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Lenoir and Jones Begin Clean-up Of Debris Left by Hurricane 'Ione'

The name "Ione" is seldom used in Eastern North Carolina, but when the weather folks picked that name for the season's ninth hurricane it became tragically and peculiarly fitting, insofar as North Carolina is concerned.

"Ione" literally belonged to North Carolina. She came ashore in the Tar Heel State staggered drunkenly about the tidewater section for a long day and night and then departed back out to the Atlantic where she had been spawned 10 days earlier.

"Ione" could have said, "I own Eastern Carolina", for she literally had it in the whirling palm of her hand and after toying with it for a terrifyingly long 24 hours tossed it aside, much as a child tosses a toy; broken, bruised and temporarily of not much use to anyone.

But like most toys tossed aside by petulant brats, Eastern Carolina was not torn beyond repair and already thousands of men and women are busy patch-up, sweeping out the mud and debris that "Ione" brought into their homes and businesses.

Kinston was at about the Western edge of the heaviest damage area of "Ione".

Of course, wind and water did damage. It grew much less west of Kinston. New Bern-Cherry Point is the area most largely torn apart by this terrible wench from the South Atlantic. As one moves east from Kinston evidence of the power of this ninth hurricane of the 1955 season becomes much more readily apparent.

In Trenton, dozens of the stately old trees that once adorned its main street were blown over, and miraculously, only a few homes were damaged to any great extent.

Water was far more damaging than the winds of Ione. Nearly five inches of rain whipped by winds ranging from 85 miles per hour at Kinston to 107 miles per hour at Cherry Point piled up in the streets, swept into houses and storage barns.

This water damage will be far higher than the actual damage done by the winds.

Perhaps the second highest damage will result from the loss of electrical current for long period. Frozen food lockers and other types of electrical storage for food were knocked out and were still out in a vast majority of the area lying east of Trenton and South of Elizabeth City.

Added to this was all-time high water in many areas, resulting from the deluge of rain brought ashore by "Ione". Trent River had almost completely isolated Trenton on Wednesday. The only route open to Trenton was NC 41 through Comfort.

Both roads leading East from Trenton toward New Bern and Pollockville were closed by the flood and the approaches to the new Trent River bridge on the Kinston road were covered so that traffic had to be halted.

In Kinston Monday night dozens of families living in the Northeastern edge of Mitchell Woolen Co. moved out to higher ground. The same task also faced residents at the foot

of Warters, Gordon and Caswell Streets where the flooding Adkin drainage canal crept into several dozen homes. These people spent the night in J. H. Sampson School where local relief organizations furnished food and sleeping facilities.

In Trenton every Negro home in the eastern end of town was evacuated and some white residents living along the Trent River side of town moved in with friends on higher ground.

It was the opinion of many observers that the overall damage to Eastern Carolina by "Ione" was greater than the combined furies of "Connie and Diane" and many also felt "Ione's" reckless driving was more costly to Eastern Carolina than even "Hazel" of infamous

reputation last October.

The water damage to crops is pointed up as the principal reason for believing that "Ione's" damage was worse than "Hazel's".

The corn crop had already been struck an almost total blow by "Connie and Diane" and now "Ione" made it unanimous to a big percentage of the farms of Eastern Carolina. Also heavy damage is expected by most farm observers to tobacco stored in packhouses, since few, if any, storage places were tight enough to prevent water beating through and reaching the stored crop.

This, the fourth severe hurricane to hit Eastern Carolina in less than a year, damaged more property, made more people

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Powell Bill Funds for Streets Distributed Trenton \$1,782; Kinston Gets \$63,665

The State Highway Commission has distributed \$5,711,817.71 in cash aid to 398 incorporated, active, eligible and qualified municipalities for improvements on non-highway system streets, Highway Chairman A. H. Graham announced today. He said this was the largest amount ever distributed since the Powell Bill Act was passed in 1951.

Graham pointed to the increased gasoline revenue which upped the Powell Bill figure this year. The fund comes from a 1-2c per gallon of the total or gross 6c gasoline tax (less refunds) during fiscal 1954-55, when the gross State gasoline tax totalled \$68,594,600.40.

Half of the total allocation is divided among all qualified municipalities on the basis of population. The per capita rate is \$1.88 this year.

The other half of the total allocation is divided among all the qualified municipalities on the basis of relative mileage of non-state system or local streets which comply with the Act. The mileage rate this year is \$472.65 per mile.

As of July 1, 1955, the 398 participating towns had 6,041.94 miles of non-highway system streets. Their total population, according to the 1950 census was 1,522,223.

Graham said, "Allocations may

be made only to legally incorporated cities and towns which are active and eligible and whose officials have qualified the municipality by submitting certified statements and maps prior to the limiting date, the third Monday in July.

"Many legally incorporated towns are non-active and do not perform those municipal functions necessary to qualify under the law. A few active incorporated towns were not eligible due to some technicality. There are also many populous communities which have never chosen to incorporate and function as municipalities."

Payments will range this year from \$350 for Falkland in Pitt County to \$416,618 for Charlotte. Other allocations, figured to the nearest dollar include:

Goldsboro, \$76,288; Greenville, \$62,881; Kinston, \$63,665; New Bern, \$49,935; Raleigh, \$195,409; Rocky Mount, \$97,886; Tarboro, \$30,507; Washington, \$33,363; Wilmington, \$131,536; Wilson, \$81,122.

Other allocations to corporate communities in this area include the following: Dover \$2,128.18, Grifton \$4,241.83, La Grange \$7,998.11, Maysville \$3,997.30, Pink Hill \$2,421.05, Pollockville \$2,087.82, Richlands \$3,403.75, Seven Springs \$1,007.70, Snow Hill \$3,150.36 and Trenton \$1,782.73.



This is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Phillips near Sharon Church in Upper Lenoir County where slight damage resulted from Ione-blown trees Monday. The Phillips Family was home at the time but stayed on after the trees had fallen, since no holes were knocked in the house. This looks a lot worse than it really is, but it's still a pretty frightening experience to have trees this size laying over on one's home.



This is, or was a tractor belonging to J. Carl Jones of Lenoir County's Vance Township. It appears to be much the same as the one that got on Monday when Ione leaned this large tree over on it with crushing results. Slight damage was also done to the northwest corner of the Jones Home when another tree was blown over.



Hurricane Ione was the most damaging wench to visit Trenton in as long as its oldest residents can recall. Dozens of the stately old trees that line the main street in Trenton were blown over, but an amazing few were damaged by these dying giants. The most severely damaged home was that of Mrs. Pearl Hammond, pictured above.



This was the scene in the Southeastern section of Trenton Tuesday afternoon as the last of the Negro families in that area moved out to higher ground, the flooding waters of Trent River for the third time in recent weeks had forced these people from their homes, to take shelter with friends and relatives until they could get back into their home and begin the difficult task of "drying out and cleaning up".



This is another of the huge trees in Trenton that fell before the buffing and puffing of Ione. In the front yard of the Trenton Elementary School, it was fortunately just out of reach of the school and inflicted little or no damage on the building when it "gave up the ghost."