

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Helene Picks Target

HURRICANE HITS N.C. COAST

Storm Washes Away Docks At Southport

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS WILMINGTON (AP)—Winds of Hurricane Helene howled ashore in southeastern North Carolina late this morning at speeds above 100 miles an hour.

First reports told of mounting damage but no deaths. City docks at Southport, port town 30 miles south of Wilmington, washed away, the Weather Bureau said.

Guardsmen Called Out In Brunswick

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS Brunswick (AP)—As Hurricane Helene struck the Southeastern North Carolina coast today with winds over 100 m.p.h., the state National Guard unit had been called to duty.

In other developments from civil defense headquarters in Raleigh, Griffith said three state engineers from the Budget Bureau have left for Shallotte, Southport and Wilmington to survey hurricane damage and prepare estimates.

The director also said he received a report that the city fisheries building and city dock at Southport had been destroyed. All power was reported off in Wilmington where the Weather Bureau said gusts of up to 104 m.p.h. were struck.

PHONES OUT Telephone workers at Raleigh reported phone communications into Wilmington were down and were not expected to be restored for about six hours.

"It's really blowing down here," declared Col. James B. McCumber, director of New Hanover civil defense.

He reported all communications except radio out at Carolina Beach and said most persons had been evacuated from there and nearby Wrightsville and Kure beaches.

As the powerful, dangerous storm pushed ashore on the southeastern coast of North Carolina, damage reports included street flooding, roof and power line destruction at the state's beach resorts in the area.

The reports filtered in on an extensive radio network at civil defense headquarters in Raleigh. Shallotte, slightly inland, reported gusts of between 75 to 80 miles an hour and winds at Whiteville were between 50 and 60.

Trees were blown down in Whiteville and state civil defense auxiliary power units were moved into the area.

A Red Cross spokesman and the State Highway Patrol said "all but a few stubborn persons" had been evacuated from the Wilmington Beach area.

Streets at Wrightsville and Carolina, both widely known summer playground spots near here, ran deep with water as torrential rains pounded the coastline.

Hardest reported winds were 120 miles an hour which were clocked at Frying Pan Shoals lighthouse off Cape Fear.

The Weather Bureau's 11 a.m. (EST) advisory located Helene about 50 miles south of Wilmington, moving northward about 10 miles an hour.

HIGH WATER The advisory added, "Unusually high storm tides, high waves and heavy seas will flood coastal lands from Myrtle Beach, S.C., to Hatteras, N.C., to heights of seven to ten feet above normal and probably higher in some places.

It is imperative that island beaches and coastal lowlands be evacuated from Cape Fear to Cape Hatteras. Tides north of Hatteras to Norfolk, Va., are expected to rise three to five feet above normal by tonight."

The expected course and speed of Hurricane Helene will move the center along the southeast of North Carolina, passing near Cape Hatteras at midnight. The highest winds reported so far were 120 miles per hour at Frying Pan Shoals lighthouse off Wilmington.

Winds of near hurricane force battered beaches near the coastal village of Shallotte, N.C., and blew waves across the beaches. Several persons drowned in this area in a 1954 hurricane.

Whiteville, N.C., a town 36 miles inland, lost its power when 60-mile winds blew down wires.

MYRTLE ESCAPES

Myrtle Beach, S.C., a summer resort town, was spared an integration of 15,000 took on a cheery note as the storm center by-passed it.

"It's looking good here," said Myrtle Beach Mayor W. E. Cameron after a tour along the waterfront. He said he saw only inconsequential damage. Two stores suffered broken display windows.

The Civil Aeronautics Administration said Myrtle Beach's hardest winds were gusts of 63 miles an hour.

After the 9 a.m. advisory, North Carolina's Gov. Luther Hodges left his Raleigh office and flew to Wilmington, the Cape Fear River port city of 50,000 about 25 miles upstream from the ocean.

Hurricane force winds already were between 50 and 60.

See STORM on page 5-A



(News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin-Hunter)

Wind-Driven Water Pounds Myrtle Beach Pavilion

S.C. Coast Prepared, But Escapes Worst Of Storm

By JULIAN SCIEER News Staff Writer

MYRTLE BEACH, S. C.—Hurricane Helene moved within 45 miles of the South Carolina coast early today and advance winds reached better than 50 miles per hour.

