

NR Story Lives Again As Officer Says—

Hurricanes, No Bluffers

Editor's Note—A story from Monroe and its recent racial strife, written by Alan D. Resch of UPI has a distinct Columbus and Brunswick County background. It concerns Jerry Helms, who was working with another Monroe officer when the latter received a gunshot wound in his leg.

But, mostly the story is about the honeymoon experience of Jerry and his wife, Connie, during the invasion of the Brunswick County coast by Hurricane Hazel on Oct. 15, 1954.

The News Reporter and the State Port Pilot were the only newspapers carrying the story of the Helms honeymooners floating from their

Long Beach cottage to safety on a mattress, immediately after the Hazel "blow." The story was very adeptly written by Carol Lewis, at that time woman's editor of The News Reporter and now Mrs. Carol Creekmore, correspondent for the NR from the Acme area.

Connie Hussey Helms is the daughter of Mrs. Joe Duncan of South Whiteville and a graduate of Whiteville High School. She is also a former queen of the Live Oak Festival, once held in Southport annually.

Connie's husband, Jerry, is a native of Monroe and began work with the police department there in 1955. After about 2½ years there he received an appointment to a postal position in his hometown, but, yearning for the life of a policeman, returned to the department about a year ago.

Jerry and Connie have two children, Stephanie Diane, 7, (who, incidentally, is named cause she was born at Columbus County Hospital in Whiteville on the same date that the storm by that name hit the area, August 16, 1955), and a son, Jerry Clayton, Jr., who is 2 years old.

Here is Alan Resch's re-

cent story about the Helms' honeymoon experiences:

By ALAN D. RESCH
United Press International
MONROE — Policeman Jerry Helms admits he was scared when confronted with four pistol-packing Negroes in the recent Monroe race riot.

But hurricanes really scare him more and for good reason.

Helms and his wife, Connie, were honeymooning on Long Beach, unaware that mighty Hurricane Hazel was about to hit the Tar Heel coast.

They were trapped on the island by the hurricane whipped water and floated to safety on a mattress.

The 28-year-old policeman remembers well every detail of the ordeal he and his wife experienced on Oct. 15, 1954.

"Boy, when you're scared, you can do almost anything," he recalls looking back on the events which occurred when he and his wife found themselves trapped on Long Beach Island because of high water.

The couple had gone to the beach for a quiet honeymoon and went roller skating the night before the hurricane hit.

"When we started home, it started raining," he recalls. "I have never seen so much water fall."

But the couple made it to the cottage where they were staying.

About 4 a. m. on that remembered day when Hurricane Hazel hit, Helms was awakened by a loud noise. "I ran to the front of the house and saw the porch furniture being blown around," he says. "The ocean was already coming over the dunes."

"I ran to the bedroom and told my wife to get ready to leave for the mainland as quickly as possible. We didn't even take time to pack."

"But we didn't even get out of the driveway before the water had us blocked. I remembered that we had a jeep nearby and thought we could make it out across country. The jeep wouldn't start."

Realizing that they were going to be forced to sit through the hurricane, the couple went to a nearby vacant house on high ground. But soon the water was rising.

Helms and his wife huddled in the hallway of the house and the young bridegroom instructed his wife to go through a window if the house started to collapse. By this time the water was at the upstairs level on the house.

Since his wife was a non-swimmer, he gave her a blanket and told her to "hold to it. I knew that I would be able to keep her above water some way."

The foundation on one side of the house gave way and Helms grabbed a chest-of-drawers, pushed it through the window and planned to use it as a make-shift boat. But the high wind jerked the furniture away from him and it floated out of reach.

"I don't know why but I grabbed a mattress and threw it out the window," he said. This time Connie had time to get on it and I jumped into the water and began pulling it.

"I don't know how long I was in the water . . . it was hours I'm sure. The wind was blowing us inland. So, we had nothing to do but ride that mattress in."

