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Blizzard North Poles Perquimans Co.

The worst snow storm in recent history swept across the northeast and the entire state of North Carolina on Saturday and Sunday, dumping an estimated 25 inches on Perquimans County, and bringing all activity to a virtual halt.

The blizzard-like storm was accompanied by winds of nearly 60 miles per hour, and punctuated by thunder and

lightning.

Caused by the collision of a cold front which approached from the west and a low pressure center situated just off shore, the storm easily outstripped predictions by weather forecasters.

Motorists scrambled for shelter as travel on the highways of Northeastern North Carolina became virtually impassible. Four stranded

motorists were sheltered in the Perquimans County Courthouse.

One Edenton couple, David and Wanda Henson, abandoned their car and were driven to the courthouse by a N.C. Department of Transportation Employee, according to Perquimans County Sheriff Julian Broughton. "I just got 'em some blankets from home and put 'em to

bed," Broughton said.

The county rescue squad was also called out to deliver an expectant mother to Chowan Hospital in the middle of the storm, Broughton said.

The snow began falling on Saturday and as of midnight, an estimated 6 inches had accumulated, according to Glen Collins, weather observer at the Elizabeth City Municipal Airport.

By Sunday morning, the snow had quit falling, and was being swirled about by the wind. Then a secondary low moved in, and the snow began anew, this time more intense than before.

"Most of the snow came on Sunday," Collins said, and total accumulation averaged 25 inches at the airport, he said.

Gale force winds made

drifting a problem, with speeds recorded at 58 miles per hour at 11:30 on Sunday night, Collins said.

The snow, added to previous precipitation this year, brought the 1980 total accumulation to 57 inches. "I'm almost sure it's a record," Collins said.

Another record may well be the nine days of school Perquimans County youngsters have missed this year because of snow. "It's a record since I've been here," said schools superintendent Pat Harrell, adding that he is in only his fourth year as superintendent.

Harrell said that prior to the snow, Easter vacation had been shortened to two days, a teacher's workday had been erased and four days had been subtracted from the summer vacation. He was unsure how the school calendar would be revised to account for the three additional school cancellations brought about by the most recent snow.

But despite the hazards and hardships, some good news came along with the storm. The N.C. Highway Patrol reported no major accidents in the county over the weekend.

By Tuesday morning,

Perquimans County residents were beginning to dig themselves out of what may well have been the worst snowstorm ever to hit the county, though some still maintained the snow of 1927 was worse.

And Broughton vowed that more of the white stuff was on the way. He said that anytime it thunders and lightnings during a snow, more snow will come within seven days.

The weatherman, however, disagreed. Collins said the long range forecast calls for rain on Wednesday and Thursday (today), and clear skies on time for the weekend.



I know it's in here

Bill Cale digs away at the snow that has buried his MG sports car parked on Grubb Street. The huge snow dumped 25 inches on the area, and may well have been a record. (Photo by NOEL TODD-MCLAUGHLIN)

Storm leaves some in frigid darkness for hours

The second blizzard of 1980 was fun for some, but a dark, chilling experience for others, as parts of the county suffered power outages as a result of the 25 inches of snowfall over the weekend.

Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation operations member Robert Brooks said that outages were few, but weather conditions delayed restoration for those areas that were without power.

AEMC customers along Hog Neck Road perhaps suffered longest, as they were without power for 17 hours. Another outage in the Little River section left customers in the dark for 13 hours.

New Hope resident Charles Mims said that Durants Neck Ruritan Club members checked on area residents Sunday night and Monday morning to make sure they were staying warm and had

food. The Ruritans also went to work clearing roads with tractors.

Holiday Island was without power for some 13 hours, as an electrical line was knocked down by a tree limb. A resident of the resort community said it was the sixth time Holiday Island had been without power this winter.

Still, the damage was far less than had been experienced during the 15 to 20 inch snow that occurred in mid February. "We had expected it to be worse," Brooks said. "It was so dry it wasn't sticking to the power lines." He said, "If it had been wet like the first one we'd still be down."

Suspect nabbed

The recent outbreak of stealing from unlocked cars in Hertford prompted the police department to "stake-out" vacant cars within the city limits last week.

And the watchful eye paid off on Thursday, as Wilbert Lee Jones, 18, of Winfall, was apprehended after Police Chief Marshall Merritt said he observed him remove a make-up case from an unlocked car at the Hertford United Methodist Church on the last

night of revival. Merritt, who was hiding on the floor board of his car, said he then radioed officers Eugene McLawhorn and Robert Morris, who arrested the suspect on the corner of Church St. and Doobs.

