

THE CLAYTON CHRONICLE

The Scottsdale Scoop

ISSUE 187

FEBRUARY 2007

SHORTEST MONTH SHORT ON ACTIVITY

February came and went, but nothing very notable really happened. It was simply one of those slow, mundane months, with our time divided among the usual suspects: work, school, scouts, and church.

The weather was cooler than normal, so we didn't make it back into the pool. We kept having a string of warm days that would raise the temperature to where it was almost swim-friendly, at least for the kids. Then we would have a 50-degree day and the water would cool right back down.

There was one funny story as Angie and the kids returned home from the Cub Scout Blue and Gold Banquet. As they drove north on 64th Street, Angie swerved, then explained that she was avoiding a dead cat on the road. Chad, who clearly wasn't thinking very alertly, asked, "How did the cat die?" He soon realized that was a silly question, and the rest of the drive home was spent imagining how the cat died. Somebody figured that the cat was having a heart attack and staggered from the yard to the street before dying. Another possibility was that the cat was sky diving, and when his parachute didn't open, he happened to land in the middle of the road.

Finally, Ken turned 38 (it should be noted that he's still younger than Angie, who turned 39 last month). Our attempts to do something fun on his birthday were mostly thwarted. We tried to visit the Arizona Science Center, but a festival downtown made that nearly impossible. We headed to possibly take a short hike in the Superstition Mountains, but a highway closure made that difficult. We settled for a drive home and dinner. Fairly uneventful, just like the rest of the month.



Chad shows us the money on a class field trip to the Arizona Renaissance Festival

patrol leader

Ed Elliot, Chad's scout leader, asked him to be patrol leader for his last six weeks as an eleven-year-old scout. For those few weeks, he will help Brother Elliot lead Tanner Jorgensen, River Waldron, Eli Thomas, and Ben Knutsen. Then it will be on to the regular scout group and Deacon's Quorum.

media

Angie read *The Peacegiver*, the first selection of her Enrichment Focus Group Book Club. Ken picked up the Red Hot Chili Peppers' newest CD, *Stadium Arcadium*. Chad enjoyed reading *Heir Apparent*, *The Dark Pond*, and *Artemis Fowl: The Lost Colony*. Jeff started reading *Abel's Island* at school and wrote a reading response on a poetry book he read.

one year

February 19th was not only President's Day, but also our one year anniversary since moving to Arizona.

Time flies when you're having fun (e.g. basking in the sun by the pool, not experiencing winter).

FROM ANGIE'S EASEL, PART 1

A slow month yields more paintings.



This is a square in Los Llanos, island of La Palma. The painting is a little disappointing. I wanted to capture the stormy sky and the rustling palm fronds, but the details of the square got a little problematic, and I abandoned it early. The tree in the mid-lower right is very good, though.



Very simple painting of a papaya. I think this took about 45 minutes.



These plums were tough because they were two different types of plum. As a result, the blue plum looks unreal next to the "plum" plums.



This prickly pear cactus came out perfectly. My only wish is that I had used a darker background by blending in some cadmium orange.



These star fruit came out well, although the canvas was a little damaged from storage, and its flaws made working the painting a little difficult.

Q&A WITH MARNIE

FEBRUARY 3

Q: Remember when Haley came over to play?

A: Yes.

Q: What did you guys do?

A: Put on costumes. Haley put on Ariels wedding dress, and I don't remember what I wore. Maybe ballerina.

Q: That might be right. Where did you meet Haley?

A: We rode on my ATV in the backyard. And I met her at school.

Q: Do you remember when we cleaned your room and moved the furniture?

A: Yeah, and we put the bed right here. [She closes one eye and moves her finger up and down, apparently describing where the bed is.]

Q: Do you like how the room is now?

A: Yeah, because now I can see the door better and watch movies and I'm not scared.

Q: Remember when Alesha came over for dinner?

A: I like Alesha. She's pretty.

Q: Did you guys play?

A: Yeah. We made a club in my bedroom. We may a sign that said "no boys allowed" except for Jeffrey. And maybe Chad was allowed.

WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?

MEET THE LANEYS

FEBRUARY 11

After missing January, we invited the Laney family for dinner this month.

