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**Pictorial  
Report  
Of Delaware's**

# ***G R E A T S T O R M***

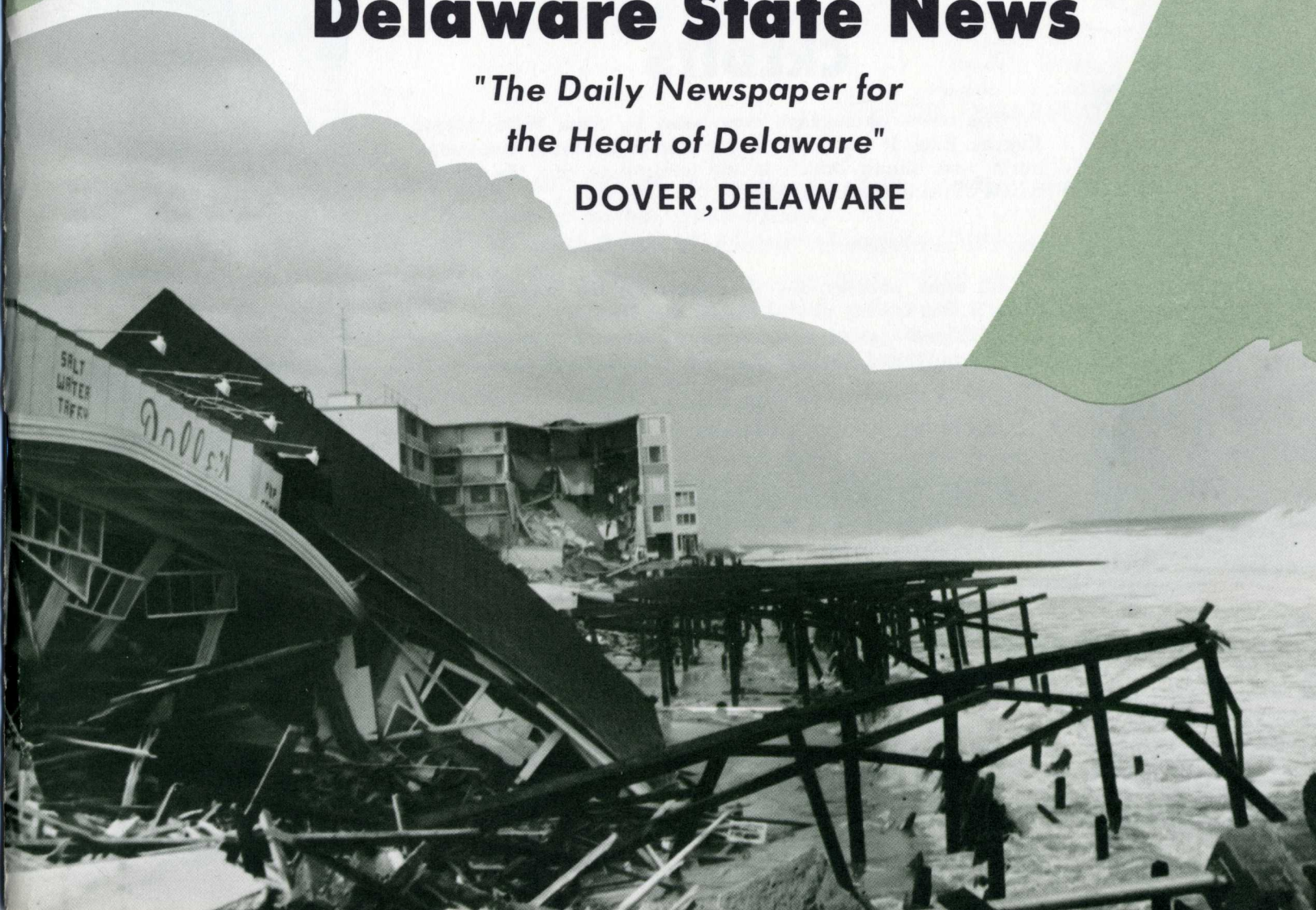
**Of March 1962**

Published by the

**Delaware State News**

*"The Daily Newspaper for  
the Heart of Delaware"*

DOVER, DELAWARE







**AERIAL of Bethany Beach shows front half of large apartment house destroyed.**

## **CREDITS**

The cover photograph was taken by State Police Major Eugene Ellis. It was taken at the foot of Rehoboth Ave. facing north and shows Dolle's in the foreground and the Atlantic Sands Motel in the background.

Aerial photographs were taken by Neal Oechsler.

All other photographs were taken by the Delaware State News Sussex County photographer, Bob Bennett.

Additional prints of Bennett's pictures, or sets of prints, may be purchased. Contact: Delmarva Photographers  
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10 North Street  
Dover, Delaware

This booklet was compiled by Jack Beach, Assistant Publisher of the Delaware State News, and printed by the Dover Litho-Printing Co., Dover.







**MARYLAND AVE. & OCEAN -** The Atlantic Sands Motel shown in this aerial view suffered extensive damage. Notice swimming pool undermined in lower left corner. Entire front wing of motel was undermined and additional sections fell after this picture was made.

## **DELAWARE'S MARCH 1962** *Coastal Storm*

by Jack Beach  
*Assistant Publisher*  
 THE DELAWARE STATE NEWS

**A** strong low pressure area, reaching to 40,000 feet, moved out of the mid-west on the week-end of March 3-4 dumping up to three feet of snow on parts of Virginia, then slowly moved over to the east coast.

Outside of the snowbound communities no one thought much about the storm. The official U. S. weather forecast for Delaware as of 10 a.m., Monday, March 5th read:

### **The Weather Forecast**

"Snow beginning this afternoon continuing to-night and accumulating to two or four inches or more. High temperatures this afternoon 34-40 and lows tonight 25-30. Tuesday cloudy early in the morning but partial clearing during the day with high temperatures 32-28. Outlook for Wednesday fair and cold."

