

Shallotte Folk Wait Out Hurricane

By JULIAN SCHEER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

SHALLOTTE—This little village hangs on the lip of the Atlantic Ocean. The only thing that separates it from the direct whipping of the ocean is a thin strip of land and inland waterway and last night that offered no shield.

A whole village huddled together in the high school building. The villagers—farmers, merchants, gaunt old fishermen—gathered here for a dirty, smelly, uncomfortable night in a building meant only for the young. But here were the young and old, rich and poor.

But there are few rich here. These people, the townspeople and others from the area, are seldom more than a payday or a fisherman's haul away from hunger. This is not a prosperous section of our state and last night their meager wares appeared even more gaunt and disheartening than ever before.

They huddled here in a common misery—Hurricane Connie. They fled their homes, their farms, their fishing boats.

CARNIVAL OF DISASTER
The high school building, which sits on the side of U.S. 17, was a carnival of disaster. There was little happiness, even with the youngsters who knew not what they were doing there.

Here the hurricane hit with all its force. By 9 o'clock the place was filled. Bob Sellers, a local Red Cross man, was in charge, but there was little order.

A sign at the door read: "Please find a seat, do not let the children run."

In every room men and women and children spread blankets on damp floors and tried to sleep. In the chemistry lab, an ancient room with equipment long outdated, a woman rolled her own cigarette with Prince Albert.

Another nursed a baby from her breast, and another sobbed as she rocked a sick child.

A young girl, a sweet face of 13, lighted a cigarette by a kerosene lantern, while other youngsters gathered around for puffs.

A woman changed the diaper of one child and it meant only turning it over to the other wet side.

In another room there was the smell of sweat and dampness and of urine. The place reeked of several odors, all foreign to the school house.

Outside the wind ripped shingles from roof tops and trees fell across the road. Window shades were drawn and the wind rattled the windows fiercely.

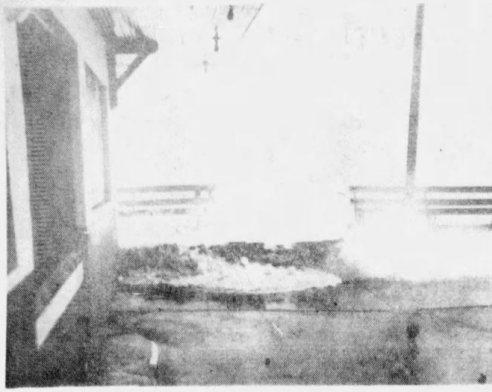
Children everywhere were dry and unkempt. Pink eye was seen on many. Babies cried and the children bit older grew restless as they rolled and tossed on the hard floors.

TRY TO SLEEP
In the auditorium men and women tried to sleep on assembly benches. An old man tried to read a fifth grade history book by a lamp, another packed his pipe with tobacco and "loved as 'hit gonna hit us hard agin'."

This is what Hurricane Connie had done to one community. It was stripping the land outside of the little it bore, while, inside, the inhabitants sat resigned.

There was nothing else they could do.

Scouts Not Injured As Bus Overturns
SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—A chartered bus loaded with 29 Boy Scouts from Abilene, Tex., overturned yesterday and slid down an embankment into the Pecos River near Terreno. It rolled over 1 1/2 times, landing with wheels in the air in a shallow inlet.



Connie Rips Boardwalk At Carolina Beach. (AP Wirephoto)



A National Guardsman Assists In Directing Evacuation Of Ocean Drive Beach (News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin-Hunter)



Kure Beach Folk Watch Storm Pound Breakwater. (AP Wirephoto)



Gas Lanterns Lend Small Cheer To Stormy Night



Children's Faces Reflect Hurricane Tension



Standing A Lonely Guard, Patrolman Looks Out Over Wind-Struck Cherry Grove Beach (News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin-Hunter)

Connie Is Compared With Hazel

'54 Hurricane More Destructive

By JULIAN SCHEER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

WILMINGTON—They talk in comparisons along the North Carolina coast today.

The comparisons, of course, are between Hazel of last year and Connie of last night. Momentarily, this year's Connie did not do nearly as much damage as Hazel. However, the storm is just as thick because there is no time to clean up for the remainder of this year's tourist season.

A rundown of the beaches indicates Carolina was the hardest hit and Wrightsville fared well.

Water did not reach the causeway at Wrightsville, whereas during Hazel motorists landed on top.

PIER STANDS UP
Johnny Mercer's fishing pier at Wrightsville lost only some railing and a few lamps. There was some roof damage and much water damage but no houses were lost.

At Carolina Beach water damage was severe. Much of the reconstructed beach was washed away again. There is little chance of a good recovery here this season.

At Kure Beach, Bill Robertson's famed Kure Pier lost considerable footage. There is 500 feet of the 880-foot pier

still standing. In the heart of Kure Beach, much of the strand is gone.

END WASHED OFF
At Wilmington Beach, the end was washed off of the Center Pier.

Two piers at Carolina Beach, both steel piers, lost footage.

This morning seas were relatively calm along the coast in this area and a northwesterly wind of about 25 miles per hour still blows.

The city of Wilmington itself came through the blow in good shape. Many store windows were blown out last night when the worst winds hit between 7:30 and 9 o'clock.

Streets today are covered with debris, mostly limbs and trees. There was considerable damage to city parks.

The water has receded along all these points.

Superintendents Conclude Session

MARS HILL.—North Carolina school superintendents today concluded their annual meeting at Mars Hill College.

Nathan Yelton, executive secretary of the Teachers and State Employees Retirement System, was principal speaker at the final session.

Last night delegates heard an address by State Treasurer Edwin Gill, who discussed plans for a state art museum at Raleigh.

Rookie Policemen Had An Explanation

PHILADELPHIA.—Two rookie policemen got started with a bang and ended up with red faces yesterday.

Driving by the Water Department pumping station, they heard a loud explosion and immediately summoned fire and police emergency equipment.

It turned out the explosion was merely the backfiring of a gas operated pump, a routine occurrence at the plant. The rookies explained to arriving rescue personnel.

Malaya plans to develop its jungle areas—if it can first get the terrorists out.

Treasure Hunt Ends Without A Treasure

DE LEON SPRINGS, Fla. (AP)—The treasure hunt in Ponce de Leon Springs ended without a treasure.

John Bird, head of a Daytona Beach skin-diving group, said he and two companions yesterday went to the floor of the cavern 45 feet below the surface with a powerful underwater light.

They made a thorough search for a chest of metal and jewels which legend says was tossed in the springs in 1783 by a group of settlers attacked by Indians. They didn't find it.

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