

# PASS CHRISTIAN IS 'DESOLATED'

TP 5/4/69  
Storm Ruin Is Described  
by Publisher

By ROBERT I. PACK

A Pass Christian resident who lost his home and his business to Hurricane Camille told of the Gulf Coast's desolation Monday night.

Ronny Caire, publisher of the weekly newspaper "The Owl" in Pass Christian and Long Beach, described the area as a scene of "absolute desolation."

The area, he said, is "utterly ravaged" and lacks essentials such as food, clothing, medical supplies and "damn near everything else."

The death toll at 3 p.m. Monday, according to Caire, was six in Long Beach, of whom five were males and one female, and 18 known dead in Pass Christian.

Another 17 to 20 persons were unaccounted for in Pass Christian, said Caire. Most of the missing lived in the Richelleu Apartments, which were leveled.

## WEARY REFUGEE

The weary refugee of Camille said that nothing was left standing south of Scenic Highway in Pass Christian except for the City Hall. The Pass Christian Yacht Club and all beachfront homes which were not on a bluff were totally destroyed.

"Not a single house within the city limits of Pass Christian has escaped damage completely," declared the publisher.

Before the storm struck Pass  
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# PASS CHRISTIAN DAMAGES TOLD

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Christian with its winds of up to 200 miles per hour and its 20 to 22 foot tides, said Caire, Civil Defense authorities ordered the subdivision of Pass Christian Isles to be evacuated.

However, he said, a few families chose to elude the authorities and ride out the storm in their homes. Some of these people are now dead, according to Caire.

The publisher said he had boarded his home up to a height of 15 feet. The previous high tide was 15 feet above normal during the 1947 hurricane, said Caire, and waves were 12 feet high during Betsy in 1965.

When waves of 20 feet were predicted, he said, he knew he had little chance of saving his own home and he and his wife moved to a neighbor's home on higher ground to ride out the storm.

All north-south arteries in Pass Christian are impassable, stated Caire. "Extensive looting" is taking place there, and the National Guard was due to move in Monday night.

He declared that about 2,000 persons have been left homeless in Pass Christian, "most of them with nothing but the shirt on their back." Many of the homeless have been quartered at Pass Christian High School and St. Paul's School.

East of Pass Christian, said Caire, the new Pitcher Point-Long Beach shopping complex was "completely devastated." Known as "The Strip," this area contained The Penthouse, Mississippi's first condominium apartments, three motels, a supermarket and a variety store. All of this area is "completely gone," said Caire. "There is just absolute desolation."

Every beachfront structure except the Ramada Inn from

was washed out. Damage was heaviest in the south lane.

With U.S. 90 closed to traffic, Caire drove here via Gulfport and Poplarville. He said the trip to Gulfport was "very difficult," with fallen trees and wires blocking the road.

Caire and his wife plan now to move into their Hillary St. apartment.

Pass Christian east to Jeff Davis Ave. in Long Beach was destroyed, stated Caire.

He said that on Henderson Point near Bay St. Louis "absolutely nothing was left standing."

The bridge across Bay St. Louis, said Caire, was so totally covered with debris that cars could not drive across.

Describing his trip to New Orleans, which took three and one-half hours, Caire said that 60 per cent of U.S. 90 from Henderson Point to Gulfport