



When you came upon scenes like this, you wondered about the occupants and at what point they abandoned the vehicle—or did they glide on into the water and struggle out—or did the vehicle just float from some distant point to this location? It was a frequent scene in the days following Floyd with thousands of cars submerged in one way or another. (Photo by Carroll Credle)

Wading out . . . with a soda in one hand and blood pressure medicine in the other

WINDSOR - Law enforcement officers across the county were called on to help with emergency operations following flooding from Hurricane Floyd.

Officers with Bertie Probation and Parole helped with evacuations, sometimes on boats; helped at evacuation shelters; helped with roadblocks; prepared food for National Guard and other emergency personnel; etc.

But members of that department were in the same condi-

six inches of water toward Roy's Service Center to see if I could be of any assistance. I could hear that a man had been swept down the river.

I climbed on the running board of a tractor that was trying to look for a man. He was no where in sight as the tractor crossed the bridge. His body was recovered several days later. The tractor was not allowed back across the bridge as the water was too deep and too fast.

I was stranded and it took

house and was probably a couple of inches deep when I left and began wading out, a soda in one hand and my blood pressure medicine in the other.

I had called on the cell phone for a boat to come and get me, but no one showed up. I left the cell phone in the attic.

It was getting dark but I managed to wade out to King Street towards Heritage House Restaurant. I reached a point where the current was too shifting. I was in sight of a roadblock and someone on a public address system called to me and told me to go back. He also informed me that I was in violation of curfew and could be arrested.

I waded back up to a nearby porch and waited for a boat to come and get me.

MARTHA PRICE

Martha Price works as office assistant for PPO, and is one of those people who had to be evacuated from her home.

Price said: The most difficult thing for me was leaving my home in the middle of the night by boat because the floodwater was rising. I had to return the next day to my home, passing homes that were flooded above the window sills and anticipating what I would find when I reached my home.

It was also very difficult driving into town every day seeing the devastation and people's entire possessions stacked on the side of the street for trash.

I could see minnows swimming in my garage . . .

—Randy Skinner

tion as the rest of the county - some could not get into flooded areas.

Randy Skinner, Probation/Parole Officer III, lost his home in the flood and wrote about his experiences, including rescue efforts to locate the county's only drowning victim.

Skinner wrote: It was some time between 12 noon and 1 p.m. when I had moved the state car and my personal car to an area just around the block, which I thought high enough to protect them. At that time, the ground was dry there.

Water was probably a couple of inches deep in my yard when I heard a call on my handheld radio that a man was drowning on Cashie River Bridge. I waded through about

four hours or more for me to finally get back across. I rode back on a National Guard vehicle and waded past my house, past my state car and past my personal car. Water was up to both doors on both cars.

Because the terrain is uneven, water was at different levels and sometimes was chest-deep as I waded.

When I reached my house, the water was just at the bottom of the back door and had not yet come inside. I could see minnows swimming in my garage.

I quickly ran from room to room, grabbing clothes, pictures, videotapes and other items I could fit and get into the attic.

Water began coming into the

It was an experience!

By LAURA HARRELL

WINDSOR - Dates and times just ran together, Windsor Police Chief Freddie Bowen said when asked to recall the events of September and what was done when.

One thing about which he is sure: "It was an experience!"

On Thursday, September 16, he recalls he watched the water rising all day. "It kept right on coming," he said.

Right after lunch men from his department went to close off the Cashie River Bridge because the water had gotten so high.

That meant, he explained, that a major artery carrying North-South traffic was cut off and an alternate route had to

be set up around town.

Some of the traffic came to NC 308 at the Cooper Hill Road and took the three bridges over NC 45 to Plymouth. Everybody going North had to use the Bull Hill Road to the Todd's Cross Road.

Before the night was over, the Windsor Police Department was trying to look after a town divided into two sections with water extending from North King Street through town to the Heritage House on South King Street (U.S. 17), and eventually it was split into three sections, with water all the way from Edgewood Cemetery on the north to the U.S. 13 By-Pass.

All services were at the Command Center located at the

Windsor Fire Department.

Just after dark on Thursday the water was rising a foot every 20 minutes. Some evacuations had been taking place all day but residents beyond the Courthouse to the Cashie River Bridge thought they were safe because flood waters in all the years past had never been beyond the stop light at the corner of Granville and King Streets.

And many of these residents thought they would be secure in their upstairs bedrooms.

Evacuations took place in the darkness of late night-early morning hours by NC Wildlife Service boats, military five-quarter vehicles, fertilizer

(See EXPERIENCE, Page 10)

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