

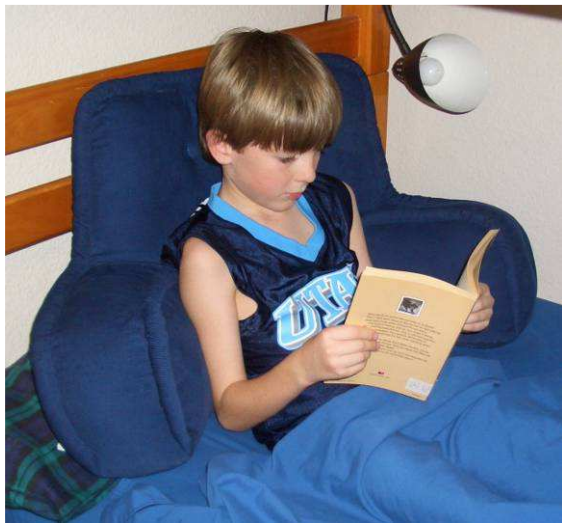
THE CLAYTON CHRONICLE

The Scottsdale Scoop

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HOMework AND HALLOWEEN MAKE FOR SPOOKY OCTOBER



Jeff catches up on homework right until bedtime

When we returned home on October 1 from our trip to Walt Disney World, it seemed we were behind on everything. Ken and Angie needed to catch up at work. We needed to unpack, do laundry, and grocery shop. The swimming pool was a mess. We had four sessions of General Conference saved on TIVO. We needed to do some birthday shopping for Marnie in the next few days. And last, but certainly not least, the boys had homework.

Completing homework from six days of absences was no easy task, and with the quarter ending on October 13, we only had two weeks to catch up while also keeping up with new work. Jeff studied rocks and minerals, read *The Midnight Fox*, and wrote a book report on an *Animorphs* book, all in addition to the daily math, spelling and other routine assignments. Besides Chad's daily work, he completed a fairly large mythology assignment (at the last minute) and prepared for a trip to Exchange City that he will write about later.

After a few hectic weeks, the homework was done and the quarter ended. The end result was good grades, but both boys could have done better. Mom and Dad took their share of the blame because of the missed school days, and the boys resolved to do better next time around.

On a related note, two weeks later Ken and Angie attended parent teacher conferences. For the first time ever, it seemed like the teachers really knew both boys, their abilities, weaknesses, and personalities, which is even more amazing after only ten weeks of school. Miss Engelking told us stories of Chad pushing the limits, usually by following rules very literally. This didn't surprise us at all, as Chad likes to play with the letter of the law when he fully knows the spirit of the law. Mrs. Brown affectionately referred to Jeff as her absent-minded professor, which seemed a pretty good assessment. Mrs. Bjerkestrand mentioned that although Jeff needs to work on some things, he makes her smile every day.

media

Ken started *River of Doubt* (about Theodore Roosevelt) while Angie and Chad both read *The End*, by Lemony Snicket. Chad bought a Weird Al CD featuring the song *White & Nerdy* while Jeff bought *Pokemon Red Rescue Team* for his GBA. We picked up the CD *Barenaked Ladies Are Me*. On TV, *Heroes* has become a new addition to our weekly lineup.

Fosters on Friday

It may sound like the title of one of the kids' Magic Tree House books (*Dolphins at Daybreak*, *Buffalo Before Breakfast*, etc.), but it was nothing so exciting.

On the first Friday of October, ward friends Rob and Anna Foster came over to watch the *Battlestar Galactica* season premiere.

travels

There were only two short trips this month. Angie made a two-night excursion to New York for training early in the month, staying at The Warwick, a hotel where Cary Grant once lived.

Later, she was supposed to spend four days in Cincinnati, but was able to cut her stay considerably, returning after only one night.

Q&A WITH MARNIE

OCTOBER 5

Q: Do you remember your birthday?

A: A little.

Q: How old did you turn?

A: Four!

Q: What did you get for your birthday?

A: A Game Girl!

Q: Tell me about your Game Girl. What is it?

A: It had games and I got a Princess game with Ariel and Cinderella and I got a Mr. Pencil game. It's really called a Leapster, but I call my Game Girl because the brothers have Game Boys.

Q: I think you also got a bunch of clothes. Do you like clothes?

A: Yes. I like my purple ones and the other ones.

Q: Did you take treats to school on your birthday?

A: I took cupcakes that were orange and yellow and green.

Q: And what about dinner? Which restaurant did you pick?

A: Elephant Bar because I like it so much. There's back seats and we get deserts and I like the ice cream cookie one (see below) a lot because it had crunchy stuff. There's also a giraffe that's a statue, but I think that years ago it was alive and a bad guy that shoots giraffes shot it. And I think the elephant got shot too.

Q: Anything else about your birthday?

A: For lunch we had hot dogs and corn and lettuce. That's all.



ACCOUNTANT FOR A DAY

By Chad

OCTOBER 10



Although there are many great educational opportunities during your years in grade school, Exchange City was probably one of the best for me. Exchange City is a fun program where kids run everything. They run the post office, SnackZZZ!!! (the shack shop), city hall and Techno-Geeks (a technology shop).

When I saw the list of jobs, the ones that really popped out at me were: city finance manager, disc jockey, accountant for a radio station, graphic designer, and evidence shooter (supplying judge with crime photos). I had to turn in a resume with references and get interviewed. I actually missed the interview due to being at Disney World, but I was the only one who applied for the job as city finance manager, so I received the job.

