

THE CLAYTON CHRONICLE

The Scottsdale Scoop

ISSUE 206

SEPTEMBER 2008

IMPROVED ACCOMMODATIONS

In the months since we moved to Arizona, we have had a few house guests, but very few have visited twice. It might have something to do with the bedroom situation. Chad and Jeff each had bunk beds, and Marnie had a twin bed, which required some improvising when it came to bedtime. Sandy and Chauvin chose an inflatable bed in the laundry room. Calli and Dusty used Chad's bunk beds. We separated Jeff's bunks for Grandma & Grandpa Liscom one time (so that both were on the floor), but the railing wasn't detachable and Grandma had difficulty getting out of bed the next morning.



Queen room with shared bath
(a.k.a. Chad's bedroom)

Chad helped out this summer by requesting a queen bed for his room (never mind that we gave away a perfectly good bed before moving to Phoenix because Chad didn't want it). After a September trip to IKEA, his room is now the designated guest room, featuring the new European-style queen bed, a dresser, and TV (DVD player available at no extra charge). Sorry, no bathrobe or slippers are provided, but we might leave a mint on the pillow for special guests.

Downstairs, we also finally upgraded the kitchen table. The marker and paint stains are gone, and there are no spots from fingernail polish remover either. All the chairs feel sturdy, and we hope that our kids are old enough now to keep this table in better condition than the last one. That's the plan, anyway.

So if you're a family member or close friend and you've thought about visiting the Arizona Claytons, now you have another reason (as if you needed more!). At least we can offer you a bed made for a couple that *isn't* in the laundry room.

diagnosis

Jeff threw up at lunch one day and was rushed off to the nurse's office. Before the nurse could call Ken or Angie, Jeff offered his own explanation:

"I'm not sick. I think the food just got too close to my uvula, so I gagged and puked."

She let him go back to class.

California

After getting scolded for something one day, Marnie was full of self-pity: "I'm dumb! I'm stupid! I'm from California!"

We have no idea what that means.

Or what she has against Californians.

200 by 40

Sometime in mid-August, Ken realized that he had six months left before his 40th birthday, and he decided to lose weight rather than have a midlife crisis. Angie agreed wholeheartedly, encouraging him to lose weight.

The goal is to be under 200 pounds by his birthday in February. So far he's down 15 pounds, with 15 to go.

SCHOOL AND SCOUTS

By Chad

SEPTEMBER 5 & 21

This month in English we had a debate based on *Flowers for Algernon*. The question was whether a surgery to increase intelligence (which took place in the book) was ethical or unethical.

I was on the team that was against the surgery, and I presented our closing argument. My argument was that the experiment was not for the greater good because it was not moving forward. I was pretty persuasive and our team won. The other team thought we had won based on any one of our arguments, and our team did win.

Also this month we had a court of honor where I received the awards I worked on this summer at camps and on my own. I ended up with my Life rank advancement, 11 merit badges, and my Kayaking award. It was easily my biggest court of honor ever.



A DAY IN THE LIFE

By Jeff

What is life like for a fifth grader? Read on for my perspective.

7:30 – I wake up and get ready for school (I wish I could have more sleep time).

8:30 – Either Mom or Dad drives us (Marnie and me) to school. This is the earliest we can go, but we get to play for 25 minutes before school.

9:00 – School starts. Language Arts is first.

9:50 – I get up and go to Mrs. Brown's room for Math, my favorite class.

10:30 – I go back to Mrs. Adamson's room for writing, where we usually have a fun sheet or a project we were working on earlier.

11:10 – Next is Specials, which is a rotation of Library, Music, PE and Computers. My favorite is Library.

11:50 – Recess. Woo hoo!

12:10 – Lunch. I like to eat. It's pretty good.

12:30 – I go back to Mrs. Brown's room for Reading. I like this class too.

1:10 – Back to homeroom for Social Studies.

1:50 – Science, which is pretty fun if it's a science topic that I find interesting. On Thursday part of this time is spent with our first grade buddies. My buddy is Marnie's friend Cade.

2:30 – KidBiz or Accelerated Reader time. We log into our laptops and work on an assigned article or an AR quiz.

2:50 – It's clean up time!

