

General Report Of Flood Damage In Four States

Asheville.—Rampaging rivers wrought death and destruction Wednesday in four southern states.

Abnormally heavy rainfall in the wake of a hurricane that battered the South Carolina-Georgia coast Sunday sent the swift streams swirling out of their banks washing out highways and bridges, destroying lowland crops and causing millions of dollars damage to industrial plants along their banks, and driving hundreds of persons from their homes.

At least 16 deaths were attributed to the floods.

North Carolina counted two drownings and two deaths in landslides. Three drownings were reported near Galax, Va., three near Elizabethton, Tenn., and three near Augusta, Ga. A negro woman near Augusta died of a heart attack when she learned that the flood waters were approaching her home.

A 10-foot washout of Asheville's principal water main forced this tourists' mecca of 51,000 to use sparingly from a single reservoir. Officials expressed confidence that the line could be repaired by tomorrow and that the reservoir would provide sufficient water until then.

Witnesses said the raging torrents in some places picked up buildings and tossed them about like matchboxes in a gutter. Hundreds of bridges were swept away.

Galax, in the southwest corner of Virginia, was isolated last night, and about 700 were reported to have fled their homes. Water rose to the second story of many houses.

The Watauga river engulfed a residential district of Elizabethton where 200 to 300 persons lived, forcing them to clamber to near-by hills, rooftops, and tall trees for refuge.

Survey Reveals Homes Destroyed Here Number 29

29 Whites and 16 Col. Families In This County Lose Homes

A preliminary check of homes destroyed by the flood in North Wilkesboro, made by Police Chief J. E. Walker, listed 29, of which 13 were occupied by whites and 16 colored.

The destroyed homes among the white population were J. D. Shafer, John Church, Maude Parker, Will Brown, Albin Parsons, John Laws, Lonnie Church, Emma Rhoades, Russel Prevette, Floyd Shepherd, Mon. Shumate, John Porter, George Byrd.

The colored were Bernice Hall, Ruby Dowell, Helen Tidline, Lou Tidline, Rufus Phifer, Babe Thomas, Ralph Barnes, Gay Davis, Carl Harris, Ruby Wood, Rhoda Reeves, Reginald Cundiff, Luck Williams, Lola Triplett and Tom Carlton.

Few Highways And Roads Passable Following Flood

Bridges Out, Fills Washed and Landslides Isolate Many Communities

Only four highways out of the Wilkesbors were open to travel today and highway officials began a hasty inspection of havoc wrought by the disastrous floods Tuesday night and Wednesday.

Highway 421 east toward Winston-Salem, Highway 18 west toward Lenoir and North to Sparta and highway 16 south to Taylorsville were open.

Highway 421 west to Boone, 16 to West Jefferson, 268 east to Elkin and west toward Lenoir, and highway 115 south toward Statesville were all closed today because of bridges being out, fills washed away and landslides.

Very few county roads were open because bridges and fills had been washed away.

The only Yadkin bridge standing in Wilkes today was the concrete bridge between the Wilkesboro and the Yadkin. The other Yadkin bridges, including the lower bridge at this point, were completely destroyed.

All bridges were reported out on Elk Creek and Stony Fork. Slides and washouts closed highway 421 in the western part of the county and extensive damage was done to the highway by Lewis Fork Creek at several places. (Continued on page eight)

