

THE CLAYTON CHRONICLE

The Scottsdale Scoop

ISSUE 180

JULY 2006

TIME FLIES, JUST LIKE SUPERMAN

I recently took the boys to a comic shop here in Phoenix to buy some comics and cards. What I saw there shocked me: Superman on the cover of Action Comics #840. That may not seem terribly shocking to most, but it reminded me that at one time, many years ago, I owned Action Comics #500. Seeing this new issue was a reminder that 340 months had passed since I had picked up the older comic, some 28 years ago.

Witness this as another example of how quickly time passes: we were married 179 months ago and will celebrate our crystal (15th) anniversary next month. For those who knew us back then, does it seem that long ago to you? So when you glance up and see that this is issue #180, don't worry that you missed the first 179 issues dating back to August 1991. They didn't exist. But if I get ambitious, I may go back and create them. The backdated newsletters could then replace our existing family history—the one that doesn't exist except in our memories and individual journals.

For the time being, we hope our newsletter will be a fun way to keep in touch with everyone. We've been in Arizona for nearly six months now, and this should help us share all the big landmarks and some of the little events too, as we try to fill a few pages each month. That should be easy in months with vacations and baptisms and graduations and the like. In the more mundane months, we'll share about our normal everyday. Before you know it, you'll glance up and wonder where the last 339 months have gone.

—Ken



weather

The high for the month was 116°. We were fortunate to be on our way to Philadelphia that day (see page 3).

The temperature topped 100° a total of 23 days during the month.

The overnight lows only dropped below 80° six nights during the month. Not only does it get hot, but it stays hot even when the sun goes down.

travels

Besides our family trip, Angie was the only one to travel all month, but she did enough for all of us. She was in Dallas, Houston, Omaha, San Antonio, Salt Lake, and Albuquerque, and was diverted to Austin during a storm.

She flew a total of 8,400 miles on those trips, plus over 4,100 miles on personal travel (page 3 again). Too bad she didn't earn frequent flyer miles on most of those work trips.

television

Thanks to John Perry (Ken's brother-in-law), who helped complete a long-delayed project.

While his family was visiting (see page 2), Ken was working to hang the new television on the wall above the fireplace. John volunteered to help, not knowing he had volunteered to help lift the 150-pound TV at least three times and hold it in place while adjustments were made.

HEAT AND HOUSEGUESTS

JUNE 29 through JULY 6

In July, members of our extended Clayton family made their first trip to visit us in Arizona. Grandma and Grandpa Clayton, along with Kim and Trevor, had arrived on Thursday, June 29. The Perrys and the Rhoades drove into town on the afternoon of June 30. By the time July started, the party was in full swing.



There is a lot to do in the Phoenix area, but they don't call it the Valley of the Sun for nothing. The temperature on the first day everyone was here reached 108°. As a result, we all spent much of the day indoors or in the pool. There may have been a trip to IKEA involved that day as well. Sunday after church was much like Saturday. The kids had fun playing with cousins both in the pool and out, and the adults either visited or played pool volleyball.



Monday was Jeffrey's eighth birthday, which was the main reason the family had decided brave the heat and visit during July. He was baptized and confirmed on his birthday, and was excited to have so many members of the family in attendance. (Jeff will write more about the baptism later). After the service, we headed back to the house for lunch and more swimming. That evening some of the family went to a train museum here in Scottsdale and out to dinner while we took Jeffrey out to his restaurant of choice: Mimi's Café.

The ward served an Independence Day breakfast Tuesday morning, and Debi and John's family left from there to drive home. Marnie cried for an hour, screaming out "Raaaaay-chelllllll" as often as her sobbing would permit.

On Wednesday, Grandma took Jeff to the Scout Store to pick up his birthday present: a new Cub Scout uniform to use now that he's eight.

On Thursday Calli & Dusty left for home with their boys. That evening, Ken & Marnie took Grandma, Grandpa, Kim, and Trevor back to the airport for their flight home.



MY BIRTHDAY AND BAPTISM

By Jeff

JULY 3

When I woke up, I went to have my hair trimmed. Then we went to the church. My family was there first, and we set up the chairs for the baptism while the font had to get filled. When it got closer to time, Dad and I changed into the white jumpsuits and took pictures.

