

Greenwich High School
Wreadin Writin n Wreminiscin
Weekly Wreader
12 September 2004



New Kids on the Block



Raymond **GLASS** . Farmington . MA
rglass@maine.edu

It was so nice to hear from you this morning. My last recollection of you was at Central. During your first year there, you drove me to school several times. I think you left at the end of year one to go to school in NYC. I am now living with my wife of 39 years in Farmington, Maine where I have been a professor of special education for the past thirty years! We have two adult children. I am not sure why it has been so difficult to reach me, but I am glad that Ginny was persistent. It sounds like you have been doing a lot of work with the newsletter and e-mail list. That's great. Best wishes, Bob, and please put me on the newsletter list. Ray Glass

Lost and Found



John **McLANE** . New Canaan . CT
jmclane@stautonmclane.com

I finally found Peter McDevitt. I invited both him and his wife, Lorraine, to the reunion. I'll find out if they can go soon and keep you posted. The coach retired from UCONN in 1990 and moved to Maine, then returned to CT a few years ago and lives near UCONN.

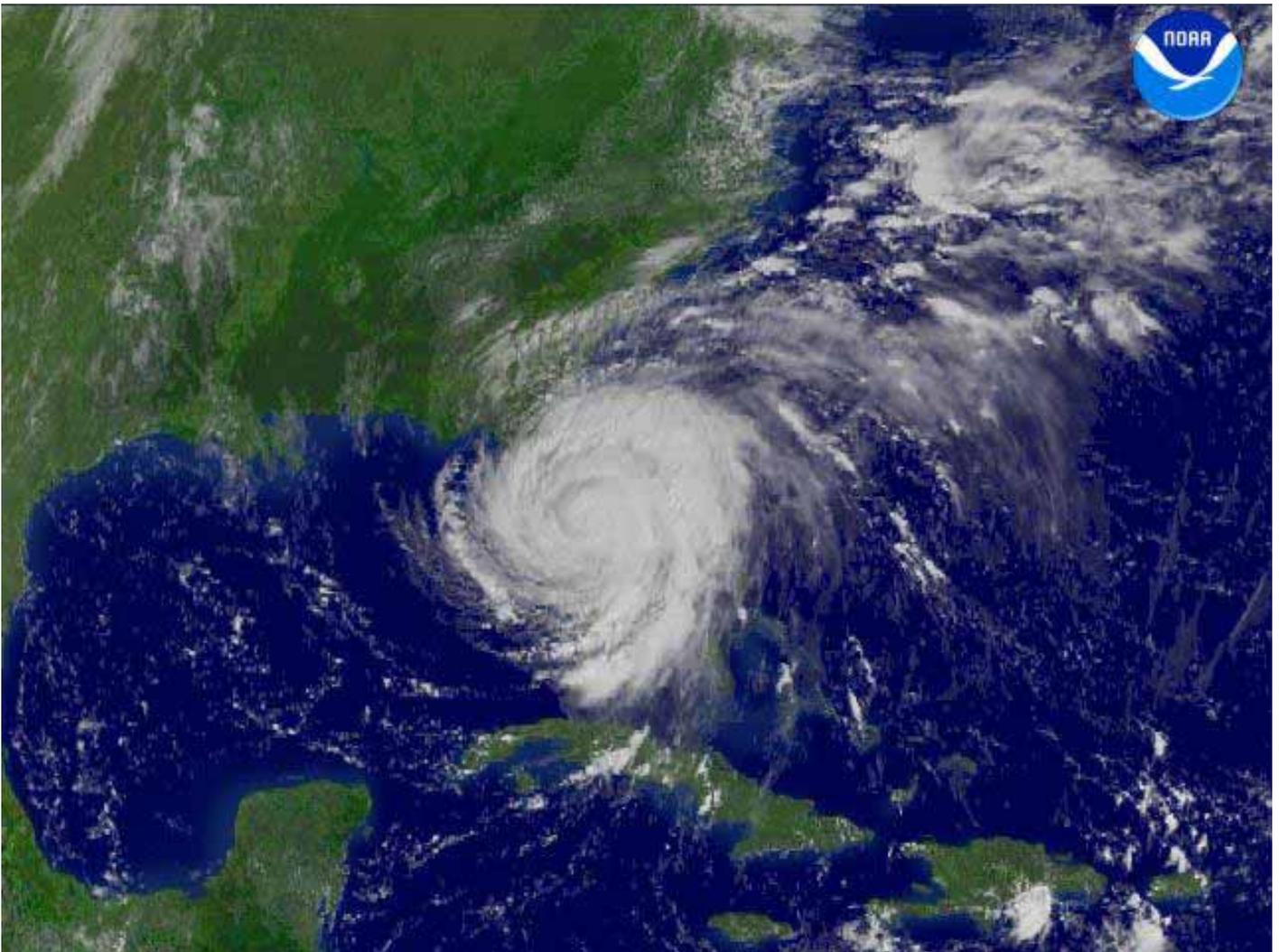
Memoirs from Hurricane Francis



Ilona **GALASSO** Mendicino . Lecanto . FL
gypsyfl@yahoo.com

When "Furious Francis" started to bear down on Florida, I was not exactly blasé' but I was not overly anxious about it. We had survived our share of storms, tornados & hurricane warnings over the 28 years in Florida. Just 3 weeks before, "Hurricane Charley" had taken a hard turn to the east, missing the Tampa Bay area and those of us to the northwest. However, we did prepare, stocking up on water, food & sandbagging the doors. Many residents & businesses boarded up their windows & millions were told to evacuate the state. My brother, who lives on the east coast in Port St. Lucie, boarded up his home, loaded his car, and along with his wife, neighbors & dog took off for Tenn. His experience was anything but pleasant.

It took him 16 hours just to get out of the state, 27.5 hours to get to Tenn. Traffic was horrific, stop & go....5 to 7 miles per hour...with no way to get gas at some areas. The Hwy Patrol had some rest areas blocked because they were full or had no gas or food provisions. But he said the worse part of being on the roads was the attitude & rude behavior of some of the drivers. The lack of manners or any sign of courtesy was appalling.



We did not receive the full fury of the hurricane and only experienced “tropical storm winds” and not a lot of rain. The heavy winds began here on Saturday night & continued well into Sunday & Monday, knocking down heavy limbs & toppling trees. I live in a heavily wooded area & hearing the trees go down, especially in the dark of night, got to be a bit unnerving. Fortunately, we did not receive any structural damage. Our electricity went off at about noon on Sunday, Sept 5th. We finally had it restored on Friday, Sept 10th at 2:20 pm. Understand that when the electricity goes out here, there is no water as we live “in the country” and have wells for water. I think that was the hardest part to endure for 6 days. (I am definitely all for the creature comforts & NOT a fan of camping!) We had filled up the bathtubs to be able to have water for “flushing” & had plenty of bottled water for drinking. But after several days the tub water was gone & I took to putting out pots & buckets to catch rain water from the roof.



