



THE HODGE-PODGE GAZETTE



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Hodges Family Faces Fear Factor

Just as Dec. 7, 1941 was a day of infamy that changed the way Americans saw themselves connected to the catastrophe of World War II, so the tragic events of September 11 have altered the views of Americans as citizens of the world fighting a common enemy, terrorism. With violent acts of aggression now on our own soil, we can no longer think of the devastation of war as happening in a remote place while we remain secure in the U.S. The resulting fear of immanent danger on airplanes or in contaminated mail can paralyze many people. The Hodges family, like so many, overcome their fears as part of the everyday decisions that we all face in living our lives one day at a time.

For the first time, Jean and Jack Hodges let their post-Sept. 11 fear factor determine that they would forego an October trip to Egypt. Instead they chose the comfort of visiting family and old friends. The Hodges flew to Tennessee to visit Jack's brother Jim and his wife Peggy, as well as their son Steve and his family. Jim has recently suffered multiple strokes and is now in a nursing home. J and J enjoyed driving through the fall colors of the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina to visit college friends, Jean and Bruce Jackson in Davidson and Jan Welch, in Greenville, S. C. Another fall flight was to Cleveland for Jean's 50th Euclid High School Reunion. Sharing vivid memories brought the laughter of recognition and the security of a common history. Funny how one can remember the names of fifth grade classmates of yesteryear while failing to recall recent friends. The balm of long-time friendships is soothing in the face of an unknown future.

Fear is also overcome by necessity. Jack's persistent sciatic pain and pronounced limp, which curtailed his daily walks and travel enjoyment, led him to have hip replacement surgery on Nov. 16. The prospect of pain-free mobility is good motivation. He is recuperating at home in preparation for a busy Spring of travel plans.



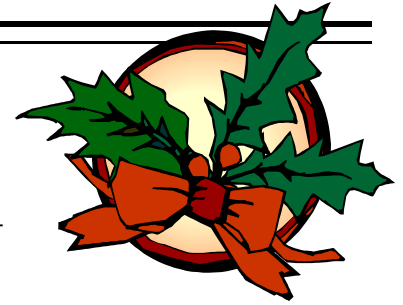
Kristopher, Jack, Katie and Jonna celebrating Jack's 73rd birthday on the Hodges Family porch in September 2001.

Ben too found that necessity forced him to overcome any fear of flying. He was in Atlanta, Georgia on Sept. 11 and had to drive the 1400 miles back to Denver to get home. The next week he was assigned by the IRS to fly back and forth to Washington, D.C. until mid-December on a special project. He and Wayne yearn for time together to decorate the new town house they moved into over Labor Day.

Fear is overcome by living each day as normally as possible. In spite of the recession and many layoffs in high-tech & telecom, Beth is grateful to be employed at Corporate Express. Michael changed jobs in September and is a Project Manager for Schroeder Roofing. Corporate shake-ups have affected Wayne's work in having to redefine his job and lay off fifteen employees from his Marketing Division. They are all taking each day as it comes. Faith in oneself is a key to dealing with the scary economic roller coaster rides.

Fear Factor, Continued From Page 1

Overcoming fear is to follow one's heart. John and Liz decided that this was the year to focus on building their nest as a family in Coal Creek Canyon. After a year of traveling hundreds of miles a week to cover her speech pathology assignment with the Boulder Valley Schools, Liz decided to resign her position in favor of working three days a week in private practice with Spanish speaking clients. She convinced her dad, Ray, to move from Phoenix to Colorado where he now lives with them. John and she helped Ray buy a small lot in Nederland, a mountain town near Coal Creek Canyon. John, who is basically fearless about learning new skills, ordered a log cabin kit and became the contractor to build Ray a house. In addition, John began major remodeling of his own home. Ray left his home of 60 years with all his Arizona relatives telling him he was crazy to move to a new location. Maybe it's the lure of a loving daughter and two wonderful grandkids, but Ray, who is blind, took a leap of faith and is eager to move into his nearly completed log cabin located near the center of town. On his daily walks to the store with his guide dog, Perkins, Ray is already known and loved by nearly all the townspeople of Nederland. And John has found that building and remodeling gives him great satisfaction. Faith in doing the right thing with a lot of hard work and love makes fear disappear.



