

# THE CLAYTON CHRONICLE

The Scottsdale Scoop

ISSUE 192

JULY 2007

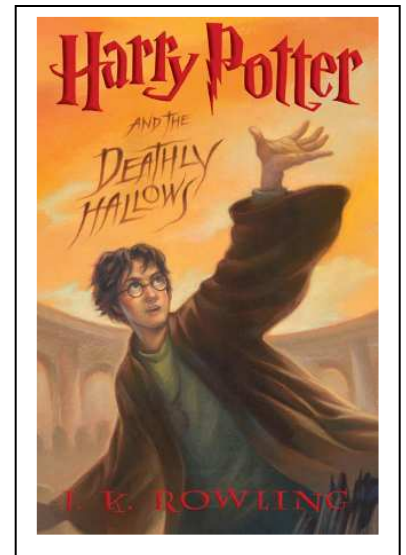
## BIRTHDAYS AND BUSINESS TRIPS AND BOOKS (OH MY!)

The first few days of the month were focused around Jeff's birthday (July 3) and Independence Day. Angie took the day off work for Jeff's birthday, so everyone was home but Ken, who left work early to meet the family at the movie theater. Jeff was excited that *Transformers* was premiering on his birthday, so he wanted to be there to see it on day one. After the movie we went to Mimi's Café, Jeff's choice and perennial favorite.

The next day we celebrated our nation's independence from the English oppressors. Our ward served a pancake breakfast at the park, and then we had our friends, the Reinsteins, over for the day. We had planned to barbeque and swim, but their visit was extended even longer when an odd topic from Ken's past came up: date stats. They were so entertained by Ken's exploits that Ken Reinstein thought it could be the basis of a book or TV series.

Angie spent much of the next two weeks of the month on the road, visiting each of her sites during Employee Appreciation Month. She eventually flew 13 flights on 3 airlines, logging 8,000 miles while traveling to San Antonio, Tampa, Houston, Albuquerque, Omaha and Linton, North Dakota (population 1,300). Her carbon footprint is roughly the size of Sasquatch.

Like many people, we eagerly anticipated the finale of the Harry Potter series, with our copy arriving on the release date of July 21. Ken, Angie, and Chad took turns with the book, each begging, borrowing, or stealing, as needed, to get their turns. The book was read almost constantly, only sitting still during church on Sunday and for a few hours overnight. We stayed up late, woke up early to read before work, and Chad read during the day while Ken and Angie worked. All three finished the book on Tuesday, four days after it arrived. Chad finished the book first, and for the first time ever, Angie was the last one in to finish a Harry Potter book.



### moderator

Ken was recently invited to be a moderator on his favorite Utah Jazz / NBA board, meaning that he is called upon to edit or remove objectionable posts. He has tried to teach a few wayward posters some lessons in etiquette.

Unedited post: "Only a total #@^%\*\$ idiot would say that ..."

After Ken's edits: "What a silly goose you are! ..."

### visitor

On the last day of July, we had our first encounter with a scorpion in the house! Hopefully it will be our last. It was in front of Ken's vanity in the bathroom, and he nearly stepped on it. Ken was able to corral it into some Tupperware and gently set it free. All right, we flushed it, but we're pretty sure the scorpion was biodegradable.

### sunday best

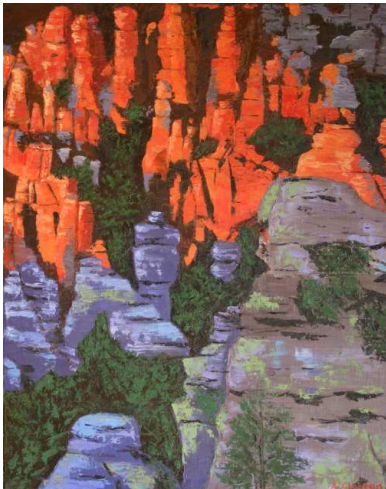
They say necessity is the mother of invention. When Marnie put on a new sundress for church, it was just a little too big. She didn't want to take it off, and we were going to be late, so after trying several things that didn't work, we just stapled the straps to make them shorter!

