When, for the first time in 40 years, the river really ran amok, it hit Oakdale, far up stream, at first...

...And, widening as it rose, spread on out and overflowed into the town of Kinder on down river.
This is the Calcasieu river, above Lake Charles in Southwest Louisiana, deep and powerful but running normally between its banks, cutting a serpentine track through forest and swampland to the Gulf of Mexico...
Southwest of the city, the raging Calcasieu river spread wide over swamps and marshlands...

...Until the rolling waters isolated and threatened scores of oilfield drilling operations.
The water continued to back up from river and lake through the coulees all around the business district...

Forcing merchants to evacuate their stocks by boats or any other means available.
Some families elected to stay and make a fight of it... With all the men, machines and muscles they could get...

And sandbags by the thousands to pile on top of hastily-constructed dikes and levees.
The rain kept falling and the water rising, and now evacuees brought their pets along with them...

While down along the waterfront, boats were made secure or moved to higher ground in case of need.
Home-owners, large and small, battled the flood waters at their very doors with every means available. Several of the hardest-fought battles were waged in fashionable home areas such as this (see next page).

Several of the hardest-fought battles were waged in fashionable home areas such as this (see next page).
Forced to abandon “Home Sweet Home” at last...
Men from the Air Base waded miles in water chest-deep and deeper, right down U. S. Highway 90...

...While high and dry on a base trailer-house roof, air police stayed to supervise evacuation.
Then began the grim cleanup job, taking down the piled-high furniture—if it hadn’t floated off...

Washing out mud and repairing damaged floors...

...And removing sandbags, dikes and pumps from yards.
Early flood refugees, disembarked on dry land, found the evacuation centers ready and waiting for them with beds set up and Red Cross and other volunteer workers already on the job.