

# BRUNSWICK HIT BY HURRICANE

In The Wake Of The Storm



DEBRIS—This is Bay Street in Southport after the storm here Friday. In the left foreground is the G.I. Surplus Store, from which the roof and the back side were ripped during the hurricane. The tree on the right is "Whittler's Park."—(Photo by Art Newton.)

## Nine Persons Killed, Millions In Property Damage In Worst Disaster In County History

### Heavy Equipment Left Undamaged At Sunny Point

One Loaded Barge Goes Aground And Some Lumber Lost In High Wind, But Damage Small At The Government Terminal Project

### HEAVY CRANES ON CLEAN-UP JOB HERE

Contractors Have Been Extremely Cooperative In Making Use Of Heavy Equipment Available

By W. B. KEZIAH

While it went through the same buffeting as the rest of the county, Sunny Point came through unscathed. The Diamond Construction Company builders of the three docks, lost a few hundred feet of lumber that was used for concrete forms and the same company had one of its barges loaded with concrete piles to go ashore. It was floated without difficulty. That sums up the damage. The seven pile driving rigs and the quarter of a million dollar cement plant came through in good shape. The sunny side of things began to show Saturday morning. From the Diamond's equipment a powerful motor rig rolled into Southport, ready to pull fallen trees off houses and to move anything that needed to be moved. It was followed in a couple of hours by a huge truck from the T. F. Scholles, Inc., railroad contractor, which was carrying a powerful crawler crane owned by the Hertford-Cecil company and with Joe Cecil, one of the owners, personally in charge. Those two machines worked through Saturday and Sunday, cleaning up what they could. The Hertford-Cecil Company machine, a vital piece of equipment in the Sunny Point operations, had to return to its job Monday, but the plans are to send it in again today, this time to launch 13 shrimp boats for Lockwoods Folly fishermen.

### Disaster Relief Being Provided By Red Cross

Rehabilitation Assistance Being Extended Through Disaster Relief Headquarters; Two Offices In This County

Victims of the hurricane "Hazel" who are discovering they cannot meet their disaster caused needs through their own resources are turning to the Red Cross for rehabilitation assistance throughout the 24 counties in North Carolina and South Carolina swept by the hurricane.

At Wilmington, where the Red Cross has set up an area disaster headquarters from which the field operations throughout the disaster area will be directed to assist the local Red Cross chapters to provide rehabilitation assistance, John Russell, director of disaster services in the Southeastern Area, outlined the basic Red Cross disaster relief policies governing the extension of such assistance. He said:

1. Red Cross relief is based on need, not loss.
2. The Red Cross deals only with problems created or aggravated by disaster and relief is given to disaster sufferers only.
3. Mass relief is extended during the emergency period immediately following the disaster, but is terminated at the earliest possible date; the further assistance determined by case work processes is given in the rehabilitation period upon the basis of (Continued on page 6)

### Seek Supervision Of Construction On Waterfront

Local Citizens Ask Department Of Conservation And Development For Advice On Re-Building Southport Waterfront

The following letter, signed by L. G. Brown, M. D., N. M. Hornstein, M. D., J. J. Loughlin, Jr., and E. H. Arrington, has been addressed to the Department of Conservation and Development:

"We have been very interested in the many references in the press during the past year as to the unsightly and disreputable appearance of the waterfronts in almost all of the North Carolina waterfront towns.

"The Southport waterfront has been completely destroyed by the recent hurricane "Hazel". Now is the opportune time for replacement of the former unsightly appearance by proper planning, a building code, and zoning. As private citizens, we are requesting that the Department of Conservation and Development take the initiative and prod the local officials and citizens into action. Properly carrying out a well planned program would of necessity require outside financial aid. According to recent news reports, Federal funds have been made available."

### SHORT SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners were in session for a short while Monday. The meeting was mostly of a conference nature and the body adjourned to reconvene today.

### At Shallotte



DAMAGE—The front of the Shallotte Motor Sales building at Shallotte was badly damaged by the storm, which caused considerable other destruction to buildings in that town.—(Graham Fore Photo.)

Full Force Of Tropical Storm Strikes Brunswick County Coastal Area Leaving Death And Destruction

### BEACHES VIRTUALLY WIPED OUT BY STORM

No Deaths Nor Serious Injury In Southport But Waterfront Property Is Heavily Damaged By Hurricane

At least 12 persons lost their lives and three others are missing following a hurricane which hit the Brunswick county coast early Friday morning. In addition to the death toll, property damage for the county will run between six and eight million dollars.

The full force of the storm appears to have hit the area from the mouth of the Cape Fear westward to the South Carolina line, and the beach communities of Brunswick county were leveled, leaving hundreds of permanent residents homeless. There were many stories of harrowing experiences and of narrow escape that prevented the death toll from mounting higher.

