

Spring 2008

# KNIERIEMEN

# E W S

"The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe."

Proverbs 18:10

Dear Family and Friends,

I never would have thought that anything could actually live in gasoline. Recently, Dick told me about a fuel problem that JAARS Aviation had stumbled upon. They had discovered a major contamination problem in their underground storage tank (actual critters living in the fuel).



*Bruce Powell with the white bucket that is necessary in avgas quality control.*

The pilots had been taking fuel samples using a galvanized metal container which they noticed was not providing a good background for spotting any contaminants. After purchasing a white bucket and drawing a fuel sample, they saw they had a major problem. They already expected to find some water contamination, but had no idea that there was a large colony of Hydrocarbon Microorganisms (HUM bugs) living in their storage tank. These organisms are very small and have short lives, but they multiply very rapidly. Their dead carcasses are what produces the contamination problem in the fuel, and though they are very small they can have disastrous results.

Getting the contamination out of the tank proved to be no small project. This situation has prompted a re-evaluation of the way fuel is sampled, and what they look for. We're all thankful that the Lord made us aware of the problem BEFORE we had an engine failure or an accident.

We had a personal experience with contaminated fuel and are well aware of just how dangerous it can be. In 1962, Dick and some friends were flying cross-country in a Piper Comanche. They made what they considered a 'routine' fuel stop in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The people that refueled their airplane told them they had missed their scheduled fuel delivery that week, and had emptied their underground tank in filling up their fuel truck. The fuel truck was barely able to finish refueling the Comanche. About three hours out on the next leg of their trip, the contaminated fuel caused an engine failure which resulted in a

crash landing. Dick was critically injured, and if the Lord hadn't intervened, wouldn't be here today.

Dick has been in the process of transitioning from oral medication for his Parkinson's, to the Neupro patch. Things were going well until his Neurologist told him that all the Neupro patches were being recalled by the manufacturer. There seems to be a problem with the medication on the patch crystallizing and becoming inert. Now Dick has to gradually go back to where he was on the oral medication. Your continued prayers for him are appreciated.

As of June, JAARS will be running a new software program to manage bookkeeping, finances, and inventory. This means that both Dick and I will have to learn the new system. It's interesting that just last month we watched a program on PBS that encouraged older adults to venture out and learn 'new things'. We're guessing this is one of those 'new things.' Please pray that we will make the switch smoothly.

April 20th marked 40 years of marriage for Dick and me. Debbie, Dana and their families surprised us on the 12th with an anniversary party. Debbie cooked a delicious meal and we all enjoyed the evening together. They also presented us with money from family and friends toward an anniversary trip for the two of us. We're having fun brainstorming and planning the details of when and where our trip will be.

Thank you for the many ways you touch our lives, with your prayers, gifts and by keeping in touch.

Until all hear, **Diana**



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