

Straight from The Horse's Mouth



Laura St. John

Most weeks I do not know what I'm going to write about until the last minute when the procrastination has turned into panic. This week I got some help. You see, I had an interesting dream last night and upon awakening, knew that it would be my topic. I realize there may be several pretty sharp dream interpreters out there who read my column, and I may or may not be in trouble. But I'm a risk taker, so here it goes:

The gist of the dream was that my mom took our sail boat out for a week end... alone. She left the marina in Kemah, sailed four hours to the Galveston Jetties, went south half a day and pulled into a marina fifty miles off shore. (I know, it's a dream... there are no marinas in the Gulf of Mexico) In the dream I didn't know about her adventure until she was on her way back. My first thought was how proud I was of her!

I didn't start thinking of how dangerous it was for her and for the boat until later. Then my worries multiplied exponentially.

It's a pretty big boat, 32,000 lbs, 47' long and loaded with complicated equipment. Did she know how to read the anemometer and the depth meter? What about the charts, was she using the right ones? Was she plotting her course on paper charts or using the GPS Captain's charts? Wait! Did she KNOW how to plot a navigational course? Did she tune the VHS radio to the coastal NOAA weather to check the forecast? Did she register a sail plan with the coastguard?

At the dock the boat is held with three lines, often more. How did Mom manage to release the bow line, spring line and stern line alone? Doing this solo requires a methodical dance involving timing and grace. How did she back out of the slip without scraping the dock or taking half of it with her? There are so many variables; was it windy, and from which direction, was the tide flooding, ebbing or slacking? Did she know how to steer in reverse? It's not like driving a car. What about running aground, did she know where the channel was? The boat has a 6'2" modified fin keel, did she know her draft? She could hit a mud hump or a shell bank, or worse, if she weren't following the markers she may run into sunken wreckage in the bay.

It's dangerous out there! Did she know how to communicate with the other traffic? The container ships and oil tankers in the ship channel could crush a sailboat like a toy. What about wearing the

safety harness...did she clip in? Was she running under power or sail? The mainsail is in mast. Getting it out is easy enough, but furling it is tricky, she could get herself in real trouble. The jib lines are very large and require an electric wench. Did she know how to use them, or was she trying to crank them by hand? Did she know how to tack?

Coming into a marina is so much harder than it looks. Boats don't have brakes. I know she knows this, but this boat is much heavier than anything she's driven. Heavens! She's 70+ and has no experience with an ocean going sailing vessel. And further more, what in the world is my mom doing at a marina in the Gulf of Mexico alone? Doesn't she know that there are likely to be some salty types who'd just love to swap sailing stories with her over a 'sundowner' or two?

As you can see this dream was a hoot for me. I am very proud of my mom's real life accomplishments, and I know that she's capable of many things, but sailing this boat is not one of them.

Glenn, on the other hand, can do anything he puts his mind to. Any new venture is a challenge for him. His most recent is taking the helm of the Buffalo Spring Fest scheduled for May 1st. There will be loads of entertainment including local musicians and bands and a fiddler's contest. This year's chili cook-off promises to be larger than anything we've seen at Hariman Park. Mark your calendars...May 1st: Buffalo Spring Fest!

Well, my sailing days may be over, but I can dream... and do, even if it is about my mom taking the wheel.

Tales from WannaBea Farm



Joyce Stark

Flip You For It

"Run, Kyle, run", I heard boys screaming, along with others yelling, "Go Danny, you can do it". They were neck and neck when they crossed the finish line.

We had taken our Cub Scout Pack on an outing to a county park where we had a huge picnic with the boys cooking their foil wrapped entrees over the fire and the mothers furnishing the rest of the goodies. Everybody was having a great time, the boys had all tried their hand at fishing and some had even caught

a few and after showing them off and bragging about their prowess they released them. They were getting pretty wound up and rambunctious and had started picking at me.

Now back then I was pretty scrawny and even wore the Cub Scout uniform as the Den Mother uniform was way too big. Aaah, those were the days. SIGH. Anyway, those boys thought it was just so funny that most of them were bigger than me and loved to tell each other short jokes after making sure that I was in hearing range. They were on a short joke spree now and even had bystanders laughing and chiming in with jokes of their own so I put a stop to that and started the games. I would wear them out and they'd be too tired to tell jokes on the way home.

My Den would win one contest then Audie's Den would win the next one or we would tie. The other Dens couldn't come near us and the competition was getting fiercer by the minute, with the boys all yelling and taunting each other. They had even drawn a small crowd of bystanders that were watch-

ing the games and rooting for their favorite team.

