Mississippi Oral History Project

Hurricane Katrina Oral History Project

An Oral History

with

C.A. “Troy” Guider

Interviewer: Deanne Nuwer

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Biography

Born on July 19, 1947, in Biloxi, Mississippi, to a military family, Troy Guider lived in many places during his childhood. His father, Mr. Clarence Henry Guider, was a thirty-one-year-career military man who was a World War II aviator and a German prisoner of war; his mother, Mrs. Trenna Strickland Guider, was a nurse. From 1966 through 1970, Mr. Guider served in the United States Navy, retiring as a captain. While in the Navy, Mr. Guider arrived on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in 1970, immediately after Hurricane Camille roared through. He decided to settle on the Coast and has lived there since 1970.

At the time of this interview, Mr. Guider was an instructor at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, specializing in the teaching of micro and macro economics and globalization, having earned his master’s degree and beginning postdoctoral work. Additionally, in his spare time, Mr. Guider enjoys carpentry and fly-fishing. The Guiders have experienced several hurricanes on the Coast, including Fredrick, Elena, Georges, and Katrina.

Mr. Guider is married to Patti Elvin Guider; they have two children, Michael Paul and Kathryn Ann. The family is Catholic.
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AN ORAL HISTORY

with

C.A. “TROY” GUIDER

This is an interview for the Mississippi Oral History Program of The University of Southern Mississippi. The interview is with C.A. “Troy” Guider and is taking place on October 29, 2005. The interviewer is Deanne Nuwer.

Nuwer: It’s October 29, and I’m on the campus of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. We are interviewing Mr. C.A. “Troy” Guider, who is an instructor here at the community college. We want to thank you, Mr. Guider, for being here. Could you tell us a little, sir, about your career here at the community college, your life in Mississippi, interests and things along that line?

Guider: I was born in Biloxi, Mississippi. Didn’t grow up here, I was a dependant in a military family. When I exited the military myself in 1970, I decided to settle here and my parents were here. It was an appealing, beautiful place, still is to me, will be again hopefully. I worked a variety of jobs, pursued my education. And upon completion of a master’s degree with eighteen hours in master’s level economics, I was accepted for employment at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

Nuwer: What year was that, sir?

Guider: That was 1990.

Nuwer: OK.

Guider: And have been here since, so that would be fifteen years. I teach micro and macroeconomics and globalization.

Nuwer: So you have lived on the Coast for a considerable length of time in the same home?

Guider: In a number of apartments, and then around 1980. I acquired a small house on the beach, just the west of the old Howard Johnson. I lived there for five years. Met my present wife, Pattie Guider, and we got married, purchased the house and I have been there since 1984.

Nuwer: So you and your family have been here through several hurricanes?

Guider: Several. [Hurricane] Fredrick, Elena, Georges. I returned to the Coast on leave from the military three days after Camille had hit. I was not here for Camille,
but I was able to borrow a small 100cc motorbike and travel from Oakwood apartments in Biloxi that were on Loudenburg Avenue, I believe, and then went almost all the way to the Bay St. Louis Bridge.

Nuwer: So you have seen a hurricane’s destructive force?

Guider: Yes.

Nuwer: And lived through it. So we fast forward to 2005, about August 26, 27. News is coming of Katrina, what did you think?

Guider: Well, I’m not one for leaving, probably in hindsight it could be a very foolish decision. But the process of loading up and then getting in the car, in a time that it’s practical, which would be three or four days before the actual event, to keep from being caught up in the traffic and the hassle with where you’re going. It was just my opinion that it would be better to stay. That was without the realization of the scope and the intensity of this storm. I didn’t think it was going to be the storm that it end up being.

Nuwer: Right. When you decided to stay, did anybody else stay with you or were you by yourself?

Guider: No, my family stayed. My wife and children were there. My children are old enough to make a decision. And I offered to let them go to some of their friends’ house who were a little farther inland, and they decided they would stay, too.

