

# Ex-Goose Pilot Gets Crash Damage Award

Chief District Court Judge Almeric Christian awarded \$389,786 in damages last week to former Antilles Air Boat pilot and St. Thomas attorney, George H. Hubschman, for damages incurred as a result of a June, 1971 plane crash.

In a 71-page opinion Judge

Christian found negligence on the part of Antilles Air Boat, Inc. and dismissed liability charges against co-defendant, Caribbean Flying Boats, Inc. Caribbean Flying Boats, Inc. buys and leases the air boats commonly called "the goose" to Antilles.

In the opinion, Christian stated

that Hubschman was "severely disabled" when both engines on the hydroplane failed and the plane was brought down a "few miles northeast of the Puerto Rico Island of Culebra."

Noting the reputation for safety of the goose, Christian stated in his  
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## Ex-Goose Pilot

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opinion that "a twin engine failure in a plane with the demonstrated record of the goose, simply does not occur in the absence of negligence."

The fact that the Goose is designed to land in open water, but, nevertheless, "broke apart somewhere in the nose area, and after remaining afloat 5 to 10 minutes, went down to the bottom, was noted in the opinion.

Calling Hubschman's prognosis for the future "dismal," Christian awarded \$90,000 for past pain to date, \$100,000 for "loss of enjoyment past and future and related shortcomings, including pleasure derived from piloting planes," \$125,000 "for pain and suffering throughout the bleak

future forecast," \$34,786 for loss of earnings, and \$40,000 was awarded to Patricia Hubschman, the former pilot's wife, for loss of consortium.

Howard K. Gibbs, attorney for Antilles, told The Daily News Tuesday that the opinion is "being studied" at the present time but he feels "there is a certainty that the matter will be appealed."

Hubschman was represented by the firm of Isherwood, Colianni, Alkon & Barnard, in St. Croix.