Whoever won would gain possession of the Pack flag for the following month and of course the winners would just lord it over the other dens.

Even though my Den and Audie's competed with all the other Dens, we were mostly in competition with each other. But after all the games were over this day we were still tied, even after a couple of extra games. Everybody stood around trying to decide who would get the flag when Audie looked at me and said, "I'll flip you for it".

Dumb ole me said, "Okay".

The next thing I knew, she had grabbed me and flipped me completely over the picnic table!

Stunned, I just sat there on the ground, listening to everybody's laughter, trying to figure out just what on earth had happened. Then, when it dawned on me, I couldn't help but laugh too.

Audie won!
We can flip a coin if you want, but never again will I fall for "I'll flip YOU for it".

BOB BOWMAN'S EAST TEXAS

A LOOK AT HISTORIC PLACES, PEOPLE AND EVENTS

A Civil War Journal

In early 1861, W.W. Heartsill of Marshall, Texas, marched off to war with W.P. Lane's Rangers of the Confederate Army. During the four years, one month and one day that he spent at war, Heartsill managed to keep a diary of each day.

Throughout his service, he carried with him a small memorandum book with this notation on the flyleaf: "If I am killed, or if by any mishap this book is lost, please send it to my father, A. Heartsill, Louisville, East Tennessee."

When Heartsill filled up one of the books, he sent it home to Marshall for safekeeping. "Scores of times, I was as wet as water could make me, as these books bear evidence. Sometimes my book would come all to pieces after a soaking, and as it was being written with a pencil, I had to retrace with a pen when the opportunity was offered."

Heartsill's journals are mirrors of camp life and the trials and pleasures he en-

dured as a private in the Confederate ranks.

When he came home, he began printing the pages of his diaries, completing the work in 1876.

Heartsill's recollections show war in its horror and occasional moments when the soldiers in Lane's Rangers laughed at the antics of their fellow soldiers.

In November of 1861, Heartsill wrote: "Today, we attended the funeral of a soldier, a solemn, sad duty."

On Sunday, July 11, Heartsill wrote that Confederate and Union troops clashed near the Arkansas River with only 4,000 Confederate soldiers facing "70,000 of the Yanks." During the battle, the Confederates' hospital was set afire, "killing two of our surgeons and a wounded man who was being operated upon by the surgeons."

"Such agony, such, such horror and so many deaths; how many of our brave comrades perished in this frightful tragedy, heaven alone will

reveal." During the battle, Heartsill wrote that Lane's Rangers "are not recognized as Confederate soldiers, but will be teated as guerrillas from the fact that we are an independent company."

On July 12th, Heartsill wrote that, "oh, how hungry we are." He said "we all are supplied with a liberal breakfast composed entirely of river water." At noon, he said, "we receive the same for dinner that we got for breakfast" and in the evening, the Rangers finally got "a good supply of fat bacon and hard tack, which is the only food that we have had for 84 hours."

The Rangers were captured by the Union troops and loaded aboard a ship with Arkansas soldiers. "Every man is looking for news about an exchange (for Yankee soldiers held by the South)."

Heartsill made it through the war and he and his fellow soldiers were mustered out of service on May 20, 1865, in Harrison County, Texas.

Sudoku Puzzle #1735-M Answers on page 8B

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | | 2 | | | | 3 |
| | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | | | 6 |
| 4 | | | | 1 | | 7 | 8 | |
| 3 | | 6 | | | | 2 | | 8 |
| | | 8 | | | | 9 | | |
| 2 | | 7 | | | | 3 | | 5 |
| | 5 | 9 | | 3 | | | | 4 |
| 7 | | | 6 | | 9 | | | 2 |
| 1 | | | | 8 | | 6 | | |

