

Hurricane Bob Brought Rains, Little Damage

BY SUSAN USHER

Rains and gusting winds associated with Hurricane Bob caused minimal damage to crops and property late last week.

However, it contributed to the first major rainfall in the area since Hurricane Diana last September. Bob and a frontal system preceding it dumped anywhere from four to six inches of rain at various locations across the county, reported the National Weather Service in Wilmington.

Brunswick County Agricultural Extension Chairman Milton Coleman said local crops weathered the storm in good shape, getting badly need rain.

"Right now we haven't observed any damage simply because we were pretty dry—some areas more than others," he said. "It just needs to dry off so farmers can get in the field. Some had planned to begin harvesting their corn this week."

There were occasional reports of fallen trees and temporary power interruptions across the county, but no reports of serious damage.

An inspection Thursday at Holden Beach revealed minor damage to 13 cottages, mostly oceanfront homes, said, Police Chief Raymond Simpson.

The damage consisted primarily of torn shingles and screens.

"There may be more that we don't know about, but there was no structural damage," Simpson said.

Wind gusts of up to 82 mph were recorded at Holden Beach.

Brunswick County emergency personnel began preparing for a blow and possible evacuation after a hurricane watch was extended Wednesday as far south as Little River, S.C.

"That's close enough," said Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan, who was prepared to stay at his office throughout the night monitoring Bob's progress.

Fire and rescue units as well as county agencies were on alert, meeting to plan responses and check equipment Wednesday as Tropical Storm Bob stalled off the Georgia coast. The storm built to minimal hurricane status before heading inland south of Charleston, S.C., at about 10 p.m.

On Thursday Bob dropped in status again as it broke up, crossed North Carolina and central Virginia and headed north, bringing rain as far north as southeastern New York.

The storm was the third tropical weather disturbance experienced in the Carolinas in the past 10 months. The area was threatened with a severe hurricane in September 1984, when Diana came in at Cape Fear. But the effects were those of a minimal hurricane, according to Albert Hinn, meteorologist in charge at the National Weather Service office in Wilmington.

"We were indeed spared," he said, "when the main energy cell and storm surge veered off Cape Fear when Diana sustained winds of 135 mph."

Property losses still reached \$80 million dollars, he said, small in comparison with the multibillion dollar damage experienced in 1983 with Alicia in Galveston, Texas, and the Florida panhandle with Frederick in 1979.

Southeastern North Carolina has had eight landfalling hurricanes in this century, Hinn said. Half were of minimal severity, three severe and one very severe.

Officials had unusually long lead time in informing residents of the threat from Hurricane Diana, he added. "In short, the watch went out early. We have not and likely will not always be so fortunate."

He noted that Hurricane Hazel, a category 4 hurricane that made landfall in October 1954, came to the

area from the Bahamas in less than 12 hours.

Coleman said Brunswick County was in much better shape than the rest of the state in terms of crop damage. Corn stalks were blown down in some more inland counties.

Local tobacco, sweet potatoes, soybeans and an "exceptionally good" corn crop weathered the storm well.

Soybeans look good, he said, and for late beans the storm's rainfall "may have been a real plum." Those beans that were in bloom lost their flowers, but can bloom again if pods haven't set.

Sweet potatoes benefitted from the rain, but if it had come later in the season the more mature potatoes might not have been able to tolerate the extremes in moisture, Coleman said.

Cornfields just need to dry out so harvest can begin and so that tobacco can be barned with as little excess moisture as possible. Moisture increases curing time and the potential for problems such as barn rot.

The potential for damage from uprooting is present, he added, if there are continued winds or rains before the fields dry out.

"All in all we were real fortunate," he concluded.

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Sunset Beach Cocaine Bust Labeled County's 'Largest'

BY TERRY POPE

What has been labeled the "largest undercover cocaine bust in the history of Brunswick County" resulted in the arrest of a Sunset Beach man late last Thursday night.

Allen Dale Brooks, 21, of P.O. Box 1892, Shalotte (Sunset Lakes), was arrested by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department and charged with two counts of trafficking by possessing more than 400 grams of cocaine and one count of trafficking by selling and delivering more than 400 grams of cocaine.

Also arrested was Mary Elizabeth Gore, of the Brooks' residence on Lakeshore Drive, Sunset Beach, and charged with possessing and trafficking more than an ounce of cocaine.

According to Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective David Crocker, Brooks was arrested in the parking lot of the Oasis Food Mart in Calabash in the act of selling and delivering almost a pound of cocaine to undercover officers. Officers purchased 400 grams of cocaine, or less

than a pound, which contains 468 grams, Crocker said.

The undercover investigation began in early March, Crocker said, and involved law enforcement officers from the sheriff's department, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the State Bureau of Investigation, Sunset Beach Police, Cumberland County narcotics division and Durham City Police.

Crocker said a deal was made in the Oasis parking lot late last Thursday night, offering \$26,500 in exchange for one pound, or 468 grams of cocaine. Cocaine sells for around \$2,000 an ounce, he said.

