



SHEPHERD'S SCENE

When the news of the tragic events at the Collier LA Fitness Center revealed the killer as a "Loner" harboring hatred and prejudices, misinterpreted Biblical teachings, and had difficulty establishing relationships, I thought about how people can choose or reject isolation or interaction with others.

In December 1960 I decided to move to California. I was planning this venture with four other women who desired to move and live there.

By the end of March I had my California Nurse's License and a job at Los Angeles County Hospital, but the other women had all tabled the idea at different times for various reasons. I decided to go anyway.

Although my family and closest friends supported my decision, my coworkers, neighbors and other friends thought I was foolish and impulsive to leave everyone I knew behind and travel 3000 miles to a strange place where I knew no one.

The hospital personnel in L.A. offered housing for all new recruits on the hospital grounds. I thought this was wonderful until I saw my new headquarters.

The residence was the former dormitory for the student nurses. It was old, stark, dreary and depressing. I felt like crying and taking the first plane back to Pennsylvania. Instead I convinced myself that with prayer and trust in God I could and would make it in my new home.

The next day when I met my new chief supervisor, I put my disappointment and discouragement behind me, smiled and told her I was delighted to be in California (now that was stretching the truth!). I told her sincerely I was looking forward to beginning a new career, and was anxious to meet people, make new friends and find alternate housing.

Two weeks later I was enjoying my new job and coworkers and sharing a lovely apartment with two friendly, vivacious women, one of whom became a very close friend.

Soon after I discovered a church that had a social group for young singles. I joined it and met wonderful young Christian people.

I made friends at work, the apartment complex and in the church group, and I loved California. I thanked God for my good fortune, and getting me through those first two trying weeks.

I know now it was my faith and trust in the Lord and mankind in general that kept me going those first few days, and put my fear and disillusionment to rest.

Don't forget the Bi-annual Shepherd Luncheon and Bake/Craft is on Election Day. We need your help to continue our success.

Irene Altman
Chairperson