The worst tragedy occurred at Ocean Isle Beach near Shallotte where 11 persons were stranded after all means of escape to the mainland were out. Included in this group were Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Register and their son, Buddy, all of whom were lost. Also in the group were Mr. and Mrs. Bunky Bellamy, who with one High Point couple, managed to ride floating debris across the inland waterway to safety. Four other persons, Mr. and Mrs. W. Frank Armfield, Jr. and Mrs. J. Elwood Cox, were drowned, bringing the toll from this one group to 7. Mr. and Mrs. Cox are former residents of Southport, where they made their home just before World War II while Mr. Cox was engaged in the lumber business.

The body of E. B. Todd of Lumberton was recovered at Long Beach. He had come down to Southport Thursday night with Shelton Bullard, who is still missing and is presumed lost. The body of William H. West, Asheboro and David Glass also were recovered.

Still missing in addition to Bullard are the bodies of Mrs. Register and Mrs. Lewis of Greensboro.

Southport waterfront was wrecked by the wind, which hit with hurricane force from a northeasterly direction. Later sweeping about to the southwest. Not a dock was left standing, and one after the other the shrimp packing houses were tossed into (Continued On Page Two)

## Honeymoon Couple Survives "Hazel"

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Helms Survive Seven Hours Of Drifting On Sea During Hurricane

By CAROL LEWIS

Hazel, in her path of destruction, was no respecter of persons, including honeymooners.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Helms, who were married in Whiteville Saturday, October 9, arrived at Long Beach after a short honeymoon trip. Being tired, they did not turn on the radio, and, as a result, did not hear the warnings of Hurricane Hazel. However, it was pouring rain, and they decided they would come back to Whiteville Friday morning. (Mrs. Helms is the former Miss Connie Hussey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Duncan of Whiteville.)

When they awoke Friday morning about daylight, they saw the fury of the storm, but did not know the seriousness, and began to pack their car. They left the cottage, but after traveling for a few minutes, they realized it was impossible to get off the beach. By the time they returned to the cottage, water was waist-deep, and they swam to a near-by two-story building for refuge. However, after they had been in a second floor bedroom about 30 minutes, they realized the house would be floating before very long. In the room they miraculously found an air foam mattress, which they pushed through the window. The couple said that as they stood beside the window looking out over the scene, the world looked unreal, with houses flying by like rockets. As they drifted out in the sea on the mattress, breakers would wash over them, and of course, they believed each moment was the last. After drifting for several hours on the mattress and a board they saw the tops of some trees, which had not been covered by water. They held to one of these trees until the water went down enough for them to pull themselves from one short tree to another until they reached higher ground.

Jerry and Connie firmly believe that it was a miracle that they were not drowned. They said as they held on the tree, with water washing over them, they could see houses bearing down on them at 50 or 60 miles an hour (Continued On Page Two)

### Resume School Schedule Today

Brunswick county schools, which have been closed since Friday morning because of the hurricane, were reopened today. Although some damage has been reported to the various buildings, it is not expected that repairs will interfere with the operation of school.

Neither Southport nor Shallotte played football Friday. Southport was due to play host to Hope Mills, and Shallotte was scheduled to play at Beaufort.

This week Southport will play the Wilmington JVs there, and Shallotte will play at Tabor City.

### Highway Work For Brunswick

Work In County Last Month Included Resurfacing Of Highway From Bishop Store To Maco

The State Highway Commission completed 56.02 miles of highway improvements in the Third Highway Division during September, Commissioner C. Heide Trask reported last week.

