

I remember Merodie as unflappable. That makes sense since she grew up with three brothers. When we got together with the Wickman cousins, interesting things happened -- Torrey was the main instigator but I, Ross, added my share. In Tacoma, the boys, Torrey, Doug, and I (Bryan and Tim might have been too young) arranged a bell to be strung through the ventilation system to the girls' room -- Merodie and Julie -- to be rung at 2 am. The girls retaliated by removing the doorknob to the boys' bedroom. We counter-attacked by taking their doorknob. Eventually every doorknob in that large manse had been removed and everyone carried a doorknob in order to get around. Aunt Lillian later said that she was never sure that the knobs were back on the correct doors. When the cousins later came to Minneapolis, Torrey and I said we needed to top that one. Our plan was to remove every piece of furniture from the girls' room while they were out and hide everything in the attic. We anticipated screams and outcries. But when the girls came back, Merodie said not a word but led Julie to the attic. They found all the furniture and quietly restored it to its proper place.