However, Monday night by 9 p.m. winds had started to blow from the northeast with gusts reaching 40 to 50 m.p.h. By 5 a.m. Tuesday morning the wind was blowing steadily from the northeast with gusts reaching 60 to 70 m.p.h.

Wet snow was falling north of Dover and rain to the south.

What was not known Monday night was that as the snowstorm moved away from the coast it combined with another, uncharted, storm developing in the Atlantic.

The two storms formed a 600 mile-long, 300 mile-wide trough of very low pressure air, extending from Cape Hatteras to Cape Cod.

Whipping along the trough, northeasterly winds up to 80 m.p.h. poured down on the East Coast. As they whistled over the surface of the Atlantic, the winds pushed up 30-foot waves that crashed down onto coastal towns in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

Starting Monday night, the storm continued to pound the Delaware coast through three high tides. The worst came early Wednesday, when tides were at their monthly peak. Tides are highest when the moon and sun are aligned on the same side of the earth, causing their gravitational pulls to act together on the oceans.





**BOWER'S BEACH** Tuesday afternoon - a bay-front house collapsed and street scene littered with debris. Many homes along the Delaware Bay front were floated free of their foundations and pushed by the tides and wind a mile or more onto the marsh.







**BURIES - This State Highway truck had to be abandoned along Rt. 14 south of Rehoboth at the height of the storm. Two workers were rescued by National Guard tank.**

The result of this freak climatic and celestial combination was an estimated 200 million dollar damage in one of the worst storms ever to strike the Mid-Atlantic coast.

The first Delaware communities to realize that the area was in for more than the predicted wet snow mixed with rain and mild winds were the low-lying fishing villages along the western shore of the Delaware Bay.

### Hits Bay Communities First

Strong winds will churn a small body of water faster than a large body of water, so while the Atlantic was just beginning to build up damaging seas the Delaware Bay was already taking it's toll.

It was about 5 a.m. Tuesday morning when John Allen Waters first realized that his house, built 25 feet from the Delaware Bay at Bowers Beach, was in danger of flooding. Waters had lived in the house since 1947 with his wife, eight children and blind mother-in-law.

Six of the Water's children were the first victims of the storm.

Later at Red Cross headquarters in Dover Waters told this story:

### Rescue Attempt

"I moved our car up to a high spot when I saw it was getting worse, and put the grandmother and all but the oldest boy in the car.

"John (the oldest boy) and me each took my wife by an arm and tried to get her to a storehouse on higher ground. We slipped and fell and liked to drown. Actually she (Mrs. Waters who was expecting her ninth child within a week) saved us.

"The water was about four and a half feet deep, but waves were breaking at least six feet high.

"My wife says 'don't go back'. I was helpless. I couldn't get back to them.

"I saw the side of the house cave in and saw another house near us just went together. It got so bad that the waves moved a brick wall.

"There was water all around our car, but if they had kept the windows up maybe they would have been all right.

"I tried to holler to them but I guess they didn't hear me."

A rescue team from the Dover Fire Company





**STATE POLICE CAR** - This is the car that troopers Willen and Brewington were using to patrol Route 14 on the afternoon of March 6. See full account of experience in text.

and the National Guard managed to get to the flooded car and remove the blind grandmother and one child, Alice Waters. The other six children were drowned as wind whipped waves swamped the car before they reached the scene.

About eight miles north-east of Smyrna on Delaware Bay, Gilbert Trabbold reported from Woodland Beach.

### **Smyrna Reports**

"All you can see is water. I've never seen anything like it, it looks like the Mississippi River . . . the wind is blowing in the tide . . . in fact it's coming in my front door."

Trabbold was one of about 35 families marooned in the bayside community as water covered the only exit with from four to six feet of water.

Meanwhile families were being evacuated from Bowers; Kitts Hummock; Big Stone Beach and Slaughters Beach as the winds and tide literally pushed houses off their foundations and back onto the marsh land.

At Slaughters Beach Major Richard D. O'Brien, stationed at Dover Air Force Base, was called back to the base at 6 p.m. Monday night. His duty, to stand by on snow alert and direct the removal of snow from the runways.

When Delaware got wind and rain instead of the predicted snow he was allowed to return to his home Tuesday morning where he found

his house collapsed and his wife missing.

Thursday, one of several cocker spaniels that the couple owned was found still alive on a floating piece of the O'Brien roof. Mrs. O'Brien's body was not found.

