

This is no vacation

Campers at the Lake Storey campground in Galesburg gathered this week for lazy days, cook-outs, swimming and boating. In other words, they were on vacation. In their midst are Mark and Noreen Grant, whose home was made uninhabitable by the severe storm that swept through Galva and surrounding area on Sunday morning, July 20th about 1:00am. The Grants are living in a borrowed motor home until they can return home. Their children, Richard, 6, and CoriAnn, 8, are staying with their grandmother in Springfield for awhile. No one was hurt.

While campers around them are sleeping late, fishing and taking life easy, the Grants jump out of bed at the usual time to go to work, Mrs. Grant at Gateway Express in Galva and her husband at Glenn's Radiator and Auto Service in Galesburg. "We just sleep here," said Mr. Grant. "It's handy to get to work from here, though, now I can come home for lunch." Mr. Grant made sure the campsite was clear of trees on one side so he could set up a television satellite dish. As soon as they get off work, it's off to their home to do as much as they can during daylight hours.

The Grants live in a 150-year-old home in the country between Galva and Bishop Hill. "On a hill," quipped Mrs. Grant. They were watching a movie that Sunday morning when they heard a big crack of noise, the power went off and a window blew open. They grabbed their children and rushed to the basement. "Water was all over the house and we couldn't see anything," said Mr. Grant. "The roof was probably half gone then but we didn't know it."



Their chimney was totally destroyed. Half the roof and siding are gone. They found the swing set in a cornfield. "I don't know where my shed is — I think it's in Oz," smiled Mr. Grant. They lost apple trees and clothes and furniture is soaked. The biggest issue, said Mr. Grant, is water damage inside the house, in the walls, ceilings, insulation. All of the insulation will have to be replaced.

Strange things happen in storms. Mrs. Grant noted that in the upstairs bathroom, the window blew in with debris filling the tub and sink, but the shower curtain didn't move.

The Grants expect the power to be restored in their home this Monday and they will move the motor home to their

home site. As to when they will get back into their home, Mr. Grant said, "It depends on the mildew and mold, the extent of the water damage inside. We have no idea." Mrs. Grant added, "I sincerely doubt we'll get in before school starts."

In the meantime, CoriAnn has plans to attend camp in Iowa and about the second week in August the family will go on a real vacation. "We are going on vacation whether we have a house or not," said a determined Mr. Grant. "I've worked hard all year for this." He laughed and added, "but maybe we won't vacation in a motor home this year."

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