



Worst Tornado In History Strikes Duplin County

EDITORIAL

TRAGEDY STRIKES — A BELATED PLEA BY J. R. GRADY

Tragedy struck in Duplin this week. Tornadoes destroyed homes, injured dozens of people, disrupted crop plantings and upset community life in general. These people must have help and have it now. Where is it coming from? Thousands of dollars, maybe in the end approaching \$100,000, will have to come from somewhere if these people are to be put back in normal living conditions. The total loss has been tentatively estimated at over \$100,000 but no one knows what the final tally will be as there is no way to tally it.

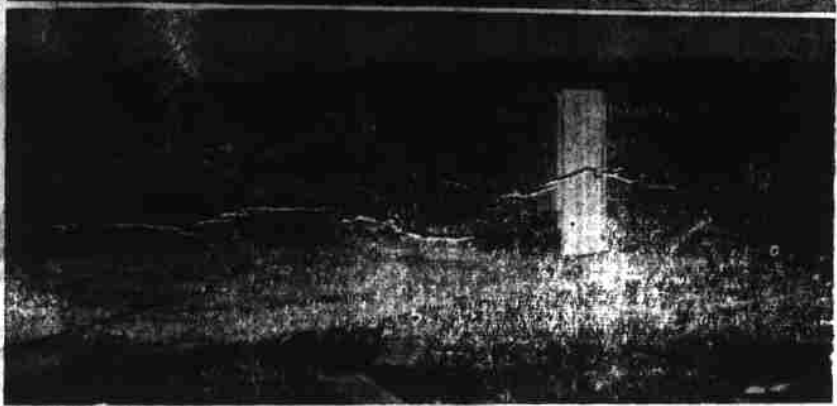
Can we sit idly by and expect these people, many of whom have been completely wiped out, to rehabilitate themselves? Can we expect their next door neighbors to shoulder all the responsibility of seeing that their needs get attention? Most of them are colored people but they are neighbors to all of Duplin, white and colored. What will we do about it?

We might say we have been missing the boat during the past few years when Duplinites have been too passive in their attitude towards the Red Cross, its work and what it will mean to Duplin in times of distress. Yes these people are going to get help. Those who qualify are even going to get their homes replaced, in a fashion. Their real home can never be replaced but they can be put back into reasonable normal living conditions. Who is going to foot this bill? Not Duplin County citizens who usually respond well to drives for worthy causes but people in other counties and other states. Yes, even some of it will come from the west coast and maybe even foreign countries. The Red Cross is universal in its scope and nearly every country in the world contributes to the Red Cross. From the total fund will come moneys to help those in Duplin rendered destitute because of the tornado Monday night. Very little of it will come from Duplin. This county has been given a reasonable quota each year but we have fallen far short of that quota. Now we must depend on people who maybe have never heard of us to do the job of helping rehabilitate our neighbors.

Officers of the Red Cross know nothing about this editorial. They have made no solicitation for aid in this emergency but this newspaper is calling on all Duplinites who would like to have a part in restoring normal life to the dozens of people made homeless and destitute this week to send in contributions now. Send them to the Red Cross office in Kenansville now. The Red Cross makes no drive, as a rule, during emergencies to help relieve the suffering. Their total assets from annual drives are used to do what they can. There will not be another drive in Duplin until next year but Duplin can and we believe will respond now and remember this disaster when the next annual drive takes place. The year 1957 is still young and no one knows when another tragedy may strike in Duplin. It may be you who will have to be calling on the Red Cross next.



Top photo shows remains of Elder Chapel where choir practice was being held when tornado struck. Seven were hospitalized. A new \$3,000 organ was reported to have just been put in the building, and additions and remodeling completed.



Bottom picture shows lone refrigerator where the Riley Lane home once was. Lane, his wife and four children were in the house but escaped.



EIGHT PEOPLE LIVED HERE — Mrs. Walter Hardy was injured but her husband and six children escaped unharmed when their home was destroyed.

Times Reporter's Eye View Survey Of Storm Tossed Homes In Duplin

BY MARGARET TUCKER
The tornado struck about six miles south of Kenansville, on highway 11 in the Elder Church Community, hitting the home of Wilbert Dixon Jr. One third of the roof was blown off and the house was pushed off the foundation and moved approximately 3 1/2 feet toward the highway. Windows were broken and the chimney was damaged.

