



# THE HODGE-PODGE GAZETTE

The Family Newspaper

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Christmas 2005

## Hodges Family Finds Reasons To Celebrate

Despite a year when Nature seemed to turn on the poorest of the poor with tsunamis and hurricanes, despite a year when political conflicts in the Middle East seem to show only meager signs of resolution, the Hodges Family has found balance in reclaiming joy with friends and family on special occasions.

The first celebration was the 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion for Jean at Ohio Wesleyan University where she and Jack returned to enjoy a May weekend of reviving warm memories with dear friends.

A circuitous 3000-mile car trip in early August took Jack and Jean to visit long-time friends, Jo and Charley Krauskopf, at their lakeside cottage in Michigan and also Cousin Jack and Jo Phipps and their multigenerational family around Payne, Ohio. (How can they be old enough to be great-grandparents?) The ultimate destination was Unicoi State Park in northern Georgia where the Hodges Family Reunion was held. After a stop in Tennessee to visit Jack's brother, Jim, now in a nursing home, there was great excitement to join Hodges-Nelson families from Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Tennessee, Georgia with eight from Colorado. All staying in assorted cottages, meals were a movable feast with evenings full of games and laughter. Playing their own version of "Deliverance," nearly all

twenty-seven of them enjoyed tubing on the Chattahoochee River. The wilds of northern Georgia made an unforgettable memory, with thanks to Sheryl Nelson, Steve and Diantha Hodges who organized it all.



Happy Holidays From The Hodges Family

Ben and Wayne stayed in Denver, no doubt, to complete all the details for a surprise 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party that they and their siblings created for Jack and Jean. All that J&J knew was that they needed to be back from their road trip by August 13. The rest was a wonderful mystery. The first element of surprise was to learn that the best man from their wedding, Alan Williams, and his

wife, Lou, were flying in from Charlottesville, VA. The next surprise happened when a 1957 Rolls Royce with chauffeur pulled into the Hodges' driveway to take the "wedding party" to an unknown destination. Arriving at the Callahan House, a charming Victorian mansion owned by the city of Longmont, they emerged to festive balloons, camera flashes and cheers emanating from the outdoor garden reception. Even the sun came out as the couple greeted some 60 friends—a pleasant change from the hurricane aftermath of August 13, 1955.

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# Reasons to Celebrate *Continued from Page 1*

The delighted couple agreed, "This party was much more fun than the original wedding. This time we can relax and enjoy everything while our kids run around worrying about timing and details!" Ben made a beautiful video playing indoors, a slide show with music to represent 50 years of fun, family and travel adventures. Friends from afar sent photos and messages to be added to a Memory Book which Beth is currently helping to assemble. The highlight of the afternoon for J & J was the moment after dear friends of 40 years had presented a group poem, after John and Beth had spoken and it was Ben's turn. He had written a poem, as a long-standing Hodges tradition, and found himself emotionally overwhelmed when he spoke of his parents' second careers as activists. In that pregnant silence of palpable emotion, his brother and sister came forward to stand beside him in a shared moment that said more than words about the essential unity of this diverse family. ***There was more than an anniversary to celebrate!***

August 14, 2005  
A day of gratitude and remembrance



## Traveling Bug Still Bites Hodges

2005 brought another exciting year of travel for Jean and Jack Hodges. Their annual 2-week January idyl on Mazatlan beaches was followed in April by a challenging "Walking in Provence" Tour. It began in Nice on the shores of the Mediterranean, but soon led to some serious hiking on their way to Avignon with a stop at St. Baume to climb the steep trail leading to a mountain grotto, now a chapel, where legend says that Mary Magdalene lived for 30 years after Jesus' death. The fierce wind from the Alps called a mistrial (say "mees-tree") nearly blew them off the ancient bridge at Avignon, before they toured the huge palace where French popes resided from 1309-1417.



Between hikes in the Lubaron Cedar Forest, the shores of Lake D'Esparron, and the Gorges du Verdon, there were walks through Arles where Van Gogh lived and painted and the studio of Paul Cezanne in Aix. A favorite medieval mountain village was St. Paul de Vence, now a picturesque artist colony with the nearby spectacular Maeght Museum of Modern Art. An evening in Monaco won Jean 30 Euros (\$45) in a modest gambling foray. How could they go home without a time of "April in Paris?" They explored the Cimetiere De Pere Lachaise and found the graves of many famous people, such as Chopin, Moliere and Oscar Wilde. A visit to Monet's home and gardens in Giverny invoked a color-filled explosion of profuse spring flowers.

In September J&J toured the heart of Eastern Europe---Warsaw, Krakow, Prague and Budapest. The shadows of occupation from 1939 to 1989 were present in sculptures dedicated to the Polish underground, slaughtered in the sewers of Warsaw in 1944 and the Jews, murdered in Auschwitz and Birkenau. A monument to Josef Stalin's power is the Palace of Culture and Science that rises high over downtown Warsaw that was 80% destroyed in WWII. An ironic relic of occupation is the huge abandoned Soviet-

built stadium, now in ruins, that is circled by a thriving flea market at its top edge--private enterprise at its most basic.