Bishop Duke (my friend Parker's dad) conducted and Sister Duke played the piano. We sang, and then my Aunt Calli did the opening prayer.

My Grandpa Clayton gave the first talk. He talked about baptism and how important it is. Then I was baptized. It was easy. Dad said the words and all I had to do was plug my nose and go under water. John and Dusty were the witnesses just to make sure I went under all the way.

After we dried off and changed, the second talk was by my Aunt Debi. She talked about the Holy Ghost being like a blanket because he warms you and so does a blanket. Then my Dad confirmed me a member of the church. The Bishop, Dusty, John, and Grandpa also stood in the circle. After that Bishop Duke talked, we sang, and Grandma Clayton gave the closing prayer.

I'm glad I could be baptized on my birthday and that my family could be here.



AT THE MULTIPLEX

We made it out to the movies more than usual in July. Here's what we saw and how we liked each show.

Wired to Win

IMAX movie at the Arizona Science Center about a team of Tour de France racers.

Ken - ★★½

Angie - ★★½

Chad - ★★½

Jeff - ★★

Marnie - "What bike movie?"

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest

A daring hero and his love, a pirate who still thinks he's Keith Richards, and lots of special effects.

Ken - ★★★

Angie - ★★★

Chad - ★★★★★

Jeff - ★★★

Marnie - "The people who had skin were good, but the bad guys were stinky."

Superman Returns

The granddaddy of all superheroes is back. Lois Lane thought he should have stayed on Krypton. Angie agreed.

Ken - ★★½

Angie - ★★½

Chad - ★★★★★

Jeff - ★★★

Marnie - "Great and not great. I liked when Superman saved the people in the water. I didn't like when Lex beat him up in the water."



DID YOU KNOW...WHAT I DID ON SUMMER VACATION?

By Chad

Friday, July 21

Scottsdale, AZ to Paradise, PA

I flew on an airplane the whole day. That's basically all I did today. There was a short power surge in the Cincinnati, Ohio airport. Did you know that the Cincinnati airport is actually in Kentucky? I had 3-way chili (spaghetti covered with chili and cheese) in Cincinnati. We arrived at the house at 1:00 AM and didn't get to bed until after 2:00 AM. That's all I did, Buh-Bye.

Saturday, July 22

Lancaster County, PA

I slept about 9 hours, and didn't wake up until 11:00. After that, we went shopping. We came home and swam and played in the pool. Soon after that we went to the Kohlers' and played there while Mom and Dad were at the high school reunion. I got to go to Friendly's at about 12:00 midnight, and I ate a giant Jim Dandy sundae.



The boys enjoy their vacation with Game Boys

Sunday, July 23

Lancaster County, PA

We slept in until about 11:00 AM today, then we went to the church and saw the Kohlers and the Astons. A few other people Mom knew too. Soon after I went and changed at the house. Then we went to Miller's Smorgasbord with Caroline Spayde, Mom's friend since she was 3 years old. I ate 5 plates of potatoes and 3 of pot pie. We went out to Three Mile Island nuclear power plant, Elizabethtown to see the flesh-and-blood house where Mom lived for a while, Brother's Pizza (one of Mom's favorites), Mom's old house in Bainbridge, and the old distillery site

JULY 2006

by her old house. We got ready for our trip to Philadelphia by watching *National Treasure* twice while we drove around.

Monday, July 24

Philadelphia, Valley Forge and Hersheypark

Today we drove out to Philadelphia. We went to Independence National Historic Park which includes Ben Franklin's old house site and a tour of Independence Hall. It was cool to see the assembly room where the First and Second Continental Congresses and the Constitutional Conventions met. Did you know that at times the Constitutional Convention only had ten delegates attending? Did you know that the highest amount of delegates at one time was 29? On the way back we stopped at Valley Forge. Then we went to a preview night at Hersheypark where I rode The Great Bear (inverted steel coaster) and we rode the Coal Cracker (flume ride) because Marnie and Jeff wanted to go on it over and over.



