

Lucky the Cat

Contributed By James H. Early Jr.

Many have seen the joke being faxed from office to office depicting a poster which reads: "LOST, black and white three legged dog missing one eye, broken tail and partially chewed left ear, answers to the name, Lucky".

Well, Lucky has a feline counterpart by the same name. LUCKY the cat was found clinging for her life in a tree near the cemetery in the little town of Princeville which was completely submerged by the flood waters produced by Hurricane Floyd in September 1999.

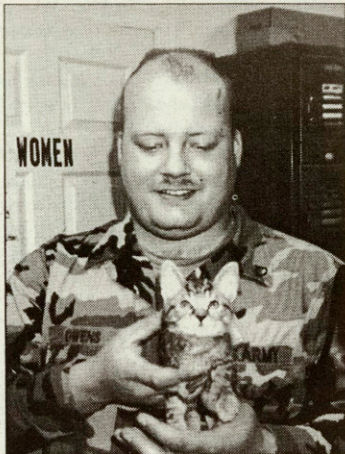
How many of her nine lives LUCKY used in escaping the floodwaters and hanging in a tree during 75-mph winds, no one will ever know. She at least came away from the ordeal with one, and was rescued by a member of the

North Carolina Army National Guard DMORT team in the course of its recovery operations to retrieve bodies, caskets and vaults that had been torn from the gravesites in Princeville by the flood waters.

After her rescue, LUCKY was brought to LSA Command Headquarters in Tarboro where she took up residence in the ladies bathroom, living in a tiny Pet Porter. Her caretaker was A-4 Specialist, Holly Frisbie. On arrival at LSA, LUCKY was as thin as a potato chip. You could literally pick her up with two fingers. Cold, wet, hungry and dehydrated, LUCKY readily took the food, water and TLC provided by Specialist Frisbie. Though so thin she could hardly cast a shadow, LUCKY still possessed those big eyes that kittens have. In a period of days, those eyes changed from dull and frightened to bright and playful. It was then that LUCKY showed her true colors. She had a thing for the guys. As this writer watched her

turn on her feminine wiles for the male soldiers this writer was reminded of that old song, "Them There Eyes". In the hands of Holly, LUCKY was a statue. In the hands of a male soldier, LUCKY purred, cuddled and became a vamp. It was interesting to watch those big burly guardsmen handle this tiny kitten as if she were a soap bubble. It was equally as interesting to watch them voluntarily lay down their armor and shed their tough veneer. It's amazing what a great stress reliever touch and giving and receiving love can be.

When we next hear of LUCKY, she will probably be under contract to a major Hollywood studio, have her own TV program or at least be the new star of the latest Fancy Feast cat food commercial. LUCKY's reputation of being a climber was well known, however it was not lost on this writer that LUCKY came to this party with a Specialist, but she went home with a Colonel. Not bad LUCKY. Not bad at all. You go Girl!



N.C. Army National Guard MP Owen with Lucky the Cat