### **Lewes and Rehoboth**

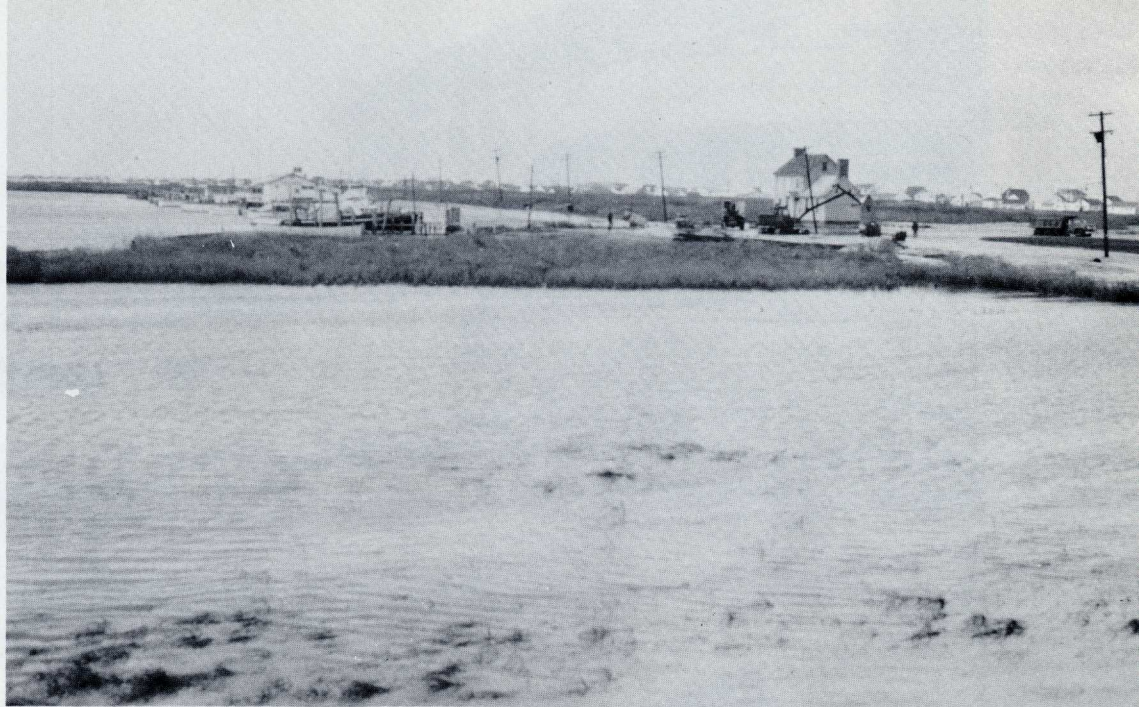
The strong northeastwinds continued all day Tuesday and at Rehoboth Beach 20 to 30 foot waves began knocking out sections of the boardwalk, while south of Rehoboth along Route 14, the waves ate away the sand hills and started crossing the highway and running into the Rehoboth Bay.

State troopers William Willen and George Brewington were patrolling along the ocean highway late Tuesday afternoon and had in fact rescued two state highway employees from their stranded truck when suddenly the ocean rolled in front of them in a vast sheet of water.

They turned around and started back, but the road bed in front of them collapsed and they plunged into five feet of water. They abandoned the car after radioing their plight to the Georgetown Troop.

Then the troopers and the highway employees - Voletus Bunting and William Long, both of Dagsboro - made their way to high land where they waited in the wind and rain and spraying water until rescued by a National Guard tank 1:30 a.m. Wednesday morning.





## LEWES BEACH

• Both pictures were taken late Wednesday afternoon at LOW TIDE. Top photograph shows canal over-flowing it's bank with the Anglers in the background. Bottom, shows only exit from Lewes Beach looking toward Delaware Bay from the canal bridge.

The "stilt house" opposite the Childrens Beach House on Lewes Beach, one of the few to remain above the high water mark, lost it's roof during the 80 m.p.h. wind gusts.

Later the abandoned truck was found completely covered with sand.

Meanwhile, just north of Rehoboth around Cape Henlopen on Lewes Beach, the tides rose until they covered parts of Pilot Town Road on the south-west side of the canal.

The raging tides under-mined the only bridge to the mainland and for a while only one

pedestrian was allowed to cross at a time. National Guard tanks and high-wheeled trucks evacuated the beach area.

The wind-whipped water

**Water  
Everywhere**

cut through the beach area in several places east of Roosevelt Inlet and for a while there appeared to be no land area not covered with water.





## REHOBOTH

Scenes taken Wednesday around noon as the third high tide pounded the beach front. Top, taken from Rehoboth Avenue shows the sea pounding Dolles. This entire section later fell into the sea. Bottom, taken from Rehoboth Avenue looking north shows the apartment above Dolles tilting.

The Delaware Bay simply moved in to meet the canal and only house tops, floating mattresses, trailers and furniture marked the beach.

Back at Rehoboth Beach and along the entire Delaware coast the second and then the third high tide with seas kicked up by 80 m.p.h. winds ripped and pounded everything in its path.

Landmarks that had stood for over half a century, through hurricanes and northeasters over the years, toppled into the sea.

Friday, March 9, as the tides continued to recede an eight room house floated off Lewes

Beach. It was assumed to have come from New Jersey.

### The Guard Assists

The Delaware National Guard, who along with the Delaware State Police, local police and local Volunteer Fire Companies did an outstanding and heroic job throughout the storm, stood guard over the ruins, and south of Rehoboth Beach the State Highway Department searched for Route 14 beneath six feet of sand.

The Delaware coast will never be the same. It will be impossible to repair all the damage





**GOING - GONE-** Top photo was taken north of Dolle's looking south. Bottom photo taken from the same location a few minutes later shows the apartments over the Dolle's store fall to the beach.

and impractical to replace all the landmarks that stood for so long, but a new and better coastline is shaping up on the drawing boards and the Delaware resorts will welcome tourists again this year, as in the past, only this season they will still have a few scars to show, and a story to tell of the northeaster that ripped their coast last March.

While Rehoboth Beach suffered most damage in ocean front cottages and businesses only, further south the resort communities of

**Bethany Beach  
and  
Fenwick Island**

Bethany Beach and Fenwick Island, and all between, felt the raging ocean two to three blocks inland.

Ocean front cottages and motels were literally slammed to pieces and wall sections, bathtubs and furniture were deposited in many instances more than a mile back from the ocean.

The following pictures taken on March 10th and 11th, after the storm had passed, further exemplify the fury with which the sea raged along the Delaware coast in the March 1962 "northeaster".



Thomas Nast created the symbol of the elephant for the Republican party and the donkey for the Democratic party.