No daughters were harmed in the making of this solution.

## FROM ANGIE'S EASEL



This painting is kind of a mess because I started it before I went out of town for 2 weeks, and the paint had lost its elasticity by the time I got back to it. Lesson learned.



Hoodoo-mania! This is a canyon in southern Arizona that reminds me of Bryce Canyon. After the disappointment of the Ocatillo painting, I was thinking of taking a break, but this painting, done entirely with a palette knife, re-energized me.



I wanted to keep my momentum going by doing a simple, fast painting so I did this still life of mushrooms.



I love this one, particularly how the tree adds interest with the colors in the bark and how it frames the sky. This was palette knife with detailing brush. The pine needles really worked.

## THE GOOD, THE BAD, & THE DOUBTFUL

By Chad

In early July I decided to start a band. When my friends heard the idea they gladly jumped in although I only liked Christian's idea. Dylan wanted to play Banjo (ugggggg) and Colton wanted to be a belly dancer (girlish squeal accompanied by passing out). I decided not to let them in to the band. Before Christian spoke I held my breath and crossed my fingers hoping this would be a good suggestion. He wanted to be lead singer which was a great idea considering he was the best singer in the school. I suggested the band be named Surge of Doubt. When asked, Zach Reinstein wouldn't join.

I will play the electric violin and write the songs, along with the other band members, but I usually come up with the ideas for the songs.

Right now we have written 5 songs with no guitarist or drummer, so hopefully we can get those positions filled. As soon as we get the positions filled I'm going to launch a website, but for now getting positions filled is top priority.

## AT THE MOVIES...

### **Transformers**

A misunderstood teenage boy with a mysterious link to his new car/robot matches wits with deceptive robots masquerading as harmless pieces of technology.

Ken: ★★ ★

Angie: ★★ ½

Chad: ★★ ★ ★

Jeff: ★★ ★ ★

Marnie: "I would think 4 and a half. I liked where somebody's car was going like *Baby, Come Back*. That was really funny."

### **Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**

A misunderstood teenage boy with a mental link to a serial killer wizard matches wits with a deceptively sweet administrator in a fluffy pink suit.

Ken: ★★ ★ ½

Angie: ★★ ★ ½

Chad: ★★ ★ ½

Jeff: ★★ ★ ★

Marnie: "Three and a half. There were really scary parts where all those bad guys were trying to kill Harry Potter's friends. I liked Luna. She was so pretty, and she was feeding animals."

### **Ratatouille**

A misunderstood rat with a mental link to a dead Parisian chef matches wits with a deceptively hard-to-please food critic.

Ken: ★★ ★ ½

Angie: ★★ ★

Chad: ★★ ★ ½

Jeff: ★★ ★ ★

Marnie "Five. I want to do a number like Jeffrey did. Four. 100. I liked Remy and Linguini. I was sad when Remy lost his family, and the happiest part was when he found it."



## RANDOM NOTES

- Marnie was invited to a Princess Birthday Party for a school friend, giving Ken and Angie an opportunity to drop in and visit their long-time friends, Kevin and Allison Ellsworth.
- This month trip was Angie's first ever to North Dakota. Despite (or perhaps because of) so few inhabitants, it was quite beautiful. No, really.
- Chad got new rubber bands added to his braces, resulting in a "Hannibal Lecter" effect, just in time to begin middle school in August.
- Ken trimmed our major casualty to the Arizona freeze – the half-dead ficus tree that was showering leaves into the pool.
- Ken bought a new CD of simplified '80s hits, called "80's Stripped." Marnie has been singing *Jenny 867-5309* ever since.
- The Book Club met at Sara Reinstein's house to discuss *Screwtape Letters*, but due to a poor turnout, the meeting ended up as a card game that lasted until almost midnight. Perhaps if we had a Texas Hold 'Em Focus Group we could get a better turnout (and probably get released).
- Inspired by countless hours (we shudder to think how many) of watching America's Funniest Videos, Chad and neighbor friend Dylan decided to create their own video of wipe-outs on the skateboard. As expected, this resulted in a real injury for Chad who scraped his arm pretty badly when he fell on the sidewalk. No AFV prize money was awarded.
- Marnie finally left the water wings behind and became a truly confident swimmer (or at least doggie paddler).
- In preparation for some undetermined future trips, Chad, Jeff, and Marnie applied for passports. Chad is salivating at the prospect of international travel and has his eye on Europe.
- The Reinstains introduced our family to a new swimming game, Submarine. Come swim in our pool and we'll teach you how to play.