The winds kicked up eight and nine foot breakers that would have pounded against the pavilion and front row houses that the tide had been running out.

The wind came up quickly at 7 a.m. after 12 long hours of warning by hurricane watchers.

At the same time the storm moved slowly northward and appeared to be headed for the Ocean Drive beach area. While it may do some extensive damage here, the full force this morning has been believed to be headed for the upper South Carolina coast.

Civil Aeronautics authority personnel told The News at 8 a.m. that they were in contact with hurricane hunter planes and Navy reconnaissance fliers told them that the hurricane had not lost any of its intensity and winds could reach 125 miles an hour.

TAKING BEATING

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The westerly wind met heavy seas which were between high and low tide. Front row houses had nine foot breakers rolling in from steps and breakers were hitting the flooring of a fishing pier.

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Picket Injured

DETROIT (AP)—A United Auto Workers picket was injured today at the General Motors Technical Center as production-disrupting wild-cat strikes continued to plague the auto industry from coast to coast.

Satellite Try Fails

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Defense Department said today the Navy Vanguard satellite launched yesterday did not go into orbit and burned up flying in the earth's atmosphere.

Typhoon Hits Japan

TOKYO (AP)—Typhoon Ida left death and desolation in central Japan today. Rescue crews worked frantically to clear the damage. National police reported 24 dead, 1,270 missing, and 442,548 homeless.

General Takes Over

RANGOON, Burma (AP)—Gen. Ne Win, staunch anti-Communist head of the armed forces, controlled Burma today. He stepped in to halt political feeding that threatened to give Communists the balance of power.

School Voting Heavy

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Long lines of voters, possibly a record turnout, began casting ballots today in the critical referendum on whether to integrate the schools in strife-torn Little Rock.

Helene Holds Weather Key For Charlotte

Hurricane Helene held the key to Charlotte's weather for this afternoon and tonight, but no violent weather is expected locally, the Weather Bureau at Douglas Airport said.

Just how bad Charlotte's weather gets depends on how far west Helene moves. Skies were expected to begin clearing this afternoon and rain and gusty winds are predicted for early afternoon.

Some heavy rain showers and gusty winds — from 20 to 30 miles per hour — are expected. Helene should be out of the way by Sunday morning, giving the way to partly cloudy and mild weather tomorrow. The hurricane is expected to be somewhere near the North Carolina-Virginia border near the coast tomorrow morning.

Because of Helene, the weather will worsen generally east of Charlotte and will remain better to the west.

Our Weather

Increasing cloudiness, rain, and wind today with rain ending by morning. Sunday — partly cloudy and mild. Low tomorrow morning — 69 High today — 89 High yesterday — 91 High tomorrow — 80 Sunrise today, 6:14 a.m., sunset today, 6:13 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A

'What's Wrong With World' Crusade Tonight On National TV

By JOHN BORCHERT News Religion Editor

A nationwide audience will watch Charlotte tonight via television as Dr. Billy Graham brings the seventh service in his Greater Charlotte Crusade at the Coliseum at 6:30 p.m.

The one hour earlier evening starting time is to prepare for a one-hour, nationwide telecast which will begin at 7 p.m. The Charlotte area will be blacked-out, but residents will be able to see the program tomorrow at 10 p.m. over WBTV.



GEN. PERSONS

Ike Appoints New Assistant

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower today appointed retired Maj. Gen. Wilton B. Persons as his chief assistant to succeed Sherman Adams.

Persons, 62, has been serving as deputy assistant to the President.

The White House said Eisenhower also intends later to appoint a deputy to Persons. The title will be closer later.

Eisenhower also named Bryce N. Harlow as deputy assistant to the President for congressional affairs, a new title. Harlow is now a special assistant to Persons for congressional affairs.

Heading out the new White House top command is the already announced selection of Robert Merriam, former assistant budget director, as deputy assistant to the President for interdepartmental affairs.

Persons' appointment came six days after Adams announced he would resign.

Adams, Eisenhower's right-hand man during most of his time in office, quit his post in announcing his decision in a dramatic TV radio broadcast.

Adams' relations with his good friend, Boston industrialist Bernard Goetz, had been investigated by a House committee and there were demands from Republicans that Adams get out.