"Due to this, a search warrant was executed on his residence," Crocker said, "where we seized approximately another two ounces of cocaine and drug paraphernalia."

Brooks was placed under \$1,050,000 bond by Magistrate Phil Yount following his arrest last week. In Brunswick County District Court Monday morning, Judge D. Jack

Hooks Jr. of Whiteville reduced Brooks' bond to \$750,000 on a first appearance.

Tuesday morning, Brooks was still being held in the Brunswick County Jail while Ms. Gore had been released under bond, Crocker said.

Sheriff's detectives also seized Brooks' 1982 Cadillac and \$13,790 in cash, along with two ounces of cocaine, from his residence.

Brunswick County Animal Control officers were also called to the Brooks' residence late last Thursday night to help contain a "very large Doberman and a poodle," Crocker said. "We were glad we had the animal control officers. So it worked out okay."

According to Lt. Dick Burgess of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department narcotics division, the department received word last Thursday from special agent Mike Grimes of the DEA regarding the undercover operation.

Grimes stated that on March 15,

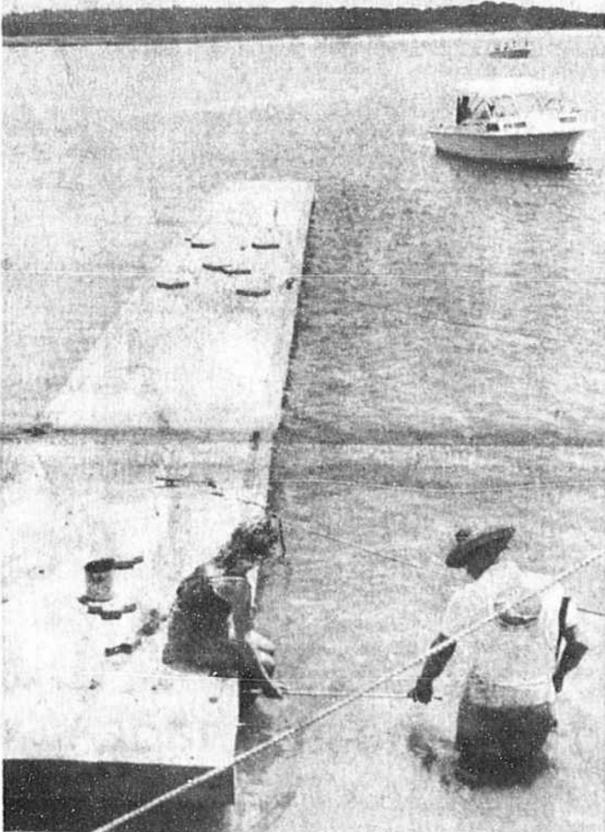
1985, Durham City Police undercover officer Eric Kolbinsky had met with Brooks in Bladen County where he purchased a quantity of "white powdery substance" that later proved to contain 42 grams of cocaine. Officers received information regarding the drug deal through an anonymous informant, Crocker said.

On June 18, Officer Kolbinsky met with Brooks again, this time in Cumberland County, where he purchased 56 grams of cocaine. A deal was then made to purchase a pound (468 grams) of cocaine in Brunswick County in July.

"The investigation has been going on as a joint effort since early March," Crocker said. The \$26,500 was promised to Brooks for the cocaine before he was arrested.

Crocker said it was the largest cocaine deal made with undercover officers in Brunswick County's history.

"Lately, we've been seeing more and more cocaine on the streets," he added.



STAFF PHOTO BY TERRY POPE

NEW FLOATING concrete docks installed at Hughes' Marina at Shalotte Point over the weekend should make it easier for spectators to see the large sharks arrive for weighing. Junior Hughes and Sandra Yates got their feet wet Saturday while preparing for the 4th Annual Poor Boys Shark Tournament.

Sharks Take Front Seat For 'Point' Tournament

BY TERRY POPE

Quiet, peaceful Shalotte Point is once again preparing for an invasion of ugly, large sharks.

The 4th Annual Poor Boys Shark Tournament will open at 8 a.m. Thursday (today) at Hughes' Marina and continue through Saturday afternoon on the waterfront where the Shalotte River meets the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.

Tournament Chairman John Watkins said Tuesday morning that everything at the marina was in place and ready to go. Workers there have been busy for several days installing a new concrete floating dock that will be used in offloading the large catches for weighing.

"The dock should give spectators a better view," Watkins said. "It will be set up pretty much like it has in the past. I know everyone wants to see the sharks as they come in."

As of Tuesday 25 boats had entered the tournament, but Watkins said he is expecting around 50 boats to enter before the deadline Wednesday night. Fee for entering is \$125 and more information may be obtained by calling Hughes' Marina.

Prizes include \$2,000 for the largest shark caught, \$1,250 for the second largest and \$750 for the third largest. The largest three fish caught each day will be worth \$100 each in daily

cash prizes. Another \$500 will be awarded to the fisherman catching the most weight throughout the tournament.