## Q&A WITH MARNIE

Marnie has developed quite an eclectic taste in music, which occasionally surprises people. One day when Ken told his coworkers that he found a Coldplay CD in Marnie's CD player, they were sure he meant to say *Angie's* CD player, not a four-year-old's. Marnie was exposed to even more music than usual as we cranked up the tunes on our recent trips.

Q: Marnie, what are some of your favorite songs?

A: I like High School Musical.

Q: What else do you like?

A: I like "She Will be Loved" by Maroon 5. That reminds me of me. Well, not she *will* be loved because I already am.

Q: What other songs?

A: I like "100 Years" because it's funny. It says "a hundred years." He's going on vacation for a hundred days I think.

Q: Do you remember listening to Queen on the trip?

A: "Another One Rides the Bus!" That song makes me dance, and it says, "Another One Rides the Bus" over and over. Oh, and "Fat Bottomed Girls."

Q: You know it's really called Another One Bites the Dust, right?

A: (dancing and singing around the room) "And another one gone, and another one gone, another one bites the dust!"

Q: What was that song we were listening to in the car the other day?

A: Oh, yeah, "I don't wanna lose your love tonight. I just wanna use your love tonight."

Q: What's that Jason Mraz song you like?

A: That one's funny about the "rocket in my pocket." I think Maroon 5 turns into Five for Fighting. I *think*.

## GOAT CHEESE WITH BELL PEPPER DRESSING

Saute 3 diced bell peppers (1 red, 1 yellow, 1 green) in 1 T. olive oil for 5 mins. Add 3 T. olive oil, 4 chopped cloves of garlic,  $\frac{3}{4}$  t. rosemary,  $\frac{1}{2}$  t. coriander,  $\frac{1}{4}$  t. fennel,  $\frac{1}{4}$  t. thyme, 1 bay leaf, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  t. black pepper. Simmer 5 mins. Remove from heat, and season with salt. Cool to room temperate (remove bay leaf).

Spread goat cheese on platter. Spoon pepper dressing over top. Let stand for 1 hour. Sprinkle with 2 T. pine nuts. Serve with baguette slices, crackers, veggie chips, pretzels, etc.

Wait for others to show up at enrichment meeting. When they don't, eat entire platter alone since the kids won't touch the stuff. Vow to resume diet the next day.

## SUMMER GAMES

By Jeff

When I was home during the day this summer, I liked to play my Nintendo DS. My favorite games are Pokemon Diamond Version, Pokemon Ranger, and unfortunately, I lost my Pokemon Pearl Version. I won't name names or anything, but let's just say it got lost. I like that they are RPGs (Role Playing Games). RPGs are fun because you are the character the whole time, and you can't change your character unless you restart your game.

My Mom also got us a copy of this book, *The Dangerous Book for Boys*. Chad and I learned how to make paper hats, paper airplanes and water bombs. I liked the paper airplanes the best. Some of them had deadly accuracy, except I'm not sure about the one called the "bulldog dart." I've never actually seen that one. We got so into the paper airplanes that mom had to deem the house a "no fly zone." She was tired of cleaning up all the paper airplanes.

With my friend Isaac, we were doing Union Room battles, where you link your DS's with a wireless connection to do battle with another person.

I also spent some time on Club Penguin. Club Penguin is a web site where you can waddle around, buy colors for your penguin (to paint it). When you're a member (which costs money) you can buy a lot more things like house decorations, clothes, and a lot more stuff to make your Penguin look cool and have a cool igloo (there's a double meaning in that!).

Sometimes I played Pokemon Puzzle League against my mom. She is the only person in our family who has ever beaten the game, but I beat her when I am on level 4, and she's on level 10.