Hodges Leaves Crusade Early

Last Night was "Governor's Night" at Evangelist Billy Graham's four-week crusade here.

Gov. Luther H. Hodges was the guest of honor.

But, he slipped out during the sermon.

No offense. A great admirer of the Charlotte evangelist, Hodges had explained to the crowd earlier he might have to leave. He flew to the Capital at Raleigh to confer with civil defense officials on plans to combat the possible effects of Hurricane Helene.

Evening Prayer

O God, may we never turn our backs on Jesus Christ, and walk out into the night. Grant that we may ever turn our faces to Thee that we may be guided by the light of Thy countenance. In the Master's name we pray — Amen.

For his sermon tonight, Dr. Graham has announced he will tell, "What's Wrong with the World."

Each night another near-over-flow audience of 14,200 persons—12,500 in the Coliseum and 1,700 in Owens Auditorium—saw and heard:

1. Gov. Luther Hodges of North Carolina; 2. a testimonial by former British stage and movie star John French; 3. the recording of the musical portion of Dr. Graham's Sunday "Hour of Decision"; 4. a dry run by WBTV for tonight's nationwide telecast; and 5. the sermon by Dr. Graham.

'CHRISTIAN STATESMAN'

In his introduction of Gov. Hodges, Dr. Graham told the audience: "I have admired and respected Gov. Hodges as much as any Christian statesman anywhere in the world."

"Regardless of what position I happen to hold or what I do," said the governor, "nothing will be as lasting and as important as what this fine young man is doing."

The governor received a standing ovation when he took the speaker's stand.

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John French, whose story was told by The News when he first arrived in Charlotte several months ago, told last night's audience how he once hated and wanted to punch Billy Graham because his wife friend, Jean Winmill, was converted. However, through meeting Dr. Graham and reading the Gospel of John, the British actor was converted.

PLANS RETURN

He will leave here this weekend for San Francisco, returning here in a party "for about three months."

The service last night began a few minutes early so that "six or seven minutes" of the musical portion of Dr. Graham's "Hour of Decision" could be recorded from the Coliseum.

Dr. Graham introduced to his 30,000 station network the 1-300-voice Charlotte Crusade Choir. Cliff Barrows served as narrator. Dr. Graham described the Coliseum in glowing terms, and the choir, joined on the last stanza by the audience, sang, "Love Divine."

Grady Wilson read from Isaiah 38:14 and Beverly Shea sang two solos.

SERMON TOPIC

In his sermon last night, Dr. Graham preached on the First Commandment, "Thou Shalt Have No Other Gods Before Me."

"Notice," said Dr. Graham, "that Jesus always put the cart before the horse, or the horse before the cart, whichever way you want to look at it. He got it straightened out anyway."

"He said, 'Before you love your neighbor as you should, you have to love God supremely, first. Vertically, you must have a relationship established with God. Horizontally, after you've established this relationship with God, but it is also the Ten Commandments. 'God will some day judge you' See CRUSADE on page 5-A

AREA EVACUATED

The entire area has been evacuated.

At Windy Hill the winds were picked up but were not the same high intensity. Crescent Beach and Cherry Grove appeared ready to absorb much of the brunt of the storm.

The first streaks of white were washed across the sky by gusty winds today — winds which heralded the coming of what may be the most fierce hurricane in this state's history.

All night the barometer dropped steadily, winds gradually picked up, and squalls became a steady downpour.

LIKE HAZEL?

Helene developed much like Hazel of four years ago — and this is not a good sign. Hazel is in the minds of everyone here, for

Bridge Blown Open By Storm

GEORGETOWN, S. C. (AP)—A turntable-type bridge used to allow boats through the Waccamaw River was blown open early today blocking traffic on U. S. 17 from Georgetown to Myrtle Beach.

The 100-foot span, part of the LaFayette Bridge across the Waccamaw River, turns out instead of drawing up to allow ship traffic through.

Winds of Hurricane Helene blew the span open and crews from the State Highway Department were unable to get it closed. They could not estimate when it would be fixed.

The bridge is part of U.S. 17, the coastal highway. The State Highway Patrol said it was impossible to get from Georgetown to Myrtle Beach on the highway.



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Pier At Myrtle Beach Takes Wind And Wave