

October 6, 1956

Residents in Bay Area Compare Notes on Flossy

By Rush Loving

GLOUCESTER, Oct. 6—While things began to get back to normal this week after Hurricane Flossy, people here were comparing a series of damaging hurricanes which have struck here during the past two years.

Flossy differed with her predecessors in a number of ways. This was neither a rainy nor a windy storm but a tidal one. High tides in Gloucester, Mathews and Middlesex broke all records since the great hurricane of 1933. King and Queen county was the only exception, and there the Mattaponi was measured unofficially at about 18 inches below its level for Hurricane Hazel in 1954.

Little had been done this week at Stingray Point where the front yards of a number of cottages had been washed away. Residents there reported the water was even worse than in Hazel, which is generally considered to be the worst storm of the past three years. A wharf at the hotel was finally swept away during Flossy after weathering Hazel, Connie and Diane. Similar stories about high tides were heard in Ur-

banna, lower Gloucester and lower Mathews.

Power and telephone officials reported that wind-wise Flossy was tame compared with Hazel. Service had been restored in all injured areas within a day but it was three weeks after Hazel before service was back to normal, and customers were still feeling its effects a year later.

The blunt of Flossy fell on the three bay counties. King and Queen got off lightly. In Hazel all four counties suffered almost equally.

While Hazel was a wind hurricane and Flossy a tide hurricane, Diane and Connie last year's two main storms, were mostly rain. They had little effect on this area, and only a few trees and wires were downed by periodic gusts of wind. The main damage from them was to oyster beds, particularly on the Rappahannock. Because of adverse conditions these brought about by the extra heavy flow of fresh water from the rains oystermen reported some damage. The Virginia Fisheries Laboratory reported, however, that Flossy, as far as they can see, hurt the oyster industry little.