Eastern Europe began re-emerging in 2004 when these countries came into the European Union. Warsaw and Budapest have been getting facelifts of flashy new skyscrapers, supermarkets packed with domestic and western goods and new housing estates. A huge red neon sign reading: "McDonalds---You'll like it!" glares from a hotel roof along the banks of the Danube near Budapest's magnificent Parliament Palace. A harsh intrusion of western capitalism!



A rich cultural heritage makes this trip worthwhile. Krakow is indeed the cultural and spiritual center of Poland. A proud city with a rich history, Krakow boasts of Copernicus and John Huss, the Catholic dissident and a national hero who preceded Martin Luther. Tourists may be inundating Prague, but the city is clearly flourishing with so many concerts, operas and theatre events that it is a cultural banquet too lavish to sample everything. Buda and Pest, separated by the Danube, are fascinating with their contrasts, the beauty of the stained glass in St. Vitus Cathedral and the pock-marks of bullets in cement buildings from the Hungarian Revolt of 1956. An evening of operetta medleys was a delightful reminder of the glory days of Budapest and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Rural villages, like Holloko, are more like museums now. A thought-provoking visit altogether!





# Change Brings New Challenges

Last year's experiment in turkey and chicken farming has become more lucrative for John and his family, but has presented new challenges. A feature article in the Nederland Mountain-Ear led to a sell-out of both domestic and available wild turkeys by Thanksgiving. Even the occasional bear, mountain lion or coyote have not been successful in taking out the flourished fowl farmyard in Apex Valley. The price is eternal vigilance and increasing the order of new chicks in time for next year's harvest. Liz does well to keep the home fires burning, her children nurtured and her professional work done well. She still says no to cows and pigs and "maybe someday" to a horse.

The Hodges homestead also supports quite a herd of rabbits. Jonna and Katie are raising several breeds in addition to their first and fifth grade studies where each is doing well. Jonna's science project last year was to describe the genetic makeup, as well as breeding habits of rabbits. Breeding leads to new challenges of selling rabbits, either dressed to eat or preferably sold as pets.

The big change for Ben and Wayne this year has been to quit smoking. It was a struggle but they both managed to quit, even though they now must deal with the extra weight they added. Beth and Kris's challenge this year was to adjust to the major change of living in two households for Kris and the difficult single-mom role for Beth. Kris chose to "play-up" in hockey this year, joining a team with older players to stretch his skill level. He's enjoying being a "senior" in fifth grade at Rocky Mountain Elementary this year.

## The Grandchildren's Corner



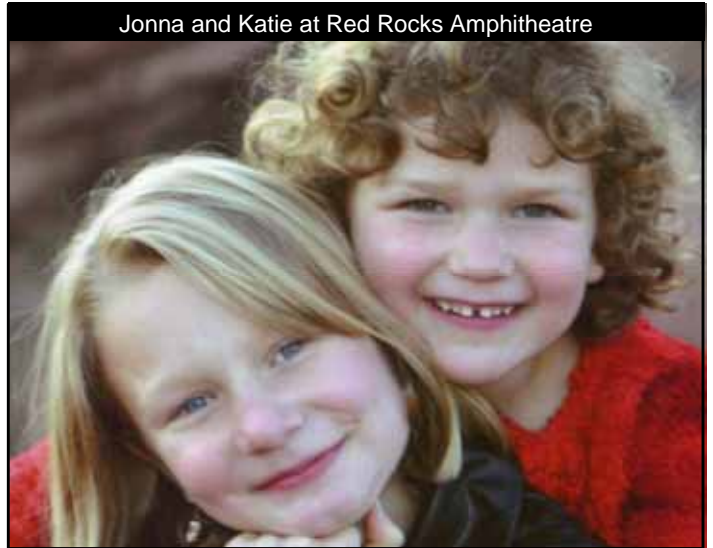
Katie loses her front tooth and builds a trap to catch the Tooth Fairy

**Bio-Poem by Kris Vowell  
Fall 2005**

*Kris  
Hyper, Competitive, Athlete, Dedicated  
Brother of Sara Vowell  
Lover of Family, Sports, Friends, Technology  
Who Feels Happy, Thoughtful, Playful  
Who Needs Respect, Family, Sports, Friends, Love  
Who Fears Getting Permanently Injured, Dying, Having Surgery  
Who Would Like To Be A Professional Hockey Player  
Meet All My Family In The World  
Go To College  
Resident of Longmont, on Elliott Street  
Vowell*



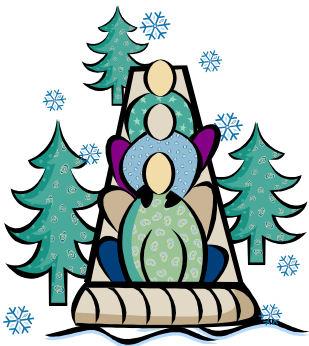
Jonna, Kris, and Katie : Halloween 2005



Jonna and Katie at Red Rocks Amphitheatre



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



# Happy Holidays

## From the Hodges Family

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