On the morning of Exchange City, I dressed the part of the finance manager. I wore a yellow shirt, dress pants, and even a tie. I think that was the first time I ever wore a tie to school. I also had a green sticker to identify my lunchtime and afternoon break.

When I got to work, I had to present the loan papers to the mayor and show the city hall employees our business plan. Most of the plan was to fine people like crazy. We had to earn \$180 in fines in order to get our giant loan paid off in five hours. There were three rules to start with: no food or drink outside the snack shop, no walking on grass (or fake green carpet), and no getting off task. The mayor kept getting off task and I ended up doing half his job and all of mine. As citizens, we created three additional rules: must walk across bridge like a supermodel, no obscene gestures, and must chicken dance when in bathroom.

My main job was make sure that our loan was paid off, all our services were paid for, to collect all fines, and make sure that all shops paid for our services. For all this work, I was paid \$12.80 in fake money for my day's work (\$13 minus twenty cents tax). I mainly saved my money, but I did buy a pennant that said *Let's Go Jazz!* and a pin to go on it.

Clearly, you must see why I enjoyed Exchange City.

JEFF STARTS CUB SCOUTS

OCTOBER 10-12

More than three months after turning 8, Jeff finally attended his first Cub Scout meetings and got his first chance to wear the uniform Grandma and Grandpa Clayton gave him for his birthday:



We found out that ward activities are limited in the summer months because of the heat and the members' travel schedules. Even when the summer ended, things didn't start up immediately because Jeff was the only eight-year-old in the pack.

During the first 10 days of October, all three of Jeff's Primary classmates turned eight: Parker Duke, Ben Thomas, and Ralph Powers. That got things started.

Jeff and Parker started working on building boats one Tuesday night, and all four met at Sister Powers' house the next night to quickly finish up. Thursday night, October 12, they went to Pack Meeting and raced their boats in the Raingutter Regatta.

SHOCKING NEWS

Late in the month, we made the decision to skip the fall season at the Shakespearean Festival. We didn't think twice about traveling north for the six-play summer season, but making that same trip in October for only three plays just didn't seem worthwhile. As a result, we missed out on *The Merchant of Venice*, *Peg o' My Heart*, and *Johnny Guitar*, only the fourth, fifth, and sixth plays Ken and Angie have missed in the last ten years.

FUNNY STORY (OR WAS IT?)

Marnie ended up in Mom and Dad's bed one night and the whole situation was pretty amusing to everyone except her. She was already upset and very defiant, and it only got worse when her Mom and Dad found her behavior funny. Ken started laughing, but tried to keep quiet. Even though Marnie couldn't hear the silent laughter, it was making the bed shake. Once she realized what it was, she was even more offended:

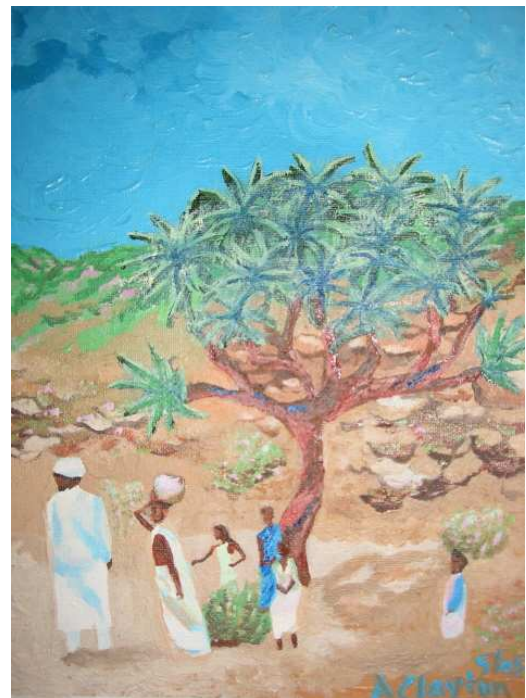
"If you don't stop laughing at me, I'm not going to be your friend for the rest of the day," was her first threat. Keep in mind that it was 11:30 at night, so there really wasn't much day left.

She continued, "You guys stop it or I won't love you ever again."

After a few minutes it wasn't funny any more, but for a while it was very entertaining or annoying, depending on whom you ask.

FROM ANGIE'S EASEL

Angie says: "I like the colors in this one and I like the sky with the different layers in it. This was my first attempt to paint people and it's not entirely successful. I finished adding detail to the background that helped this picture a lot."



HALLOWEEN

By Jeff

OCTOBER 27-31

Halloween stuff started on Friday at Marnie's school. At her party there was a big Halloween parade and she wore her Snow White costume. Last year she wore the same costume, but it was at least new to Arizona. Although there was a Halloween party at Marnie's school, there was no Halloween party at mine.

On Saturday, my ward had a Halloween party sort of, but it was a "trunk or treat." We all wore our costumes except for Chad who didn't ever put it on, just because it was dorky. Mom was a witch and Dad wore a Jazz uniform. I wore my unknown phantom costume, but I refused to bring my scythe, because they might think it was a real one. Just kidding. My costume had a hood on it that I put my head inside. Nobody could see my face but I could see out through the mask and see their faces. The tag said, "You can see out, but no one can see in."

At the ward party there was a costume contest, but there were some so-so costumes that actually beat mine. There was also dinner, and then we headed outside. Trunk or treating is where there are trunks filled with candy. We walked around to the cars we ended up getting LOTS of candy. I can't even count how many pieces I got.

Finally, it was time for trick or treating on Halloween night. Chad (Napoleon Dynamite) went out with his friends, and I went with Marnie and Dad. I scared an adult with my costume by having the mask on and then hiding and surprising them.

