



The Mountaineer

Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers chapter of FMCA



September 16-18, 2004

Chicopee Ag Center

Gainesville, GA

Hello Mountaineers,

A funny thing happened on the way to the camp ground. The Rangers closed River Forks because of Hurricane Ivan. The managers had made arrangements for us to go into CHICOPEE AG CENTER, about ten miles away in Oakwood. Two or three members had to relocate and the rest of us had to go by River Forks and pick up a map to the new space. It was a nice, clean place, but no sewer hook-ups. We did, however, have several concrete block buildings close by in case we had a big blow, with air conditioning, a kitchen and clean facilities. By lunch time those that had planned to come in on Wednesday met for lunch at Curt's Cafeteria, followed by a tour of Marie and Keith Lester's (Linda's sister and brother-in-law) new home. It looks like it's right out of "Home Beautiful"-- just perfect. The usual snacks and card games finished out day. We welcomed guests Judy and Mike Hughes and got them started on Hand and Foot.

Thursday morning started with rain, high winds and breakfast at Curt's. This was followed by a tour of the Wilson's bedroom, furnished with beautiful, real family antiques. Rain, cards and naps filled in the afternoon, followed by dinner at Folks, we thought. Just as we arrived at their front door the manager met us at the door, turned us away because their district office had closed because the weather report assured "normal" people needed to stay at home. The young manager was very apologetic -- so we went down the street to Red Lobster. We were a good size crowd and they had very few other customers to serve. The food was good, the service was great, and we were served in great style by a 6 foot 7 inch tall young man. We delayed leaving after we ate for quite a time because of heavy rain and high winds -- blowing so hard the rain was moving parallel to the ground. The ladies all received "Red Lobster" necklaces. Connie got a big bear hug from a patron. We played a few hands of cards, turned in, and did a bit to rocking and rolling during the night due to the wind.

Friday started with several people going home to check for damages. Willard and Sue had some water in their basement, but a wet vacuum took care of that. The rest of those checked with friends and neighbors and were extremely lucky -- little or no damage -- trees down, but no one had to leave for good. Friday evening was Pot Luck -- We sure do have some good cooks. Connie and Joe were acting hosts and they suggested a game I had never played -- "The Almost Newlywed Game, played by the Borings, Barretts, and Wilsons. The score was tied at the end of the game and the tie-breaker was won by the Borings. The Hughes told us a little about their lives and careers and somehow that led to a general "true confessions" round from all members -- funny stories and jokes. The Hubbards made it too late for Pot Luck, but in time for cards and Spinner. Mitch Hubbard was a bit disappointed his favorite Mountaineer (Sarah Hill) did not come.

Saturday we went to Brad's Deli for lunch. Most of us ordered their famous Great Big Messy Burger. We were joined by the Conners, the Powells, and Dot Ament and her daughter, Andrea. Following lunch, some of the ladies went to a big estate sale, but didn't buy much. Back at the campground we had our business meeting. We elected the officers for the new year, passed out sign-up sheets to attend the SEA Rally in Brooksville, FL in February, 2005, agreed to act as Volunteer greeters or Seminar Hosts at the FMCA International Rally in March, 2005, at Perry, GA. There was some discussion regarding International asking attendees to give time to volunteer to host their programs, but making no concessions as to our cost or International making meetings we are interested in attending at times we can attend. Phyllis Boring reported sending get-well cards to several of our members and asked for our prayers to remember the Ringwalts, Marie Powell, and others. Connie Gallagher gave

the devotional. John led the group in singing "Amazing Grace," Connie read a thoughtful story about "What if Jesus Had Not Lived". Think about it. John finished the devotional by singing "He Lives". Several members had other commitments, but the rest of us shared ice cream and cake. Played another round of cards and Spinner. We said a few more goodbyes as some has to leave early Sunday morning.

Sunday morning departure was enhanced by a stop at Curt's for breakfast by the Wilsons, Callas, Hughes, and Huffmans. Seventeen families signed up for the rally but many had to cancel due to problems of weather, but the Barretts, Boring, Callas, Gallaghers, Hubbards, Huffmans, Willard Swansons, and Wilsons, joined by guests Judy and Mike Hughes had a good time time in spite of the weather. A special thanks goes to Connie and Joe Gallagher for taking over as hosts and planning our activities.

JBH