Jones was placed in the Tri-County jail under \$1000 bond and charged with breaking and entering, and larceny of a motor vehicle, a felony punishable by a maximum of five years in prison.

CAMA update

Survey seeks planning input

A questionnaire designed to gain citizen input into the issues facing Perquimans County in the 1980's has been distributed throughout the county.

Dispersed in schools, local banks, and the courthouse, the questionnaire is part of a series of steps required to update Perquimans County's Coastal Area Management Act Land Use Plan.

According to community

assistance planner Dan Tew, the purpose of the plan is to identify problems and issues that will confront the county in the next five years and to get public input on how these issues should be handled.

The questionnaire is a tool in gaining public participation which, according to Tew, is vital if one wishes to have any impact on how community leaders will handle future issues.

"There is a dire need to

return the questionnaire as it will have a direct effect on how the county will grow in the 80's," said Tew.

The surveys should be returned by March 17, and may be mailed to ARPDC at P.O. Box 646, Hertford, N.C., 27944, or may be returned to the schools for collection.

Data gleaned from the questionnaire will be tabulated about two weeks after the deadline.

The 31-question survey gauges opinions on such topics as industrial development, tourism, and historic preservation. Participants are asked what they like about Perquimans County, and what changes they'd like to see made.

The survey was developed by a citizen's advisory committee appointed by the Perquimans County Commissioners and the Hertford

Town Council.

The deadline for final draft of the Land Use Plan is in August.

The county's initial land use plan was drawn up in 1975, following the state's adoption of CAMA in 1974.

CAMA was designed primarily to protect the coastal region from poor planning that could possibly damage the fragile ecosystem.

Women's conference slated for county

Perquimans County will be among North Carolina's 100 counties participating in a leadership conference designed for women this spring.

The conference, slated for Saturday, May 24, will be held from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Albemarle Regional Planning and Development Commission building located

on Church Street Extended in Hertford.

"The county-level conference is a follow-up to the successful statewide conference sponsored by Gov. Jim Hunt in Raleigh last May, and the nine regional conferences held across the state last year," said Mrs. M.B. Taylor, chairperson of Perquimans County's con-

ference. She added, "Holding these meetings at the county level fulfills the conference objective of providing leadership development opportunities for women at the local level."

The conference will afford women the opportunity to attend two workshops of their choice out of a possible six workshops. Tentative topics

include, "Women and North Carolina Law," and "Coping with Stress."

Mrs. Taylor said that she is looking for the participation of some 200 local women in the day-long meeting.

The Perquimans County conference is being sponsored by the North Carolina Council on the Status of Women and the North Carolina Council of

Women, and the North Carolina Council of Women's Organizations in cooperation with the office of Gov. Hunt.

In addition to the workshops, participants will have the opportunity to hear speakers. A buffet luncheon will also be included.

Pre-registration information will be released at a later date.

Overman seeking N.C. House seat



Overman

Leonard W. Overman of Route 3, Hertford, a former resident of Pasquotank County, has filed as a candidate for one of the two seats in the First District of N. C. House of Representatives.

He is married to the former Viola Perry of Perquimans County. They have four children, Emerson of Rt. 1, Elizabeth City, Leonard, Jr., of Rt. 1, Hertford, Anthony of Rt. 1, Elizabeth City, and LaRonda of the home.

Overman is a member of the Hunter's Fork Pentecostal Holiness Church, where he is on the official board; he is secretary and treasurer of the church, teacher of the young adult class, and a member of the church choir. He has held various offices in the church for 30 years, including director of the youth department.

He is President of Albemarle Enterprises which consists of a feeder pig

operation in Pasquotank County, which he and his three sons designed and built. He is Vice President and General Manager of Albemarle Fencing and Insulation Co., Inc. located at 905 Halstead Blvd., which is a 1552 sq. ft. Heritage Log Home, he and

his sons have just finished building.

Asked why he chose to run for this campaign, Overman indicated that it was because he was interested in good government and felt his responsibility to contribute to it.

Rescheduled

The Hertford Town Council meeting scheduled for last Monday has been re-set for Monday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m.

As of press time, the Perquimans County Commissioners had not rescheduled their regular Monday night meeting.



Digging out

By Tuesday, town workers were beginning to dig out from the blizzard that brought

activity to a virtual halt on Saturday afternoon, then pounded the area with more

snow and high winds on Sunday.