



HELENE LEAVES DAMAGE—The roof of a house seen here was blown over the top of a row of homes on the waterfront at Carolina Beach Saturday afternoon, coming to rest against a rooming house. This was representative of damage seen along some sections of the coast after Hurricane Helene moved out to sea. (Special Times-News Photo by Douglas Fitch)

Helene Leaves Millions In Damage As Clean-Up Is Started On Coast

WILMINGTON, N. C. (AP)—Up and down the coast stand houses with roofs ripped open. Battered trees gleam nakedly against the sky, their shorn limbs piled up on streets and roads. Telephone poles sag crazily.

On the miles of beaches, the surf washes over tens of thousands of conch shells, more souvenirs of the weekend's Hurricane Helene.

Damage from the hurricane is estimated in the millions of dol-

Hodges Expected To Appeal For Federal Aid To Coast

RALEIGH (AP)—Gov. Luther Hodges was expected to appeal to President Eisenhower today have hurricane hit sections of eastern North Carolina declared a disaster area.

The disaster area designation would entitle the stricken sections to federal assistance.

Although estimates varied of the damage caused by Hurricane Helene's slash at the coastal area Saturday, the governor's office said it will run into the millions.

A statement was expected from the governor later in the morning. He conferred today with Judge Thomas Goodman, regional Federal Civil Defense director, and state officials after having made two trips into the hurricane area. He visited Wilmington and More-

Nuclear Blast Felt 10 Miles

ATOMIC TEST SITE, Nev. (AP) from the mushroom cloud directly—A nuclear test weapon exploded toward the observer's post. Fore-

lars. Communications are still out in many areas. But there was no loss of life.

Residents, recalling hurricanes of 1954-55, were prepared when Helene swirled past the Carolinas and the Virginia Capes, well offshore, with winds up to 140 miles an hour.

A civil defense spokesman said the people "gave us no argument" when asked to evacuate.

There were scattered personal injuries. The Red Cross said 4-

head City during the storm Saturday and flew over the area yesterday. Judge Goodman accompanied him.

A disaster area designation would entitle the area to Civil Defense assistance for the restoration of government facilities, to aid by the Small Business Administration of loans to businessmen to help them get back on their feet, and aid for farmers.

Gov. Luther Hodges and Judge Thomas Goodman, regional Civil (See HODGES on Page Five-A)

950 persons were cared for at 65 shelters.

Spinning shoreward Saturday morning from the southeast, Helene passed up most of South Carolina's lush resort area. She knocked down a fishing pier at Ocean Drive Beach, S. C., and damaged two more piers in Cherry Grove Beach.

Moving toward the jutting North Carolina coastline, she smashed a 300-foot pier at Ocean Isle Beach, N. C., damaged most of the houses at Holden Beach and sent high water over the protective sand dunes at Long Beach, damaging roads. This was in the forenoon.

She hit hardest at Southport, tucked inside the elbow of the Cape Fear, and Wilmington, 30 miles north. She never came inland, staying about 35 miles offshore. All communications were knocked out at Southport and the town was in need of water until auxiliary pumps were brought in.

"The only thing that saved us," said some Southport citizens, "was that the winds and the tide were working against each other."

State Rep. James C. Boman of Brunswick County said he was "very anxious to see if we get a declaration as a disaster area," adding that the poorer people had suffered the most.

State Highway Patrol Capt. C.R. Williams estimated damage at Southport between \$500,000 and \$750,000.

Wilmington, the state's biggest coastal city, suffered an estimat-

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HODGES

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defense director, met with heads of state agencies to chart rehabilitation work. The conferees were expected to decide whether North Carolina will seek federal assistance for storm relief.

After a flying inspection of the coast Sunday, Hodges said low tides when Helene struck plus a strong west wind which held back heavy seas minimized damages.

Utilities, roads and private property suffered from the blow, he reported, but it was impossible to say how extensive the damage might be.

Many roofs were damaged, but few buildings were completely destroyed. Many of the sand fences erected to build up dunes on the Outer Banks were lost to the storm, and the state highway on Ocracoke and Hatteras islands sustained damage.

Civil Defense officials said better preparations for Helene possibly saved lives. Coastal residents who remembered the previous hurricanes needed little persuasion to leave their homes as Helene approached.

The Red Cross said 4,950 persons were cared for at 65 storm shelters.

Russell C. Nicholson, deputy state civil defense director, said improved radio communications kept officials in touch with all coastal sections even at the height of the storm.

Hodges was at Wilmington and Morehead City as Helene's terrific winds brushed the coast.

Col. Harry Brown, the state's hurricane rehabilitation director, accompanied the governor on the inspection flight from north of Hatteras to Myrtle Beach, S.C., then began an auto tour to size of damages.

Hurricane Hazel, the most destructive hurricane in recent Tar Heel history, left damages estimated at 120 million dollars and at least 19 dead in North Carolina.

Connie, Diane and Ione in 1955 caused an estimated 169 million dollars worth of damage, much of it to unharvested crops.

HELENE

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ed million dollars damage, said the highway patrol. Most of this was to residences and businesses.

Farther up the coast, Mayor Pro Tem George Kanoutis of Kure Beach estimated property damage at \$250,000, beach erosion at \$30,000. Mayor Glenn M. Tucker estimated Carolina Beach damage at 1½ million dollars, but said no property owners were wiped out. Mayor Pro Tem Richard Meier of Wrightsville Beach said all property suffered some damage.

By Saturday afternoon Helene had passed the most densely populated areas. Her effect was felt several miles inland in rough weather and rains, but damage there was not severe. Later that evening she howled off toward the open sea.

Morehead City and Beaufort, port cities, were battered down and shook off the blow with comparatively little damage.

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