

THE CLAYTON CHRONICLE

The Scottsdale Scoop

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THE SKY IS FALLING

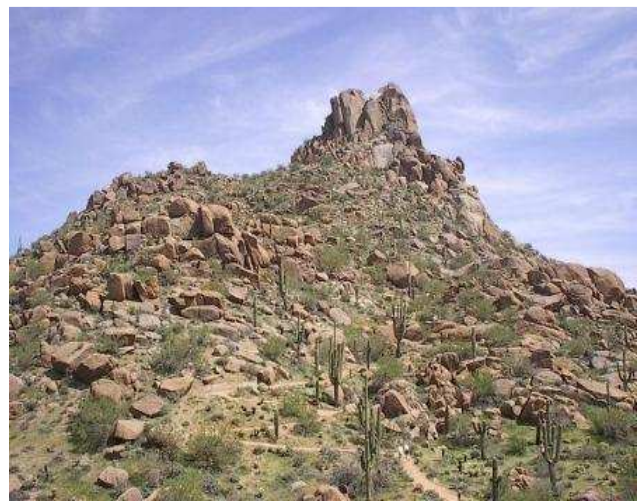
January began with our house a shambles after the plumbing mishap two days earlier. Carpet was pulled up, dryers were blowing, and the ceiling below was at least discolored, and possibly sagging. Then things got worse.

About the time the carpet was dry and fastened back down, the garage door opener suddenly quit working. Instead of fixing a sixteen-year-old opener, Ken spent the first Saturday of 2008 replacing it with a newer model.

The next Saturday provided another setback, when the same problem toilet upstairs overflowed again, soaking the recently dried carpet and further damaging the ceiling and walls below. If they hadn't already required replacement, they certainly did after the second flood. We rented a dryer from Home Depot this time, content to dry everything ourselves and not worry about salvaging the carpet and pad. The carpet is still there (not tacked down), but will soon be replaced with tile.

Checking on a brake noise in the SUV resulted in replacing the master brake cylinder, and the upstairs TIVO became unwatchable, adding to the ever-growing list of things requiring repair or replacement.

Finally, Angie doesn't need to be replaced or repaired, but she is getting older, hitting the big four-oh at the end of the month. Besides our normal family celebration, Sara Reinstein also initiated an adults' night out. Ken and Angie went out to eat with Ken & Sara, Matt & Lara Roser, and Chris & Nan Egbert, then went to a movie with Chris and Nan.



We may have hiked Pinnacle Peak in January, but our luck didn't seem to be at a high point

mission reunion?

After mentioning her mission in her first Relief Society lesson (new calling), we found out that Jeremy Bones also served in our same mission (much later than we did).

While doing his church calling, Ken found out that Tyler Beecher, who served with us from 1988-1990, had moved into our ward.

teachers

The kids started the new year with new teachers at church. Marnie's new CTR 6 teacher is Sister Peterson, and Jeff (Valiant 10) is in Sister Mann's class.

Chad moved on from the Primary and advanced to Sunday School. His teacher in Course 12 is Sister Reed.

family in phoenix?

In late January we heard from Angie's sister, Sandy, who is planning to move back to the Valley of the Sun.

Chauvin has just found work here, so they are selling their house in Michigan. Once here, our kids will have local cousins (Mac and Ally) again.

RANDOM THOUGHTS

By Chad

1. I entered the world of Middle School physical education on January 7. I learned that they make boxer shorts for everything imaginable (bands, Naruto, etc.). However I have been spared shower time, which was discontinued at my school because of towel-snapping. Instead the locker room smells like body spray, but at least there's no nudity. I'd much rather see Naruto boxer shorts.
2. I gave a talk on January 13 on "My Eternal Family." I thought I did pretty well and I got some compliments. I listed things we can do to help our families become eternal, such as having regular family prayers and scripture study, as well as outings. I also mentioned family history and said, "If you've ever read my family's newsletter you know that I am forced to write family history."
3. They revived my favorite lunch dish at school: the teriyaki dippers are back!
4. I bought a new CD (The Audition: Champion) that came with a CD booklet autographed by all the band members.
5. We got Singstar Pop and I finally found songs that work for me. I rock at *Kryptonite* by 3 Doors Down (8,260 on my first try) and do well on *Vertigo* by U2 and *Move Along* by All-American Rejects. Strangely I also scored high on *Baby One More Time* by Britney Spears.



MLK DAY

By Jeff

JANUARY 21

On Martin Luther King Day, we get a day off from school to remember Martin Luther King Jr. and what he did for our country.

Dr. King helped African-American get the fair freedoms that they deserved, just like all other Americans. He did this by speaking out peacefully, not by encouraging violence. Most people know of his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, in which he spoke of his vision of a future with equality. One line I memorized from the speech is: "I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood." I watched the speech on YouTube.



Some people hated Dr. King, and he was eventually assassinated.

In our family, since we were off school and work, we hiked up Pinnacle Peak, where we saw several of our ward friends. We ate out at a place we hadn't gone as a family before, Grilled Expedition, and then we went to Dave & Buster's for a while. We bowled and played games upstairs.



Q&A WITH MARNIE

- Q: How many Webkinz do you have now?
A: Three. I got two from Santa Claus: a Platypus named Marioman (Jeff helped me name that one) and a Pug named Webkinz.
- Q: And then you got another one?
A: Yes. Later my cousin Ally gave me a turtle that I named Cindy. We also gave her the nickname that was Cinderblock.
- Q: What do you do with your Webkinz?
A: You register them on the Internet and you can play with it.
- Q: What's your favorite SingStar Song?
A: *Material Girl*. [singing] "Cause we living in a material world, and I am a material girl!"
- Q: Any others?
A: *Uptown Girl* because I like the sound of the music and the video too.