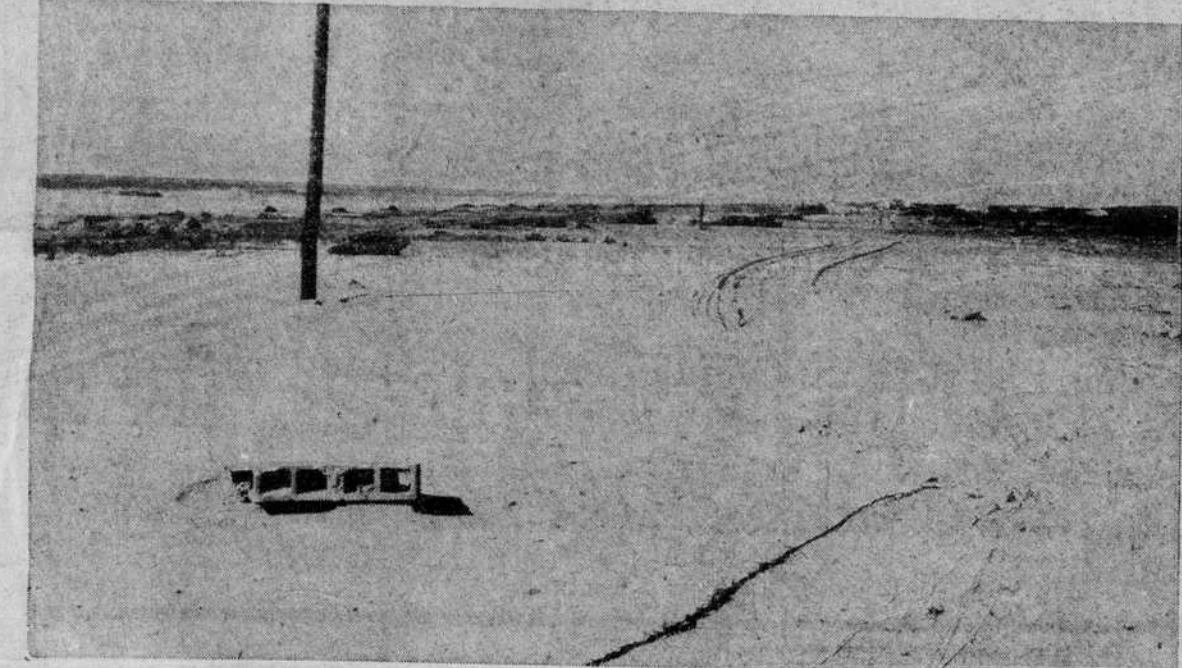
Brunswick, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, Pender and Sampson compose the Third Division headquarters are in Wilmington. C. E. Brown is division engineer; R. V. Biberstein is assistant division engineer.

In Brunswick County, Contractor forces resurfaced with bituminous concrete two 22-foot wide roads, and their lengths: from Maco to Bishop Store, 9.16 miles; and US 74 and 76 from junction of US 17 in sections to Columbus County line, 11.5 miles. US 17, 74 and 76 Causeway, which are 24 feet wide in this section, were also resurfaced for 1.86 miles with bituminous concrete.

### Tide Table

Following is the tide table for Southport during the next week. These hours are approximately correct and were furnished The State Port Pilot through the courtesy of the Cape Fear Pilot's Association.

High Tide	Low Tide
Thursday, October 21	
3:46 A. M.	9:52 A. M.
4:05 P. M.	10:23 P. M.
Friday, October 22	
4:40 A. M.	10:46 A. M.
4:55 P. M.	11:10 P. M.
Saturday, October 23	
5:28 A. M.	11:34 A. M.
5:40 P. M.	11:52 P. M.
Sunday, October 24	
6:12 A. M.	0:00 A. M.
6:22 P. M.	12:19 P. M.
Monday, October 25	
6:53 A. M.	0:31 A. M.
7:00 P. M.	1:01 P. M.
Tuesday, October 26	
7:30 A. M.	1:09 A. M.
7:36 P. M.	1:41 P. M.
Wednesday, October 27	
8:07 A. M.	1:46 A. M.
8:12 P. M.	2:21 P. M.



DESOLATE.—This is Long Beach, and the cinder block in the foreground is all the visible evidence of several cottages that stood along the strand. Beyond the electric light pole and between there and the ocean there was a row of houses.—(Photo by Art Newton.)



SURVEY—Waters Thompson, left, and his father, R. L. Thompson, survey the wreckage of their Esso Marine Dock, which is piled up on Moore Street beside the H. T. St George home following the storm.—(Photo by Art Newton.)

### Brief Bits Of NEWS

#### POSTPONE MEETING

The regular meeting of Southport Lions Club has been postponed and will not be held tomorrow.

#### EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. William L. Hicks will be in charge of the evening worship service Sunday at St. Philips Episcopal church.

#### Superintendent On New Orleans Trip

R. M. Buchanan, Southern Superintendent for T. F. Scholles, Inc., was among the 26 prominent Presbyterians who flew to New Orleans Friday to attend the national meeting of Presbyterian men.

Twenty of the men making the trip were from St. Andrews Church in Wilmington, the other six were from various other churches in the area. They chartered a plane for the round trip and returned home Sunday evening.



W. B. KEZIAH

## Our ROVING Reporter

The past week has been one of the few times in many years when we haven't been reading the daily newspapers. We personally subscribe to three of them, but this week we did not need them. Did not have time to read them, did not want to know any more of the disaster to Brunswick county than what we were forced to see. It was terrible, but we lost sight of much of the horror because of our faith in the future of Brunswick county and in our effort to do what we could to help get things to rolling again.

Most of our people arose to the situation and immediately set about the work of rebuilding and

And there was Dallas Pigott, his home suffering heavy water (Continued On Page Five)