

9/9/05

You meet the nicest people in waiting rooms. I recently met Judy Boone of Hayfork and her daughter-in-law in a waiting room. As we were waiting for our turn to be called, the TV was on showing the damage done by Hurricane Katrina. Judy told me about her experience when she lived in New Orleans, and lived through Camille in 1969. Judy and her husband had two small children at that time, a 4 years old son, and a 2 years old daughter.

Hurricane Camille hit the Gulf Coast on August 10, 1969 and caused \$5.2 billion in damage and took 256 lives with winds estimated at 160 mph. Camille and the 1935 Keys storm were the only category 5 hurricanes to hit the U.S. this century . . . until now. Judy said they tried to evacuate, but the roads were deadlocked with other evacuees, so they decided to prepare themselves to ride out the storm. They filled their bath tubs and sinks with drinking water, made sure they had enough batteries, matches and candles. Plywood, aside from being very expensive, was in short supply, so they only boarded up the windows in the room they decided was the safest for them to ride out the storm. Judy and her husband and children crawled under a table and held on.

She said it was surreal because there were no signs a storm was coming. Officials kept saying evacuate or prepare for the worst, but sky was blue and the weather calm and quiet. But when it hit, it hit all of a sudden, and the noise was deafening. Judy said the rains came first, and then the wind. They saw dogs and trees flying airborne past them. But they were safe under the table. All of Judy's windows, except the one's they were able to board up, were blown out. One entire wall of the house was ripped away. Nothing inside the room was touched; all of the furniture was in the same place. They were without water and electricity for three weeks. But in her case, the catastrophe brought out the best in her neighborhood, bonding people together. They had community BBQ's each night and everyone, shared what they had and helped each other.

We have earthquakes here, and as of now, there is no prior warning. There is prior warning with hurricanes, but after talking to Judy, I can see how the quiet before the storm can lull you into a sense of false security and why People do not move as fast as they should. We wish all of the Gulf Coast as speedy a recovery as possible.

For those of you who have been wondering about the well being of Crow, you will be pleased to hear that he, and his girlfriend are doing very well perched on top of our television set. I keep getting the feeling things are getting pretty serious with Crow and his girlfriend, and it may become necessary to supply them with a bigger house... at least one large enough for the two of them, and maybe even a little crow or two. Dick is pleading with everyone to help him out of his foot-in-mouth trophy. Just the other day he was almost begging Jack Buehler to say something mean and disgusting to Alice, but Jack just grinned and pointed at me and stated "I'm not saying anything as long as she is around"!

In my last column, I printed the wrong destination for the Lions Labor Day BBQ and Art Show. I said the event would take place in the Wynton park area at the tip end of Airport Drive", instead of "The park across the street from the Scott Museum at the tip end of Airport Drive". I apologize to the Lions for this error, and sincerely hope it did not create confusion for people who wanted to attend the BBQ and Art Show.

Speaking of the Art Show, There was some incredibly talented artist showing and selling their art projects. Just walking through the exhibits was worth the price of the tickets. But the sound of the country bands music and the smells from the delicious BBQ, and the wonderful weather made the day very enjoyable. I spent my whole month's "allowance" on several different Arts and Crafts items. And I am not sorry I did.

The Robin Renton Chapter of Red Hats will be meeting Tuesday, September 13 at 12:30, Lunch at 1:00 at the Coffee Creek Ranch. Alicia is going all out to put on a great buffet lunch "to dazzle our pallets". The cost of the lunch is \$15.00.