The Daily Newspaper for the Heart of the Delmarva Peninsula



Covering Kent-Sussex and Adjoining Maryland Counties

# Mrs. S. Declares Delaware Coast Disaster Area; Entire Storm Strip Is Verboten To Sightseers

## 'The Heart Has Its Reasons...'

REHOBOTH — "No, I don't intend to leave my home," Mrs. Raleigh Poynter of Virginia Avenue told police yesterday afternoon when they came to persuade her to go to the home of Mrs. Mae Hall McCabe her longtime friend.

"Mrs. McCabe is a very nice woman," the officer politely insisted. "I've known that for 50 years, young man" said Mrs. Poynter, widow of a former mayor of Rehoboth, "but I'm going to stay here."

Poynter joked with a niece about the very idea of her leaving her home.

But at midnight she called her doctor with a severe attack of pain.

He arranged for an ambulance to take the 82-year-old woman to the Beebe Hospital.

She died there of a heart ailment at 4:45 this morning.

Mrs. Poynter, former president of the Village Improvement Association, was instrumental in securing for the boardwalk the replica of Cape Henlopen Lighthouse that has stood there for years.

She was active in the Episcopal Church and owned extensive property in the community.

Funeral arrangements were incomplete.

## Ocean City Gets Big Clobbering

Delaware wasn't the only state that felt the hammer blows of this week's storm tides.

Altogether, seven mid-Atlantic states were clobbered, with at least 29 persons reported dead, shorelines flooded and shorefront properties battered to a pulp.

Losses were in the hundreds of millions.

But, although violent winds and mountainous waves brought havoc all the way from North Carolina to New York (New England escaped as the storm veered seaward), the Delmarva coast was the hardest hit.

A Maryland state police official declared today:

"It looks like a lumber yard from Ocean City to Rehoboth Beach."

Maryland's Governor J. Millard Tawes joined Delaware's Governor Carvel in asking President Kennedy to declare the region a disaster area.

Most of the 1,000 winter residents of Ocean City had fled their shattered homes.

Today they were starting to trickle back to survey the wreckage. But the order was out, as it was at Rehoboth, that only residents could cross the bridge leading to the flooded resort.

"We don't want any looting," police official said.

At Wallops Island off the Virginia coast, severe damage to electronic equipment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's rocket launching station was reported.

Several ships were stricken and calling for help off the Virginia Coast, including the Chesapeake Lightship off Norfolk.

In Ocean City at least three hotels were demolished, the two-mile-long boardwalk was torn from its pillars and scattered in all directions and several houses were washed away.

The town was without power, heat or water. National Guardsmen patrolled it.

Several Eastern Shore communities on the Chesapeake were still suffering from high water. Some 500 persons were evacuated from Kent Narrows in Queen Anne's County.

Other Virginia areas hit by high tides were Willoughby and Ocean View, both fronting Chesapeake Bay. Among the evacuees was a family of seven children, all with measles. Two persons suffered heart attacks at the height of the flood.

In labor were taken to Norfolk hospitals. Low-lying areas in downtown Norfolk and Portsmouth were flooded.

At Chincoteague, Va., 500 residents were evacuated as the pounding surf broke up their homes.

At least 125 persons were drowned. Although no fatalities resulting from the storm were reported in

North Carolina, 60-mile-an-hour winds piled up tides of 10 feet Wednesday along most areas of the state's outer banks.

Heaviest damage appeared to be in the Nags Head-Kitty Hawk resort areas.

Hopes for the survival of three persons aboard the missing yawl Guinevere were dimmed Wednesday night when a Coast Guard cutter spotted in the water a small box, a plank, a pillow and a 3-by-6-foot piece of hull painted white.

The Guinevere departed for the Virginia Islands from Charleston, S.C., last Monday.

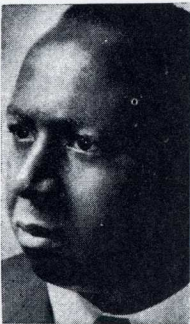
The big storm caused heavy snows in scattered areas of Pennsylvania and took a toll of four lives. High winds damaged many power lines and ripped some roofs off houses.

In New Jersey, nine were dead from combined snow, flood and wind, with six other persons declared missing. Gov. Richard J. Hughes has asked that Jersey coast sectors be declared a federal disaster area. State officials estimate damage at \$30 million.

Atlantic City, N.J., had huge sections of its famed boardwalk chewed up. Damage there was estimated at more than \$5 million.

At Sea Isle City, N.J., three helicopters evacuated 15 hospital patients to a Cape May court.

### OCEAN CITY, Page 2



PRINCIPAL SPEAKER at the 41st annual meeting of the Kent County Education Association, to be held tomorrow at William Henry High School in Dover, is Dr. Jerome H. Holland, Dr. Holland, now president of the Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va., was for six years president of Delaware State College, Dover.

The all-day session is expected to attract 150 teachers and guests. Details of the event are covered on page 20 in this issue.



THE SEA IS CRUEL — This is the Atlantic Sands Motel at Rehoboth Beach after the cruel seas of Tuesday and yesterday finished clobbering it. The boardwalk edifice is only

two years old. But, new or old, all boardwalk hesteries and shops suffered heavy damage. State News Photo by Bob Bennett.

## It'll Never Be the Same Again

By JACK BEACH  
Rehoboth's ocean clock will never be the same.

Land marks that have stood as long as many can remember toppled into the sea yesterday and may never be re-built.

Dolle's salt water taffy stand, which had stood on the corner of Rehoboth Avenue and the Boardwalk for 50 years, slipped into the sea it had faced for over half a century.

On the opposite corner of Rehoboth Avenue and the Boardwalk the Belhaven Hotel suffered extensive damage for the first time in its history. It's old front porch was always a haven for the adventurous who came to watch storms slam breakers against the boardwalk.

