

The News - Journal

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Violent Windstorm Strikes Hoke

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The wind that hit Hoke County last Wednesday night and stayed around until Thursday night did right much damage. It would be impossible to count the number of trees that were blown over or the amount of damage that was incurred by shingles being blown off houses or the damage that hit many mobile homes.

The good news of all this was that no one, as far as we can determine, was hurt during the wind storm.

Since the wind has died down, a low pressure area has settled over the state, and the weather has been cold. According to forecast, it will be with us the remainder of the week.

A comment about one tree that was uprooted. The pine that fell in Ed Brown's yard is approximately 50 years old. This writer lived in a house that burned a few years ago on that property and can remember when that group of pines were seeded or planted. I moved into a house there when I was about three or four years old and remember the trees being planted in the front yard.

So maybe I am getting along in years when you look at the trunk of that pine.

Another incident that came out of the wind storm, which I will pass along, concerns one of the reporters here at the paper.

Either last Thursday or Friday, as Charles Blackburn was going around the county taking pictures of the damage that the storm had done, when a man came up to him at a mobile home that had been overturned, and the man was all smiles.

Charles said he didn't know what to do for a minute or two, but he stood his ground and waited to hear what the man had to say.

The man was the owner of the mobile home and when he saw Charles with a camera he thought he was the insurance adjuster. Of course the smile left his face when he found out it was only a newspaper man taking pictures. (He knew they wouldn't be giving out money)

If you have been watching the news on television in the past few days you will realize that other folks are having more trouble with weather than we in Hoke County.

But from most adversities comes good. The folks that were snow-bound and had to stay over in strange places, all commented on how everyone wanted to do something for them. Yes, when you are in real need, the American people will come to your aid.

Two things that you should remember:

The date for filing for office ends Monday, February 6. So if you intend to file, be sure and check with the clerk at the Board of Elections office before the hour for filing closes.

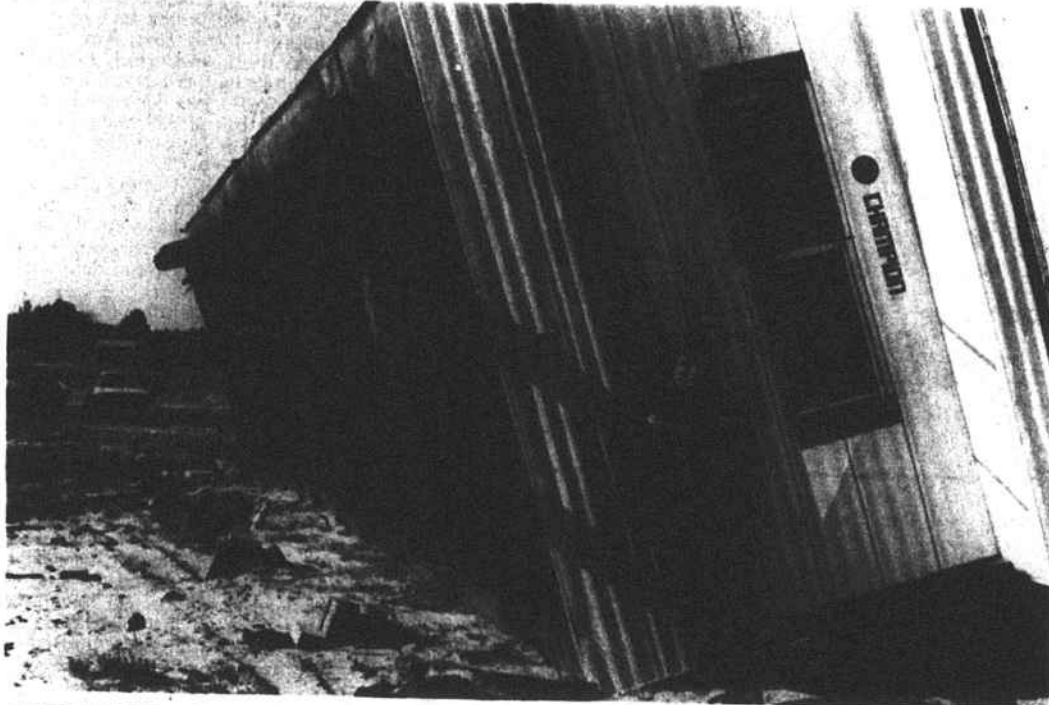
The other deadline is closer than you think. That is getting your license tags. The deadline is February 15, but the lines will form, starting about February 10th. So beat the rush and get your tags this week.