Valley Forge and the Sky Ride at Hersheypark

Tuesday, July 25

Hersheypark

The best ride was the Storm Runner. It was awesome. It goes 100 mph, does a corkscrew loop and a barrel roll and "straight down vertical horsepower" as they say. I also rode the Sidewinder in which you do a half loop into a loop, then do the whole ride backwards. There was also a coaster called the Wildcat, which was brutal and old. Jeff rode one big coaster, the Comet, but didn't want to try any others. Overall, Hersheypark was pretty fun during the roller coaster part. Oh, and pierogies rule!

Wednesday, July 26
Lancaster County, PA

Today we went to a boring Mennonite Information Center. We had to watch a slide show presentation on three screens that was totally weird. It was about the Amish people and who they are. Then we went to Plain & Fancy Farm and sat with a family from Israel. I had 5 rolls, 3 plates of mashed potatoes and 3 plates of chicken pot pie. Then we drove to Elizabethtown so I could get some pizza at Brothers. And after that we went swimming back at the house.

Thursday, July 27
Philadelphia

We decided to go back to Philly a second day. We saw the Declaration House where the Declaration of Independence was drafted. I had a way awesome Philly cheese steak with cheese whiz on top. We also went on a Ride the Ducks tour, which is an amphibious tank. We rode in the streets and the Delaware River. Did you know that Philadelphia's favorite ice cream flavor at one time was Tomato Spice? Did you know that there are bubble gum trees on South Street? They don't grow bubble gum. Everybody just sticks their chewed gum to the bark.



Chad plays the part of a red coat being hanged in a reenactment in Philly

Friday, July 28
Lancaster County, PA to Washington, DC
We went to Ford's Theatre and saw the pillow that Lincoln died on. We walked almost as long

as the pioneers did, and saw the White House and the Department of the Treasury. Then we went to Hard Rock and I had a half-pounder bacon cheeseburger. Only thing is it should have had BBQ sauce. Then we went and saw the Einstein Memorial and I climbed on top of his arm. We went to the Lincoln Memorial. Then we saw the Korean War Memorial, which reminded me of my favorite TV show, *M*A*S*H*. In addition we saw the Vietnam War Memorial and the Signers Memorial, which was in the middle of a pond. Finally, we got stuck on the freeway next to the Pentagon for two hours when the car ran out of gas.



The family on the Washington Mall

Saturday, July 29
Washington, DC to Wilmington, DE
We took a tour of the Washington Monument, which means going up to the top. At the National Museum of American History, they had four things from *M*A*S*H* on exhibit, but didn't have Hawkeye's robe or the signpost. Our last museum that we went to was the National Museum of Natural History. They had a dead platypus (boo hoo!) and a dead echidna (also boo hoo!). Then we drove to Wilmington, Delaware, ate at Olive Garden, and got ready to fly home the next day.

Sunday, July 30
Wilmington, DE to Scottsdale, AZ
Today we drove back to Philly and got on a plane for most of the day. That's about it.

Q&A WITH MARNIE

- Q: Were you happy when Raychel left Phoenix?
A: No, because I miss her so much. And I love her so much.
- Q: What was your favorite thing on the vacation?
A: Going on lots of rides at Hersheypark.
- Q: Which rides were the best?
A: The one that went around and the ladybugs that went around and the cars that went around and the Chocolate World one.
- Q: Who was Mommy's friend that we saw?
A: I don't know.
- Q: Who went to dinner with us two times?
A: Caroline! I liked when she took us to a place that had a whole table and you were sitting at the end. But I don't like when we saw the snake. It was in the covered, remember?
- Q: What story did Caroline tell about her grandmother?
A: Her grandmother said, "When I die, lay me down on the table and cut me open and you will see that I have a tapeworm." But not me, I don't have a tapeworm. That's crazy! There are no tapeworms. That's like tape on a worm!
- Q: Do you remember the girls who dressed you up and had all the Barbies?
A: Emma and Hannah? They were so nice. They were a little bit taller than me.
- Q: What did they teach you to say?
A: "Ooh, baby, I'm gorgeous!"
- Q: Tell me about Franklin [Ben Franklin].
A: I thought he was a turtle, but he was a human.
- Q: Did you want to sit on his lap?
A: No.
- Q: Why not?
A: Because I thought he was a monster.



Marnie, Ken, Ben Franklin, and Jeffrey



Jeff and Marnie on a ride that goes around



Marnie views the Washington Monument



Marnie asleep after church one Sunday