



# THE HODGE-PODGE GAZETTE



The Family Newspaper

Edition XLIII

Christmas 2002



## Hodges Sustain Balancing Act

One thing certain in uncertain times is Family. Though President Bush seems determined to lead us into war with Iraq and the domestic economy continues to mean lower dividends on investments and higher unemployment rates as businesses downsize, the Hodges Family attempts to keep a sense of balance.

On the job front, Beth is happily still employed with Corporate Express while Michael considers a job change in the roofing business. The Vowells will be packing up their van and driving to Prescott to spend the holidays with Michael's family this year. Ben is relieved to still be working for the IRS while Wayne searches diligently for a new marketing director position. Liz is juggling four part-time jobs to balance her mom role and also keep herself professionally involved as a bilingual speech pathologist closer to home in Coal Creek Canyon. John's success and resulting customer satisfaction in building log homes as "Mountain Country Builders" has led him to several construction jobs that have been satisfying, although he says, "I'm still only one job away from unemployment."

Heeding the President's admonition for people to spend money to boost the economy, Jean and Jack purchased a '96 21-foot RV in August. "This is not about living frugally, it is about making the most of the Window of Time given to us to be able to meander at will to enjoy the beauty of Nature," says Jean. Jack admits that being able to stop wherever you want on a trip for lunch or a bathroom break and to enjoy awakening in a heated space on a cold morning is a luxury that makes "camping" again a real pleasure for aging bodies.

Surely it is the children in our lives that keep us all in balance. Pending world catastrophes aside, it is in our daily lives that we remember what is important.



*Kristopher, Katie and Jonna go Hawaiian in the Hodges Backyard*

Jonna and Kristopher are both in second grade and seem to be enjoying increased confidence as they develop basic skills at their respective schools.

Jonna and her family have been reading the Harry Potter books and she can quote all the magical incantations and knows every character by heart. Even 3+ year-old Katie talks excitedly about "HairweePotter!", although she'd rather play with her many Barbie dolls in the dirt. Katie gets to play at Wee Creekers, a child care center that Liz co-founded this year. Kristopher fell in love with being the goalie for his winning in-line hockey team, the "Crushers" this year. This winter, he is skating with his new team, the "Knights." He loves the high-energy challenge. He has earned his Bobcat badge and is currently working towards the achievement of Wolf in Cub Scouts.

We all love getting together to celebrate birthdays and finding time every month or so for a lively family meal where we all share much laughter and many stories.

---

# 2002 Hodges Family Reunion



For their first reunion in Colorado, twenty-seven members of the Jim, Jack and Jo (Nelson) Hodges families gathered in early August at the rustic Cliffside Lodge in Grand Lake, CO for three wonderful days of sharing and fun. They hiked, swam, fished, canoed, sang, played games and prepared meals together in teams that allowed everyone to get to know one another. They missed having Jim and Peg from Sneedville, TN, but held them close in thoughts and prayers. In the spirit of exuberance shared by all ages from 3 to 73, there are high hopes to meet again in the summer of 2006!



## Cutting-Edge Guide Published

After two years of gathering materials, writing and revising, *Everyone Counts: A Resource Guide on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues for Elementary Administrators and Teachers* was proudly presented to Boulder Valley K-5 principals in November. "We didn't really set out to write a book, but one thing led to another," said Jean Hodges, BVSSC project coordinator, who often finds this to be true in her volunteer work. Three areas of concern at the elementary level are: gender expression, family diversity and name-calling/bullying. Professional workshop models and suggested lesson plans are provided to help teachers expand their understanding and learn how to deal with these areas in their classrooms.

Jean was proud to share news of the guide at the National PFLAG Conference in Columbus, Ohio, in September. Since such a comprehensive resource has not been available around the country, the Boulder Valley Safe Schools Coalition in partnership with the school district looks forward to sharing *Everyone Counts* widely by selling it at cost. Email [JeanInBldr@aol.com](mailto:JeanInBldr@aol.com) for more information.

## Hodges Elders Appear On Stage In Anthology

Jack and Jean, along with 22 other friends from First United Methodist Church, ranging in age from 13 to 83, played multiple roles in a theatre piece, "Spoon River Anthology", based on the poetry of Edgar Lee Masters. Each monologue revealed insights from the grave—a secret, a hope or regret or satisfaction about an individual's life in Spoon River at the turn of the

*What is this I hear of sorrow and weariness,  
Anger, discontent and drooping hopes?  
Degenerate sons and daughters,  
Life is too strong for you---  
It takes life to love life.*

- Lucinda Matlock, age 96, Spoon River Anthology -



20<sup>th</sup> century in Illinois. Interspersed with folk music, the monologues offered humor, pathos, irony and wisdom about the human condition. Jean used to teach "Spoon River" poems as an early acting exercise for her students. Her pleasure this time was in getting to act and coach, but not to direct the show.

