small tornado that swept through the eastern edge of town uprooting trees and unroofing some farm buildings.

On the 18th Columbia, S.C. hit 193 making it the hottest place in the nation that day.

By August 21, Chapel Hill, N.C. was virtually without water as University Lake reached its' lowest level ever and there was no relief for the weary populace as day after day the mercury went over the century mark.

On the 23rd people who fled the Carolina Piedmont for the cool moun-

tains received a rude shock when they found that even in Asheville the temperature was in the mid-nineties. It was no better at the beach where the sands seemed to be on fire as 100 degree readings were noted in Wilmington, N.C. and Charleston, S.C.

On August 24 the national weather service stated that there was a mass of cool Canadian air making its way toward the Carolinas and the populace nearly danced in the streets. By this time the heat had caused over 35 million dollars damage

to crops and had virtually sapped the energy of the people. One Durham resident said, "It's hot enough to kill you" as the city sweltered under its' 21st day of 100 degree heat-a record,- while in Columbia an old timer said "It's hot as Hell!" as 106 degree weather singed the city.

Even Henderson, N.C. which is normally relatively cool baked under 102 degree skies. In Raleigh 101 degree readings were common place.

On the 25th the cool air was spilling over the Appalachians but not before

Durham, Fayetteville, and Columbia shot past the 105-mark.

By the next day the heat wave had broken and temperatures only reached the low nineties in the Carolinas and everyone was talking about what a welcome change the "cool" weather had brought.

The drought would last until October when a good hurricane named Gladys would bring much needed rain fall to the parched region.

Join The NAACP Today

athletic achievements will be reviewed.

The Conference is honored to have Donn Bernstein, who is the Media Director for ABC Sports, as a special guest throughout most of the four-day event.

Matters of high priority for this year include: (1) a decision by the Conference that will either ask Morgan State University to withdraw from the MEAC, or allow them to remain, (2) confirmation of conference schedules for new members Florida A&M and Bethune-Cookman, since both will be competing for all MEAC championships beginning with the 1980 football season, and (3) two to four additional championships will be declared, and the added sports will be decided during the meetings.



MEAC To Hold Spring Meeting In Atlantic City

DURHAM—Commissioner Ken Free announced that the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference will hold its annual spring meeting in Atlantic City, New Jersey's World International Hotel on May 27-30.

Registration begins at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 27, in the MEAC's Executive Suite; and the basketball, football, track, and wrestling coaches, along with the Sports Information Directors, will commence in-

dividual meetings at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, while the Athletic Directors and faculty Representatives convene a half hour later.

Thursday, at 12 noon, the MEAC Delegates' Luncheon will be held in the hotel dining room, where MEAC 1979-80

CONSUMER ALMANAC

Rumor has it that microwave oven owners use their microwaves to accommodate only 10% of their cooking needs. Researchers at Kelvinator Appliance Company point out, however, that the microwave could be used even more if you convert your conventional recipes for use in the microwave. Here are a few helpful hints:

1. Check in a microwave cookbook for a similar recipe, then use your ingredients and the cookbook's time and temperature settings.
2. Compare cooking utensils - you can sometimes use the same baking dishes, but remember not to use metal. Instead use glass or ceramic dishes.
3. The amount of liquid ingredients called for in conventional recipes should be reduced because microwaves cook more rapidly with less evaporation.
4. Use waxed paper, not aluminum foil to cover food.

Dieter's Delight - blend your favorite fruit with ice cubes and milk for a refreshing diet shake.

Saving money seems to be a popular topic of conversation these days - butchers are even reporting that consumers are saving money by purchasing rabbit meat instead of poultry. They say it's high in protein and low in fat content. Try it, you may like it!

Hazel Plummer League Scores

The Hazel B. Plummer Bowling League score report for May 19:

Ladies High Game
214-213-Flo Roberson, 199-Bernice Snipe, 197-Janice Womble.
Ladies High Series
613-Flow Roberson, 534-Bernice Snipe, 490-Janice Womble.
Men's High Game
205-Joe Garner, 202-T-Bird Roberson.
Men's High Series
575-T-Bird Roberson, 552-Joe Garner, 531-Doss Massenburg.

Others
520-Charles Horton, 519-Charles Parker, 519-Bill Little, 510-Jimmy Harrington, 506-Mike Nieves, 505-George Thorne, 504-Joe Parker, 501-Linwood Taylor, 500-Ken Snipe and Howard Fitts.
Team Scores
High Game: 818-Rovers; High Series: 2315-Rovers; 4-Game Winners: Odds & Ends and Rovers.