Nuwer: Can we go ahead, for the record, and get their names and ages?

Guider: Michael Paul Guider, age sixteen in December. And Kathryn Ann (?) Guider, age thirteen.

Nuwer: OK. So everyone knew they were in for a little bit of a rough ride, but definitely not what we all experienced. When did you start becoming a little bit worried?

Guider: When they refined the track—the track originally was supposed to go to the right, or east, when it came around Cuba. And the original projection was for it to turn east and then they straightened it up some. And then it became evident that it was actually going to hit somewhere in our vicinity, and the storm was large enough to where it really didn’t make too much difference, the exact impact area was going to affect us directly.

Nuwer: Right. What preparations had you made for Katrina?

Guider: Long-term preparations—one of the reason I stayed was I had participated in the construction of the house. I was aware that we’re in an area that could experience
something, a hurricane, but I never anticipated the intensity of a storm like this. So I knew it was there and I prepared the house as best I could, extra strapping, and where most people use two or three nails, I put six or eight; braced off and reinforced, gusseted intensively.

**Nuwer:** I’m sure you had the usual water and foodstuffs.

**Guider:** Those were the long term, when the house was built, you know, prior preparations. With this, the usual finding room to store everything, I built a storage shed in the back, a fairly large one; you know lawn equipment and lawn chairs, generators and chain saws were all in there. Then the preparation process is acquiring enough gasoline. I think I had about thirty gallons—

**Nuwer:** Right.

**Guider:** —of gasoline, thank goodness. We probably did not get enough water. If I had known, I would have doubled and tripled that. I think we had about ten or fifteen gallons of water; it was not enough. We ran out, saved by the bell, essentially when water became available. We started to, after the storm, get distressed with the fact that we were having to take the remnants of water bottles and combine them to get drinkable water.

**Nuwer:** I’m sure, sure. So Sunday, the twenty eighth of August rolled around and the rains came in. You’re all hunkered in. At what point did you start becoming perhaps a little bit worried?

**Guider:** Well, I was forewarned by the weather service that we have now, different than [Hurricane] Camille. I don’t think those people knew what was going to happen, we did. It was a Category Five, probably deteriorated some to a four, but the size of the storm and the duration of the storm more than compensated for the actual category distinction. When the house began to shake, which it was discernable, you could feel the house actually moving.

**Nuwer:** About what time was it?

**Guider:** Probably near noon, it shook for several hours. I would say noon to two o’clock, maybe longer than that.

**Nuwer:** That Sunday [Monday] afternoon?

**Guider:** Yes, during the storm.

**Nuwer:** Wow.

**Guider:** It’s a two-story house and you can feel, in the floor you can actually feel the movement of the house. And that concerned me, but the house held together.
Nuwer: Right. Did you all go into an inside hallway or room?

Guider: No, we moved around. Most of the windows were boarded up downstairs, but there was a window upstairs that really would not have been feasible, a good-size window, but it would take some unusual circumstances for something to come through it, not that that can’t happen.

Nuwer: Right.

Guider: We actually watched out that window.

Nuwer: Right.

Guider: We’d become somewhat overwhelmed by what we were seeing and then go downstairs, but then we would go back up and look out the window some more.

Nuwer: It’s almost like you can’t stop looking.

Guider: Nobody was leisurely reading or sitting and relaxing or anything like that.

Nuwer: Right.

Guider: There were things striking the house, loud noises, and later on we saw, even though it was a full piece of three-quarter-inch plywood over one of the windows, something hit with enough force to make a major impact. If it had been a smaller piece of plywood it might have come through. I have no idea what it was.

Nuwer: Well, when you all went upstairs and looked out the window, can you even begin to describe what you saw?

