

# DON'T PULL THE ALARM!

*You can learn many things from children - how much patience you have, for instance.*

*(Franklin P. Jones)*

*"The postmaster yelled to everyone, 'EVATUATE! EVACUATE THE BUILDING - NOW! The fire department is on the way!' Even though I told the postmaster that my son had pulled the alarm, he replied, 'Ma'am, this is mandatory procedure. Everyone must evacuate. Now!'"*

## HUMOR - SLICE OF LIFE

by: Joyce Thrasher

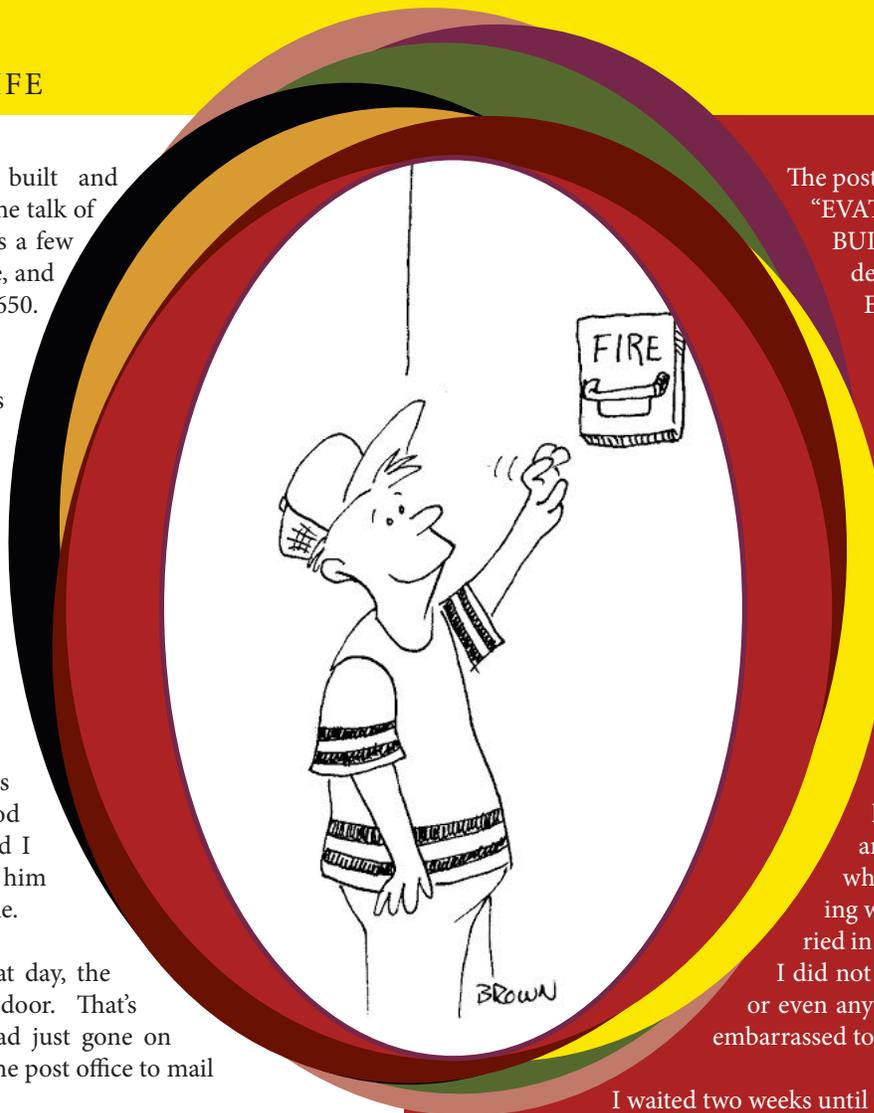
In 1997 Enterprise, Alabama, built and opened a new post office. It was the talk of the town! The old post office was a few miles away, behind the courthouse, and it had not been updated since 1650. Well, at least it looked that way!

I had to mail a package a few days after the Grand Opening. As a young mother, and like most young mothers, I dragged my kids all over town while running errands. I kept Noah, my 1-year-old, strapped in a stroller while Zach, my 4-year-old, held my hand. This usually worked, but sometimes the boys interrupted my errands. Noah would get fussy, but I always kept a supply of Teddy grahams and juice boxes for Noah. My sweet Zach was good about staying right beside me and I usually didn't have to worry about him running off and getting into trouble.

When I got to the post office that day, the three lines were literally out the door. That's when I remembered that UPS had just gone on strike. Everyone now had to use the post office to mail their packages.

I was in line for at least thirty minutes; it moved at a snail's pace. We were about half way to a clerk when Noah began fussing. Unfortunately, I had forgotten to bring inside the snacks and drink boxes which were in my car. As I was trying to calm Noah, I heard the fire alarm go off, and it was loud! I looked up from Noah, and that's when I saw my sweet, 4-year-old Zach standing underneath the bright red fire alarm box with his hand on the pull lever. He was guilty as charged!

*Joyce is also the author of "Crazy Pastor's Wife" See her ad on our classifieds page.*



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Of course, I was not popular in the post office after that. People looked at me as if I was the worst mother ever. I obviously didn't have control over my kids, or that would never have happened. I quickly left and put both kids in the van where Zach had a little meeting with a wooden spoon I carried in my purse. Needless to say, I did not mail my package that day or even any day that week. I was too embarrassed to go back to the post office.

I waited two weeks until the UPS strike was over! \*

*What a hoot! This charmer was written by newcomer, Joyce Thrasher, who says it "recounts the time when Zach, my 4-year-old son, pulled the fire alarm at our local post office and the post office had to be immediately evacuated." How many of us have similar horror stories?! (lol) The fabulous illustration was drawn by Joyce's brother, Joe Brown, who is an internationally known artist and illustrator. You can see his work at [joebrowanart.com](http://joebrowanart.com).*

