



# Mrs. Crowley's Claim to Fame

by Adriana Ray



Most people have seen Mrs. Crowley, Mr. Crowley's wife, as the traffic reporter on First Coast News. I decided to interview this rising star and ask her about her job.

**Q:** What and how did you get started in reporting the news?

**A:** I have wanted to be a part of TV news since I was 14 years old. I majored in Broadcasting and Journalism at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.

I started as a producer at a local station in Spokane. As a producer I was in charge of the 11pm show. I wrote the stories, picked video, and helped run the show live from the control room. Then my career just went from there.

Rick's sister Melissa was the person who helped me get on start on-air. I was working as a producer at the ABC station in Sacramento, CA. She was the traffic reporter at the station. I was interested in learning traffic because it was always changing and fast paced. She taught me so much about how to report traffic conditions and how to use the mapping systems. Then I decide to work at another station in Sacramento, CA where I worked as the traffic reporter. So Melissa and I were then technically each other's competition, but we never saw it that way.

**Q:** What was your most embarrassing moment on TV?

**A:** I actually haven't had too many embarrassing moments on air yet. But I am not very graceful. So I am always afraid I am going to trip and fall on-air. I have tripped myself twice in the newsroom and fell in front of everyone but luckily it wasn't caught by the cameras. I do love that I can talk to Mr. Crowley on air and everybody hears. But so far I haven't said anything too embarrassing.

**Q:** What time do you get up in the morning?

**A:** I get up at 3:45 in the morning. I get ready for work, play with our kitty for a little bit and then wake Mr. Crowley to say goodbye to him before I go. I am usually at the station by 5:30 a.m.

**Q:** What time do you go to bed?

**A:** Unfortunately, because I get up so early I also have to go to bed early. I try to get to bed by 8 p.m. But I am not very good at shutting the TV off and I easily get distracted.

**Q:** Do you ever rehearse the traffic before it goes on the air?

**A:** I don't do it too much. I do make an outline of what I am going to talk about in each traffic segment. Traffic and weather reporters do not have a prompter with the scripts to read on air, so I ad-lib everything. But I prefer it that way.

**Q:** Do you like the people that you work with?

**A:** I do like the people I work with very much. They are all very helpful and dedicated.

**Q:** Do you like it better here or at California?

**A:** Well, I was born in California so it was hard to leave. Most of my family is in California, so I really enjoy going home to visit. But I definitely love Jacksonville now. I have always wanted to live near the beach. And

since I spent many years living in very snowy areas, the winter in Florida was so nice in comparison.

**Q:** Do you ever get asked about your husband's band, Quiet Time?

**A:** I do get asked about Mr. Crowley's band "Quiet Time" often because they are really good. And I'm not just saying that because I am his wife. The band offers a unique twist to the punk genre. My favorite song is "La Di Da" and the not-yet-released "Satellite." I keep bugging the guys to write a song about me but nothing yet. I am just kidding with them though.

I am really proud of Mr. Crowley because he works so hard at both of his passions...teaching history and music. His musical talent and his love for teaching are two of the reasons I fell in love with him.

**Q:** Is your pay good?

**A:** My pay is pretty good. But most people in the journalism field will tell you, it's not the place to be if you want to make lots of money. The pay is pretty good but the hours can be very long. Most people are in journalism because they have a passion for the news.

**Q:** How long do you work everyday?

**A:** I sometimes work very long hours. I typically work 8 hours a day. But sometimes I am at the station for 10 or more hours working on projects or breaking news.

When I was working in Washington, DC for the 2000 Presidential Elections I worked 32 hours straight on election night (and the next day). It was awesome. I slept at the station and even showered there. When there is breaking news it is hard to leave the newsroom because you don't want to miss anything.

**One of the things I love most about my job...** I have gotten to be part of the team reporting on some of the biggest moments in history.

**My jobs at First Coast News...** I have several jobs at First Coast News. I report the morning traffic on NBC and ABC from 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. I also do the weekly First Coast Trends reports in which I highlight what is hot and happening on the First Coast. I do my weekly trends reports on Tuesday on NBC12 at 6 a.m. and again on ABC25 at 7 p.m. I also produce the noon show each day.

From the information here, you can tell Mrs. Crowley is a very hard worker. She obviously loves what she does. Julia Crowley's history shows that she could go far. She could be the next Oprah! Good Luck Mrs. Crowley!