Guider: The intensity of the wind was astonishing, but I had seen that before. It did not seem all that much stronger or there wasn’t much to distinguish it from Fredrick and I knew that it was more intense than Elena. The children had never seen it, they were impressed and repeatedly used the word awesome. And I could tell that it was worrying them to some extent, but they kept their wits about them. What eventually made an impression was the duration of the storm. I thought it would never end. But as far as being that much more intense than the other hurricanes I’ve seen, I really didn’t feel it. Not that it was a trivial event, but I’ve seen hurricanes before and this one didn’t seem, as far as the wind velocity, any different, really.

Nuwer: How far are you inland? Can you guesstimate?

Guider: Right at a thousand feet.

Nuwer: So you are a thousand feet.
**Guider:** From Highway 90.

**Nuwer:** From Highway 90.

**Guider:** Just over, because I believe there’s an insurance line that changes the nature of your insurance. We were just marginally over that thousand foot line.

**Nuwer:** Right.

**Guider:** Right.

**Nuwer:** I’m assuming that’s for the flood insurance and just the wind and everything.

**Guider:** Yes, those categories have been changed or something like that.

**Nuwer:** Right, right. So the wind, what about any water?

**Guider:** Well, here’s where the nonsense comes in. There’s a survey mark across the street that says, almost twenty four feet, twenty three feet. I was told by the people who had been there for Camille that Camille never pushed water up into our neighborhood, that we were high enough to be isolated, so we stayed. When I started to see pieces of houses moving past my house, internal objects like mattresses and chairs, I knew that there was some major devastation down to the south. I was hoping that it was maybe a single dwelling that had not been able to withstand the wind. But when I went out in the street to see what I could see, I had to be careful because there were things flying around. I was fortunate enough that I could see the water coming. I realized that it was going to make it up to my location, and there was somewhat of a keystone cops element to it, run inside and see what you could find and take upstairs, but the water was there so fast it was absurd. I could stand out in the carport and I could see waves breaking in the street. And fortunately I’m up on a small knoll, you could see on the slab of my house that the water came up within about an inch of coming in. It was over the steps, it was a cement set of steps that comes in a patio door. It came within an inch. What was surprising was that it receded very quickly, too.

**Nuwer:** That would be that storm surge, you think, that comes in and then quickly goes back out?

**Guider:** I could see it. It was very, it was rapid and it was discernable. The water wasn’t there, and then it was.

**Nuwer:** Right.

**Guider:** The velocity of the water was impressive, you could see it. The rain accumulates. I’ve seen it rain hard enough to where the streets all have water in them,
but the draining—as the rain accumulates and moves, it is nothing like the property of this. This is a massive amount of water that was moving rapidly and as it moved around trees and mailboxes and things, you could see it was really powerful.

Nuwer: Right, right. When you saw the water coming in, I can’t imagine thoughts running through your mind, with your family. Had you all thought perhaps that might be a time you would have to leave, I guess, or where would you go?

Guider: Well, one of the preparations was to load things that we thought we might need in the cars that we had. We had a primary car and a secondary, and I lived to the east of the mall. I said, “Well, if we have to, if the house starts coming apart, we’ll get in the cars, or one of the cars, and go.” There’s a parking garage over there that I’ve watched the construction of and it seemed very substantial. My faith in it was borne, it’s still relatively, or it is intact, it wasn’t damaged. My plan was to go over there, but one of the first trees that went down went across the driveway. It was a large tree, no way to get the cars out. We were stuck. The thoughts were, of course, denial. I looked and I said, “This can’t be happening. Camille didn’t put water up here.” My eyes and my common sense told that it was happening, and that there was no way to stop it. But I was surprised.

Nuwer: Right, right.

Guider: Not pleasantly.

Nuwer: No. Can you—I’m thinking about that water—can you, did you look at a clock or do you know about what time it happened? I’m assuming Sunday.

Guider: Oh yes. As far as an hour or something like that, no. It would be a fabrication. I don’t have any idea of what time it was.

Nuwer: I just wonder what time that came through.

Guider: I could possibly acquire that information.

Nuwer: That’s OK. Because we were at our house and we kept waiting for the eye; we heard the eye was going to be coming over near us and, of course, it was relentless, it never stopped. We didn’t get the eye.

