

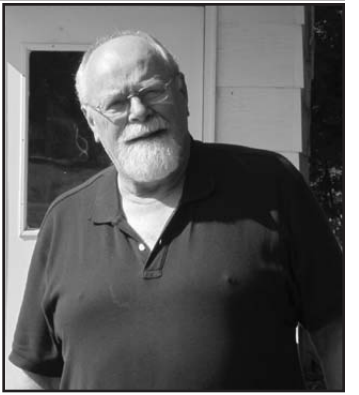
Guard Dogs

Jaysee and the boys took the big step of renting an old gas station/mini-mart for their new clubhouse a little while ago. They had been meeting in Rocky's basement for years, until his wife told him they needed to fix up a room in the house for his mother-in-law. Looking around the neighborhood, they found the abandoned station with plenty of pavement, a mechanic's bay, a larger room for meetings, an office, and restrooms with plumbing that worked. After some cheap renovating and clean-up, they had a great looking clubhouse that even had a fenced yard on three sides. At their first meeting, the Brothers - you know, the Brotherhood of the Wind - decided that such a neat clubhouse would be well served by having a watchdog, so a committee was dispatched to the local dog pound (for the politically correct - Humane Society) to pick one out. It was a wonder that they found the perfect dog, a pit bull named Judge, at their first stop. Judge just looked like a real live guard dog, even though he was only about 12 weeks old. As the Brothers were leaving, Thunder turned to Little Lightning and said, "Have you ever seen an uglier dog than that one sitting over in the corner? I just can't believe anything could be that ugly. Well, you can guess, Ugly Larry went home with them as well. Nobody could explain why he was called Larry, but they could explain that they didn't want Judge to get lonely when noone else was around.

As the weeks passed, Judge and Larry did a pretty good job of guarding the clubhouse. They could both bark up a storm, and Judge was a really great growler. Nobody messed with the Club's stuff, and the dogs became comfortable in their fenced yard, proud of being useful members of the Brotherhood. As they laid on guard one day, Judge asked Larry, "why do you figure they got this fence around the yard? Is it to keep us in, or to keep everybody else out?" Well, Larry didn't really know for sure, but he said, "I guess it's for keepin' out." Judge didn't hear the "of trouble" part which Larry only whispered. Larry seemed to be a meek sort of dog. Upon this somewhat positive response, Judge got up and ambled over to a corner of the fence and said, "Then I guess they won't mind if we go for a little sightseein', will they?" With that, he slid through a gap in the fence and headed down the alley, with Larry running to catch up. When they got to the intersection, Judge tried to cross the street and was sideswiped by a pickup truck. We can't repeat what the driver called him as he sped away. A concerned Larry came alongside a limping Judge and asked, "Are you OK, and shouldn't we go back to the yard?" Judge winced with every step, but assured Larry that he was still good to go. Crossing through a nearby park, a jogger saw the two dogs approaching and brought out a can of pepper spray. Of course, Judge just wanted to play, but she got him right in the face with the burning spray, blinding him temporarily. She jogged away and Larry began to try and lead Judge safely home. Well, Judge still wanted to be the captain of his own destiny, so the poor blind cripple continued on his way, ignoring the pleas of his ugly partner, Larry. Before Larry could react, Judge misstepped into midair and fell headlong into the stream which ran through the park. Swollen by recent rains and melting snow upstream, the current immediately grabbed the poor blind cripple and hurled him downstream toward the falls. Larry was beside Judge, and suddenly beside himself, all alone. He began to run downstream along the bank, looking for a way to save his drowning friend, but there was nothing he could see that would save him. Coming to a wide arch of the stream, Larry took a deep breath and jumped off the embankment into the swirling water.

With on mighty lunge, he caught Judge by his collar as he was carried by on the rushing current. Swimming for all he was worth, an exhausted Larry deposited the near lifeless body of his friend on a sandbar, and collapsed back into the roaring flood, to be carried over the falls and downstream to the sea. Neighbors found Judge on the sandbar, and carried him back to the clubhouse where he revived and recovered from his injuries. An extensive search did not turn up the remains of Larry anywhere along the stream, all the way to the ocean.

The Gospel of John 15:13 says, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Part of the code we live by states this rule of life. When our culture dismisses this motive for life, we will have no basis for brotherhood any longer. The lessons of this little story are many, beginning with why the fence was up in the first place. We often think that God builds fences (rules) around us to keep us in. We think He wants to keep us from enjoying life and having fun in this life. However, God really puts fences around us to keep us safe from our natural enemies, which will try to befriend us so they can destroy us in the end. When we disregard the fence, we run the risk of running our lives according to the course of nature, with no reliance on the spiritual influences of God. When we approach certain situations, we do not perceive the danger we face, and are easily sideswiped or run down. We try to be a friend to the world and we are blinded to truth. In confusion we slip into the current of an out of control life, hurtling toward disaster and ultimate death. In the end, there is only one answer to our problem, and that is Jesus Christ. He has been by your side to aid you, to show you truth, even to risk His life for yours. He is the only one who can save you from the horror of this life. He died for you, so that you can live. Why don't you turn from your sin and turn to Jesus Christ in faith today? He died for you on the cross, to pay the penalty of your sin, and give you eternal life. Will you trust Him? By the way, there is one more point to this story of Judge and Larry. Three days after he went over the falls, Larry walked back into the Brotherhood's yard. Happy Easter!



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Admission: \$7.00

May 6, 2012 - Monroe, Michigan
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Monroe County Fairgrounds/3775 S. Custer
Admission:\$6.00

May 20, 2012 - Sheperdsville, Kentucky
Swap Meet & Show 8am-3pm
Bullitt County Fairgrounds 165 & Rte 245
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