



Over The Fence

DECEMBER 2007

HARRISON, ARKANSAS

“Hospice House”



"Before"

The Hospice House under construction next door to Hillcrest Home, featured in this Newsletter in January 2007.

How did it get started in Harrison?



Repeating from a year ago there are many caring citizens who became involved, here are the two mainstays who put the project together. On the left is Harrison Realtor Jerry Jackson. Beside Jackson is Katheryn Nance, wife of retired banker Joe Nance who lives in Marble Falls.



Their deep concern along with many others was that there was no facility in Harrison that could house loved ones who had patients in the local hospital. Who needed a nearby place to stay during the period their loved ones were getting hospital care

More importantly, they discovered terminally ill people in the Harrison area who needed constant medical care. Thus, the Hospice House project was instituted to care for these people and a group got together, many businessmen donated materials, Boone County donated the property, the construction class from the local college, NACC, got in-

involved and the facility was off and running.

It was remarkable that scores of local businesses contributed - even individual journeymen plumbers and electricians donated their time to construct the Hospice House.

It would take pages in the local newspaper to list the individuals, the businesses and others who donated their finances, their time, equipment and effort to construction of the facility

"After"

Dedicated on August 30th with almost 300 hundred spectators in attendance, on the preceding page is an exterior view of the finished Hospice House today. Here are interior views of the facility:



"Hospice House Directors"



Both are Registered Nurses. On the left is Ms Debbie Schaefer, Director of the Hospice House, and on the right is Ms Deb Mulanax, Charge Nurse.

"Recap"

After over 2 years to become a viable medical institution in Harrison the Hospice House is open for business with a full-time nursing staff to care 24/7 for terminally-ill patients recommend by their doctors. The facility can accommodate 4 patients.

Jerry Jackson said the Hospice

House cost over \$400,000 to construct.

Without the dedication and perseverance of all involved the facility would not have been possible. Without the benevolence of all who contributed their money, their time, their equipment, the facility would still be a dream.

As Jackson said, what an amazing and remarkable achievement for Harrison and Boone County which is indeed a tribute to all involved.



"Feedback"

Curmudgeon, now that you've finished three years of Newslettering, what now?

Good question, AL. If the Lord continues to let me see daylight each morning and punch the keyboard, I'll probably talk to and record folks who serve here'bouts.

Plus, if folks keep sending human interest stories, clean jokes and items of interest I'll probably keep at it.

"Why Speak English?"

A US Navy Admiral was attending a naval conference that included 20 Admirals from the US, English, Canadian, Australian and French Navies.

At a reception, he found himself standing with a huge group of officers that included personnel from most of the countries.

Everyone was chatting away in English as they sipped their drinks, but a French Admiral suddenly complained that, whereas Europeans learn many languages. Americans learn only English!

He then asked, "Why is it that we always have to speak English in these conferences, rather than speaking French?"

Without hesitating, the American Admiral replied, "Maybe it's because the Brit's, Canadians, Aussie's and Americans arranged it so you wouldn't have to speak German."

You could have heard a pin drop!



"The Tornado"

The story begins after the tornado in Greensburg, Kansas, with the rescuers finding this poor little guy they

named Ralphie.

Someone had already taken him under their wing but weren't equipped to adopt; Ralphie, scared and starved, joined his rescuers...

I wouldn't think anything could live through this...but we were wrong.



longer alone!

Instant friends, they comforted each other while in the car.

Add two more beagles found after that...the more, the merrier!

Oh boy, a new traveler to add to the mix...now just how is this going to work??? And remember they are all strange to one another. It's going to work just fine, thank you very much!

Wow! The things we learn from our animal friends...

If only all of mankind could learn such valuable lessons as this.

Lessons of instant friendship. Of peace and harmony by way of respect for one another -- no matter one's color or creed.

These animals tell you... "It's just good to be alive and with others."

"The Chicagoan"

A guy from Chicago dies and is sent to Hell. He had been a horrible man his entire life.

The devil puts the man to work breaking up rocks with a sledge hammer. To make it worse, the devil cranks up the temperature and the humidity.



After a couple of days, the devil checks in on his victim to see if he is suffering adequately. The devil is aghast as the Chicagoan is happily swinging his hammer and whistling a happy tune. The devil walks up to him and says, "I don't understand this. I've turned the heat way up, it's humid, you're crushing rocks; why are you so happy?"

