

# CHRONICLE

Family Poop Sheet since 1990

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Thursday, May 17, 2001

It is 930 miles from Judy's driveway to ours. We left her house at 6:08 AM yesterday, drove about 640 miles, stopped in Holbrook Arizona about 3:30, then left there at about 6 AM this morning and arrived home about 2:30 this afternoon. We had three messages on the message machine, and 41 emails waiting. I haven't answered any of them, opting to begin the Chronicle instead.

Son **Jim**, who has had ulcerative colitis for more than ten years, had colon surgery on the First of May, remained in the Hospital for nine days, then came home. Geri has to work, so we remained with him until we were sure he was okay. The doctor could not follow his original plan so Jim will return in three months for additional surgery.

**Judy and John** are doing fine. **Brecken** is still at Oxford, but went over to Paris to visit friends for Mother's day. (It's only a two hour train ride through the tunnel now.) She will get her degree from Oxford in June and her parents and boyfriend will be there for the celebration, then tour some part of Europe before returning home.

While we were gone to LA we had two more snow storms in Taos. Didn't last long, but watered the ground. When we left, trees were just beginning to bud; now they are all leafed out. They have to get all their growing

done between now and October when we can expect more snow.

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**Margaret Ann Segrest** in Michigan says, "We have some days when we can get along with just a light jacket, but one on my neighbors just came in and said 'winter's back'. I told her I had lived in Michigan long enough (11 years) to know you can't count on spring until June, but I did see a robin, and Dairy Queen has opened for the summer; – both are good signs.

"My oldest step grandson in New Orleans is twelve years old. Last fall he joined the 'Young Marines'. Last week, the Sgt told him to get a razor and shave before the next inspection – how do you think he felt about that? My sons are begging me to come to NO in mid June to visit them. Grandson Greg says it's too hot there, that I shouldn't go but I haven't seen them in two years, and I'm just dying for a PO'BOY sandwich, followed by roast beef, and shrimp."

\* \* \*

Just got word that **Brecken** has been accepted at UCLA. Now, her tuition will be \$18,000 per year less than for a private university. and UCLA ranks very high among the Med Schools in the nation.

She was so happy she cried.

\* \* \*

**Linda Phelps** says (in an email)

“Everyone here is quiet and that’s the way I like it. **Christy** and I drove to Kansas City for our Sweet Adeline Regional Competition. Didn’t turn out as we had hoped – we only won second place which means we won’t be going to Knoxville, TN next year as we were hoping for.

“But we had a good time – went to the Cheese-cake factory and were transported straight to heaven. No calories, of course. So the trip was well worth it.”

\* \* \*

**Ina Hall** says:

“Love reading about all the people in the Chronicle. I have been hoping you would have something in the paper about **Lois and Cecil**, and maybe a letter from **Cona**.

“I haven’t been able to get out much on account of the weather. Recently my son went to Austin to visit his daughter and I went as far as Lockhart with him to visit my daughter.

“Hey, I had my birthday on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May, – my 91<sup>st</sup> one! I’m well on the way to my hundredth one!” *[Ina, we are all hoping you make it and you will be writing letters for the Chronicle.]*

\* \* \*

From The **Duffers**:

“You asked how we are, well beginning at the feet and going up, with both of us, both knees, both hips, both shoulders, eight fingers and two thumbs, are all hurting real bad with arthritis between the

joints and the calves of the legs, the thighs, and the arm muscles and a dab in the back of the hips, all hurt real bad with bronchitis. In addition, **Russell** has earache in both ears and my right groin almost keeps me from walking some times. Russell went to the doctor today and found out he has a serious infection in both ears. Now, outside of those few little things we are doing just great. Still live in our own house, do our own work except for a cleaning woman who comes twice a week. Of course, people bring us food, and that helps a lot.

“Every letter I write I think may be my last one, but we do enjoy the paper so much we don’t want to miss it. *[You don’t have to worry about getting the Chronicle. As long as it is published, you will get your copy. Know What? I dropped ten names from my subscription list, and not one has ever complained. I thought I had a lot of spongers on the list – guess that proves it.]*

“We stay at home most of the time, – only get out to go to the doctor, now and then. We read a lot, watch TV some, and really enjoy just being quiet. We receive enough junk mail to keep it interesting and we are so slow doing anything that by the time we get it done the day is gone. So we aren’t bored or lonely. We just sit on the porch and talk to the neighbors who come by. And we have a little Yorkshire who is determined to have her way so we enjoy her very much. The Lord blesses us in his own way and we are happy in His care.

“We have had several thunderstorms around for the past few days with a tornado or two touching down that caused some damage and some light showers. We really

need more rain but could do without the other two. Had a lot of hail the other side of Houston, so much it covered the ground.

“**Nell**, we hope you are still improving with all the spring sunshine.

“**Lois and Cecil**, we hope you are improving. Would love to hear from you.

“**Jim Mondy** of Springfield and **Jim Mondy** of El Segundo, we are still praying for you, and hoping for the best.