Guider: I thought it would never end.

Nuwer: No. That was our feelings, too. Well, when it finally did end and you’re able to go out, what did you see?

Guider: We went out and traveled east along Brinmark Avenue(?), and I was not too surprised at the destruction and devastation because I witnessed the intensity of the storm. Many trees down, but then we turned south and that’s when I started realizing
that there had been more to this than I suspected. I saw a car that obviously had not been parked where it was, and the number of trees down, large trees increased rapidly as we moved just a short distance south. And then within about a hundred yards moving to the south we started seeing major debris where the water had stacked up what had obviously been pieces of houses and more cars, just an absolute tangle of refuse. And we were actually stopped from going farther south by just a wall of debris. It was late in the day when we did that and it was still blowing, it was very discernable where tornadoes had gone through. You could actually pretty well pick the path from the nature of the trees being snapped off. Not far to the south, though, the extent of damages to houses started going up remarkably. Then we went around to another street and headed down south. It was still strewn with refuse, but it was easier to get down south. Probably halfway to the beach, the houses were, if not destroyed, they began to show signs of being just completely gutted. That’s when cars were seen, you know, up on piles of refuse, sections up the boardwalk that had been down on the beach were up in the middle of the neighborhood. Moving farther to the south, there’s a gentleman that worked out here, Jack Rogers, and he’s still off the beach for a fair ways of a hundred yards or so. His house was cut in half. What was the garage that had been on the west is now fifty yards to the east of his house and turned around completely. One of the absurdities that goes with these things, the house was smashed but the side facing the wind, or the direction from the wind, had a closet where there’s a rod and there were clothes still on the hanging rod. It stopped me in my tracks.

Nuwer: I bet.

Guider: Just south of Mr. Rogers’ house, the houses were annihilated, essentially.

Nuwer: And that would be—I’m following you in my mind—that’s probably two, three, four houses, then, before you get to [Highway] 90.

Guider: Yes, by the time you were to the third and fourth houses up, the second story was wind damaged and not in good shape. But the third and fourth houses, the framing was still there, just south of that, there was very little, the houses there was no structure, the slab was there. The slab itself had been damaged, no structure.

Nuwer: Just this clean slab.

Guider: Another absurdity, when I finally saw one of my neighbors, Jimmy Holus(?), there was a car sitting up in his driveway and I said, “Well, you managed to save your car.” He looked and he said, “That’s not my car.” His car was out on a pile of refuse; the storm had left him that one.

Nuwer: Yes. Oh, my gosh. Had the houses, and I know exactly your neighborhood, it appeared to me that front row of houses had been slammed back up into the houses behind them and then the whole thing had just—
Guider: I imagine that was the storm surge. The wall of water, it was like a bulldozer. It did smash the houses forward. There was one old gentleman who was in a house that was smashed by the house to the south. And he knew the house was about to come apart, and he ran out and got in a dumpster, stayed in the dumpster. I didn’t get him out of the dumpster. The next day, someone down there; the dumpster might have been upside down where he couldn’t get out. It was quite hot, and he wanted out, and they had to roll it over or something like that. I didn’t do it, I was told about it.

Nuwer: Right, right.

Guider: And he still seems to be affected mentally by it. He has a peculiar look in his eye.

Nuwer: So Sunday and Monday the hurricane, and then Monday night the realization. I’m just trying to think, where do we go from here? What do we do? What did you think? It just—

Guider: Well, I knew from the lack of any law enforcement presence, or anyone else really, that we were going to be isolated for a while. And we couldn’t get out at first because of the trees down. I worked through it sequentially and said, “Well, we will have to cut some the trees, clear some of the debris.” For a day there was really very little evidence of government. I think it was a while before I even saw the first helicopter.

Nuwer: Really?

Guider: It was the next day late, I think, my memory could fail me there. I knew that we were isolated, and then I started becoming concerned about, you know, about the amount of water we had.