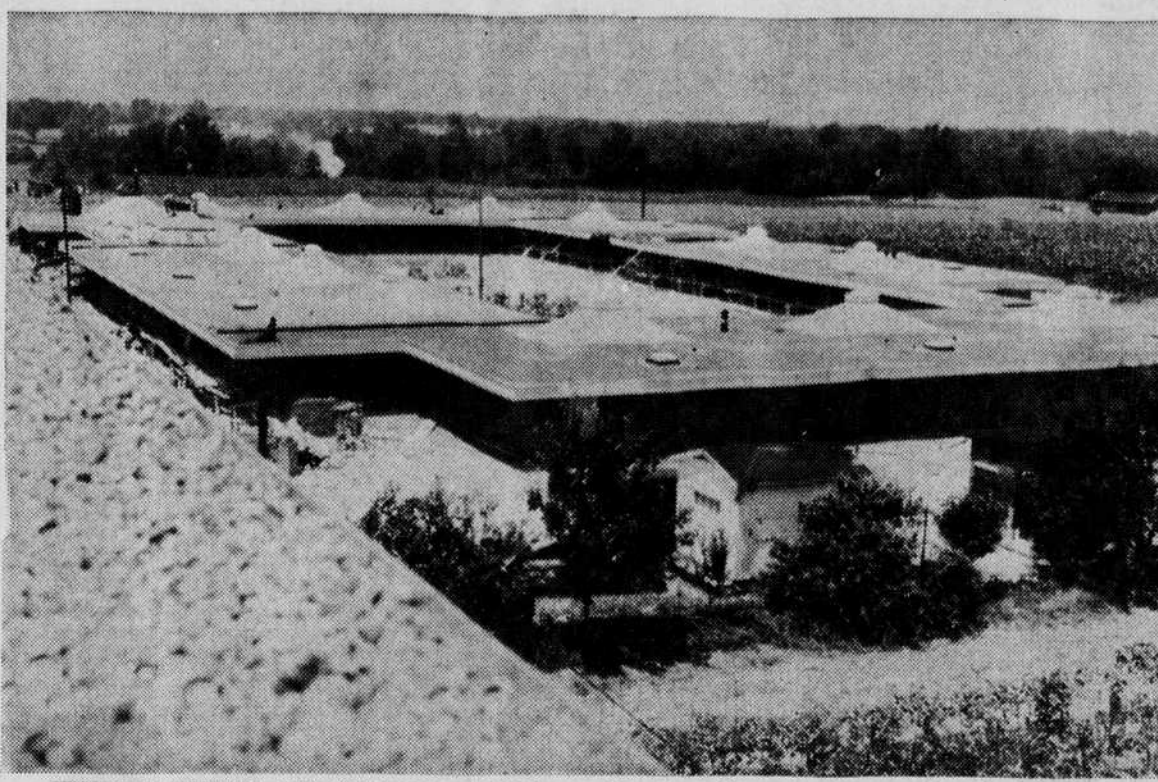
When the water started going down, the mattress snapped in a tree. And Helms soon was able to get his wife off the mattress and wade through the water to safety.

Long Beach was virtually leveled by the Hurricane Hazel, one of the worst tropical storms ever to sweep across the Tar Heel coast.

"It even scares me to think about what could have happened," he says.

"I was able to bluff those men into running away," Helms adds. "But a hurricane is no bluff."

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JUNIORS ENTER—174 third-year students on Monday afternoon became the first junior class to enter Campbell college, as the school opened a three-day registration period expected to enroll 1300. The incoming coeds staged a housewarming for Bryan Memorial Building, apartment-type dormitory for 96 women, finished just before school opening.

born in the New Hope-Antioch area. He had resided in Whiteville most of his life.

He was a well-known wholesale groceryman, having founded the G. V. Singletary and Sons firm. He turned over much of the operation of this business to his sons sometime ago, due to failing health. He had been in the grocery business for 68 years. He was a member of New Hope Baptist Church.

Final rites will be held Tuesday at 4 p. m. at McKenzie's chapel by Dr. R. C. Foster and the Rev. Morris Gilliam, with burial in Columbus Memorial Park.

Active pallbearers will be Clyde Blackmon, Malcolm Hasty, Wilton Thompson, A. J. Worley, and Gilbert and Dennis Anderson.

Mr. Singletary is survived by his wife, Mrs. Meakie Hammonds Singletary; two sons, John E. and J. Howard Singletary, all of Whiteville; two sisters, Mrs. P. Hewett of Houston, Texas and Mrs. Troy Thompson of Whiteville and eight grandchildren.

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R Monthly News

SEPTEMBER, 1961

Mail-Order Quacks Harvest Death
A recent article in the American Medical Association's "TODAY'S HEALTH" told how people gamble, not just their money, but their very lives when they order medicines and medical devices by mail.

Avoid Mail-Order Quackery
Postal inspectors say, "Any therapy, device, remedy, or 'cure' sold by mail should be treated with suspicion, especially if it makes sweeping claims."

United States Postmaster General Said
"In an era when wonder drugs and great advances in surgery have produced medical miracles, it is puzzling why so many people pay money for frauds. Do not take or use any medicine or health device sold by mail without first consulting your physician."

Ask For Our Professional Opinion
As your pharmacist, it is our moral, willing and legal duty to give you an informed answer to any ethical question. We can tell you when it would be wiser to depend on a physician, rather than on advertising claims.

