

# After The Storm



(Observer Photo-York)

A Huge Oak, Felled By Helene, Topped Against This Southport Home



Cottages At Carolina Beach Are Surrounded By Water In Wake Of Storm

## 'NO MATCH FOR COUSIN HAZEL'

# Helene's Big Weather Wallop Fails To Flatten N. C. Coast

Observer staff writer Don Gray made a tour of the storm-damaged areas of the coast Sunday. Here is his report.

By DON GRAY  
Observer Staff Writer

NEW BERN—After taking a close look at the North Carolina coast Sunday from Southport to Morehead City, it was easy to determine that Hurricane Helene was no match for cousin Hazel who made a sweep in much of the same area in October of 1954. Most of Hazel's damage was

done by water whereas Helene was more of a wind storm.

Coastal residents are thanking their lucky stars Helene hit when the tide was out. Oldtimers say that if she had unleashed her fury in the beach areas crowded with homes with the tide in, the result would have been much worse than Hazel.

At Southport, service station operator W. F. Huffam said the residents were ready for the worst, that they made prepara-

tions according to instructions. "As it turned out," he said, "we weren't really hit too hard. I'd say about 90 per cent of the homes in town have been damaged to some extent but think what would have happened if the tide hadn't been going out.

"Hazel did a lot of damage on the waterfront because she hit on high tide. Her winds were less than 100 miles an hour but yesterday the wind was 125 to 135 miles an hour," he said.

Southport was closed to curious spectators. Highway patrolmen checked cars and turned away those who had no reason to enter the area.

Electricity was out but a mobile unit from Fort Bragg was furnishing power to run the pumps at the water station. An emergency power unit was in operation at the hospital.

Power crews worked around the clock in an effort to get service back into the town.

Thousands of shingles have been ripped from housetops and yards were covered with debris, mostly leaves and limbs from giant water oaks.

"The oaks are old and snapped off like uncooked spaghetti," said Huffam.

Further north at Wilmington it was much the same story except for the many store fronts knocked out by the storm. Market Street Road towards Wrightsville Beach was an exceptionally hard hit section.

All around Wilmington billboards had been smacked down and one big service station was blown away. Its operator had just walked out the front door when the building left its foundation. He had put gasoline in a customer's car and was making

Asked if many cars were driving about during the storm, the operator said, "Yes. It seemed like everyone was curious to see what was going to happen. The wind was strong enough to blow me up against the cars at times but still they came for gas. Everybody who stopped wanted a full tank," he said.

Many Wilmington residents spent Sunday cleaning up their yards and many in cases it was necessary to use axes and saws to get the job done.

Wrightsville and Carolina Beaches were fearing the worst but it didn't come. A little water trickled into some low streets

See HELENE'S, Page 2, Col. 1

## Helene's Damage Is Light

Continued From Page 1A  
at Wrightsville but caused only minor damage.

Hundreds of homes on both beaches were damaged as shingles flew and porches were ripped off.

Residents were permitted to return home after the storm passed. Wrightsville resident Gil Davis was busy Sunday afternoon cleaning up around his home a short distance from the water front.

"This one was nothing like Hazel," he said. "Mostly wind damage we can patch up in a little while. Most everybody went to Wilmington until the storm had passed but some folks refused to leave. But if the tide had been in and the wind against us, this house wouldn't be here now."

"There was no electric power in the beach areas. Some sections of Wilmington were still without power Sunday afternoon. One of the Wrightsville fishing piers was damaged but repairs were being made. Owner Johnny Mercer said he'd be back in business in no time.

Hodges reported high winds caused much damage to roofs of buildings and homes. Some houses were knocked from their foundations and one or two fishing piers were badly damaged, he said.

The Outer Banks suffered from the storm, Hodges said, with Portsmouth and Ocracoke especially hard hit. Many sand fences, set up to repair erosion damage from other storms, were lost. The state highway on Ocracoke and Hatteras also showed some damage.

## TALLY OF LOSS BEGINS

# Hodges Surveys Helene's Damage

RALEIGH—(P)—Gov. Hodges flew over the storm-ravaged coast Sunday, then got down to the task of figuring up how much damage Hurricane Helene did to North Carolina.

## Babies Born In Hurricane

CHERRY POINT—(P)—Two baby girls—neither named Helene—were born in the Cherry Point Naval Air Station hospital during the height of Hurricane Helene's 90 m.p.h. winds here Saturday evening.

The first arrival was Patricia Sisk, daughter of Sgt. and Mrs. C. S. Sisk of Kingston, Tenn. A short time later Christine Marie Luhr, daughter of Cpl. and Mrs. M. A. Luhr of St. Marys, Pa., was born.