The Younger Generation

Katie at two and a half was jubilant one day this fall when she told her Grandma Jean about her first day in a preschool. Spreading her arms out wide and fairly jumping off the ground with pride, she announced: "I go to big girls' school!" Known as the Sunshine Gal of the family, Katie insists on doing everything herself and laughing heartily and often as she teases family members...

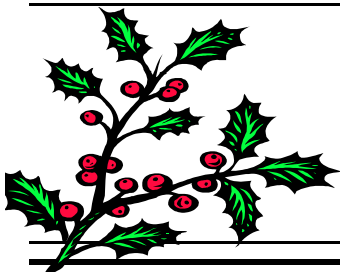


Jonna, a caring Big Sister (most of the time) is happy in her new school, Coal Creek Elementary, where her mom is the volunteer coordinator for an after-school activity program. Liz, a good organizer, persuaded Grandma Jean to lead a Drama Club in order to have time with Jonna. (That's a fail-safe strategy!)

Kristopher, like his cousin Jonna, is learning phonics and sounds out words as he writes the letters. Kris is known as a whiz on the computer and at his math too. He is a member of Tiger Cubs this year and loves to Rollerblade. He and Jonna, both six, are budding artists as seen in the Grandchildren's Corner on Page 4.

The New HodgePodgeGazette.com

The Hodges Family has launched their new website to keep all of our family and friends informed of our happenings throughout the year. In a year when we saw the failure of thousand's of .com's, the Hodges family would like to assure you that no investment capital was used to fund our venture. Looks like we will be online to share our family with yours for a long time to come. Visit us today and sign up to receive next years Hodge-Podge Gazette via email at: www.HodgePodgeGazette.com



**A Friend Is A Blessing Beyond Measure...
Happy Holidays From The Hodges Family.**

Our French Connection

Jean and Jack began their 3 week spring trip to France by spending three days in Paris with Ben and Wayne. They met daily for dinner after their separate adventures on the Left Bank or Montmartre. At the Louvre, when a strike brought streams of visitors to jam in to the Free Day at the museum, Jean spent a morning alone in the crowd. Unfortunately, Wayne's plan for walkie-talkies as a way to keep us together was thwarted because he and Ben carried the only pair.



Leaving Paris by car took J&J first to Normandy to stay with the Briants, friends from Boulder with an inherited family farmhouse near Mont San Michel. Jean-Pierre shared stories from World War II in the area and he and Glenna cooked elegant French meals after serving as tour guides for a day trip in the area. On their own in the Loire Valley, they stayed in Chinon, a medieval town where Jeanne d'Arc met the Dauphin. Day trips from a B&B took them to various chateaux. Picturesque Chenonceau, built across a river and elegantly furnished, was their favorite. A stop-over at a more modest chateau in Jean D'Ars, a village near Poitiers where Max Morel, a former student, was working to convert the mansion into a theatre school for American students. Even though Max was away, J&J were warmly welcomed by the company of American theatre people who double as cooks, gardeners and painters. After a lovely day in Bordeaux with Bill and Dominique, whom they met on their trip to Africa, J&J drove to Toulouse and on to the medieval walled town of Carcassonne to meet Connie and Irv Berg, friends from their '97 Turkey tour. They drove together to the Dordogne in south central France for their last four days in France.



The Dordogne is a picturesque hilly region of many charming and unpretentious villages, such as Rocamadour and Domme. Known for its world famous fois gras and truffles, the Dordogne is even better known as the site of the prehistoric cave paintings. Lascaux II revealed some amazing art that astounded us with the level of aesthetic beauty. It was a spiritual experience to witness the drawing skill by "primitives" that Picasso once called "the real master artists". Vive la France! We must return!

The Music Man As A Family Affair

Even though her PFLAG and Boulder Valley Safe Schools work continues as fully as ever, Jean was persuaded to direct a production of "The Music Man" this summer at the First United Methodist Church. Part of the appeal was that it was a family affair. Jack was in the cast. John helped build the platform to extend the chancel stage area. Wayne volunteered to design the set and painted much of it himself. Jean claims that she will never direct another show unless it is multi-generational. The joy of helping build skills and confidence for inexperienced actors from ages 10 to 82, who delighted themselves with the high quality of the production, made it all worthwhile.



The Grandchildren's Drawing Corner

