



THE HODGE-PODGE GAZETTE



The Family Newspaper

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Hodges Find Own WMD's At Home And Abroad

In a year when our country launched a pre-emptive war on Iraq, presumably to "protect ourselves" from possible WMD's (Weapons of Mass Destruction) possessed by "evil-doer" Saddam Hussein, the Hodges family for its part has concentrated on its own WMD's (Worthy Mobility Developments).

While all the body parts are still movable, Jack and Jean continue to travel: Hawaii with Ben in April; Machu Picchu and the Amazon with friends in June; an RV trip to the Canadian Rockies in Sept.; and a quick 5 days to New York City for a theatre "orgy" and time with friends in November. Moving attitudes from anti-gay to acceptance continues to be the challenge that the Hodges undertake in their community involvement. (See article on page 2.)

Moving farther into the mountains headed the list of John and Liz's Mobility Developments. Now living in a rustic log cabin (with an addition) in the historic gold mining site of Apex Valley, just 5 miles from Blackhawk, Jonna and Katie are most delighted to have a stream running in back of their house. They are both enrolled in Montessori classes where Jonna's reading and number skills are growing to match her artistic, creative side. Curly-headed Katie is determined to mimic her sister in her own individualistic way. An overnight in the RV with Grandma and Grandpa in Rocky Mountain Park was a special treat in August. Liz travels 4 days a week to the Jefferson County Developmental Disabilities Resource Center where she does trans-disciplinary interventions with children from birth to 3 years. Mountain Country Builders is still John's passion. In December, he passed his Master's Plumbing License exam with flying colors.

Upward mobility is Beth's husband Michael's challenge this year. Moving from rooftop to office as the

general manager of the Ft. Collins site of JEH/ Eagle Roofing Supply, will take him to Texas A&M for a week of training in a Management Symposium in December. Beth's responsibilities in her sixth year at Corporate Express include doing both network and telecom operations. Her team supports 80 phone systems and data for over 200 sites. For personal joy she spends at least one day a month volunteering at Kris's school. Third grader Kristopher likes PE, computer lab, math and recess best. He proudly

scored two goals this fall on his in-line hockey team. The Vowell Family highlight was a trip to Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons, borrowing J&J's RV. With 4 other families, they enjoyed camping, fishing, hiking and floating down the Snake River. Biggest thrill: seeing 3 bald eagles. Only disappointment: not seeing a bear!



After nearly a year of diligent searching, Ben's partner Wayne moved into a job as marketing director of Brass Smith, a company that makes supply products for the food industry. He's most pleased to be just a five-minute drive from home in Denver. In his spare time, Wayne advises Jean about her garden and home decorating. Ben continues his good work for the IRS. He was honored with a National Leadership Award for contributions in developing successful volunteer involvement and effective Taxpayer Education sites. His computer expertise is also used to help his mother's low tech skills. He also volunteered to create a more dynamic Website for Boulder's First United Methodist Church. Most fun and highest Mobility Development for Ben and Wayne: a glorious week exploring Buenos Aires, Argentina, in November.



February 2003 — A Month Of Surprise Awards



J&J were totally shocked to be invited to the stage when they attended the Annual Big Heart Gala sponsored near Valentine's Day by Boulder Pride, the organization that coordinates many activities for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community in Boulder County. Expecting to enjoy an evening of dancing, they were nearly speechless when they learned that they were chosen to receive the first Jean and Jack Hodges Big Heart Award for "two of Boulder's Big Hearts" to be given annually to someone in the community who deserves recognition for their support of the GLBT community. They thought folks had to be dead to be honored with an award named after them!



The Colorado Convention Center in Denver was the site of the elegant Colorado Human Rights Campaign annual fundraising banquet on Feb. 22. Tipper Gore was the featured speaker before over-1000 attendees. Ben rented a tux, Wayne wore his best suit, Jack bought a new suit so he'd have something to wear, and Jean and Beth donned new black sparkly dresses---it was that kind of night when Jean was given the Paul C. Hunter Award for outstanding leadership and service in Colorado for the GLBT community. Best part of the evening for Jean? When she was introduced by her proud son Ben who presented her with the award. A night to remember!