Bill Moses was in charge of the program last Thursday night at the Raeford Kiwanis Club meeting. Bill had Lester Simpson, county tax supervisor, who talked about the tax structure in Hoke County and how values and tax rates were fixed. The program was very informative and after Les talked, he was asked many questions concerning the county and things that pertained to taxes.

Last week we mentioned something about that it was the time for folks to start thinking about class reunions. This has brought forth the following from Mrs. Harriett S. McDonald.

The Hoke County High School Class of 1960 is planning a reunion for May, 13. Anyone in the class during 1958-1960 is urged to attend.

Mail your name and address to Mrs. Harriett S. McDonald, P.O. Box 36, Raeford, or call 875-4209 (See AROUND TOWN, Page 11)



OVERTURNED -- Kip Maroney poses with his mobile home Thursday morning after it was blown over during the night. The home is behind the Hillcrest Fire Department east of Raeford. Maroney said the home went over around midnight and that he jumped out of the door as it rolled. The windstorm had gusts of up to 80 miles an hour and caused property damage in the county estimated in the thousands of dollars.

Sheriff Barrington Files

Four more local candidates, including incumbent Sheriff D.M. Barrington, filed for office here this week, according to the Hoke County Board of Elections.

G. Franklin Crumpler filed for county coroner; Robert L. Doby filed for the county board of commissioners; and Dr. Riley Jordan filed for re-election to the local school board.

Barrington

In making his announcement, Sheriff Barrington said:

"Today I paid my filing fee seeking a fifth term of office as Sheriff of Hoke County. I feel that at 44 years of age, with 22 years of experience as a law enforcement officer, all with the Hoke County Sheriff's Department, along with the various training schools attended throughout the years, I am well qualified to continue to serve as Sheriff of Hoke County."

"During my four terms of office, the department has grown from a sheriff and two deputies, one of which also served as a jailer, to a modern professional operation consisting of: 11 deputies, including a three-man Detective Division; four radio operators, who also serve as jailers; two matrons; one office clerk; and the sheriff, for a total of 19 people in the department, which now provides 24-hour service."

"We have a modern communications system including the Police Information Network, which gives us contact with every county in North Carolina and every state in the Union. We also provide communications for the various rural fire departments, the Hoke County Rescue Squad, the Hoke County Ambulance Service, the Dog Warden, and the Hoke County ABC Officer."

"In 1968, we moved into a new jail, which is still one of the most modern facilities in the state. None of these things could have been accomplished without the cooperation of the citizens of Hoke County and the various county commissioners I have had the opportunity to serve with during the last 16 years."



Dave M. Barrington

"If nominated as your Democratic candidate for Sheriff in the May 2 primary, I pledge continued good and progressive law enforcement, and I promise to serve all the citizens of Hoke County fairly, impartially, and to the best of my ability, at the least possible expense to the taxpayers of this county."

Barrington, a lifelong resident of Hoke County, is married to the former Billie Skinner of Hertford. They have four children.

So far he faces two challengers in the May primary, Raeford police detective Harvey Young and J.

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Coy Brewer Files For Judge's Race

Coy E. Brewer, Jr., Superior Court Judge for the 12th Judicial District, announced his intention to file for election for that office this week. Brewer was appointed Superior Court Judge by Gov. James Hunt in November.

In making his announcement, Brewer stated, "This is a period of important new directions in the court system, particularly the criminal justice process. There is a movement toward speedier trials, greater consistency in sentencing, restitution for victims of crimes and more emphasis on prosecution of career criminals. It is my commitment to continue to participate meaningfully in these new directions that leads me to seek election to this important office."

Brewer, a native of Cumberland County, received his undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University and a J.D. degree with honors from the University of North Carolina Law School. Prior to his appointment as Superior Court Judge, Brewer served as District Court Judge and Assistant District



Robert L. Doby



Dr. Riley M. Jordan



Coy E. Brewer, Jr.

Attorney for the Twelfth Judicial District.

He is a former research assistant for Justice Dan Moore of the N.C. Supreme Court, and was in private law practice with the firm of Murchison, Fox and Newton in

(See BREWER, Page 11)

Hurricane force winds clocked at up to 80 miles an hour whipped through Hoke County last Wednesday night ripping the roofs off mobile homes, uprooting trees, downing power lines and peeling the tin off barns and sheds.

Shingles were blown off houses, and TV antennas were twisted. At least one mobile home in the county overturned. A sawmill suffered extensive wind damage, as did a shed at the city garage. The wind also tore off a portion of the roof at McCain Hospital.