Nuwer: You had indicated that you had about thirty gallons of water.

Guider: Gasoline.

Nuwer: Oh, thirty gallons of gasoline.

Guider: We had more gasoline than water.

Nuwer: Well, do you have a generator?

Guider: Yes. I hooked the generator right up, ran the necessities. Necessity is the mother of invention. It didn’t take long until the heat was bothering us. You have so much to do, there’s no need to sleep in, you’re not on vacation. It got hot, so we’d get up early, eat breakfast and then work hard, then around eleven o’clock or so it became very hot. It wasn’t terribly hot for the first day or two afterward, it was even a little
cool in the morning, then after that it got very hot, and you’d have to wait. Then in the evening, you’d get tired of sitting and go back to work. We kept busy.

**Nuwer:** Kept busy, yeah. Did you have any experiences with Red Cross lines, water lines, food lines, any kind of aid lines at all?

**Guider:** Not for a good while. We had enough food, we did have enough water, and right when we were running out—I don’t know how he did it, but my brother-in-law from Atlanta came in. There might not have been a military or police presence, security presence, but he had lived in the neighborhood where we are. He drove up, he was like Santa Claus for us. He had water, a variety of food that we hadn’t sampled, more gasoline, necessities, paper towels and stuff, a host of things. He had gone to a Sam’s and then a Home Depot or Lowe’s and loaded up. He had a generator.

**Nuwer:** Oh, OK.

**Guider:** He had two generators; one went where his grandparents lived, they lived just to the south.

**Nuwer:** Oh, so you’ve got much family out there that was—

**Guider:** Well, my mother-in-law, my wife’s mother lives about two hundred yards to the south of us.

**Nuwer:** OK.

**Guider:** It was a process of taking care of them.

**Nuwer:** This neighborhood is called Edgewater Park, is that right?

**Guider:** Um-hm.

**Nuwer:** OK. Right.

**Guider:** There was no limitation on what you could do at first. We went out to the beach and later the security would tell you, “No, you can’t be down here, get out.” For the first two days you could wander around down there. We went down to the beach and walked extensively.

**Nuwer:** What did you see on the beach, when you were walking extensively?

**Guider:** Well, when we first got down there, I noticed one of the first things that the Treasure Bay [Casino], which is just to the west of the Coliseum, the Treasure Bay was facing the wrong direction. Then it dawned upon me that I could not see the President Casino. Obviously I hadn’t seen any pictures, and wouldn’t for a good
while. We started walking towards the Coliseum and that’s when we saw the President [Casino] up in the parking lot of the Holiday Inn there. We went down to it, a very impressive site to see, the physics involved, what had moved this enormous piece of gambling establishment out there.

**Nuwer:** For whomever is listening to this, I wouldn’t even be able to guesstimate the height or the length of that. Can you?

**Guider:** Oh, no.

**Nuwer:** Four, five football fields.

**Guider:** Yes. And it’s got to be forty feet high.

**Nuwer:** At least, and just a big steel-hulled barge.

**Guider:** Massive. Massive object just thrown up there as though it was a football or something like that.

**Nuwer:** Right, right.

**Guider:** One of the ironies, you know, some of the other things, I was standing in front of the, what had been the President Casino, I just happened to glance down, because you have to watch where you are stepping, the ground was very irregular. And there was a forty-five record down there. They are not very common anymore. I looked and I said, “What in the world?” And then I happened to brush a little sand off and it was a Ray Price song, “Kiss the World Goodbye.”

**Nuwer:** Oh, my gosh.

**Guider:** And as a matter of fact—

**Nuwer:** That’s just—

**Guider:** That’s too odd.

**Nuwer:** Yes. Oh, and here is the record. (chuckle) There it is. Now, where in the world, I mean, could that have possibly come from?

**Guider:** Fate has a sense of humor, I suppose.

**Nuwer:** I guess so. I guess so. How long was it, Mr. Guider, before you were able to see the military presence that came in?