- ❖ When we asked Mike what he did for a living, he said he was a stock trader, which we took to mean a stock broker. Later he mentioned that his work attire consists of t-shirts and shorts, so we asked more. It turns out he stays home, trading his own money, and is successful enough to make it work. Ken was jealous.
- ❖ Mike is our Ward's Executive Secretary. Years ago, he served in the Portugal mission that absorbed Madeira and the Azores from Ken & Angie's mission in 1990.
- ❖ Andi has been the ward's Primary Secretary since we arrived here, so she knows our children well. Andi is also a returned missionary, but we can't remember where she served.
- ❖ Alesha is 6½, so Marnie, at 4½, thinks she is great. She is doing Kindergarten via home school this year, but they live nearby and she may attend first grade at North Ranch next year. That would put her in the same school as Jeff, and Marnie would join them in the following year.
- ❖ Isaac turned four early this year and is a Sunbeam in Primary. He really enjoyed playing our Wii.
- ❖ Joslyn was just born last summer.

FEBRUARY FESTIVAL FRIENDS

By Chad

FEBRUARY 13

This month my class went to the Arizona Renaissance Festival for a field trip and I got to spend the day hanging out with my friends. My main friends at school are Christian, Dylan, Colton, Cody, and McKay.

Christian Wilson is obsessed with monkeys. He has always lived in Phoenix and is a big Nintendo fan. When he slept over, he kept calling my Dad *sir* until Dad said he didn't have to.

Dylan Bender lives across the street and is ***obsessed*** with penguins. He used to live in Pittsburgh, New York, and Indiana, and has been here about two years longer than me. He is super energetic, like he jumps around while playing video games and he has to talk all the time.

Colton Williams is big on Nerf guns and throwing parties. Although he can only have one soda a week, he has the biggest soda obsession I have ever seen. He used to live in Kansas City, but moved here about 4 years ago.

Cody Koch doesn't really have any obsessions. Big surprise. He used to live in Michigan until the start of fifth grade, moving here just a few months before we did.

McKay Holt is the only other Mormon in the sixth grade. He likes paintballing (the subject of our science project), biking, and go kart racing. He has always lived here.

That does it for my main sixth grade friends.



Christian and Dylan attack Chad for his turkey leg

WHAT ABOUT MY FRIENDS?

By Jeff

For sure my two best friends are Parker Duke and Isaac Warren. Parker is my closest friend, meaning that he lives in a house that if you look out my front door, you can see it. He is a second grade, so I don't meet him so much at school, but he is my only neighborhood friend at church. I can only think of six kids at my school who are LDS: Cy Wickens, McKay Holt, Parker and Sydney Duke, and Chad and me.

In class and after school, Isaac is my best friend. He and I both like Pokemon, and I taught him about Pokemon. His dad comes to our class and reads to us, and he also comes and plays guitar and violin. Isaac and I like to play at each other's houses after school.

Andrew Cho is another friend of mine. When I heard that he had gotten through Pokemon Mystery Dungeon Blue Rescue Team as a Squirtle with a Charmander buddy, I tried to get a Squirtle too. Andrew is in my Honors Reading class and I see him at recess.

Kyle Oswant is another friend. He is obsessed with armies and fighting planes and talks about them all the time in Mrs. B's class.

I have a couple other good friends at church. Ralph Powers and Ben Thomas are both in my primary class and in Cub Scouts with me, but they go to a different school. I also have one good friend at church who is a girl. She is Lexi Reinstein, and our families do a lot of things together. We like to play Wii together, and have water gun fights or go swimming. When they come here we run up the street and ding-dong ditch the Dukes. That usually starts a war of ding-dong ditching between the two houses.

That pretty much tops it off. I have other friends but those are the main ones.

RANDOM NOTES

- Our early spring cleaning project continued, as we cleaned and de-cluttered Marnie's room early in the month. It was two more weeks before we built up the courage to tackle Chad's room, but we finally got there.
- This month we hired a maid, Pascale, to help around the house every other week. We like to call her our French maid, although she's actually French-Canadian. Apparently in Canada they don't wear the same little French maid costumes.
- The boys both participated in their school's Spellathon, raising funds for new technology. They each spelled all 30 of their words correctly to maximize their pledges.
- Ken and Angie spent one Monday morning on a tour of Desert Shadows Middle School, where Chad will spend the next two years. Chad affectionately refers to it as the prison compound, which is fairly accurate. Let's just say it looks very institutional.
- We made our first-ever trip to IKEA and Costco Home this month. We left Costco Home with a new recliner, a chair on order, and a plan to buy a new couch once the chair arrives. The green family room furniture is on its way out after more than eleven years.
- Angie planned an Enrichment Night for February 20, arranging a night of socializing and a Relief Society trivia game.
- Angie was back on the road a little, making three short trips during the month. She visited Tampa the first week of the month, made a same-day trip to Albuquerque the next week, then spent two nights in Texas (Houston and San Antonio) toward the end of the month.