You could stand there and feel her tremble, tasting the salt

spray, but feeling secure in the knowledge that it had withstood the worst the sea had to offer over the years.

Today there is no front porch on the Belhaven. In fact, the entire front half of the old hotel broke away.

The Henlopen Hotel, another landmark on Rehoboth's ocean front since the mid-1870's, suffered extensive damage.

The last time any major change was wrought on the coastal face of Rehoboth was in the storm of 1914.

Prior to the 1914 storm a street ran north and south between the ocean - front cottages and the boardwalk. Called Surf Avenue, it went out with the tides and was never replaced. The same storm took out Horn's fishing pier and many ocean front cottages.

Rehoboth's newest hotel, the Atlantic Sands, built just two years ago, was ripped and pounded by the seas. The entire front section was torn away.

The Surf Apartments on the corner of Olive Ave. and the Boardwalk was undermined and toppled forward.

Visitors on the scene yesterday reported looking north from Rehoboth for the famous "pink house", and seeing nothing but water.

"There used to be a lot of houses down in the basin," one resident said, "but yesterday I could see no houses and the waves were breaking over the blacktop road and flooding the entire section."

Around Cape Henlopen at Delaware's "first" town, Lewes Beach homeowners stood on the banks of the canal surveying the damage.

"For a while there was no Lewes Beach... the Delaware Bay came right up to the canal. All you could see was water, water, water."

At the height of the storm many vowed never to return, but now that the initial shock is over they are back sitting through the sand for treasured possessions scattered by the rip tides, and making plans to re-build.

Efforts by the State to dredge sand back on Lewes Beach over the past five years have met with little success.

"Each storm the tides eat a little more of the beach front away. At this rate there will be no more Lewes Beach in a few more years."

Efforts by the State to dredge sand back on Lewes Beach over the past five years have met with little success.

## Mattresses Float In Back Yards

By PAT SWEENEY  
Special Correspondent  
LEWES — "The worst disaster in 30 years."

This was repeated many times as I drove around here and Rehoboth.

I am not a professional reporter. I can only write this terrible disaster as it was told to me and as I saw it.

Most of the people are evacuated but a few old - time residents are still braving the tides and refuse to leave their homes.

You can't get a car in our out of Lewes, because the canal bridge has dropped 12 inches, and only one pedestrian is allowed to cross it at a time.

Yesterday the National Guard picked up people in tanks, then relayed them to trucks, which took them to the heart of Lewes, on higher land.

Their belongings and cars remained, as they could not get the cars through the water that still covered the road even when the tide was out.

A home in front of the Beach House had water level with the top of its three-rail fence. Mattresses floated in Jack yards.

Bread delivered to the Acme store floated in front of the stores. At Jack's Market, frozen food containers were overturned and perishables floated around like boats.

In low - lying homes the furniture was water - marked, linoleum buckled, and mud was everywhere. Refrigerators overturned and stoves floated.

There was both flood, mud, and wind damage.

The Mitchell home on Wilmington Ave., for instance, had a one side ripped off.

The roads, already torn up by the new sewer construction, are full of sand, mud, and holes.

With electricity off, people kept Gene Hazard, electrician, busy checking freezers, where cords burned out by rising water.

This is the first time Pilot Town Road has been covered.

Paving and docks built out on the canal were ripped up.

At Roosevelt Inlet Trailer Park, trailers floated like houseboats.

The new Little League Park on Pilot Town Road was completely submerged. The chain link fence surrounding the park collapsed.

Lt. Emory Brittingham of the

Lewes police force said it was the worst he could remember since 1919.

Everybody had praise for the National Guard, police, fire companies, and Civil Defense workers for their wonderful help.

The weather

FARMERS BANK STATE OF DELAWARE

Mostly sunny and cold today with some cloudiness along the coast, high temperatures 38 to 42.

Abnormal tides with flooding in the lowlands of the Chesapeake Bay and along the Atlantic Coast. Tides will run 4 to 6 feet above normal. Fair and cold tonight, low temperatures 24 to 32.

Increasing cloudiness and cold Friday with rain or snow Friday afternoon or night. Saturday outlook clearing and continued cold. Winds mostly northerly 10 to 20 mph today becoming variable 5 to 15 mph tonight and southeast to south 10 to 15 mph Friday.

## Total Damage In State Tops \$50 Million

### Bulletin

The Small Business Administration at the request of Congressman McDowell, today declared the lower Delaware coastal region a disaster area and will establish an office in Rehoboth, probably tomorrow, to sift through requests for loans.

The SBA is authorized to provide loans for repair or rebuilding of homes, businesses and non-profit institutions in instances where they have been damaged by floods, storms or other natural turbulences. The SBA may also loan money to equip and furnish such buildings.

McDowell said Howard Abbott and Nutter Marvel, the small business representatives in the area, will meet with officials of the agency to determine where the office will be and when it will begin processing applications.

(Full page of storm pictures on page 3. Several additional pictures and stories on Page 13).

By NED DAVIS  
Unbelievable damage, probably more than \$50 million.

No sightseers. Passage to beach areas by special pass only.

Roadblocks surrounding the entire damaged area.

Receding tides.

Passage to beach areas by special pass only.

Roadblocks surrounding the entire damaged area.

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Receding tides.

Passage to beach areas by special pass only.

Roadblocks surrounding the entire damaged area.





**DEWEY BEACH** - Residential section of Dewey Beach is shown in top photo as late Wednesday afternoon sun reflects off the water.





**REHOBOTH** Top photo was taken from the 4th floor fire escape at the Henlopen Hotel around noon Wednesday. Notice The Surf Apartments in the background. Bottom photo shows the Bird-Speakman store in the foreground and the Stewart-Kingston Gallery on the right.