Knockout Endings Answers on page 8B

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| ACROSS | | 1. Frank McCourt's "Angela's Ashes" | 6. Snail-mailed, say | 10. Turns down, in a way | 14. Try to clear the bar | 15. Ox team's burden | 16. Skip past | 17. Phil Silvers' TV sergeant | 19. One of the Ephrons | 20. Vitamin-bottle fig. | 21. Surface calculation | 22. Futz around | 24. Felt excited | 26. ___ Valley (Reagan Library site) | 27. Jed Clampett's find | 28. Showered with TLC | 32. Howard of satellite radio | 35. It's chopped liver | 36. "Dumb" comics girl | 37. Didn't give way | 38. Christmas Club member | 39. They "try harder" | 40. Double Stuff brand | 41. Take, as advice | 42. Word accompanying a slap | 43. Long-distance trucker's route, maybe | 45. Browne who created Hagar | 46. Hockey heavy | 47. Trouser that resembles a skirt | 51. PTA part | 54. Venetian blind part | 55. Guffaw syllable | 56. Run ___ (go berserk) | 57. Fugitive in a 1937 French movie | 60. "Check this out!" | 61. Imitative sort | 62. ___ up (rose on the hind legs) | 63. Flying "A" competitor of old | 64. Set of antlers | 65. Dope's lack | 10. 2001 Jake Gyllenhaal title role | 11. Reassurance after a fall | 12. Mucky stuff | 13. Walk of Fame implant | 18. Belgian tunesmith Jacques | 23. Little devil | 25. Michael Douglas' "Wall Street" role | 26. Filled beyond full | 28. Unlike a dirt road | 29. Go from pillar to post | 30. Largest dwarf planet | 31. Sprinter's event | 32. "Scram, fly!" | 33. U. of Maryland athlete | 34. "Waiting for the Robert ___" | 35. Hymn of praise | 38. Score a 72, perhaps | 42. Oil-change needs | 44. "Apollo 13" director Howard | 45. Like a Jekyll-Hyde personality | 47. Bob Cratchit's job | 48. Androcles extracted one | 49. Makes off with | 50. Decrease, as popularity | 51. Like some ales | 52. Andy's cohort, in old radio | 53. Outback hoppers | 54. Blueprint detail, for short | 58. Clean Water Act org. | 59. Fannie or Ginnie follower |
|--------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|



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Community Calendar

It's Gospel Singing Time again @ Hiway Tabernacle Church of God. Hwy 75 So. March 13, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m. If you want to sing come in and sign up at the door. If you just want to listen come in and make yourself at home. We will have refreshments after the singing. Looking forward to seeing you there. For more information call 903-322-5265.

A one-day AARP Driver Safety Program will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 18 at the Meals On Wheels/Palestine Senior Activity Center located at 200 N. Church St. in Palestine. The refresher course is designed for drivers 50 years of age and older, but is open to anyone. The cost of the course is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members. For more information, or to register for the class which will be held to 15 participants, please contact Leigh Ann Murff at 903-729-0255.

Join us Saturday, March 20 from 8-12 for the Dogwood Trails Kick-Off Dance featuring Shiloh at the Meals On Wheels/Palestine Senior Activity Center located at 200 N. Church St. Appetizers will be served but feel free to bring snacks to share. Coffee and tea will be provided. Cost is \$8.00 per person or \$15.00 per couple. This dance is open to the general public and we

hope to see all of your there - old, young, everyone is invited! Call today and make your reservation - 903-729-0255.

Easter Bonnet Competition - Start imagining your creation and one you have it "built" join us for our Annual Easter Party at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday April 1st at the Meals on Wheels/Palestine Senior Activity Center located at 200 N. Church St. in Palestine. Make your reservations by 12 noon the day before and join us for food and festivities. Bring a snack and the center will be providing coffee, tea and punch. Categories for the Easter Bonnet judging will be: Most Creative, Most Beautiful and Wackiest. Join us for the fun - we look forward to having you! Contact the center at 903-729-0255 with any questions and for reservations.

Donate Your Prescription Eyeglasses! The Buffalo Lions Club has placed collection boxes to Recycle for Sight at the following locations: Citizen's State Bank, Pruitt Cleaners, Brookshire Brother's Pharmacy, Dr. Vicki Camp, Davis Feed, and Community National Bank. Remember, old glasses give new sight. For more information contact: Sight Conservation Chairman Jean Turner 936-349-2244.

Flo Volunteer Fire Department: First Thursday of each

month - Business Meeting meets at Flo Community Center at 7:00 p.m. Third Thursday of each month - Training meets at Flo Community Center at 7:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome! Please come join us for Oakwood's 2nd Annual community garden, "Project Save-a-Life", planting party on March 20, 2010 at 12:00 noon. This project, hosted by the C.H.A.N.G.E Youth Center, will be held at the same location as last year, next door to the Miracle Church at 1544 W. Broad St. in Oakwood on Hwy 79. Leon County Master Gardener Terry Keeling will be bringing a group of the club's members to make sure this year's garden is an even bigger success than last year's. There will be others assisting in the planting, including Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Dews. This children's project will benefit the senior citizens and shut-ins in the surrounding areas. So, bring your garden gloves and tools and help to feed those in need! Donations of tools, gloves and other supplies, and seeds and plants would be greatly appreciated. For more information, to volunteer, or donate, please call Pastor Larry Allen, Director of the C.H.A.N.G.E Youth Center. The C.H.A.N.G.E Youth Center is a part of Spirit of God Ministries, Inc. and is a non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.