The Cherry Point Public Information Office said both deliveries were made by base doctors using flashlights, since all electrical power was out at the time.

Col. Harry Brown of Raleigh, the state's hurricane rehabilitation director, and Charles Engel, a member of Goodman's staff, went along on the flight, but left the plane at Myrtle Beach. They returned up the coast by car to make a personal inspection of places where the storm hit.

Hodges reported high winds caused much damage to roofs of buildings and homes. Some houses were knocked from their foundations and one or two fishing piers were badly damaged, he said.

The Outer Banks suffered from the storm, Hodges said, with Portsmouth and Ocracoke especially hard hit. Many sand fences, set up to repair erosion damage from other storms, were lost. The state highway on Ocracoke and Hatteras also showed some damage.

"We were most fortunate in preventing the loss of life," he declared.

Judge Thomas Goodman, regional director of the office of civil and defense mobilization, accompanied Hodges on the Sunday flight in an Army plane from Ft. Bragg. Goodman returned to Raleigh with the governor and went into a series of conferences to determine what requests, if any, will be made for federal assistance.

## Damages Of Storm Assessed

WILMINGTON, N. C.—(P)—Here is a Sunday town-by-town survey of damage from Hurricane Helene:

Wilmington—State Highway Patrol Capt. C. R. Williams estimates damage at about one million dollars. Southern Bell Telephone reports some 7,000 telephones in area out.

Southport—One of the hardest hit areas, reported extensive damage. Army generator on scene supplying power for water pumps and limited amount of light. Red Cross estimated damage was averaging about \$200 per residence.

Long Beach—Damage relatively slight, only roofs, porches etc. affected. Tides splashed over sand dunes causing some cracking of roads from erosion.

Wrightsville Beach—Mayor pro tem Richard Meier said he had no total damage estimate, but Capt. Williams earlier had estimated ½ million dollars. Meier said an exact estimate would have to await restoration of water and sewer service.

Harbor Island—Roof damage reported at 50 per cent with an estimate of \$125,000 damages.

Kure Beach—Incomplete reports indicate several businesses demolished and several homes without roofs.

Cherry Grove, S. C.—Two fishing piers damaged. Portion of end section of inlet pier washed away and about 200 feet of Cherry Grove pier washed out.

Morehead City—Roof blown from a yacht basin boat shed, several roofs blown off and windows knocked out. No long distance telephone service.

Atlantic Beach—Extensive damage. A bakery's warehouse destroyed, roofs blown away and at least two garages down.

# 2 Hurricanes Pose Threat To Shipping

WILMINGTON, N. C.—(UPI)—Hurricane Helene lashed shipping lanes in the Atlantic Ocean Sunday with 115 mile an hour winds as police patrolled for looters on the destruction-ridden coastal area. Damage estimates neared seven million dollars.

The latest weather bureau advisory placed Helene at about 390 miles east of the Virginia coast at latitude 37.4 North, longitude 69.0 west.

Meanwhile another hurricane, Ilsa, probed the Atlantic traveling in a northerly direction at about 15 miles an hour. The weather bureau pinpointed Ilsa's position at latitude 29.1 North, longitude 62.3 West, or about 260 miles southeast of Bermuda.

Ilsa's top winds reached 100 miles an hour and ships in the hurricane's path were advised to exercise extreme caution.

Damage estimates along the coast mounted as municipal officials and property owners made inspection tours among the areas struck by hurricane Helene's 125 mile an hour winds. No deaths have been reported.

Unofficial estimates placed damage in the Wilmington area alone at close to two million dollars and heavy damage was reported at resort beaches along the coast. The Red Cross said 5,000 per-

sens were being fed in shelters and that coastal damages rose to \$6,827,000.

The State Highway Patrol and local law enforcement agencies set up roadblocks on highways leading to the beaches to prevent looting. Only property owners were allowed on the beach areas.

Helene struck the North Carolina coast a smashing blow Saturday heaving tons of water and rain on the coastal area, blowing down trees, uprooting houses and knocking over valuable power facilities, before pivoting back into the Atlantic.

Two detachments of National guardsmen were on duty in the Wilmington area to aid police in manning patrols through the destroyed areas.

## West Texas Hit By Flood

PRESIDIO, Tex.—(UPI)—A seven-foot flood crest poured down the Rio Conchos into the Rio Grande Sunday in the Presidio area of far west Texas, where flooding already has isolated one town of about 300 persons.

Congressman J. T. Rutherford (D-Tex.) of Odessa made a helicopter tour along the flooding rivers, which ran two miles north of Presidio, and reported water all around Redford, Tex., downstream from Presidio.

Border patrol planes from Marfa flew in bread, milk and other fresh food supplies, and landed on a strip cleared in the center of Redford.