































NAME & ADDRESS	PHONE	NAME & ADDRESS	PHONE
John Poole Louisville 2, KY	425-5153	BOB PRICE CINCINNATI	422-6902
Valerie Parker 4022 Arcadia	921-3146	Fred Pruitt Cincy 8.	921-0542
Fred Pruitt 4023 Palos Dr	921-0542	SANDY POGG MID-CK.	922-9132
<u>JANICE PERIKAMP</u> 811 Greenwich CINCINNATI Ohio #502	471-5130		
Billy Wade	254-3766		
John	244-9620		
	339 8910		

Just
Another
Day in
Paradise!





Gulf and fishing still lure firefighter after recovery

By BOB NORMAN
News-Press staff writer

More than 13 hours floating semi-conscious in the Gulf of Mexico. More than 30 minutes without a pulse. More than three days unconscious in a hospital bed.

More than once, Chip Cranford, a 40-year-old Pine Island firefighter, was believed dead or permanently debilitated.

To the amazement of friends and medics, Cranford — thanks to his wife, rescuers and his own strong will to live — is alive and alert in his Cape Coral Hospital room just one week after the nightmare that began Friday at about 6:30 p.m.

"They told me not to have too much hope, but there was a chance he'd recover," said Kathy Cranford, 31. She was with her husband when their boat capsized Friday evening about 100 yards off Bokeelia. "They figured he'd be brain damaged."

"I screwed them up there, didn't I," Chip Cranford interjects, shaking his head and smiling.

Kathy Cranford is one of many who is credited with saving her husband's life. After her husband was knocked unconscious, she tied a rope around his waist to keep him close to her and the capsized boat.

But Chip Cranford's heart stopped beating not long after he spoke what could have been his last coherent words: "I love you, and I'm not going to die like this."

Just after Joe Bennett, on his way to a fishing tournament Saturday, rescued the Cranfords in his boat, Chip Cranford quit breathing.

It was more than 30 minutes later that he gasped another breath.

"I don't remember anything," he said. "From when I saw that wall of water coming at us all the way to Wednesday, I just don't remember a thing."

He said the oddest thing about the accident was his changing of roles — from a lifesaver to a victim. "It gives you a whole new outlook, being on the other side."

A medic who helped save him, Warren Panem, said he and his part-



RECOVERING: Chip Cranford lies Friday afternoon in his hospital bed with his wife, Kathy. He defied the odds to survive an ordeal last weekend in the Gulf of Mexico.

ner nearly gave up on Cranford's lifeless body after about 15 minutes.

"I've never seen a recovery like this," said Panem, 31.

Cranford said he expects to go back to work at the Pine Island Fire Department in a couple of weeks. But first he's going to go fishing. In

his boat. The man who nearly died in his boat wants to get right back in it.

"I love the water, and this doesn't change anything," he said. "I see this as a freak accident. But believe me, I have respect for the water and I always have. The first thing I want to do is go fishing."

15700 Springhouse Rd.
Suite 80
Pine Island, FL 33822
Address Correction
Requested

Friday, June 8, 1994

Big
ds

even little
Chip
big great

and back home

after capsizing in heavy seas off Bokeelia May 20. Chip, a Pine Island fire fighter, returned home May 29 after spending just two weeks at Cape Coral Hospital where doctors were unsure if he would ever recover fully from his 13-hour ordeal at sea. But proving everyone wrong, Chip said he feels great and is ready to get on with life. "I don't even know what happened since I was knocked out the whole time," said Chip. "I wish I had been around for all the commotion." The couple had taken their 14-foot boat out for a



our local growers are



Tabasco Cat finishes first

Beats Go for Gin down stretch. Sports / 1C, 8C

Battle for Estero Bay

Controversy over Bonita high-rises. Ins

CAPE CORAL EDITION

NEWS-PRESS

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 1994 FORT MYERS, FLORIDA \$1.50

'Miracle' at sea

Man saved by wife's heroics, friend's efforts

By BOB NORMAN
News-Press staff writer

Chip Cranford is miraculously alive today after spending 13 hellish hours floating in the choppy waters of Pine Island Sound, only about a football-field's length from land after his boat capsized.

Cranford, a 40-year-old Pine Is-

land fireman, is alive because his wife, Kathy Cranford, a 31-year-old waitress, would not let him drown and because one of his good friends wouldn't let him die.

"It's a miracle," said Warren Panem, the 31-year old medic who helped revive Chip. "My impression was that he was dead. We decided to work him, but we felt there was no chance he'd recover."

Cranford had been brought to the Bocilla Marina in Bokeelia along with his wife after they were rescued by the Joseffa, a Useppa Island Club ferry. His heart was not beating and his body temperature had fallen to the low-80s — about 15 degrees below normal.

After 15 minutes of feverishly receiving CPR from Panem, the flat line on the electroencephalogram,

which traced brain waves, surged upward showing sign of life.

Then his blood pressure stabilized.

And finally, while en route to Cape Coral Hospital, he moved his arms and began breathing. Chip in-

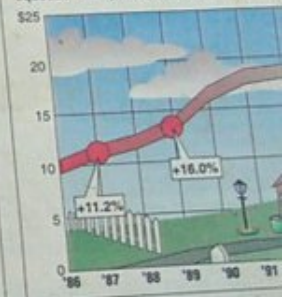
See **SAVED** /
back page this section

Loved ones prepare to bury Onassis



PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

Lee County expects property assessments percent a year after a decade of large income growth rate would bring in fewer tax dollars squeeze county budgets. Dollar amounts



Lee tight budget





