

*The Mondy Morning*

# CHRONICLE

Family Poop Sheet since 1990

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Today is March 1, 2002.

Five months ago this date, Margaret received her hip replacement. Today, she walked a mile, the first time she has tried it. Before her accident she could walk it in fifteen minutes; today, it took her 25 minutes but she did it without her leg hurting, though she was puffing a bit. The temperature was below freezing. She swears she's going to get back to her 15-minute mile.

Our weather has been rather cold but clear for the last couple of weeks. It looks like snow tonight, and we can use it. Yesterday we had a high wind and at 19 degrees, that's cold. Of course, so long as we stay in the house we don't notice it. Our house stays at a comfortable 70 degrees, so I run around much of the time without a shirt. I just hate having something on my top.

\* \* \*

From the DUFFERS, League City, TX  
(2020/02/20/2002) If written at 8:20PM  
Dear Everybody

"This week we had a letter from a friend. He said, 'It's been so long since I've heard from you I thought I might ought to send you letter c/o St. Peter. (Guess you might think that about us.) We mean to write, but when we sit down, we just don't want to move a muscle, so, day by day, we don't write.

We are about the same as usual; lots of pain in our shoulders, hips and knees, but

with our knees, but with our walkers we manage to get along, though slower. Now and then we think we need to go to a home, but we sorta like it here where we can go to bed when we want to and get up when we want. We get 'meals on wheels' and that helps me out even though the dog gets a great deal of it. Sometimes it is real good and by adding a dab of this or that to it, we get along fine. The Lord is good to us to let us live together for these 67 years.

"We had a new addition to the family this week. Jerry's oldest son and wife had their first baby. Both are almost forty years old. All three are doing well. That makes us 4 great boys and 4 great girls. [See last issue of the Chronicle for more about this.]

"Last night I had my first major accident. I was going to bed and my foot didn't turn right and I fell between the dresser and the bed, sorta close place. I yelled for Russell as I fell but he didn't get there in time. He wanted to help me up but I said, 'wait until I see how things are'. I tried to catch hold of something but could not reach anything. I shook my body and nothing dangled so I began the process of getting up. First I had to get my foot from under the bed. We tried this way and that and I finally got on my knees and with the help of the walker, I was finally up. Only a big bruise on my left side and shoulder to show for it. Now I don't want to try it over again soon. Margaret, I'm sure glad it wasn't like yours, I would never have recovered.

(Duffer, Cont'd)

"And, Margaret, we are so in hopes your eyes will be OK and you can keep on reading. Hope both of you are well. And we hope the same for all you other cousins and friends. We pray for you as we hope you pray for us.

"We so enjoyed **Savannah's** story telling us about where they live and about the yurts, and all the animals. We'd love to see it all but we will have to stay in our little home, all under one roof, and not so cold. We do admire you.

"And **Mark**, we loved your 'Grandpa story'.

"We have been having some real cool days, but today was beautiful and we sat out on the porch for quite a while and enjoyed it.

"One of our trees starts putting out leave as soon as the sun shines, it seems, so it is beginning to leaf out."

Love to all, Russell and RA.

\* \* \*

From the **VYCITALS**, Tempe, AZ  
*[Ken is th son of my sister Alma]*

"Yes, we are still alive and kicking. This has been a busy and eventful year for us so far and I decided to write at least one letter this year.

"You know, of course, that my grandmother Vycital of Alamota, Kansas passed away in January..She had celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on on December 22, 2001. She had a stroke that left her unable to swallow food and when they tried to feed her intravenously, her veins were unable to handle the needles. For the first time in 92 years, there are no Vycitals in Lane County

Kansas.

"Sue and I flew to Denver and Colorado Springs, then drove the rest of the way. This was my first trip by air since 9/11 and because of the increased security, we almost missed out flight. On the return flight I was searched twice and had to pull off my shoes twice. I was glad they looked through my bag; they found a pair of sox I thought I had lost in Kansas. **Sue** says she is never taking me with her again.

"Dad has been to **Lu's** house in California, helping her cut back her bushes. As soon as it begins to get warm, the rattlesnakes come out of their dens and if this year is like last, there will be a lot of them around her house. She lives in Ramona, just outside of San Diego and her property backs up against a National Forest. She has five horses, plus dogs, cats and other assorted animals that keep her busy.

"She wanted the bushes cut back and trimmed so she could see under them since that is the favorite hang-out for rattlers. She gets along with the snakes, – just carries a shovel with her and kills them if they get too close.

**Emily** (almost 16) now has braces, but only on her upper teeth. Braces have come a long way since I had them. Now they glue the brackets onto the teeth instead of bands and she has only one wire instead of the multi-wires I had. She even has a choice of colored bands! Because of a special scholarship from the dentist, she is getting the whole treatment without cost (which makes her Dad happy). So long as she keeps her grades up, continues in some form of school activity such as band, and stays out of trouble, everything is paid for. She got a

scholarship for writing an essay on why she wanted braces and how it would improve her life. She's happy; I'm happy.