Next door the damage to Clarence Dixon's home was more severe. The front porch roof was torn off, half the roof gone, windows broken, two chimneys blown down. Tobacco barn destroyed and the roof of the pack house blown away.

I asked Fannie Dixon (Clarence's wife) how hard the wind blew and she said, "Lord, honey, it was worse than Hazel." When asked if she had gone to bed when the storm struck she said, "No ma'am, I was too scared, the clouds looked mighty bad." A short distance away and across the road from the Dixon house stood Elder Chapel A.M.E. Church which was completely demolished. Members of the church had recently had the church renovated adding new pews and installing an electric organ which had been bought or was on a trial basis, all was a complete loss.

Sixteen people were in the church holding choir practice when the tornado struck. None were seriously hurt. Hardest hit was a colored section known as Newkirk's Mill. A distance of 2 and 3-10 miles. Entering the section I didn't think it too bad, having seen a house with half the roof gone only did I realize how severe the damage until I rounded a curve and saw the complete destruction. The first stop was at Charlie Sewell's. The only thing left as proof that a house had stood there was concrete floor and an ice box. Across the road, the home of Rose Bellows a cement block house was cracked and the back roof gone. The roof of the house was lying all

Acknowledgment
The Times wishes to acknowledge, with thanks, The Goldsboro News-Argus for use of their cuts of pictures made by their photographer, Bill Futrelle, of scenes of the tornado damage. The four 3 column pictures were made by Bill and the cuts were made by the Goldsboro News-Argus and published in their Tuesday edition.

over the furniture. Riley Lane's home was just a heap of broken timbers. Here they were trying to salvage house hold equipment and clothes.

The 3 room house of Walter and Sarah Hardy was completely gone. All that was left was the flooring and pieces of furniture that had been piled on top. The farm buildings were gone.

Robert Howard's home was a complete loss as was Winifred Stokes and Robert Mathis.

Part of the roof was blown off Lizzie Bryants house and was knocked off the foundation.

L. A. Coble, white, lost about one third of the roof of his house. A turkey house valued at \$600 and a tobacco barn. He stated that he had some insurance but not enough to take care of the damage.

Down on the mill creek, the roof from the mill house and from a house on the site was blown away. A huge tree was blown down in Henry Stokes yard and a corner of his house was pulled away.

Shortly after my arrival, Mayor C. R. Collins and Lt. Joyce Cowhan of the Kinston Salvation Army drove in to determine the needs of the stricken area. Major Collins stated that they were beginning work immediately to procure supplies and furniture for the stricken area.

WHAT'S NEW — A Dressed and that drives easier, costs less and has 90 to 100 per cent greater holding power than the ordinary one.

9 People In Hospital 10 Homes Destroyed Red Cross On Scene Rehabilitation

BY J. R. GRADY
About 9 o'clock Monday night as all Duplin was snug in its home listening to high winds, watching sharp lightning flashes, TV's and listening to radios, about fifteen homes on the east and west side of Magnolia, together with one near Warsaw and one near Beaulieu, suddenly were jolted — some off their foundations, some twisted, some battered and some not even there — in what was probably the worst tornado ever to strike Duplin County. In the spots where it struck Hurricane Hazel was mild in comparison. As quick as the eye could see, the homes were no more. Scores were injured, nine were hospitalized in Duplin General Hospital and 30 to 40 were given first aid. The exact number is not known as injured were pouring into the hospital so fast doctors, nurses and helpers had no time to keep a record of names or first aid was administered. The hospital was all quiet and in the dark except for the emergency generator that lit up halls and emergency rooms, at about 9:30 when the first load of injured arrived. Nurses had about all their patients put to bed for the night. When the seriousness of the rush of injured dawned on them, doctors and nurses from outside Kenansville were called. When the storm in the hospital had cleared nine were put to bed and other returned to what was formerly their homes and churches. Doctors Russell Harris and Robert Willis of Kenansville; O. S. Matthews, J. W. Straughan and E. P. Ewers of Warsaw and Grey P. Kornegay of Wallace were in the middle of it administering first aid assisted by hospital nurses and volunteer nurses. Mesdames Mary P. Bowdoin, Lois King, Sara Wells and Katharine Blanchard of Wallace. The nurses lounge on first floor had been converted into an emergency room and Dr. Harris had patients in the operating room. The doctors and nurses were up about all night. Thanks to the quick work on the part of the untrained getting the injured to the hospital and out of the doctors and nurses, not a single life was lost. It is almost unbelievable to drive through the devastated area and realize that no one was killed. It was nothing less than a miracle.