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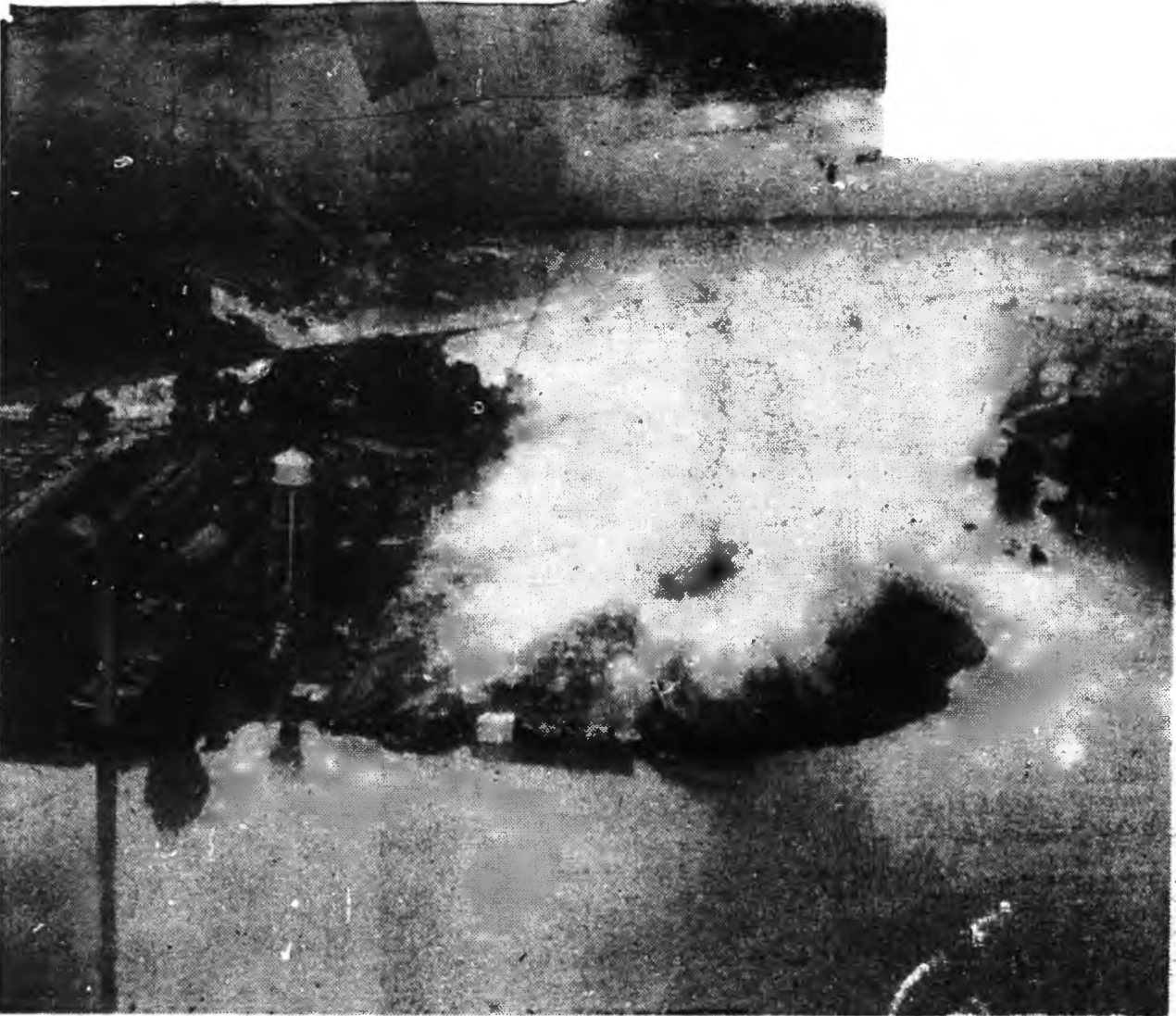
VOL. XXIII, No. 43 Published Mondays and Thursdays. NORTH WILKESBORO, N. C. THURSDAY, AUG. 15, 1940 \$1.50 IN THE STATE—\$2.00 OUT OF THE STATE

For mutual advantage do your buying in North Wilkesboro, the trading center of Northwestern North Carolina.