“**Bob** was here from Hawaii the middle of April and we enjoyed his visit. He had been in Montana for a conference and dropped by to see us.

“**Jerry** and family are OK. They help us out a bunch

“Love all of you a bunch and my how we would love to see you.

“Lots of love, **Russell & RA.**

\* \* \*

From time to time our roving reporter, **Pat Mondy** of Corpus Christi, TX suffers an attack of *cacoethes scribendi* (that's the urge to write, if you have forgotten your Latin) and supplies the Chronicle with some of her interesting episodes. This time, she was not the rover, just the entertainer of other rovers. You will find her report at the end of this Chronicle.

\* \* \*

In the last issue of the Chronicle I mentioned that our cousin, **Nell** had written a book which was being published. I suggested she tell us the name of it and where it might be available. I received a flyer from her this week put out by the Dorrance Publication Company, which tells what it is all about, and how we can order it.

In 1924 Uncle Daily went to the Modern Woodmen Sanitarium at Colorado Springs and after school was out for the summer, Aunt Ethel, Nell, Dad, and I went out to visit him on the same train. Nell had a little box of animal crackers and shared them with me. They were the first I had ever seen. Grandpa Mondy was already there and we all lived in a rented house. One of my favorite memories was Grandpa taking Nell by the hand and with me following, leading us to a little store about a block from where we lived and buying us a piece of candy or some gum. Nell was about three, I was seven. Uncle Daily died later that summer, leaving Aunt Ethel and Nell alone. I became better acquainted with Nell my last year in High School. Aunt Ethel had a small set-up at school where she served soup, sandwiches, and pie to the students who bought their lunch. One day she gave me a bowl of the soup and I thought it was the best soup I ever tasted. Aunt Ethel stood by her throughout her college career and I am sure she was proud of her accomplishments and I am certain she would be even prouder today. Nell we are all proud to call you our cousin and I can hardly wait to read your book, *You Never Fail until You Stop Trying*.

\* \* \*

From **Dena Houston** in Winona, MO (5/21)

Last night there was a tornado warning in Shannon County for a tornado spotted on the ground close to Birch Tree about eight miles from Winona. Haven't yet heard what damage it may have done. Sounds like it got kind of wild around Springfield too. All we got was a little rain and we need rain here badly.

My daughter-in-law is opening her Dollar General as manager right here in Winona. It is a first for this area. We only

have a little over one thousand people living her and are so happy about it. *[Margaret loves Dollar General – lots of bargains.]*

Tomorrow night we are going to see Nephew **Ben** graduate from Kindergarten. I will come back here and leave for Pocahontas Thursday or Friday evening to take Mom to Perry Cemetery near Hardy. I also expect to visit the Masonic Cemetery and the Randolph County Memorial and I hope I will be able to visit Mom Mondy's grave at Shiloh. I also want to attend the Memorial Service honoring the Veterans which will be held in downtown Pocahontas.

**Nell**, I hope you are walking better. I think of you often.

Love to all, Dena

\* \* \*

Excerpted from a note from **Judy Washburn** to Margaret:

"**Jeannie (Newsum)** called me on Mother's Day and said that **Mary Jean** was fine and coming to their house for dinner. Also that Jeannie and Richard are coming to Texas on June first, will be in Houston for a few days before going on to Austin to visit their boys.

\* \* \*

(5/22) I just received an email from **Nell** and a phone call from **Jerry (Thornton)** who had just returned from a visit with **Lois and Cecil**. Lois is at home with nursing service around the clock. Cecil is in hospital in Tallahassee, will begin chemo treatment soon for a tumor near his right eye.

\* \* \*

Just received a letter from **Bessie and Bertha**. They say:  
Glad you had a safe trip to California

and back and hope **Jim** is doing alright by now.

Bertha and I have not made our annual trip to visit the cemeteries between here and Pocahontas; hope to go about the 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>.

So much going on here; we are trying to keep up our yards and we have a wedding coming up on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, my great granddaughter (**Ann and John's** (Smith) granddaughter is getting married.

I had a medical checkup on May 4<sup>th</sup> and on May 11<sup>th</sup> we made a trip to New Mexico with Daughter **Dolly** to have a Mother/Daughter banquet with Jennifer at her church for Mother's Day. We had a wonderful trip and lots of fun playing with great grandson **Little John** and visiting with **Jennifer and John**.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of May I had a small fatty tumor removed from my right side. Took about 30 minutes in the doctor's office, came home afterward. I'm okay.

On the 18<sup>th</sup>, Bertha and I went to see our eye doctor for our annual checkup.

Last night we had quite a thunderstorm and today is cool. They say it will be down in the 40's tonight. We got a good rain but we are still below normal.

So far as we can find out, all the folks here in Springfield are okay, and we hope all the Chronicle family are doing well.

We will write a longer letter after we return from our trip to Pocahontas.

Love, Bessie and Bertha

Remember, if you keep your mouth shut you won't end up with your foot in it.

Write, write, write

Harrison