**Guider:** I think the second day, not the immediate day. There were helicopters; I think they were trying to assess the damage. After about the second or third day you
could see continual flights. It was probably the third or fourth day before you really saw any law enforcement, police, and a presence like that.

**Nuwer:** Right. I think I was also in West Biloxi, and we did not see anything for a long time. I think on the highway they were more of a presence.

**Guider:** It was a day or two before you saw anyone on Pass Road, maybe the third day. I’m sure they had to get their resources organized. I mean, they suffer from the same limitations. If there are trees down, a police car doesn’t go through it either.

**Nuwer:** Right, right. How long were you all without electricity?

**Guider:** I think seventeen days or so, here and there. Everyone rejoiced and blessed the names of the people that reconnected the power, but to be honest with you, we were quit a bit longer without television cable. I was in the house and heard all this screaming and hysterical noises and I thought someone had been injured. I went outside and people were actually screaming because they had hooked up the cable.

**Nuwer:** (laughter)

**Guider:** I think probably the realization that their children would have something to do—

**Nuwer:** Right.

**Guider:** —rather than complain about no television.

**Nuwer:** Right, right. And when did you get running water again?

**Guider:** I think it was before the electricity, actually. It was non-potable; they told you don’t drink it.

**Nuwer:** Right.

**Guider:** By then we had plenty of bottled water.

(brief interruption)

**Nuwer:** We’re back with Mr. Guider and he’s telling us about when the amenities of life came back with the hurricane. Go ahead, sir.

**Guider:** People complained, but you just don’t wiggle your nose and provide the amenities to tens of thousands of people. But basic necessities were there. People started delivering water, then the Red Cross trucks came around, I mean, nobody was going to go hungry or die of thirst. People complained about the blandness of the food, but the alternative was to be hungry.
Nuwer: Is that that MRE [meals ready to eat] meal you might be referring to?

Guider: I ate some MREs. No, later they actually had macaroni and cheese, a hot meal, generous beyond belief. We did get hungry and tired of the very basic food we were eating. I’m sure that my family had it better than most. I set up a kitchen outside and we were able to cook. We did have refrigeration and a freezer running. Some of the poor people that, you know, were devastated or not prepared, unable to prepare, probably led a pretty Spartan existence.

Nuwer: Right. Where do you see your neighborhood? I think what I am trying to ask is— I know the neighborhood—how do you see it being rebuilt? Can it be rebuilt? I guess on a broader [note], you are an economist; what do you see for our Coast? So we’ll go micro, the macro. (chuckle)

Guider: The houses down to the south could be rebuilt. I’m not sure they should be rebuilt. That’s the discretion of the owners. I’ve seen a fair number of For Sale signs, people who have just had it. Obviously the property of land won’t remain underdeveloped. Some habitation, be it—I don’t know if it would be appropriate to put a condo in there, I honestly hope not, not in that location. I hope somebody will build there. The neighborhood will come back. As far as the Coast itself, I think a lot of it has been said. It won’t be the same. It can’t be the same. Some of these structures that were destroyed are not replaceable. The character, I doubt if you could get the building material. So the Coast is going to change, hopefully for the better. Right now, I think the emphasis should be on solving the problems that are most disagreeable to the people. Get the highway, Highway 90, and the bridges open. People really don’t see much significance in a projection of a glorious future when, you know, they sit in traffic for two or three hours in the afternoon. We need to get the structure of the lifestyle somewhere near where it was as far as transportation, availability of amenities and things like that. We’ve moved in that direction, just hooking up the electricity and having running water, that stuff is progress.

Nuwer: Right. Out here at the community college, I’m assuming the enrollment is down.

Guider: We went from 10,200 or 10,300 to about 7,000, which would be roughly 30 percent. It a difficult position to be in because state funding is through the enrollment. That’s part of the revenue for the college and the actual payment of tuition. It’s put us in a very difficult position. There will be adjustments made, we can’t keep going, or things won’t return to the previous conditions, not for a while. It won’t be a matter of, “Next semester we’ll just go back to where we were.” Many of the people have been relocated or can actually now work and make a substantial living. They’ll postpone their education.