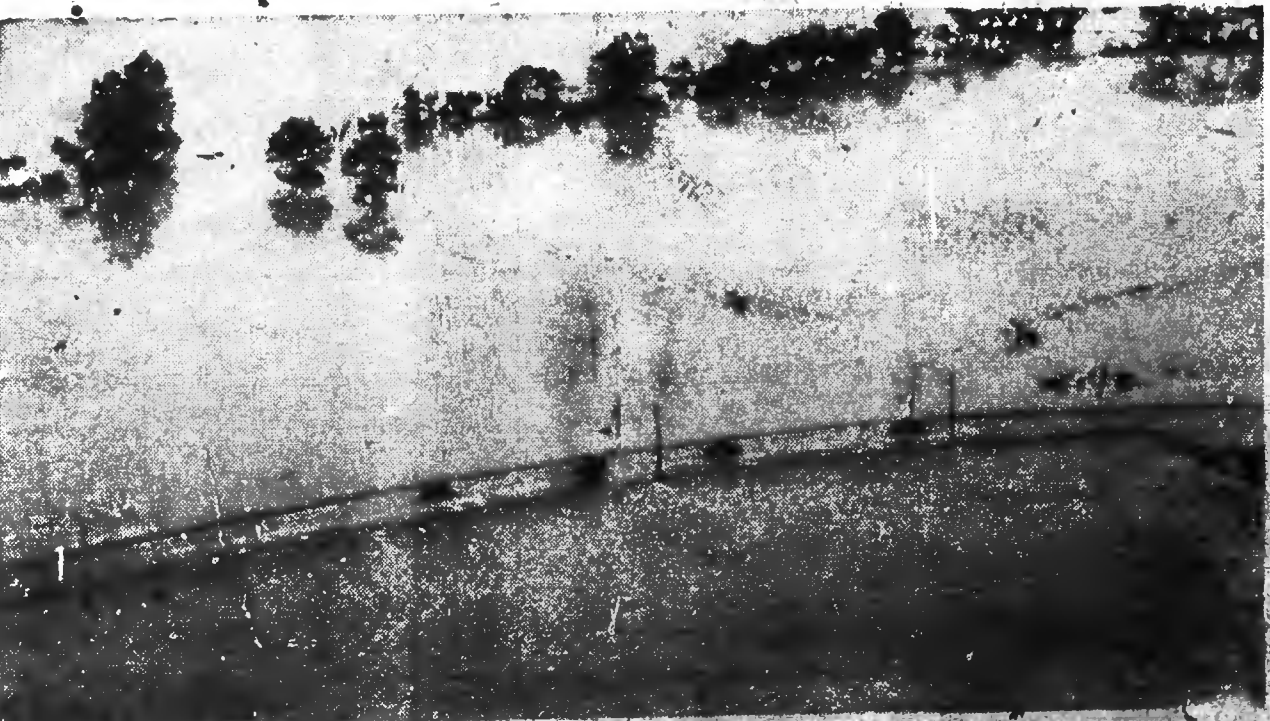
Yadkin Flood Takes Lives, Property



The scene shows the smoldering ruins of Home Chair company's factory surrounded by the waters of the flooded Yadkin Tuesday morning as the stream reached a crest about four feet higher than the flood of 1916. (Stat)



Taken from a plane by a Winston-Salem Journal photographer, this scene shows the disastrous fire which destroyed International Shoe Company's big tannery plant in the midst of the Yadkin flood here Wednesday.



This aerial view taken Wednesday afternoon when the Yadkin had receded low enough for traffic to cross the bridge between the Wilkesbors was typical of flood scenes along the Yadkin Wednesday afternoon. (Winston-Salem Journal photo.)

Three Known Dead In Wilkes; Property Loss \$5,000,000; Number Homeless and Jobless

Loss of an undetermined number of lives and property damage conservatively estimated at approximately \$5,000,000 resulted Tuesday night and Wednesday from the most disastrous flood on the Yadkin in the history of Wilkes county.

The raging torrent of the muddy Yadkin rose to unprecedented heights three to five feet higher than the high mark of the disastrous flood of July 15, 1916.

Fire, adding to the destruction of the flood waters, wiped out Home Chair company and the International Shoe company tannery, two of the largest industrial plants here.