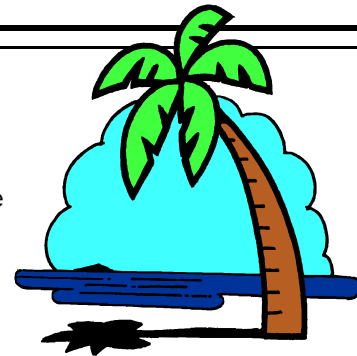


The Hodges Online At:  
[HodgePodgeGazette.com](http://HodgePodgeGazette.com)

---

---

# Travels Restore Their Spirits



As in recent years, J & J seem to be traveling to cram in all their dream trips while they still can. The invitation of a friend to visit her in Oahu in March made the Hodges jump at the chance to make their first visit to Hawaii, so they planned three weeks for three islands. After snorkeling in Turtle Bay, visiting Pearl Harbor, experiencing the amazing Polynesian Cultural Center and exploring the northern part of Oahu with their hostess, Evelyn Tallman, they spent their second week in an informative Elderhostel in Kauai. Learning about the culture, the crafts, the gardens, and the people from their leader "Bradda Joe", a native of Kauai, J&J knew they wanted to return again on their own (and they will in April '03 with Wayne and Ben). Their final week in Maui was at a time-share exchange shared with dear friends, Mary and Wally Finley. Time for whale-watching, more snorkeling and visiting a United Methodist Church for Holy Week services made this week memorable.



*Jack and Jean hiked up Diamond Head in Honolulu*

Like the Humpback whales who cavorted with their young in warm Hawaiian waters, they followed the whales' migration back to the cold waters of Alaska in May and June. With life-long friends, Jo and Charley Krauskopf, J&J spent the first week touring the Inside Passage, stopping at picturesque port villages and ruggedly natural Glacier Bay. They flew in their first sea plane to view the vast glacier fields from above Juneau. Their awe only grew as they flew to join the Alaska Railway Elderhostel for two weeks that began in Fairbanks. They loved the wonderful train ride that took them past breathtaking rivers, plains and mountains on their way to Denali National Park. With naturalists J&J learned about fantastic bird migration patterns and rode 8 hours

on a bus into the interior of the park. Like being on safari, they looked for wild animals and stopped to enjoy watching caribou and moose, bald eagles and water fowl. Continuing to Seward, J&J spent time in the new Alaska Sea Life Center where endangered or sick sea critters are brought to be studied and rehabilitated---a good outcome of the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Their final stop was Anchorage where they visited the beautiful new Alaska Native Heritage Center. J&J loved the chance to meet and talk with native Alaskans from many tribes who demonstrated their distinctive crafts, showed their different homes and daily lifestyles, and even danced.

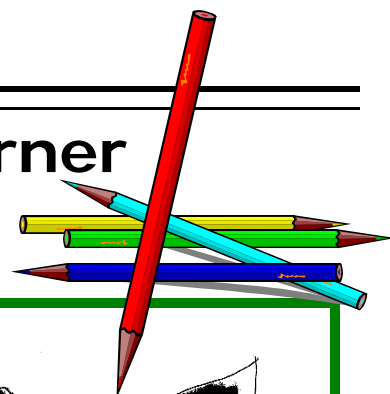
September was the perfect time for a walking tour in Tuscany. Warm sunny days made the daily few miles of hiking on country roads to medieval walled towns a pleasure. Discovering an alabaster abbey from 800 A.D. on September 11, where light beamed from a window on to a heavy cross over the altar, strangely juxtaposed Charlemagne's conquests in the name of religion with current world events and the tragedy of lost innocence in the name of Allah. Idyllic rolling hills punctuated with olive trees and vineyards ready for harvest made peace a palpable presence.



*Jack and Jean hiked in Tuscany near the city of Montereagioni*

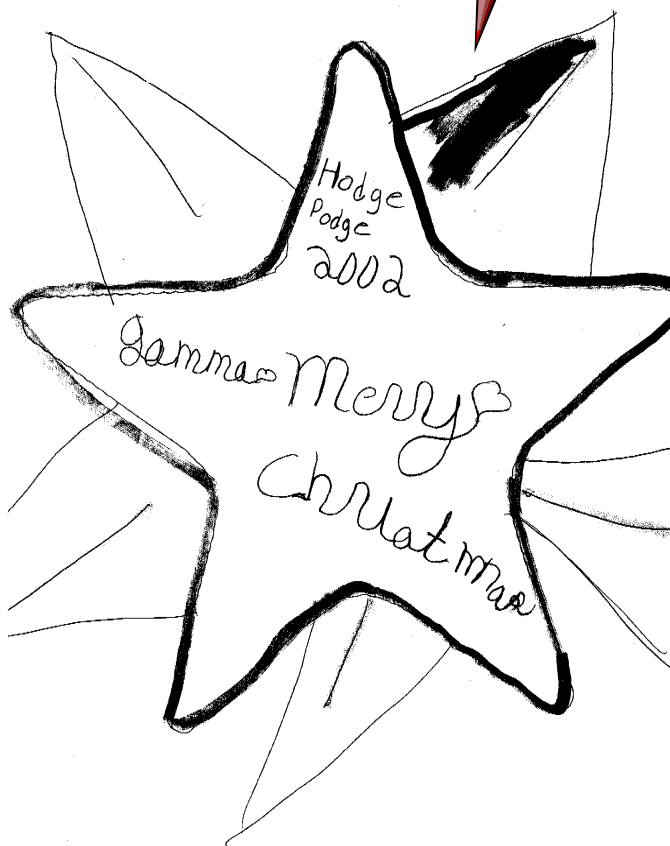
---

# The Grandchildren's Drawing Corner



Kris Vowell  
2007

Kristopher, Age 7



Jonna, Age 7



Katie, Age 3