Nuwer: Right.
Guider: I would think it’ll take several years, if not four or five years, to actually fully recover.

Nuwer: Right, right. Any projections about a recovery date for the Coast as a whole? You’ve seen a lot of hurricanes, you’ve been here quickly after, post-Camille.

Guider: I believe you have to define recovery. It will be, I think Highway 90 will open in stages, probably within a year you’ll be able to travel Highway 90. The bridges at either end for Bay St. Louis and Biloxi will be two years, if not a little bit longer. The north-south connectors, the Pops Ferry Bridge, you know, will come online within several months, hopefully. The bridges, the Bay bridges will be important. Gaming will, I would think, be a year before it’s viable. You might have somebody open up a room or two. You have to have the things that go along with it, the lodging, and then people want to come gamble but they want to be entertained by shows, they want to eat sumptuous food. They want air conditioning and service, and that isn’t all that easy to put back together. Some of these places will literally have to rebuild. Then you have the option that seems to be there, that they can move their facilities from dockside to on land, which means to build a new structure. That takes time. To return to a Coast culture, which will be different—I know people don’t want to hear this—but I would say to restore the north side of Highway 90 with whatever is there, rebuild the houses or put condos, you’re looking at five [years] before it really takes shape; not just here or there but to where there is some type of structure, and then ten years before anything really falls in place.

Nuwer: And it’s going to be a new Coast, isn’t it?

Guider: Oh yes.

Nuwer: In many ways.

Guider: We used to see all these old homes, you know, that are so marvelous, varied and different. You know, they are not; each one was its own type of structure, unique; that will be no more.

Nuwer: No.

Guider: It’s a shame, but absolutely nothing can be done about it. It has to be accepted.

Nuwer: Well, I know that you’ve given so much wonderful information. Are there any closing thoughts as to the experience of the hurricane, anything that you might want to say?

Guider: Well, there’s a lot going on in the world right now. Freudian nature refers to the wolf that’s in all of us that wants to prey on other people and things around us. There’s a lot of violence, there’s a lot of killing, a lot of cynicism, maybe
disheartening sentiments, but if you look at what happened after the storm, you had a few looters and things like that, that’s always there and it is very objectionable human behavior. But if you look at the sum of it, the majority of it, by far the majority is good action, kindness, heroism. When help started coming in here, some of it was structured help, FEMA, Red Cross, but then the church groups came down or the people who weren’t even members of a church, two or three people came down and said, “We just came down to help.” Two men from North Carolina came by my house, I didn’t know them. I’d seen estimates of two to three thousand dollars per tree, from professional tree cutting services. They have to make a living too, but these two men from North Carolina just said, “We’ll help you take these trees out.” And we removed five large trees from my yard in one day, with these two men working. They didn’t want a dime for it. They fed me; they had a hot meal and water with them. They had gasoline and chainsaws. Their sentiments were that they would be rewarded with a good night’s sleep. A church group came by and I was out trying to take out part of the fence that had been destroyed, large eight-foot sections. They are driving by on the road and they just stop and unloaded their two trucks, and without much conversation at all, they just started clearing the fence. Stopped and said a prayer after it was over, included me, and got back in their trucks and left. “God bless you from each one of us” is all that was exchanged; no money, no real congratulations or thanks. It wasn’t necessary, they thought so. I thought it was necessary. I tried my best to thank them, but they didn’t want to hear it; continuously things like that. People that I knew were coming by to see if I needed anything. They’d be willing to go get it if they didn’t have it. Reinforces the conviction that humanity is basically good.

Nuwer: Thank you. I think that’s an excellent place to end this. Thank you, Mr. Guider, so very much.

Guider: It’s my pleasure.

Nuwer: Thank you.

(end of interview)