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EXTRA!

POCONOS FLOODS DRIVE BLISH FAMILY FROM THEIR HOME

By DAMON KNIGHT

Milford, Pa., 25 August, (CNS) - Flood waters, swelling the Delaware River and the normally small Sawkill Creek, inundated the home of James Blish here a week ago.

Jim's wife, Virginia (ex-fan Virginia Kidd), was alone in the house with her two sleeping daughters, Karen Anne, 11, and Beth, 1 year, when the water began to rise late Thursday night.

Judith Merrill's home, and my own, both on much higher ground, were not affected.

Blish, in New York, where he works for the public relations firm of Walker & Crenshaw, was unaware of his family's danger until he saw a newspaper account on Friday.

The story made no direct reference to Milford, but stated, "A bridge collapsed as Robert Blood was driving across it, and he and the car were dropped fifteen feet into Sawkill Creek. He swam ashore."

Robert Blood is the owner-manager

of a local swimming beach called "Bob's Beach." The bridge which collapsed under him, as Jim correctly inferred, crossed the Sawkill just behind the Blish property. Virginia, watching from the house, was a witness.

The bridge had been groaning intermittantly under the pressure of six-foot waves in Sawkill Creek, she said. She heard it emit one final shriek, and saw the two red tail lights of a car moving downstream under water. A few moments later, a man --- Blood --- came bounding up the lawn and vaulted the gate into the road with an exultant, "I made it!"

Blood, who is a champion swimmer, is perhaps the only man in Milford who could have escaped from the car and reached shore.

As the water continued to rise far above the previous high mark, Virginia reluctantly abandoned the house and with her two daughters took shelter in Judy Merrill's home. Shortly afterward, a second bridge just above the Blish property also went out.

Next morning, the whole area in

which the house stands was one coffee-colored lake; a neighboring tourist-cabin colony was almost completely submerged. When Virginia was able to go back to the house, she found furniture piled and jumbled together like driftwood on the ground floor. The high water mark was three feet up the walls. Jim's cellar workroom, entirely flooded, could not be reached until Saturday.

Unable to telephone his family, or even to get to Milford by normal routes, Jim got a friend to drive him out and managed to get here Friday night. Still Judy's guests, the Elishes are making shift to clean up the heart-breaking mess.

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

by Our Readers

Box 5
Pacific Palisades, Calif.
22 August 1955

Dear Sirs:

Some one has sent me a clipping from your magazine which refers to a "William Gault Campbell" who is supposed to have been in some kind of trouble with Forry Ackerman. Well, the name I use in this dodge is William Campbell Gault and though I've sold a few stories here and there and a dozen books, I cannot be considered an s-f writer as I've no more than ten or twelve published in that genre. Now this Kranold I have never heard of. Beaumont I met at a party, and Ackerman I've met at about three parties and one s-f meeting five years ago. So, what is the rumpus about and why is my name being used so freely?

There is (or was, rather) an agent whose last name was Campbell and was

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supposed to have been in some trouble, but I never met him or heard of him.

Could you clean this up? I am chewing my nails.

Wanderingly,

William Campbell Gault

(Dear Mr. Gault - Sorry about the transposition of names. That yarn gave us Campbells on the brain. The Kranold-Ackerman hassle seems to be over, and evidence now indicates that the "Campbell" referred to by Mr. Kranold is John W., Jr., editor of "Astounding S-F", so you can cease work on your nails. As for your name being used so freely, such is the price of fame. -eds)

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