



THE HODGE-PODGE GAZETTE



The Family Newspaper

Edition XLV

Christmas 2004



2004 Proves A Rollercoaster Year

More than most years, 2004 has been a year of ups and downs both for our country and for the Hodges Family. In the spirit of the season the family has chosen to avoid politics in this newsletter and other "down" times and focus more on the "up" side of the news. No mention will be made of the continuing costly insurgency in Iraq or U. S. election results which divide our nation.

The most upbeat family news is from John and Liz. Elder son John earned his Master's Plumber License with flying colors. His plumbing business mostly services mountain residents and businesses since they moved to Apex Valley, a remote historic gold-mining area near Blackhawk. Ever one to try new ventures, John is also raising rabbits, chickens and turkeys, both domestic and wild, to satisfy his farming instincts and his desire for truly organic meat. He was able to provide a fresh, well-fed turkey, which was estimated to weigh at least 30 pounds, for the Hodges' Family Thanksgiving Feast.

Liz's best news is that recent tests revealed that she is now cancer-free after undergoing surgery in June for her third recurrence of thyroid cancer. To reduce job stress, Liz also accepted the position as sole K-12 speech therapist at Gilpin County School where daughters Jonna and Katie are both students.

The highlight of daughter Beth's family this year was

a California vacation in May. They had a blast at Disneyland and California Dreams. Kris also met his half-sister Sara who is 15 now and on the swim team at Huntington Beach High School. While Kris saw the ocean for the first time, Michael and Beth watched the setting sun

over the Pacific for the first time since they moved from California ten years ago. Beth also celebrated 8 years in February in Telecom at Corporate Express.

Ben is pleased to have a new position as Senior Web Analyst where he is responsible nationally for all tax exempt content on the IRS website. In his second year as

marketing director for Brass Smith, Wayne is most happy just to be employed. Ben and he enjoyed a short California vacation too, sharing a day in Disneyland with the Vowells and a visit to the Ellen Show and the Getty Museum. They are excited to spend a week relaxing by the pool at the Inn in Mazatlan in December, missing Jack and Jean's annual time there by a month.

Blessed with a year of good health, good times, good friends, Jean and Jack's rollercoaster low was experienced in their political, church, and PFLAG concerns (see page 3). To view the Hodge-Podge and other exciting news, visit us online at www.hodgepodgegazette.com.



Happy Holidays From The Hodges Family





Hodges Grandkids Rule!

In fourth grade at Rocky Mountain Elementary in Longmont, Kris is in the Gifted and Talented Math group. He is writing for the school paper, but his favorite subjects are computer lab and recess. Still the high energy kid, he played in-line hockey for the eighth season where he likes to play center. Kris was pleased to score several goals this season, even though he also plays awesome defense.



Jonna, Age 9



Wayne, Goofy, Ben , and Kris at Disneyland

Jonna, also a fourth grader, was quoted recently as saying, "I love school!" She's reading at a sixth grade level and received A's on two recent math tests. But creativity remains her joy, whether it is in art or writing



Grandma's Egyptian gifts for cute belly dancers.



Katie, Age 5

poetry. She earns an allowance each week by doing chores such as feeding the various outdoor feathered and furry friends, such as turkeys, chickens, pet rabbits, a dog and cats. Jonna played her first season of soccer this fall, but her favorite activity was horse-back riding lessons from Grandma and Grandpa this summer.



Five year-old Katie, also a lover of animals, was unafraid of climbing on to the back of a huge horse. Nothing would stop her from keeping up with Big Sister. She would brush the horse's sides and pat it lovingly before and after riding. Now in kindergarten and able to write her name, Katie is a ball of energy with an impish sense of humor that delights the whole family.