Not To August 26 se of Flood

**Fills Out On
All School Bus
In County**

Wilkes county schools, said today of the schools August 26th as impossible due to roads and bridge opening will be delayed.

With bridges or fills out on roads, a complete checkup today was impossible.

Supt. Eller, who said more detailed announcements would be made later, stated that some of the smaller schools and possibly some of the larger ones may be able to open on September 2, one week later than was originally planned.

Physicians Warn Of The Danger Of Typhoid Epidemic

**Be Vaccinated Immediately
And Boil All Drinking
Water Is Warning**

Wilkes county health department and the Wilkes Medical Society today issued a stern warning to the population of this flood stricken area relative to the danger of typhoid fever.

The grave danger now is due to pollution of water supply by flood water and the health officials emphatically ask that ALL WATER BE BOILED BEFORE DRINKING.

Everyone who has not been vaccinated against typhoid during the past two years should be immunized immediately. Vaccination may be obtained from the health office or any physician.

A nurse from the county health department will be stationed at the city hall here for the purpose of administering vaccinations.

Coroner Myers Makes Statement About Drownings

**Says Bodies Found May Be
Brought In To North
Wilkesboro At Once**

Coroner I. M. Myers today stated that any drowned bodies found along the streams in Wilkes may be brought immediately into North Wilkesboro and without the usual delay and visit by the coroner.

In order to expedite matters, he said that any investigation of deaths necessary would be made when bodies are brought into this city and that he would make no charge to the county for the investigations or signing of death certificates. Any assistance which the coroner's office can give will be gladly rendered, he said.

Late today the known dead as the result of the flood in the county and nearby had increased to five. Miss Opaline Smith, of Angier, N. C., was drowned near Cub Creek bridge east of Wilkesboro when the car in which she and her escort, Wade Gilbert, also of Angier, were riding stalled in the flood waters. Gilbert was rescued and Miss Smith's body was taken from the water several hours later.

The body of Zeb Green, of Stony Fork, was found about one mile from the flood devastated village of Ferguson late Wednesday. Andy Green, also of Stony Fork, was reported drowned and his children missing. His wife was found on the creek bank in a desperate condition.

Two Green children were killed in a slide at Deep Gap. Meanwhile unconfirmed reports came in today from the Stony Fork section to the effect that at least ten people along the creek were missing yesterday. Due to bridges being washed out, that section of the county was completely isolated today.

North Wilkesboro was hit hardest by flood and fire of any town in the four states visited by the floods Tuesday night and Wednesday, according to widespread reports.

In addition to the total destruction of the plants of Home Chair company and the Tannery, many other industries were hard hit and 29 homes in North Wilkesboro were destroyed.

Extensive damage running into many thousands of dollars was done to American Furniture company, which was partially submerged at the height of the flood. The loss there included five carloads of furniture ready to go out, vast amounts of materials in the process of manufacture and extensive damage to the plant's equipment and machinery. Similar loss occurred at the Oak Furniture company's plant and vast amounts of lumber on the yards at both places floated down the Yadkin.

Wilkesboro Manufacturing company, Cardwell Lumber company and P. E. Brown all lost great amounts of lumber from the yards while plants were partially submerged and badly damaged.

Wilkes Milling company plant was partially inundated and much rain, flour and feeds were destroyed. Flood waters which reached the lower departments of the plants of Meadows Mill Company and the Carolina Mirror corporation did extensive damage.

Forester's Nu-Way Service station was completely devastated, along with huge stock of gasoline and oil. Only a few animals of the zoo were saved.

The plants and storage tanks of Standard Oil company and Sinclair Refining company were wiped out. The Gulf and Texas company plants were badly damaged.

Forest Furniture company reported only minor damage at the plant but cars of finished furniture ready to leave the yards were destroyed.

Extensive damage was done to the North Wilkesboro Ice and Fuel company plant.

The Northwestern Fair grounds were swept clean of buildings, including the grandstand. The National Guard armory on the grounds, a large building, was also destroyed.