Although property damage was estimated in the thousands of dollars, no injuries were reported.

Midnight Blast

It appears that the most violent gust came around midnight last Wednesday. That was when the roof of Barbara Kershaw's mobile home was ripped off. The home is on a dirt road in an area behind Upchurch Junior High School.

She said that the roof made quite a racket when it was blown off. Peeled off the trailer like the lid of a sardine can, the roof came to rest in the front yard, wrapped around a tree. Insulation was scattered down the road.

The Kershaw home was anchored and that may have saved it from being blown over. She said she and her four children would be staying with her mother temporarily until they could make other arrangements.

Overturned

Kip Maroney, who lived in a mobile home behind the Hillcrest Fire Department, just managed to get out of his trailer as it was blown over about midnight Wednesday.

"I looked out the door and noticed that the trailer was about a foot from the steps," he said Thursday. "Then it started to shake, and I jumped out the front door as it was going over."

Maroney was sitting in his car in front of the overturned home Thursday when *The News-Journal* reporter drove up. When Maroney saw the camera, he began to smile.

"Are you the claims adjuster?" he asked.

The home was resting on cinder blocks and would have rolled over completely if not for an oil drum that wedged under one side. Maroney said he went through the home Wednesday night and turned off the electricity to prevent a fire. Inside, his belongings were topsy-turvy.

Sawmill

The wind was still kicking up a fuss Thursday morning as Bob Williams surveyed the damage to a sawmill at Williams Lumber Co. and Sawmill in the Puppy Creek area off Highway 401.

"It will cost us about \$3,000 to replace the wiring and repair the shed where it collapsed," he said.

It appeared that the wind had lifted one end of the shed, causing the supports to buckle. Williams said the sawmill was not insured.

Trees Downed

Quite a few trees were uprooted by the windstorm. The public library on Main Street in Raeford had a close call as a tall pine was fairly twisted to the breaking point by the wind. It came crashing down dangerously close to the building.

Another pine fell across East Prospect Avenue not far from the city limits. A crew cut it up and moved it early Thursday morning. A tree was uprooted in a yard on Harris Avenue. Elsewhere in town lawns were cluttered by tree limbs and sprigs of pine littered the streets.

Power Outages

According to the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation, which serves rural areas of Hoke, Scotland, Cumberland and Robeson counties, the wind caused interruptions in electric service to 7,000 of its 17,000 customers.

General Manager Berl Hinson said line crews for the cooperative began answering power outage reports at about 10 p.m. Wednesday and worked continually throughout the night and all day Thursday until about 8 p.m.

"Most of the main lines were back in service at that time," Hinson said. "However, some consumers were without power through the night. It was a bad storm that caused tremendous damage and left many people without power."

Carolina Power and Light reported comparatively light damage in Raeford and surrounding rural areas. Ed Klingenschmidt, line and service supervisor in Raeford, said Tuesday that electric service was interrupted for an hour, at most, Wednesday night for some of the company's rural users.

"The damage was real light in comparison to other areas in the Sandhills," he said. "We spent two days in the Southern Pines area helping crews restore service."

He said about the only interruption CP&L had here was from 11:30 to 12:30 Wednesday night. The damage was minimized in Raeford because of the good job done by the company's tree-trimmers, he said.

McCain Hospital

This week officials at McCain Hospital were keeping an eye out for rain clouds. The wind took part of the roof off one wing of the main building, and area roofing companies have been so swamped with work in the wake of the storm that, as of Tuesday, the hospital roof had gone unrepaired.

Assistant Administrator Charles Pullen said Tuesday morning that he was expecting a crew from Sanford to put down some tar paper as a temporary measure until repairs can be made. He said no monetary estimate of the damage had been made.

The roof was a composite of tar paper, shingle and gravel and so much of it blew off that the main driveway at the hospital was blocked by the debris Thursday morning. Two vents from the roof and a lot of gravel were scattered on the lawn. Pullen said workmen were unable to go on the roof Thursday because of high winds.

He took a *News-Journal* reporter on an inspection of the damage Friday morning, holding the ladder so the reporter could climb up and have a look.

The reporter gave little thought to scaling the steep slate roof, but the trip down gave him a different perspective on the two-story buildings. Pullen, gazing up from below, seemed to be wondering if the hospital had sufficient insurance coverage.

Insurance

Speaking of insurance, when insured property is damaged, as in the windstorm, property owners should make temporary repairs promptly to protect against further damage. Their insurance will cover the expense, an insurance spokesman said.

(See WINDSTORM, Page 11)