**PLAYLAND** - Top photo is aerial view of first two ocean blocks south of Rehoboth Ave. Belhaven Hotel and Rehoboth Ave. can be seen at upper right.



**Bumper cars**  
in Playland  
mixed with sand  
and timbers.





**GRIER HOME** - Just north of the Henlopen Hotel the ocean cut out Surf Avenue and undermined the Grier home. House on corner has fallen into the sea. Bottom, photo taken from the side of the Henlopen Hotel looking east. Notice cinder blocks and furniture washed back by the sea.





Top photo shows the north side.

**SANDS MOTEL - Rehoboth's newest sea-side motel suffered extensive damage.**

Photo to the right shows the south side. Swimming pool in foreground. Picture taken Wednesday afternoon. Notice sea under front section.







**BELHAVEN HOTEL** - Top photo was taken from Rehoboth Avenue looking south. Belhaven Hotel in foreground and Playland in the background. After these photos were taken additional sections of the Belhaven Hotel gave way to the tides. Photo on left shows all that was left of the new \$10,000 Lifeguard Building at the foot of Baltimore Avenue after the Wednesday high tide.

Hotel the ocean cut out Surf Avenue and under-  
was fallen into the sea. Bottom photo taken from  
east. Notice cedar blocks and furniture washed





**LANDMARK LEAVES** - Both pictures above show the Belhaven Hotel from the north side. The old hotel, a landmark in Rehoboth for over half a century, suffered extensive damage. Notice concrete slabs broken and piled with timbers in top picture. These pictures were all taken Wednesday around noon as the ocean continued to pound the coast.





**REHOBOTH - Top photo shows the Raymond Goslee home at the foot of Philadelphia Avenue and Boardwalk. Bottom, unidentified, shows force with which seas twisted wall sections and broke out block foundations.**







**HENLOPEN HOTEL** - This aerial view shows the extensive damage to Rehoboth's largest hotel on the right and the Stuart-Kingston Gallery on the left. Lower picture is view of Surf Apartments at the foot of Olive Avenue.







**ABOVE — REHOBOTH BAY** at top of picture surrounds Dewey Beach cottages. This aerial photo was taken looking west. Cedar Court Motel can be seen in right center.  
**BELOW — DEWEY BEACH** - Looking south down Route 14 with Bottle and Cork Inn on right. This picture was also taken Wednesday afternoon. Notice water around Bottle and Cork and sand across highway.







tus grew stani wan beuff, silliri ho va bevoils apbird eit brop banimrabu grew egind art

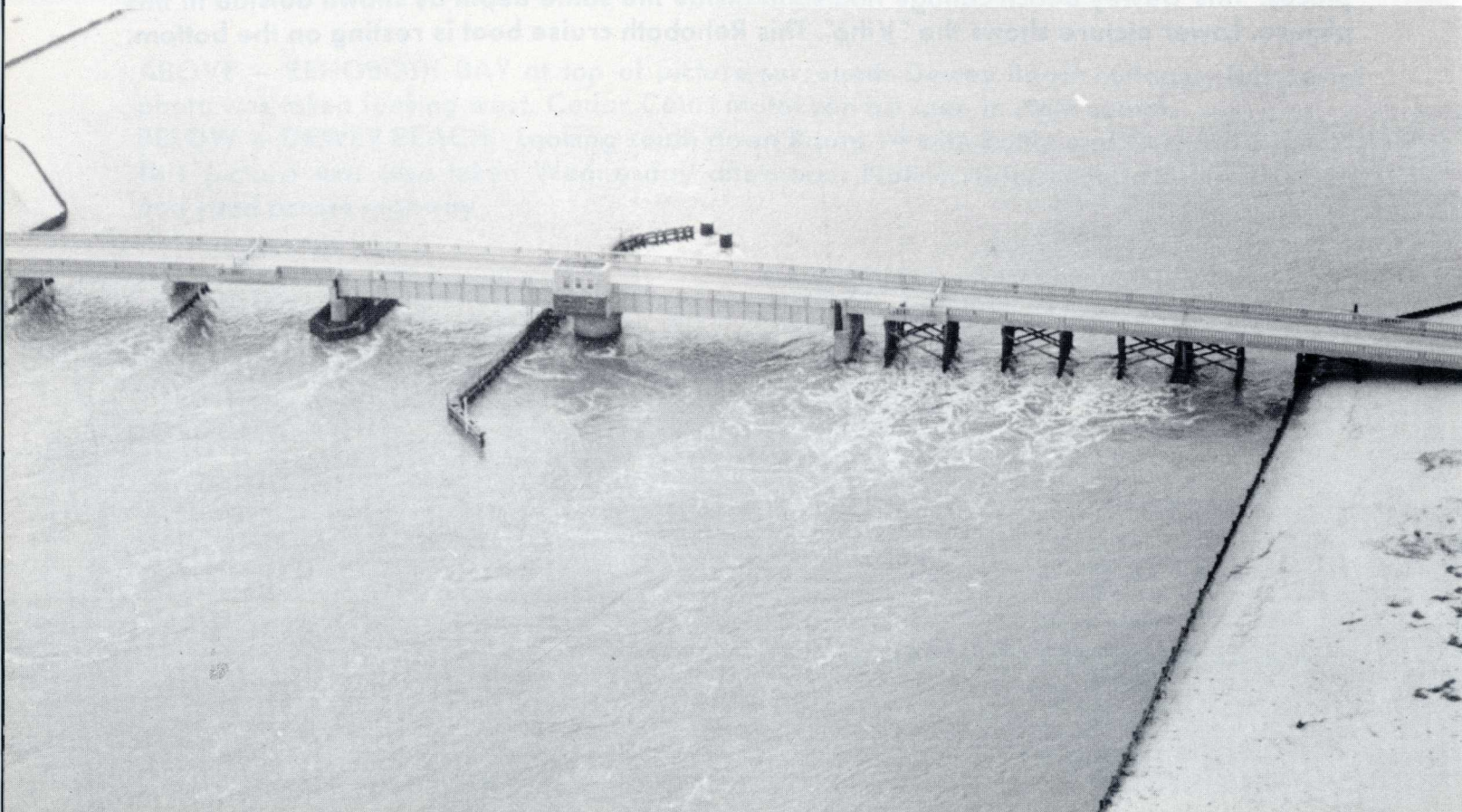
**INSIDE AND OUT -** When the water receded sand was left six to eight feet deep in many places. This Dewey Beach cottage had sand inside the same depth as shown outside in this picture. Lower picture shows the "Viho". This Rehoboth cruise boat is resting on the bottom.