In a torn world may we know new Hope and be Transformed—
 Winter into Spring, Hurt into Whole and Strife into Peace.
Jody Richards for the Fellowship of Reconciliation



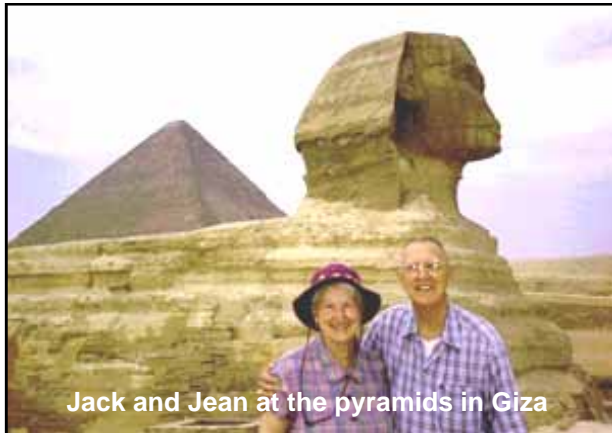


Happy Wanderers Still On the Move



Bargain airfares in March tempted Jean and Jack to enjoy a 10 day trip to Wales, Derbyshire and London to visit old friends. Exploring castle ruins in Wales with David and Gilbert, we loved meeting neighbors in their village of Pentrefelin in North Wales. We celebrated two birthdays in Ashbourne with the Bilsons, Keith, Karin and daughter Amelia, the birthday girls. Seeing "His Dark Matters" at the National Theatre in London was more fun because we saw it with Ellen Rawson, former Boulder High colleague now married and living in England.

April in Egypt was a dream-come-true for Jack. After devouring books on Egypt for years, Jack was still breathless to see the pyramids as the backdrop to the hotel where they stayed in Giza. Jean's favorite part of the trip may have been sailing on the Nile for four days, with stops to see ancient ruins each day.



Abu Simbal, two temples built by Ramses II around 1100 B.C. were awe-inspiring. Imagine a mountain interior carved into rooms with columns, walls and statues all sculpted and painted in intricate designs telling stories of Ramses' mighty victories and Queen Nephrotari's grace and beauty. Then imagine cutting that huge edifice into 400,000 blocks to move the entire two temples to higher ground to avoid flooding by Lake Nasser. Jean's wild horse-driven carriage ride through the back streets of Luxor was another sideline adventure.

RV camping was limited to Colorado parks this year due to the high price of fuel. But in August the Hodges found cheap tickets for a New York weekend to see shows and to enjoy time in CT at a Turkey IV Reunion. In September

they used frequent flyer miles to go to Boston, enjoying time with Sarae, a former BHS student, and Joby, her boyfriend. From there they explored the North Shore, stopping at Marblehead and Rockport, MA, and then along the Maine coast to Penobscot Bay where they hiked in Acadia National Park, visited former sixth-grade student, Jan Marshall (now age 57 and a world-class Genetic Research Scientist) and husband Robin, and concluded their sojourn in Maine with a four-day cruise on a 19th century sailing schooner. They loved helping the crew to "heave-ho," raising and lowering sails and a 300-lb. anchor. Sleeping head-to-head with the "head" was another unforgettable experience.

Activism Continues: Everyone Counts



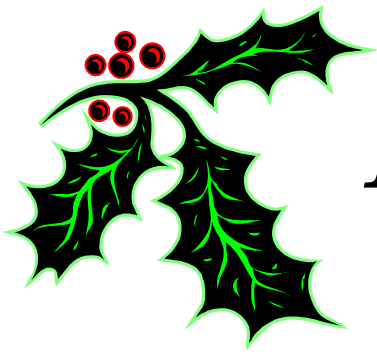
PFLAG and church activities continue to keep J&J vital and involved in their community. While Jack coordinated football parking as a fundraiser for the Wesley Foundation on campus and chaired the Outreach Committee at First United Methodist, Jean's main focus has been on PFLAG and Boulder Valley Safe School efforts.

After a spring fraught with controversy over approval of the new school district inclusive health education curriculum, Jean incorporated lessons learned into the Middle School edition of Everyone Counts, a Resource Guide on GLBT Issues for Teachers and Administrators which was completed and distributed to principals this fall. Conservative parents even got a bill proposed in the state legislature to prevent any discussion of "homosexuality and alternate lifestyles" unless "it pertained to sexually transmitted diseases." After much political maneuvering behind the scenes, the bill was changed to a "parental opt-out" policy which is what the district already practices.

Jean and Katy Fleming, the district health education coordinator, both battle-weary but unbowed, presented a joint workshop about "Dealing with Opposition" for the National PFLAG Conference in Salt Lake City in October. For more information please visit: www.hodgepodgazette.com.



Jack and Jean Hodges and Family
6177 Olde Stage Road
Boulder, CO 80302



Happy Holidays
From The Hodges Family