

## Passages #12

Written by Janet D. Larson, 1659 Huntsman Drive, Aiken, SC 29803, Aiken, SC 29803 (803)642-3227, jdlarson@bellsouth.net. Today is Friday, February 01, 2002.

Jeff generously offered to print a short contribution, and I decided to take him up on his offer. Jeff, I hope you don't regret it; let me know how much I owe you.... Despite my New Year's Resolution to do better zines and mailing comments, it hasn't happened. We've been ultra-busy at work, and coming home to twin toddlers and a pre-schooler doesn't leave much energy. Plus the fact that Dr. Fadel has been gone a lot this month, and you get the picture. One of the main things that has been sapping my energy is that Wednesday I had to give a deposition for my first-ever being named in a malpractice suit. I guess I'm not allowed to talk about it too much, but I just want to reassure all of you that I'm absolutely convinced that I did everything right, and in addition the baby involved is not only walking and talking now, there is no evidence for brain damage or cerebral palsy, so we're all kind of puzzled about the whole purpose of this suit anyway, and why the attorneys even took it on. It just basically seems like a waste of everybody's time and energy, but I have to go through the motions, and Wednesday I had to give a 4½ hour deposition, and listen to a 3½ hour deposition by the other doctor involved. I guess the attorney could have tripped me up into saying something horrible that would make the jury give a big award to the plaintiff, but I think I did okay and nothing like that happened.... Needless to say, I'm extremely stressed out about the whole thing. I'd like to pass along the following article that is going around the internet; excuse me if you've already seen it, and apologies to any attorneys who may be offended.

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*Subject: have a laugh..be sure to read to the bottom*

These are from a book called Disorder in the Court. They are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and now published by court reporters - who had the torment of staying calm while these exchanges were actually taking place. Some of these are excellent. Don't miss the last one!

Q: What is your date of birth?

A: July fifteenth.

Q: What year?

A: Every year.

Q: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

A: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

Q: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?

A: Yes.

Q: And in what ways does it affect your memory?

A: I forget.

Q: You forget. Can you give us an example of something that you've forgotten?

Q: How old is your son, the one living with you?

A: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which.

Q: How long has he lived with you?

A: Forty-five years.

Q: What was the first thing your husband said to you when he woke up that morning?

A: He said, 'Where am I, Cathy?'

Q: And why did that upset you?

A: My name is Susan.

Q: Do you know if your daughter has ever been involved in voodoo or the occult?

A: We both do.

Q: Voodoo?

A: We do.

Q: You do?

A: Yes, voodoo.

Q: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

Q: The youngest son, the twenty-year old, how old is he?

Q: Mrs. Jamison, were you present when your picture was taken?

Q: So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th?

A: Yes.

Q: And what were you doing at that time?

Q: She had three children, right?

A: Yes.

Q: How many were boys?

A: None.

Q: Were there any girls?

Q: How was your first marriage terminated?

A: By death.

Q: And by whose death was it terminated?

Q: Can you describe the individual?

A: He was about medium height and had a beard.

Q: Was this individual a male, or a female?

Q: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice, which I sent to your attorney?

A: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

Q: Doctor, how many autopsies have you performed on dead people?

A: All of them, all my autopsies are usually performed on dead people.

Q: All your responses must be oral, OK? What school did you go to?

A: Oral.

Q: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

A: The autopsy started around 8:30 p.m.

Q: And Mr. Dennington was dead at the time?

A: No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy.

Q: Are you qualified to give a urine sample?

Q: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

A: No.

Q: Did you check for blood pressure?

A: No.

Q: Did you check for breathing?

A: No.

Q: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

A: No.

Q: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

A: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

Q: But could the patient have still been alive, never the less?

A: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing Law somewhere.