**ABOVE — AERIAL views of Bethany Beach and Indian River Inlet Bridge. Pilings holding the bridge were undermined and the bridge closed to all traffic. Three new inlets were cut through the narrow sand strip to Rehoboth Bay.**







**SMASHED** - Two more ocean-front cottages at Fenwick Island are shown above. Along this section of beach few ocean-front homes escaped total destruction.







**BETHANY BEACH** - Top, ocean-front home with open air garage. Seas ripped front of house away. Left, picture shows sand piled around "No Parking" sign illustrating depth of sand in streets.





**ONE OF MANY cars damaged by the storm is shown above surrounded by sand, cinder blocks and timbers. Right, picture shows another of the many homes in the Bethany Beach area totally destroyed. Notice bed, bedding and picture on wall.**







**SWEPT CLEAN** - by the winds and sea this home was under-mined and toppled forward onto the beach. Most homes on the ocean front were under-mined by the tides and fell forward such as this one. Left, another example of how the sand blew inland. The photographer is inspecting a fire plug.





**TWO MORE** examples of damaged homes in the Bethany Beach area. Top picture shows a home that was washed free of its foundation and twisted around. The porch and section of front wall was ripped away. Right, child's stuffed animal sits on roof of ocean front home destroyed by the raging sea.





**AERIAL VIEWS** of Bethany Beach above and South Bethany below. Both pictures were taken from airplane flying over coast. Ocean front cottages were pounded by the waves while those inland were flooded.







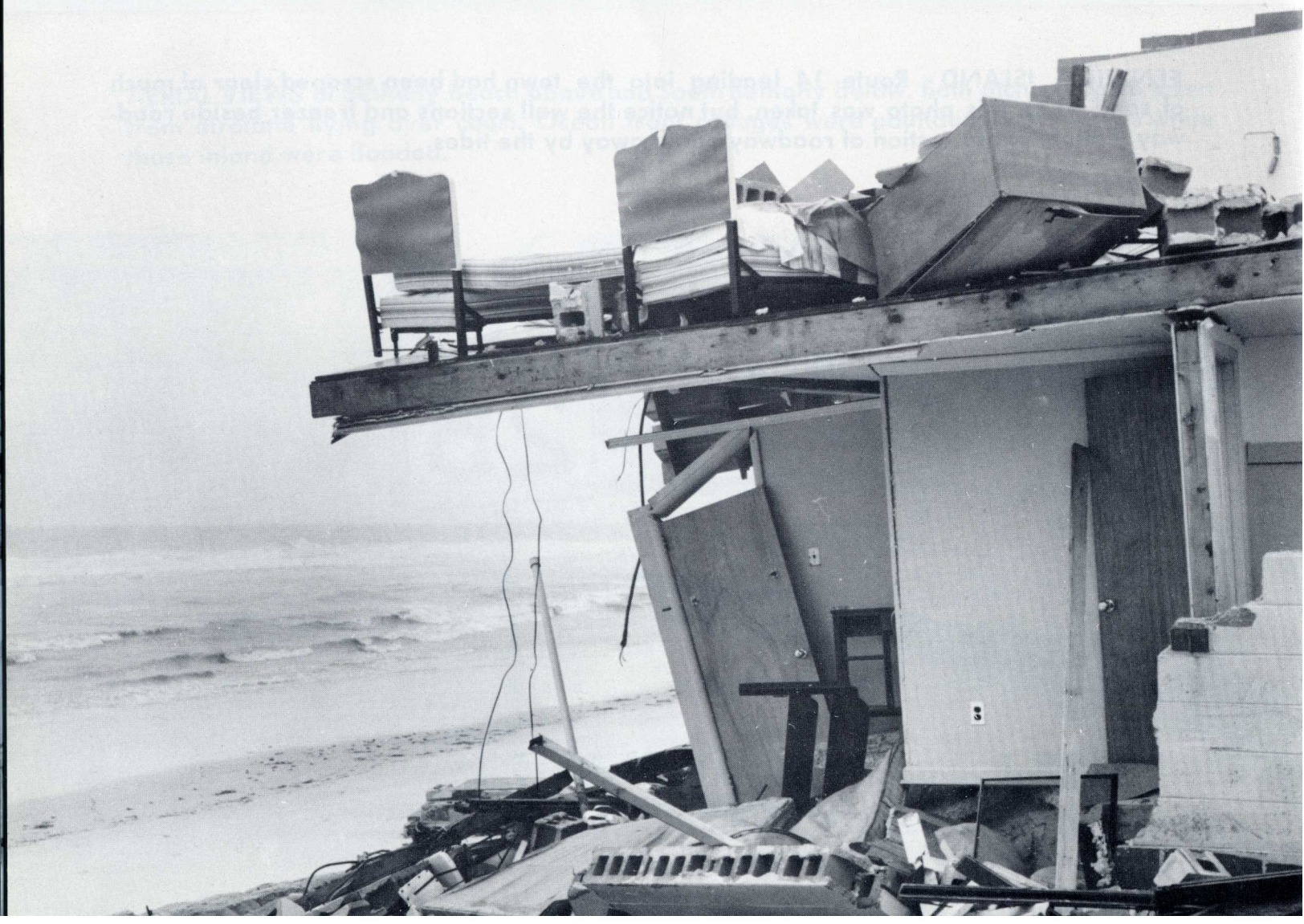
**FENWICK ISLAND** Route 14 leading into the town had been scraped clear of much of sand when this photo was taken, but notice the wall sections and freezer beside roadway. Bottom photo section of roadway eaten away by the tides.