3:00 – School's out! I walk home and Chad is already there. Sometimes get started on my homework. Other times I play video games first [evil laughter].

5:00 to 6:00 – Mom, Dad and Marnie get home, and sometimes I get busted for not starting my homework. We usually have dinner around 6:00.

Evenings – I have scouts on Wednesdays or Thursdays at 7:00. Otherwise it's time for homework or procrastinating.

9:00 – This is my room time, when I can play around in my room. Often I have to read 20 minutes if I haven't already.

9:30 – I'm supposed to go to bed, but I'm usually still in the middle of a video game.

DADDY – DAUGHTER CAMP

By Marnie

SEPTEMBER 26-27

On Daddy-Daughter camp night we drove there in the dark because we needed to buy firewood and we were also looking for signs to tell us where it is. We finally got there and it was awesome. It was really dark and we had a campfire and at night there was a bunch of coals under the fire. And I used it to get fire on a stick and so did a bunch of other girls. After that I just went in the tent and went to sleep.



The next morning we had breakfast and we went on a hike. We saw a tarantula, a caterpillar, and a cocoon. It was fun to camp with my friends like Bella (in the photo below), Sophie R., Alisha, Wednesday and Krystal. I was so happy that I got to go. That's it. The end.



FROM ANGIE'S EASEL



This was a cool desertscape that looked like the moon. I liked all the colors in the rock formation and the weird cloud shapes.



This field of poppies was fun to paint. I wanted to make it look slightly more modern which was suggested by the actual photo anyway.

...AND KEYBOARD

Angie scaled back on her blogging in September, only doing 4 posts:

- *Virtual RS/PH #17: The Great Plan of Salvation*
- *Is Pride the Only Sin?*
- *What's Most Important to You?*
- *First Families: BOM and Restoration*

Ken also tried his luck with two posts under the name Carter Hall:

- *What Would You Change?*
- *Superman vs. Spiderman*

MEDIA ROUNDUP

AT THE MOVIES...

Ghost Town

Ricky Gervais plays a misanthrope who sees dead people after a near death experience and tries to win Tea Leoni from a humorless environmental lawyer. Better than that sounds.

Ken ★★★

Angie ★★★



DVD

Chuck: Season One

Likeable nerd gets a government computer uploaded into his brain, turning him into an intelligence asset. Despite how the setup sounds, it's more of a comedy than a realistic spy drama.

Ken ★★★½

Angie ★★★½

Chad ★★★★★

BOOKS

The Book of Fate by Brad Meltzer

A former president's aide fights conspiracy theories and his own personal demons. The information on the Freemasons seemed like it was thrown in to sound like *The DaVinci Code*.

Ken ★★★

Angie ★★★

The Book of Lies by Brad Meltzer

A former Customs agent fights conspiracy theories and his own personal demons. This one links Cain's murder of Abel to the creation of Superman.

Ken ★★★

Angie ★★★

Fablehaven 3: Grip of the Shadow Plague

by Brandon Muller

Kendra and Seth go to Fablehaven for a third summer.

Chad ★★★

MUSIC

Bayside: Shudder

Chad ★★★★★

Bayside: Live at the Bayside Social Club

Chad ★★★★★

RANDOM NOTES

- Marnie started a singing class this month made up of young girls from the ward: Sophie, Kennedy, and Jordyn.
- Angie made a short trip to Houston early in the month, leaving just a day or two before Hurricane Ike stormed through the area.
- Ken and Chad went to a Diamondbacks baseball game with Matt and Matthew Roser. It was probably more fun for the dads than the boys, whose ages don't exactly line up. Chad is 13, Matthew 2.
- The house demanded a little more attention against this month. We had more pool issues and got the carpets cleaned. We also scheduled the tile installation for the kids' bathroom.
- The house next door, which is the same model as ours, has been for sale for 6 months and is currently listed at \$115 thousand less than what we paid. That's depressing.
- Speaking of the economy, Lehman Brothers declared bankruptcy late in the month. Angie had to make a last-minute trip to New York as a result.

PARTING SHOTS



Our two North Ranch Wranglers had their school pictures taken in September.



The new kitchen table mentioned on page one.