For the fisherman landing the smallest shark, a 14-foot aluminum Jon boat, Force motor and trailer will be awarded, providing just as much interest in landing the smallest shark than the largest.

"We just found out that they had another shark tournament around Chesapeake Bay last week and a shark weighing over 900 pounds won that one," Watkins said.

Dr. Frank Swartz, a marine biologist who has attended the Poor Boys Tournament for the past several years, has informed tournament officials to expect an 800- to 900-pound shark to capture this year's tournament.

"He believes that there are so many out there this year that it will take an 800- to 900-pound shark to win," Watkins said.

Swartz is overseas doing research and will not be able to attend this year, but another biologist, Dr. Rocky Strong, will take his place, said Allison Hughes. For spectators, one of the highlights of the tournament is watching the biologist weigh, measure, dress and comment on the large sharks.

(See SHARK, Page 2-A)

DSS Plans To Hire Director 'Very Soon'

BY SUSAN USHER

A director for the Brunswick County Department of Social Services will be hired as soon as possible, Chairman Frankie Rabon said Monday following a two-hour executive session to discuss "personnel".

"Hopefully in the near future we plan to do that," he said. "We're screening applications—maybe next week, we're hoping in the very near future to do that."

The department has been without a permanent director since the dismissal of Jamie Orrock on November 30, 1983. The board rejected the State Personnel Commission recommendation to reinstate Orrock, who has since filed suit seeking his old job back.

Board members said Monday they had not heard from Orrock or his attorney regarding an offer of settlement made in May. The board proposed clearing of Orrock's name and an undisclosed cash settlement if Orrock would agree not to pursue legal action against social services and that he use leave and vacation time due him to find another job. Orrock has told The Beacon he wants his old job back.

Board attorney Mary Easley did not attend the meeting. She was away at a family reunion.

Still not answered to the board's satisfaction Monday night were questions about county hiring procedures. Members put on hold discussion of a draft personnel policy until Clerical Supervisor Linda Green can check on county policies. The departmental policy would designate a person to handle applications and the procedures for interviewing and hiring.

Board members questioned again whether social services job applicants must go through the county

personnel office and whether applications must be screened by the regional social services office in Greenville.

Saying he needed to check with the board attorney to make sure it was within his authority, Chairman Rabon tentatively appointed a personnel committee composed of himself, Vice Chairman Edna Crouch and Louis "Bobby" Brown.

"Anytime anyone has any questions we'll come down and look at them and try to find an answer," he said, rather than an individual board member doing so.

His action was apparently prompted

by Brown's statement that the board had the right to appoint a committee to review applications, regardless of whether the documents must go through the county or state.

Supervisor Evelyn Johnson said she sends all applications to the regional office for advance screening so that there is no chance the person hired will not be approved by the state. She interviews only the candidates the regional office says meet qualifications for a job.

She said that while certain minimum qualifications are easily determined from applications others are not, such as deciding whether

certain types of work counts toward certain social work jobs.

AFDC/Medicaid Supervisor Lillie Barnes pointed out also that the Greenville office prefers the determinations be made locally. "If you can't, that's what they're there for," she added.

Grissett Named

Malcolm Grissett of Grissettown, who ran for county commissioner on the Republican ticket in 1984, was appointed to a three-year term on the board. The District 1 resident was nominated by Louis "Bobby" Brown, who is also mayor of Navassa.

(See FRAUD, Page 2-A)

Food Stamps 'Lost' In Mail Could Cost County Money

An unavoidable double issuance of food stamps this month could cost the Brunswick County Department of Social Services money if clients don't return the extra stamps.

Food Stamp Supervisor Sandy Jackson said Monday that the double issuance came about when the department began replacing more than \$21,000 in food stamps that apparently were lost in the mail on July 5.

However, when most of the stamps had been replaced—163 allotments worth more than \$15,000—the "lost" stamps suddenly began appearing in local post offices Saturday, she said. They were put in postal boxes for household delivery in all communities except Leland. There the postmaster held them and notified the social services department that the wayward stamps had arrived.

Stamps issued to clients all over the county except in the Bolivia community were "lost" after being mailed July 5, she said. Bolivia is the only county post office

where DSS mail does not go to the U.S. Postal Service Sectional Center in Fayetteville before distribution.

Of the \$15,000 in stamps issued a second time, Ms. Jackson said she had recovered nine allocations worth about \$1,500 and is asking clients who received double allocations to return the extras.

Otherwise, she said, the loss will count against the department's mail replacement rate. Anytime more than five-tenths of a percent of the allocation is lost in the mail during the quarter, the distributing agency must make up the difference with local funds.

"This would be the first time for us," she said.

She told social services board members Monday that the postal service sectional center had no explanation for misplacement of the stamps, which are mailed in special orange bags for easy identification.

"He said they would investigate, just like we're doing."

A similar shipment of stamps was misplaced in the mail in February, she said.