**CHECK POINT - The National Guard and State Police set up check points leading into all storm damaged towns and allowed only property owners in. Bottom photo shows twin beds on exposed second floor of ocean front cottage at Fenwick Island.**







**ONE MILE** from Fenwick Island Beach the highway and marsh were littered with debris. Top photo, a freezer and chair can be seen. Bottom picture shows one of hundreds of small boats driven inland two or three miles.

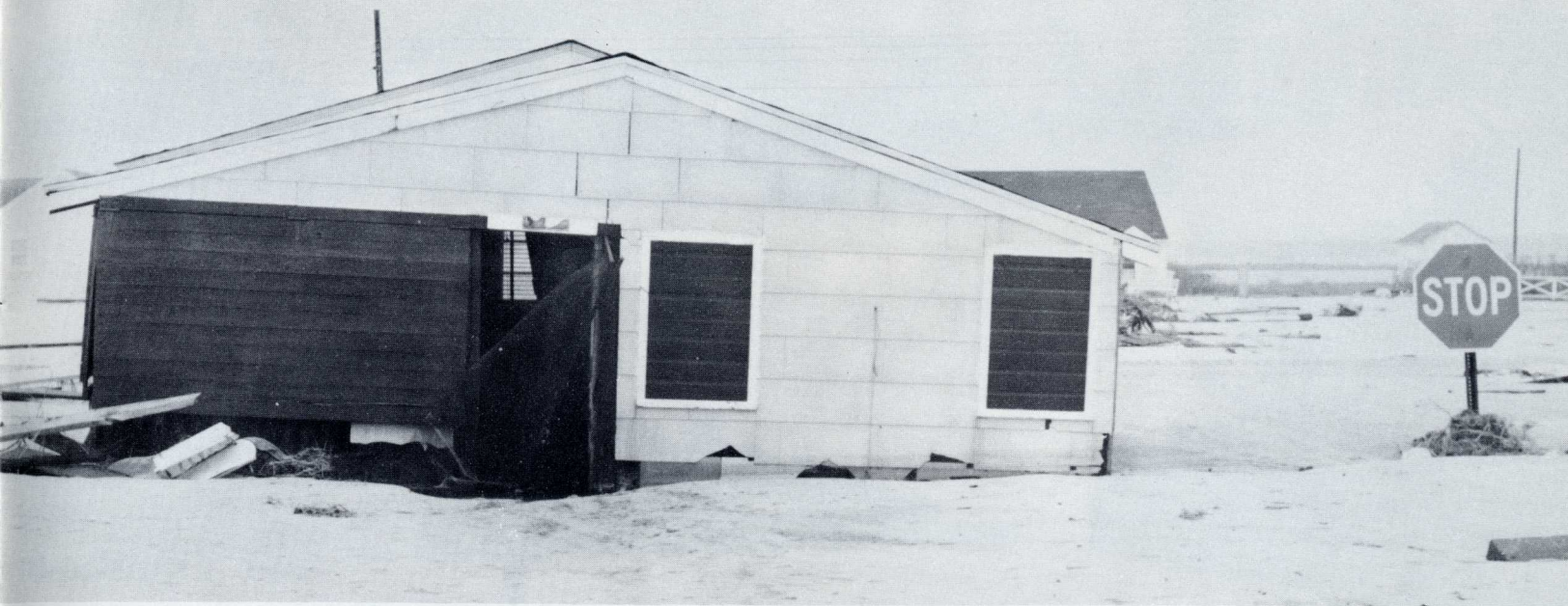






**HOME PLACE** - First floor gone to sea. Photo at left shows property owner sorting through furniture on Fenwick Island beach. Bedding and over-stuffed furniture soaked with salt water will never dry out.





**MOVED** - The cottage above was lifted from its foundation at 15th Street and washed down the street to 14th Street where it came to rest at an intersection. Both scenes at Fenwick Island. House at right on ocean-front.





**ROUTE 14 - This photograph taken by a State Police Officer at the height of the storm shows the extensive flooding on the ocean highway near Bethany Beach.**

**DEWEY BEACH - Bottom photo shows ocean front at Dewey Beach. New motel in background suffered extensive damage. Home in foreground was destroyed.**







# TOTAL DAMAGE

The clean-up continues as this review of the storm damage goes to press, and will continue in the months ahead. No firm estimate of the total damage has been made, but educated guesses place the damage to the Delaware coast at over \$50 million.

At a news conference March 13th, in the Governor's offices it was estimated that it would cost at least \$20 million to restore the slender strip of beach between Rehoboth and Fenwick Island and prevent the Delaware shore line from being pushed back miles and miles to points west of Rehoboth, Indian River and Assawoman Bay.

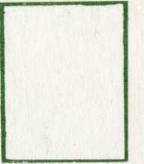
Delaware Secretary of State Elisha Dukes, coordinator of disaster rehabilitation and recovery has estimated that property loss from the storm - private and public, but not including personal furnishings, will total \$42,815,650.

Delaware Governor Carvel estimated that personal property losses would swell the total by between \$10 and \$20 million more.





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