

# The 'big wind' came down from the north

By Ruth Schran

The Big Wind came from the north, down to the Gap and met the disturbance moving upward from Texas and the gulf. The two systems met in Jones Valley, playing havoc with the big trees and several of the summer homes there.

It was quite a storm! But no one was hurt and no lives were lost. For that we are thankful.

On August 3 we had dark foreboding clouds, a smidgin of hail, some wind and a little rain came to Glenwood. But the storm had spent its fury before it reached us. Our only inconvenience was a brief interruption of electrical service.

In the "Gap" it was a different story. About one third of the plank flooring of the swinging bridge across the Caddo River was torn from the cables and was hanging down from the tall piers at the bank on the east side. Sections of the flooring could be seen through the clear waters of the Caddo where they were held by the low water bridge. The swinging bridge is not needed now, but will be when the river rises. I am sure it will be repaired.

A large tree was blown down across from Gap Mercantile in Caddo Gap. When I asked Mrs. Mae Fryar what the storm was like, she replied, "It was a big wind coming down from the north. There was a heavy rain and the wind blew the water up-hill - right straight up the road!"

Ray Ross who lives in Montgomery County lost his favorite fruit tree - an Indian Peach which was loaded with fruit.

Glenna Norvelle and Bonnie Doles, daughter and foster daughter of Jean Norvelle who lives in the former Sage McLean home, were at basketball practice at Caddo Hills School. They reported water gushing through the PE Building and, as they looked out the door, they could see large hailstones and what looked like a blanket of water

coming down from the north.

But it was in Jones Valley that most of the damage was done.

"I believe it was here that the two systems met," said Mrs. Olive Cameron of Shreveport, Louisiana, who was in residence at Lake Lee, the family summer cabin in the valley.

The angry winds tore through the valley, felling some dozen or more trees. Some were uprooted and some were broken off near the ground. Rafts were strewn up and down the creek and a motor boat was beached.

The roof was torn off the new addition to the old Cubage house - a log house, one of the oldest in the valley. The large dining hall which is used during family reunions was blown two and one half feet off its foundation and the kitchen area damaged by a falling tree.

Lake Lee, summer cottage of the Cameron family, which Mrs. Cameron inherited from her parents,

the Rev. and Mrs. Claude L. Jones, sustained storm damage which buckled the rafters of a section of roof and "the lower part of some rafters were sheared off," said Mrs. Cameron.

A large oak tree in front and to the left of the cottage was uprooted. Fortunately it fell away from the house or it would have been crushed.

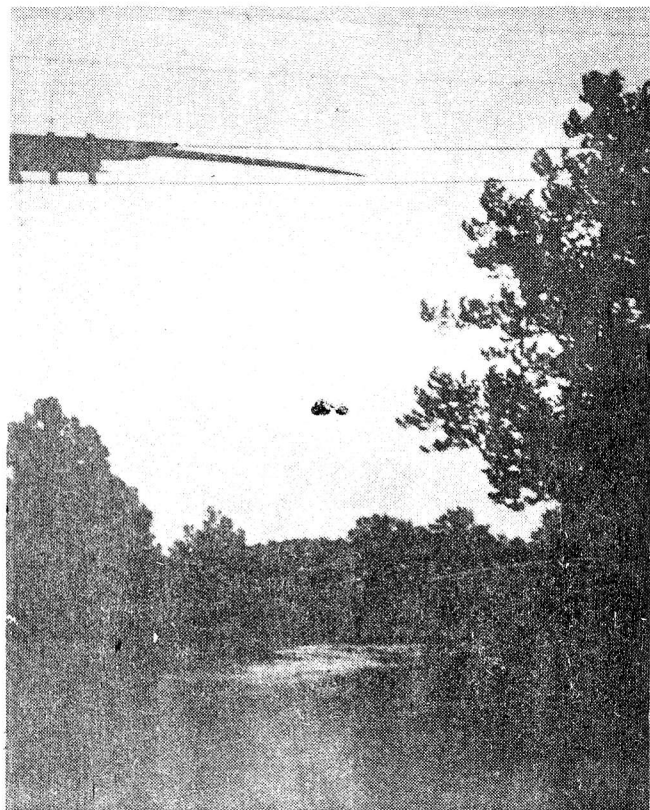
It was also good fortune for Olive Cameron that she was dining at the home of Jean Norvelle when the storm struck. So she missed the frightening experience of being at home during the storm, although she was badly shaken by the ordeal of finding the shambles in the valley.