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"TEMPERS THE WIND TO THE SHORN LAMB"

BY REV. HERBERT M. BAKER
WARSAW BAPTIST MINISTER

I should have sensed a portent of serious trouble the way the lights went off Monday night about nine o'clock. Frequently a storm plays a grim game with the power company and its relay system with the lights going on and off two or three times before the storm tires of the game and throws the punch that puts the power company out for a long count. But Monday night the storm didn't bother to play a game with the power company: its first punch was a knock-out blow to the electrical circuits in this area, and its next two or three blows left small areas of incredible devastation in Duplin County.

About nine-forty-five I heard three short blasts from the fire-truck siren at the fire-station. As quickly as I could I slipped into some clothes (I had wistfully thought of catching up on some sleep after the lights went out) and reported at the fire-station. But no one was making an effort to get the trucks rolling. Instead, people were gathered in a tight knot at the door to the Town Hall, and as I made my way to the door I could feel the tenseness of suppressed and conflicting emotions. Inside, Police Chief Earl Coombs was busy at the radio, talking to the Highway Patrol and County Police officers, mentally mapping out where help was needed most and relaying the information to Fire Chief John Anderson Johnson. Turning to the men at the door, Chief Johnson said, "I want eight men to go with me and Ellwood Revelle. The rest of you stay here to man the fire station—Three of you go with Mr. Baker in his car." (My car is built so that it can be made into beds and be useful as an ambulance).

There was a good bit of excitement at the Town Hall, but no one wasted time in getting help lined up for this emergency. It seemed only a moment from the time I went into the Town Hall to the time when I was back at the car with Frank Steed, W. C. Martin, and Johnny Todd getting in with me. As I started the car I was vaguely aware of the good sound of whirring generators that were providing emergency light and power at the Town Hall and the Carolina Phone Company, power that even then was being used to coordinate help for the tornado victims.

Headed South on highway 117, the four of us were so intent on getting to Newkirk's Mill in a hurry that we all felt that seconds had become minutes, and minutes were becoming hours. But the clock on the dash and the speedometer on the car belied our feelings, and in a few minutes we were stopping just behind Deputy Revelle's car at the first site of storm damage, a tobacco barn flattened along the side of the road. A man walked from his yard across the road to tell us that his house was damaged, but no one was injured. Help was needed, he thought, on down the road where the storm had struck with full fury. While he was talking a car pulled up from the other direction. I did not know the occupants, but they were residents of the area and they told us that if we would take the next road to the right we would be heading toward the center of devastation. They also gave us a report that the injured had already been evacuated. We asked them and started off again, but in our hurry missed the right turn we should have made and ended up going around in the other end of the road that cut through the damaged area. On our way we passed a lumbering power company truck, and I thought about how quickly the power and phone companies get on the scene of a disaster to repair the lines of communication.

Where the dirt road leaves the highway near the dam at Newkirk's Mill, we had to park our cars along the edge of the highway. That end of the road through the damaged area was crisscrossed with blown down trees that created an obstacle course for all would-be rescuers. I followed Deputy Revelle and Mayor Ed Strickland as they jumped up a bank to go around a fallen tree or vaulted over a trunk that was in the way to get over the road. Several others were going up the road at the same time, but what little conversation you heard was subdued in tone. We came to the first house, and found it partially destroyed, but no one had been hurt at that home. Most of the damage up to that point had been forest damage: trees twisted and broken like matches in the mighty grip of the wind. On up the damage was extensive and the debris of houses was to be found scattered everywhere. But when we discovered that the injured had already been evacuated we headed back to the cars to report what we had learned, and discover where we might be needed more. Deputy Revelle, Mayor Strickland and I had a brief consultation back at the car, and decided perhaps the best thing to do was to go to the hospital in case they needed help there in treating the wounded being brought in from the several disaster areas. I had to wait for two of my passengers, and while waiting took time to listen to the Wallace station broadcasting up to the minute news on the storm damage and the progress of rescue work. Across the road from my car Deputy Boone's car was parked with the radio on—Pedestrians kept stopping by his car to listen to the police radio, and others stopped by to hear the news coming over the radio in my car. They were people that I had not seen before, but in the emergency they seemed like long friends who were

