

CHILDHOOD ACTIVITIES

Written By Jessica Brooke of Tallahassee Florida

It would be the summer of 1986 before I moved to Tallahassee. However, my father and stepmother were living here and had recently bought a house and property in East Tallahassee. When Hurricane Kate hit, my father was out of town and my stepmom was milling about the house getting ready for the Thanksgiving holiday. She was on the phone with a friend down the way when the neighbor exclaimed..."I think a tornado just went through our back fields." My stepmom looked out the back window and sure enough the tree line was twisted. She hadn't really heard it because of the normal wind a rain a hurricane brings. Following the tornado, the power went out. They weren't on City of Tallahassee utilities and lost power for close to a week. Since this time of year is generally cold, they spent the evenings by candlelight, picked up all the fallen limbs for a fire in the fire place and cooked meals on the front porch (away from the wind) on a grill for nearly a week after Hurricane Kate until the power was restored. They never removed the twisted trees (they hadn't fallen, just twisted) or those trees that did indeed fall.

When I moved to Tallahassee in the summer of 1986 as a spry 10 year old, I found that my favorite activities were climbing those old twisted trees. One tree that had fallen was my favorite...it was the only tree in my life that I have actually reached the tip top! It was my fort and get away. The roots at the bottom provided a haven for me to make my second fort.

Thanks Kate for making my childhood a little more fun with the fallen trees you left in your wake!