Every storm has its "freaks." One was that a large tap root of the tree which was blown over extended under the corner of Lake Lee cottage and remained in the ground. Had it been put out by the falling tree more damage would have been done.

Another freak was a small tree which had been topped

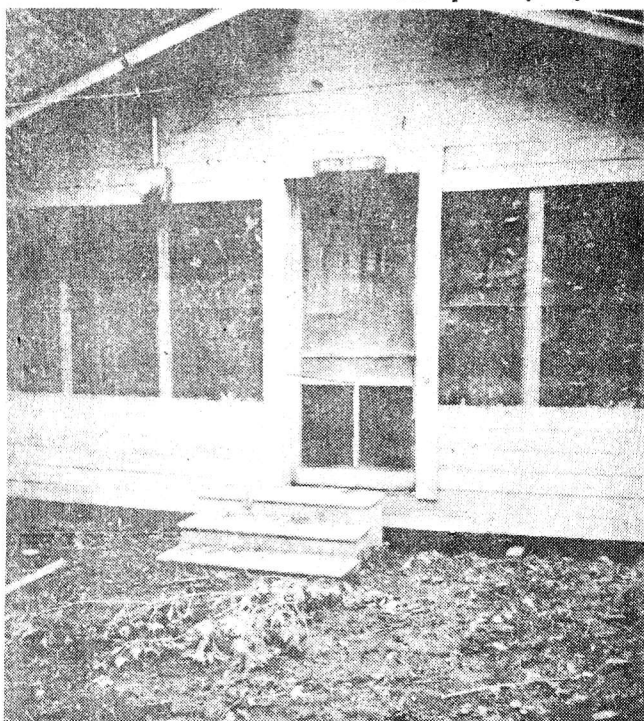
at the rear of the dining hall was broken and poised for all the world like a telescope.

The storm didn't last long and the damaged building will be repaired; but the big trees will be missed. Those who experienced it will long remember when "the big wind came down from the north" and met the tropical disturbance in the valley.



**DE-FLOORED** — It was an ill wind that blew the flooring from the swinging bridge over the Caddo River at Caddo Gap the night of August 3, and storm clouds appeared to threaten the next day when this picture was made showing part of the flooring intact, part torn, and part gone. The bridge is used in high water season by students who attend Caddo Hills Schools. That same night, wind blew down a centuries-old sweetgum tree across the street from Gap Mercantile Co. in Caddo Gap, and did considerable more damage at nearby Jones Valley.

staff photo by Ray Ross



**THAT FAR OFF** — Steps no longer line up with the doorway to the dining hall at Jones Valley where members of the Clingman-Jones families gather for an annual reunion, after a tree fell against the building during the storm during the night of August 3. The other end of the building was damaged, as were other buildings in the camp. Approximately one dozen trees fell in the storm.



**CLEANUP** — Bill Jones swings an ex while Tim Aasland tries to free an 18-inch blade chainsaw they used to cut through a 36-inch redoak tree that fell near a cabin in Jones Valley south of Caddo Gap. Approximately a dozen trees were blown down in the storm the night of August 3. Other damage was reported in the Caddo Gap area. Since all trees fell in the same direction, it is believed that this was not a tornado. Several buildings were damaged in the valley, Jones said.

staff photo by Ray Ross



**RIGHT HERE** — Olive Cameron points to a root from a giant redoak which blew down in front of the cabin at Jones Valley she stays in when not in Shreveport. One large root goes under the cabin she said. Rootmass with dirt can be seen at left. The storm occurred on the night of August 3 when two fronts met in Arkansas. "I believe they met right here," Olive said.

staff photo by Ray Ross