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Briefs

Injures Ankle In Ball Game

Bill Straughan, Jr., member of the Warsaw High baseball team injured one of his ankles in a game against B. F. Grady at Grady School on Thursday last week. Bill had been instructed to sacrifice a player in. He made a beautiful but the runner failed to make home base. Warsaw won, however, in spite of this, 9 to 0.

Broke Leg In Ball Game

Herbert Stroud, 13 year old colored boy, broke his right leg while playing base ball at Branch school yesterday. He was hospitalized here.

INJURES HAND

Robert Murray of Wallace was treated for an injured hand at the local hospital this week when he fell about 30 feet from the roof of a building he was working on for Sheffield Brothers Stockyards. He was not hospitalized.

FRACTURED FOOT

Warren James, Negro, of Rt. 2, Rose Hill, was hospitalized here Monday afternoon with an injured foot, possible fracture, suffered while working in pulpwood for Hall Pulpwood Company of Rose Hill.

HOUSE DESTROYED

The home of Ike Frederick, colored near the Frank McGowan farm near Kenansville, was destroyed by fire Monday night during the storm. No one was home. Everything was a total loss.

WIND DOES DAMAGE

A tenant house on the farm of L. H. Quinn near Warsaw, was damaged by wind Monday night and a tobacco barn blown out in the road. Also reported that the roof of a house belonging to Gordon Kennedy of near Beaulieu was blown off. Also in that section several tobacco barns, belonging to Kennedy, George Rhodes and Pick Mercer were destroyed. Apparently these destructions were not in the direct path of the tornado or possibly it had about spent itself when it reached Beaulieu.

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Largest Still Outfit In County History Destroyed By Half Case Of Dynamite

The largest illicit liquor still in the history of the county was dynamited last Saturday night after officers found it from a tip off by Coy Hill and Rodney Thippen to Deputy Sheriff Oscar Houston.

Nine Hospitalized Victims Of Tornado

Duplin General Hospital listed 35 patients at noon today. Eight were victims of the cyclone from near Magnolia. All were colored. The hospital was so crowded Monday and Tuesday that beds had to be placed on the second floor hall after private rooms had been doubled up.

Hospitalized from the storm and hospital report of their condition Tuesday were: Bestie Carroll, Rt. 3, Rose Hill, deep lacerations and torn muscles. Serious; Herman Carroll, Rt. 3, Rose Hill, head injuries, serious. Discharged Wednesday; Willie Lee, Rt. 1, Magnolia, internal injuries and multiple fractures, critical. Now listed as serious, Sadie Howard, Rt. 1, Magnolia, eye injuries, contusions and lacerations, serious. Booker Lane, Rt. 1, Magnolia, mangled hand, satisfactory. Alec Lee, Rt. 1, Magnolia, multiple fractures and internal injuries. Critical, now listed as serious, Nancy Boone, Magnolia, fractured ribs. Serious and Martha Savage, Rt. 1, Magnolia, possible fractured spine. Serious.

Among other patients are: Mrs. Jesse H. Baker, Hubert S. Rouse and Mrs. E. C. Wilson, Magnolia; James C. Brown, Wallace, Rt. 2; Mrs. W. C. Stokes and Sarah M. (Continued On Back Page)

Red Cross Will Assist Victims In Rehabilitation Of Homes

Mr. Robert L. West, chairman of the Duplin County Chapter American Red Cross, announced that the Rose Hill City Hall is the Emergency Headquarters for Tornado victims. He said that the chapter is in Kenansville. He explained that Red Cross assistance is given on needs and not losses. Applicants are expected to use their current and potential resources, including credit to the chapter headquarters in Kenansville. He stated that the chapter is in Kenansville. He explained that Red Cross assistance is given on needs and not losses. Applicants are expected to use their current and potential resources, including credit to the chapter headquarters in Kenansville. (Continued on Back Page)

When you fire a volley of censure at somebody else, you may not feel the recoil at once, but it is present as surely as you are.