FROM ANGIE'S EASEL



This looks a little unfinished, but what can I say? I was done.



I wanted to try faces, and I love this photo of George Harrison with Patti Boyd. Patti looks like a cross between me and her, but she did look a little more like this as she got older.

I SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM

During January, Angie decided to experiment with making home-made ice cream. Armed with a few Ben & Jerry's recipes off the Internet, she found several that were big hits and easy to make!

Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough

Chop cookie dough into small pieces and freeze.

Whisk 2 eggs in a mixing bowl until fluffy. Whisk in $\frac{3}{4}$ c. sugar, a little at a time. Add 2 c. heavy cream and 1 c. milk. Whisk. Add 2 t. vanilla and whisk more.

Freeze according to instructions. 1 min before done, add cookie dough pieces.

Chunky Monkey

Whisk 2 eggs in a mixing bowl until fluffy. Whisk in $\frac{3}{4}$ c. sugar, a little at a time. Add 2 c. heavy cream and 1 c. milk. Continue to blend. Transfer to ice cream maker and freeze per instructions.

Mash 2 over-ripe bananas with the juice of 1 lemon. 1 min before done, add bananas, 1 c. Special Dark cut into chunks, and walnuts (optional).

Raspberry with Chocolate Chunks

Toss 1 pint fresh raspberries with $\frac{3}{4}$ c. sugar and the juice of $\frac{1}{2}$ a lemon. Cover & refrigerate for 2 hrs, stirring every 30 mins.

Whisk 2 eggs in a mixing bowl until fluffy. Whisk in $\frac{3}{4}$ c. sugar, a little at a time. Add 2 c. heavy cream and 1 c. milk. Continue to blend. Drain raspberry juice into the mixture and blend. Mash raspberries until pureed and stir into ice cream mixture. Transfer to ice cream maker and freeze per instructions. 1 min before done, add 1 c. Special Dark cut into chunks.

New York Super Fudge Chunk

Melt 4 oz. unsweetened baker's chocolate in microwave for 60 seconds. Stir until entirely smooth. Gradually whisk in 1 cup of milk.

Whisk 2 eggs in a mixing bowl until fluffy. Add 1 cup sugar a little at a time, whisking constantly. Add 1 cup heavy whipping cream, 1 t. vanilla, and a pinch salt and continue blending. Add chocolate mixture and blend until smooth. Refrigerate 3 hrs; then transfer to ice cream maker to freeze following the instructions.

2 minutes before done, add: $\frac{1}{2}$ cup Special Dark bar cut into chunks, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup Symphony bar cut into chunks, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup pecan halves, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chocolate covered almonds cut in half.

MEDIA ROUNDUP

AT THE MOVIES...

National Treasure 2: Book of Secrets

40-somethings pretending to be 30-somethings search for the lost city of Gold in historical monuments.

Ken: ★★★

Angie: ★★½

Chad: ★★★★★

Jeff: ★★★★★

Marnie: "I was scared when Ben's mom and dad were separated in the cave, but happy when they were back together. And Abigail helped find the treasure."

Cloverfield

20-something up-and-comers in NYC try to escape a skyscraper-sized monster; filmed entirely with handheld camera. You might want to re-think that extra butter on the popcorn. Angie seriously considered puking.

Ken: ★★½

Angie: ★★½

Juno

Hilarious tale of a 16-year old rocker who gets knocked up, finds imperfect adoptive parents, and actually picks her life up where she left off. Seriously, you just have to see this one. Angie can't remember the last time she laughed this much in a movie.

Ken: ★★½

Angie: ★★★★★



The Jane Austen Book Club (Airplane & DVD)

Friends meet to discuss the six works of Jane Austen (what, no *Lady Susan*?) and find parallels within their own lives. This is a good substitute for people who don't have actual friends or aren't in an actual book club. Plus, Hugh Dancy.

Angie: ★★★

The Simpsons Movie (DVD)

An eco-disaster hits Springfield, the town that trusted Homer Simpson at the controls of a nuclear power plant. Caution: contains full frontal cartoonal nudity!

Angie: ★★½

Chad: ★★½

Jeff: ★★★★★

Marnie: "Maggie is my favorite because she was digging a tunnel in the sand."

MUSIC

The Shins: *Oh, Inverted World*

Angie ★★★

Ken ★★★

The Shins: *Wincing the Night Away*

Angie ★★★★★

Ken ★★★★★

The Shins are like The Smiths minus the whining. *Wincing the Night Away* is perhaps a perfect CD, one song blending into the next like road trip background music.

We also picked up compilations by ABC and The Clash.

BOOKS

Case Histories by Kate Atkinson

Angie ★★½

I mistakenly thought this was a collection of short stories and started reading them out of order when we were in Italy last September, which made the book a little hard to follow. Once I read the chapters in order, it all clicked into place. A very good mystery.

Born Standing Up by Steve Martin

Angie ★★★

Pretty cool autobiography by perpetual navel-gazer Steve Martin. A good, fast read.

Walt Disney: Young Movie Maker

by Marie Hammtree

Jeff ★★½

I read this for a school assignment. I liked the part when Walt's dad bought tar to fix leaks in the roof. Walt thought it was black paint, so he started painting a picture of his favorite pig on the side of the house.

PARTING SHOTS

- Ken took over new responsibilities at work, training to take a larger role in closing the quarter/year's books. He is NOT looking forward to doing it on his own in April, July, October and beyond.
- Angie made quick work trips to San Antonio and Atlanta during the month, but it could have been worse. She might have had three other trips, but she either skipped them or they were cancelled. Ken, swamped at work, was glad.
- With Hollywood's writers on strike and no new television, DVDs received for Christmas got lots of play in January. We watched a lot of *Seinfeld* as well as the first season of *Flight of the Conchords*.