

'62 Storm
recollection

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200 ESSEX AVENUE
BEACH HAVEN, N. J.

3/12/62
Dear Ott & Russ,
Your letter was among the first one got
since last monday.
The Osborn who was killed with Leonette
and Kenneth Chipman was the one
who operated the news stand here in
town, - not "Real Estate" Bob.
First things first: Your home is OK.
In fact, when I went over the outside
with a heavy eye, I could see
the water had been about 4" deep
on top of your gravel. Water got
under the house via your west
casement opening, of course, but what
the heck, that's 'nothin' at all! I
looked it over after the storm and you
never really know we had one by the
looks of your property.

Our section of town got lucky. We had
about 16" of bay water in our yard and
over the garden, dammit, but it did not
get to the first floor and also missed
the oil burner by inches. Thus, when

5 year old #2 - Ann Simons. remember. - Sept. '44

(7)

(Mr. Allen) over every hour - reporting to Grand
to direction coming storm -

Shutters shut in 2nd floor bedroom (Ann's)
Wind howling - house rocking -
water flowing in street - heat just
boards went by etc.

young boys in street jumping over boards
riding them from sidewalk & over

"Nanny" (Grandmother) sat & rocked & rocked
put rag up over sill of front door & side

Board walk (ramp) wrapped itself around the
pole - wondered when it would knock the
down

Middle of night woke up & see the stars -
big orange balloons out front -

A.M. wondering when the street had gone - it was
all wires, poles, boards etc.

A.M. ^{Best} Braagied to the Fire House & getting an
Sandwich which I had to eat (I
had anything like it before - probab
was baloney or such)

Fighting part was being shut behind
the shutters (all 3 windows shut) an
perhaps able to see out of my bedroom win
all thru the storm our Scottie ran from
window to window - upstairs & down &
barked his head off - his name was
"Bumble"

we had power (occasionally) we had had
filled in the gaps with fire in the fire
Most of the town had one hell of a time
with water from the bay in all stores on
Bay Ave, - about 20" in Beall's Central Mkt, for
example. The C.D. ran things very well with
help from the Army personnel and its heavy
equipment. Some efforts by the mainland
branch to land, and "look around" via
boats, were rather emphatically squelched.
South end of the Island, I'm told, looks
like an egg beater had worked it over. In
a few minutes and houses left standing
A U.S. destroyer broke her jaw line off-
shore and landed right side up but bars
and fast exactly in the middle of what
would be Bay Ave, just south of the
C.D. watch tower. But we can't get there
because about 1/4 mi south of B.H. line
there is a stretch of the Island awash
at high tide. The Navy is sweating gun drops
trying to salvage its boat. Very "iffy". Did
say B.H. lost about 30 houses on the
ocean front, mainly between 2nd St. and
10th St. The place is littered with piles
of sawdust with every bit of wood having a
nail waiting for either an auto fire or on
foot. But streets are getting cleaned up.
We have power & sewage service, but a
boiling drinking water. Much of Harry Cedar
is a memory only. They hope to fill in a small
Best regards.