The Work For Equality Continues

Still actively part of a writing team now developing Everyone Counts 2, the Middle School Resource Guide on GLBT Issues, Jean continues to work with faculties in elementary schools to use last year's elementary resource guide to expand the way they understand diversity in families, gender identity and strategies to stop harassment. This spring the district's new health education curriculum, which will include the topic of "sexual orientation and gender identity," will require continuing education and discussion with parents who disapprove.

The Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters adds another dimension to the Hodges' deep involvement in the struggle for gay rights in a largely conservative state. At a state-wide meeting in Grand Junction in the fall, a media workshop about how to respond effectively through interviews and letters-to-the-editor had 30 PFLAG'ers from 9 chapters arming themselves to respond to the well-organized national anti-gay campaigns emanating from Colorado Springs. Marilyn Musgrave, the U.S. representative who introduced the bill in Congress to add a Constitutional Amendment forbidding gay marriage, did it first in Colorado when she was a state legislator.

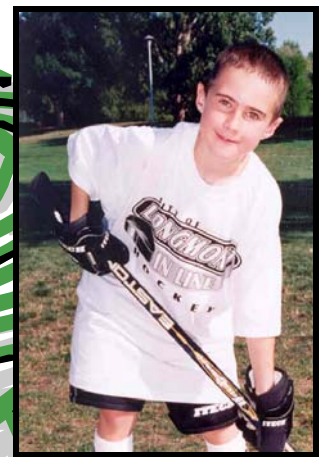
Editor's Note: *Not wanting to spoil anyone's Holiday Spirit, there will be no talking points about fairness and inclusion of all minorities as fundamental American ideals nor a sermon about the full meaning of "sacred" as it transcends gender in committed relationships. But interested individuals can write to pursue further dialogue.*



Katie, Age 4 and Jonna, Age 8

*"May the Peace that Alludes
our World Be Found in Your
Hearts this Holy Season."*

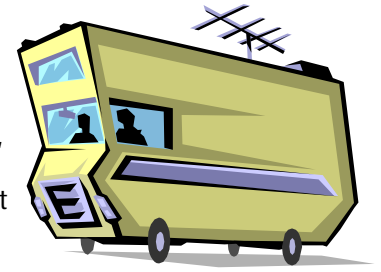
- The Hodges Family -



Kristopher, Age 8



Jack And Jean On The Road Again



From August 23 to September 14, Jack and Jean motored north on their first long RV camping trip. "The Summer of Smoke" from Yellowstone north to Jasper, Alberta, was probably not the best time to see all the beauty of these vast Rocky Mountains. Glacier National Park's forest fires were so severe that the smoke that shrouded the usual magnificent views drifted into nearby Canadian Waterton International Peace Park as well. However, retracing the trip made with the whole family and niece Diana Whiteside in 1974, the Hodges enjoyed a return to Two Jack Lake in Banff National Park. Canoeing on the brilliant blue waters of Lake Moraine and riding a gondola high above Lake Louise made them gasp with wonder. Parking their RV in Jasper, the Hodges boarded a Trans-Canada train to ride at leisure through British Columbia to Vancouver where they spent two glorious days

exploring this beautiful city. They were especially delighted to discover the annual Theatre Fringe Festival going on and enjoyed three plays by English, American and Canadian performers.



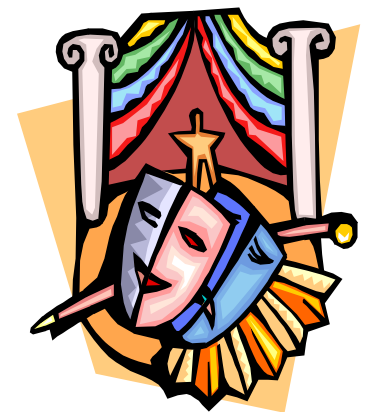
Jack and Jean explore awesome Machu Picchu