After 48 hours, despite efforts to keep the refrigerators & freezers filled with ice, which had also become a scarce commodity everywhere, we started throwing out food. What I was able to salvage because we had it in coolers filled with ice, I told my son to come & get. His electricity was restored Wed at 5 am, much to everyone's relief. Wednesday, the sun came out & with it blistering heat. By 4 pm it was 95 degrees on my back porch, in the shade. My dogs & I were in a state of undeniable misery. I packed them up in the car, along with all the sopping wet, stinking towels from wiping up water from the freezers, refrigerators and melting ice, and headed to my son's house. (He lives about 25 minutes away.) Ahhhh! Blessed air conditioning, running water, a washing machine... a cool shower and a hot meal! The simple pleasures we so often take for granted was what I needed most! I could hear my dogs whimpering their thanks as well.

I spent Wednesday night & Thursday night there, but came home each day to see if any progress had been made on restoring the electricity. After, a few days of this imposed camping style of life, I was getting a bit weary, but so many of my friends & neighbors were still out also that I knew it was just a matter of

time. Because a huge old oak tree had fallen down across power lines and was lying across the road, we had to wait for the tree clean up crews to work their magic first before we could get electricity. When I saw the electric company truck on Friday, I really wanted to kiss the guy, especially when he told me "You will be back on shortly".



Fortunately, phone service was ok through out the storm, but like most people we had a cordless phone. (The cell phone towers were not functioning.) I found an old phone in a closet that was not cordless, but needed to be plugged in to hear the ringer. I had to watch the caller ID box to know if anyone had called. What a time! As of this morning, Sunday Sept 12th, there are still areas that are with out electricity, but have been promised that everyone will be restored by midnight tonight. I feel so sorry for the elderly especially those with severe medical problems. This has been a night mare for them. I spent all Friday afternoon & into the night as well as Sat morning trying to do "clean up". What a mess!

Well, as I write this, we are fearfully watching the progress of "Ivan the Horrible". Right now, it appears that the east coast of Florida will be spared, but hurricanes are very unpredictable. Along the west coast, we have

more to be concerned about. We are packed & ready to head out if need be. The TV is permanently on the news channel as we await weather updates. Please keep all of us in your prayers.