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Return Man To Face Trial Here

The long arm of the Brunswick Sheriff's Department reached up into the Piedmont and apprehended a Waccamaw Township man, sought since early this year on a bond-jumping act.

Eddie Anderson, 30-year-old white man, was picked up at Thomasville by Davidson County authorities who had been alerted by Sheriff E. V. Leonard.

Anderson was arrested on January 20 of this year by Brunswick deputies at the site of a moonshine still located on Wonder Island in the Waccamaw section. Brought to jail, the defendant posted a bond of \$500 to insure his appearance in court on the charges of manufacture and possession of non-tax paid whiskey, and immediately did a disappearing act.

The Brunswick Sheriff Department's dragnet several times almost had the fugitive within its grasp, only to see him slip away. Perseverance finally paid off, and Leonard said that this time the elusive Anderson will be held under the doubled bond of \$1,000.

Social Security Changes Listed

Widows 62 and over, who are collecting social security benefits based on their own work, did not get increases in their payments with the checks delivered to them this week, but some of them may find that they can get a small increase in their monthly payments by applying to their social security office.

The 10 per cent increase in widow's benefits, signed into law by President Kennedy on June 30, is payable only to those widows 62 and over who are receiving benefits based on their husbands' work under social security.

Under the social security law, a widow 62 or over who has worked under social security long enough to become insured is usually paid retirement benefits based on her own record of earnings. She is paid the widow's benefits only if those widow's benefits would be higher than her own retirement benefits.

Because of the 10 per cent increase in widow's benefits, a few women now find that the widow's benefits based on their husbands' work are somewhat higher than their present benefits.

Any widow who believes that she might qualify for higher benefits because of this change in the law can find out for sure by asking at her social security office.

Luther Wilson

CONWAY, S. C.—Luther Wilson, 86-year-old merchant and farmer of the Little River area, died Wednesday in a Myrtle Beach hospital. He was a member of the Woodmen of the World.

Final rites will be held Friday at 10:30 a. m. at Little River Methodist Church by the Rev. Charles Kirkley, with burial in Little River Cemetery.

Survivors include four daughters, Mrs. S. T. Russ, Myrtle Beach, Mrs. Bailey Russ of Shalotte, N. C.; Mrs. Vance Kinlaw, Little River and Mrs. J. W. Harrelson, Conway; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

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Big Alligator Meets His Match

The old and the new came into violent conflict this weekend at the intersection of N. C. Highway 211 and U. S. Highway 17, in Supply, with rather disastrous results to the representative of the ancient.

It seems an alligator, measuring between 6 and 7 feet in length, climbed ponderously from the Lockwoods Folly swamp about midnight on Sunday, and began chasing a dog. The dog beat the alligator rapidly for the haunts of men, in this base being the much-traveled intersection named above.

At that moment there lumbered into view a huge truck loaded with ammunition consigned to Sunny Point. The dog beat the truck, the truck beat the 'gator, results—a thrashing reptile, a stopped truck, a small knot of men, a relieved dog.

Some unidentified man driving a truck having nothing whatsoever to do with Sunny Point, is reported to have fought the alligator with a shovel, tied it up and deposited the angry, hurt and bewildered reptile into his truck and roared away for unknown designation.

Groceryman Dies Here On Sunday

George Vanton Singletary, 81, prominent Whiteville businessman, died Sunday afternoon at Columbus County Hospital after a brief illness. He recently returned from Duke Hospital, having been in failing health for

sometime.

Mr. Singletary was a native of Columbus County, having been

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There's a wider choice of power, a wider choice of torque, across the board. For heavies, there's the new High Torque 409 V8*, with 16½ per cent more torque than ever before available from Chevrolet. Big news in the middle-weight class is the new Chevy-GM 4-53 Diesel. It's compact, rugged, high in torque, and backed by years of GM Diesel experience. In the light-duty lineup, the High Torque 261 Six* adds new sock, new savings in extra-tough applications. You can pick from nine tarin'-to-work, ready-to-save engines.

Handsome new work-styling includes forward-sloping hoods that allow drivers to see as much as 10½ feet more of the road directly ahead. Chevrolet's famous Independent Front Suspension gives you a smoother riding, easier working, longer lasting truck. New heavier duty, smoother hypoid rear axles for middle-weights. Rugged new I-beam front axles* of 9,000- or 11,000-lb. capacity are available on Series 80 heavyweights. Mufflers are longer lived on all models. You'll find a total of 198 models in the new '62 Chevy line—including three work-proved, versatile Corvair 95's. Every model is built to out-haul, out-last and out-value any other truck at anywhere near the price. See your Chevrolet dealer! *Optional at extra cost



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