A dream come true happened in June when the Hodges traveled with 14 friends to Peru. Machu Picchu, a blend of man's ingenuity amidst Nature's grandeur, was beautiful beyond description. Hiking among the Incan ruins was a spiritual experience. Traveling with Overseas Adventure Travels took them to out-of-the-way visits such as an obscure village high in the Andes. They visited the dirt-floor kitchen of a woman who cooked a traditional meal for them on a wood-burning stove and a heritage weaving center where women taught young girls to carry on the fine tradition of weaving hand-dyed wool. Another spiritual high was participating in a healing ceremony by a village curandero. Their 5 day extension to the Amazon took them to a school

by the great river where they exchanged songs and questions with children, and also ventured onto a 450-meter long canopy walkway suspended above the rainforest. A trip of a lifetime to be sure.

Jean Acts Her Age on Stage

No one was more surprised than Jean when she was asked by the director of the University of Colorado Theatre Department's production of the musical "Pippin" to play Pippin's grandmother. "But you haven't heard me sing," she responded plaintively. "You'll be fine. We'll provide a vocal coach," he rejoined. A personal crisis of confidence ensued: "Can I memorize my lines? Can I sing and dance at the same time? Will the college kids accept me?" The challenge to practice everything she had ever taught led Jean to some amazing personal growth moments. Her fellow cast members were supportive and fun to be with. And her one brief scene was a show-stopping success according to the campus newspaper and her loyal family and friends.



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The Grandchildren's Artistic Corner

Kris

May 9, 2003

Butterflies are beautiful.
Unable to fly,
Too fast to catch
Too sneaky to keep
Eats a lot of nectar.
Rests on a branch.
Flies really fast.
Lays a lot of eggs.
It will die.
Enjoy the nectar
Search for flowers.

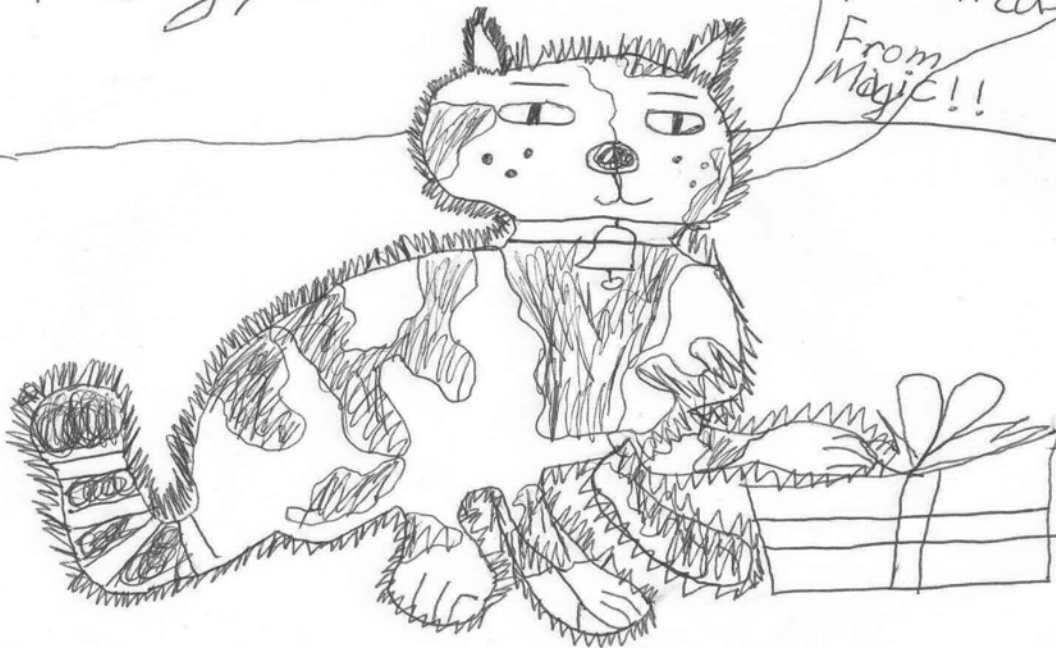


Love Kris



Kristopher - Age 8

Mary X-mas!
Mary X-mas!



Meow
X-mas
From
Magic!!

to:
Magic
Goblin

Jonna - Age 8