**Brian**, (18) is now Seaman Recruit Vycital. He joined the Navy a few weeks back and I watched him take his oath. He is on a delayed entry program and will not have to report for basic until August 12<sup>th</sup>. Until then, he goes to a PT meeting one Saturday out of each month for training, and calls in to report each Monday. He is guaranteed the position of Gunnery Mate after boot camp with an opportunity to try out for S.E.A.L.S, or their support group. During the time he is in the Navy he will be taking classes toward a college degree and if he completes the courses, he will come out with no less than his AA, perhaps more. He will also get \$40,000 toward college on his GI Bill. He has been training hard every chance he gets so that he is physically fit. He is extremely excited about the whole thing. He's happy; I'm happy.

"Sue has been working her tail off as usual. Car sales have been down for some time and she is working long hours.

"Me? Well I just keep goo-gooing along. I've cleaned up our whole yard for summer, cut down three trees, two of which had died and the third almost dead. I helped Emily put a concrete border around her flower garden and tomorrow we will be planting flowers. Soon I will be planting some bushes.

"Uncle Harrison, in the last Chronicle you mentioned that the price of stamps was going up because so many people are using e-mail. I was thinking, which is usually a dangerous thing, that maybe you could send the Chronicle to me via e-mail. I would be willing to try it out as a pilot program.

"From Arizona, love to all, Ken

*[Ken, I am considering setting up a website so that all of you with email can get the articles for the Chronicle at your convenience, but don't hold your breath. I don't know what all is involved.]*

Here's your Sunday School Lesson

### WHY DID PAUL GET A HAIRCUT?

So Paul got a hair cut! The Bible says so! So what, you say. Lots of people get haircuts. What is unusual about that?

Nothing in the Bible is without significance. The last part of the 18<sup>th</sup> verse of Chapter 18, of the book of Acts says "At Cenchreae he (Paul) cut his hair for he had a vow." (Cenchreae was a suburb of Corinth) The questions are, Why did Paul cut his hair and why at this time? What was the vow?

To understand this we need to go back a way. Stephen was stoned to death in about AD35 while Paul (Saul at that time) held the garments of those who threw the stones. Not long after this incident, he left for Damascus with authority to drag into trial any member of the sect known as "The People of the Way" and have them put to death. But on the road he came face to face with Jesus and was converted. After a trip to Jerusalem and a conversation with James, Head of the Nazarene church, he took the Nazarite vow. (See the Book of Numbers, Chapter 6 for some of the items included in the vow.) Paul's vow included the vow of chastity (no sexual activity) and the vow that no razor would touch his head. When he was charged before Felix as a ringleader of the Nazarenes, he admitted to being a member of the sect known as the "People of the Way".

Now when a man wanted to terminate a vow, he had his head shorn. So Paul had his head shaved to show he was at the end of his vow. He was no longer required to be celibate!!! Was he about to start a round of the red-light district of Corinth?

Oh No, not Paul, he was about to get married. And who was the object of his amorous intentions? You will find her name in Acts 17:34 where a woman named Damaris became his follower. After their marriage (in Cenchreae, where he had his hair cut) she changed her name to Phoebe (which was common among women when they married, especially if exposed to the public) and became a deaconess. Romans 16:1 "I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deaconess of the church at Cenchreae, . . ." Did this interfere with Paul's preaching? No, for remember, one of the rules of behavior for certain members of the People of the Way, was a man could not be intimate with his wife except in December and if she had a child, he had to remain celibate for three years, in case of a girl and for six years in case of a boy. And during this celibate period, a man's wife was to be treated as a sister to him and was called his sister. This did not prevent her following him on his journeys (as did Magdalene who followed Jesus) and when Paul was criticized for it, he said, "Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Peter?" (See I Cor 9:5).

Now according to Barbara Thiering (Author of "Jesus the Man") with whom I disagree more often than not, especially with dates, Paul's wedding took place in AD53 (I think it was in AD50 for by AD53, he was back in Antioch) and they had two daughters, born three years apart. According to her, Paul was 36 and Damaris was 20. (Damaris was born in September, AD30.)

Well, now you know (a la Mondy) why Paul got a haircut.

(I need another filler.)

Here's your Nature Lesson

### PLANT TALK

Can plants really talk? Well not really. But they can communicate to other plants and to animals. Take the wild tobacco plant for example. It is the favorite food for certain caterpillars. Of course it would rather grow in the sun and rain with its roots gathering nutrients from the soil and its leaves gathering carbon dioxide from the air and energy from the sun and converting all this into more plant, more leaves, and most importantly, into seeds to propagate its kind in accordance with Nature's command, "Be fruitful and multiply". Then along comes a moth (which is obeying the same command) to lay its eggs on the underside of a leaf which hatches into a hungry caterpillar which starts eating the leaf. What is the poor plant to do? Warn other plants to expect an invasion of caterpillars? Cry for help? It does both. As soon as the caterpillar starts chewing on the leaf, its saliva triggers a response in the tobacco plant that causes it to slow down its other activity of growing, and take some of that energy to create pheromones which it releases to the wind and which are detected by other tobacco plants in the vicinity which causes them to stop their growth long enough to produce a chemical that discourages the moth from laying eggs on their leaves. If a certain wasp "smells" these pheromones, it says something like "Whoop-de-la-la, I smell dinner for my kids," and following the trail of pheromones to the plant where they are coming from, it hunts up the poor caterpillar and lays an egg on its back, which hatches into a larva that eats all the insides out of the caterpillar. The wasp is obeying the same command. So, you see, although plants can't talk or scream for help, they can communicate.

**YOU DIDN'T WRITE!!**