Help Wanted

SUMMER PARK MAINTENANCE AIDE - Town of Chapel Hill. Groundwork, bldg maintenance. Some nights & wknds. Must have or obtain NC Driver's License. \$3.10/hr. Apply by May 27. Parks & Recreation Dept., 200 Plant Rd., CH. EO/AE.

FEED ONE ADULT for \$7.06 weekly. Includes 1 lb. meat daily, choice of 8 fresh vegetables, and grains. FREE DETAILS write: N. L. Roberts, P. O. Box 370(1), Hillsborough, NC 27278.

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79 VW BUS Automatic transmission, orange w/beige top, vinyl interior. Take advantage of this exceptional low mileage Volkswagen original. Priced to sell.

74 DODGE DART 4 DR. Per Month \$72.30 or \$2588. This Dodge Dart has the slant six cylinder engine, which is Chrysler Corporation's greatest achievement ever. The appearance of this automobile speaks for itself. \$588 down cash or trade, 36 months, 18 APR, \$3190.80 DPP.

77 Chev. Monte Carlo Per Month \$105.47 or \$3588. Come to Star Automobile today to inspect this beautiful piece of merchandise. This previously owned Monte Carlo will make you the envy of all your friends. Options include AM-FM, tilt wheel, cruise control, air conditioning and others. \$588 down cash or trade, 36 months, 18 APR, \$4384.92 DPP.

74 Ford Maverick The Graduate Special! Per Month \$86.76 or \$2988. A perfect gift for the young graduate. Dependable transportation for anyone's use. Options include AT, PS, tinted glass, economical 6-cyl. engine & AC. Serious inquiries invited. \$588 down cash or trade, 18 APR, 36 months, \$3711.36 DPP.

77 Buick LeSabre Custom Per Month \$106.24 or \$3988. The flagship of the Buick fleet. Styling, comfort, & affordability are features you will find in this like-new LeSabre. Ice-cold factory AC, tilt wheel, cruise control, power windows, power disc brakes & AT will make this car popular with the entire family. \$588 down cash or trade, 16 APR, 42 months, \$5050.08 DPP.

77 AMC Gremlin Per Month \$87.41 or \$2988. Local new car trade-in. 47,000 miles. Economical V-6 engine. \$588 down cash or trade, 36 months, 18 APR, \$3734.78 DPP.

78 Olds Cut. Supreme Per Month \$150.29 or \$6188. Only your personal inspection can reveal the excellent condition of this Cutlass. PS, PB, Automatic tran., bucket seats, air conditioning & AM/FM radio are a few of the options on this automobile. \$688 down cash or trade, 14 APR, 48 months, \$7901.92 DPP.

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77 Dodge Colt - 4 Dr., 4 spd., AC.

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NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY
Notice To Creditors and Debtors OF GARTHER W. EDWARDS
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against GARTHER W. EDWARDS, deceased, are notified to exhibit them to Lucius S. Knox as Executor of the Decedent's estate on or before the 30th day of November, 1980, at Suite 304, Snow Building, 331 W. Main Street, Durham, North Carolina, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the Decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above named Executor.

This 16th day of May, 1980
Lucius S. Knox
Executor of the Estate of
Garther W. Edwards
c/o Henry D. Gamble
331 W. Main Street
Suite 304, Snow Building
Durham, North Carolina 27702

Henry D. Gamble
Attorney for the Estate of
Garther W. Edwards
P. O. Box 154
Durham, North Carolina 27702
PUBLICATION DATES:
The Carolina Times,
May 24, 31, June 7 and 14, 1980

NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY
EXECUTOR'S NOTICE
Having qualified as Executor of the estate of CONSUELO MAUD FOREMAN, deceased, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of Consuelo Maud Foreman to present them to the undersigned within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate, please make immediate payment.

This 17th day of March, 1980.
Ronald C. Foreman, Sr.
Executor
2008 Otis Street
Durham, North Carolina 27707

NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY
EXECUTRIX'S NOTICE
Having qualified as Executrix of the estate of WILLIAM T. HALEY, deceased, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of William T. Haley to present them to the undersigned within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate, please make immediate payment.

This 19th day of March, 1980.
(Mrs.) Cora Haley Robinson
Executrix
513 Pearson Street
Durham, North Carolina 27707

F. H. Brown
Attorney at Law
P. O. Box 2005
Durham, N. C. 27702
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