The man, with a big smile, looks at the devil and replies, "This is great! It reminds me of August in Chicago. This is fantastic!"

The devil extremely perplexed, walks away to ponder the man's remarks. Then he decides to drop the temperature, send down a driving rain and torrential wind. Soon, Hell is a wet, muddy mess.

Walking in mud up to his knees with dust blowing into his eyes, the man is happily slogging through the mud pushing a wheelbarrow full of crushed rocks. The man replies, "This is great! Just like April in Chicago. It reminds me of working out in the yard with spring planting!"

The devil is now completely baffled but more determined to make the man suffer. He makes the temperature plummet. Suddenly Hell is blanketed in snow and ice. Confident that this will surely make the man unhappy, the devil checks in on him. He is again aghast at what he sees.

The man is dancing, singing, and twirling his sledgehammer as he cavorts in glee. "How can you be so happy? Don't you know it's 40 below zero?!" screams the devil?

Jumping up and down, the man throws a snowball at the devil and yells, "Hell's frozen over! This means the Cubs won the World Series!"



"Common Sense"

"A Mere \$75,000 Overpayment"

For about half a year last year, a Cabinet-level employee of the District of Columbia, Ms. Veronica Pace, was overpaid. Not a small amount. From January through August she accumulated \$75,000 over her agreed-upon salary.

Now, errors like this happen all the time, I guess. It's only happened to me in Monopoly. I've picked up a Community Chest card which read that a "bank error in my favor" garnered me \$200.

Oh, wait: I have been given too much change at a checkout line. And of course gave it back.

In most situations, one is legally required to pay back errors of that kind, whether from banks, merchants, employers. There's the agreed-upon amount. And then there's money paid because of some sort of calculation error. It's common sense ethics, really. In our nation's capital, though, things are a bit different. There's this law that allows government workers to petition to keep their mistaken gains. And Ms Pace pushed through the paperwork for that petition. She had reasons. There were salary offsets and mistaken legislation and what-have-you.

Two weeks before city administrator Robert C. Bobb resigned, he approved Ms. Pace's request to keep the \$75,000. Then this waiver was reviewed, and the city took it back.

You could take a number of morals from this story. One is, "Yikes: government is so chaotic that \$75,000 can slip through the cracks?"

That's common sense? No.

"The SWAT Team"

Sometimes governments get so out of control you want to call in the SWAT team.

That's what happened in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Where a new taxpayer group, called Stop Wasting Albuquerque Taxes, or SWAT for short has stopped the big plans of Mayor Martin Chavez to railroad through a \$270 million streetcar project.

When citizens suggested the streetcar's impact had not been properly researched, the powers-that-be said they'd commission a two-week study. They planned to rush a public vote, too.

Then citizens led by Silvio Dell'Angela, head of SWAT, started asking even more questions. About where the money would come from? And who would benefit?

And why the council had sneaked through an extension of the transportation tax through 2020 and diverted half the funds to the streetcar project?

Next, a damning audit showed the waste and mismanagement of past transportation funds, and the Mayor signaled the retreat.

Rio Grande Foundation President Paul Gessing said, "The proposed \$270 million streetcar, designed to serve one small area of the city at the expense of the rest of the city and state, was a perfect example of government planning gone awry. It was only stopped by the outrage of concerned citizens."

You know it's a little scary to think about what politicians would get away with if it weren't for groups like SWAT.

Concerned citizens not afraid to "get involved," are our country's real front-line defense. (*This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.*)

"Take Your Pick"



Oops Wrong Lane

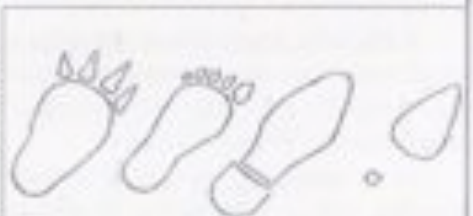
Hopefully Your Car Insurance is paid up!



While Folks Complain about Big Brother listening in!!



While Barbie Becomes a Senior Citizen



The evolution of authority

While Nothing Changes!

"Words of Wisdom"

"Mans capacity for justice makes democracy possible, but mans inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary"
(Reinhold Niebuhr, 1892-1971)

This community newsletter is published monthly and distributed gratis by Jim Keel, PO, Box 763, Harrison, AR 72601, 870-741-6067, e-mail galaxy22@alltel.net. The objective is to highlight public service agencies and people of Harrison, Arkansas who serve. Comments are welcome