



MADDISON FAMILY HOLIDAY TIMES

Oceanside, California

Christmas 2005



2005 Round-Up

Another busy year of visits and travel for the family...

During the year the Maddison version of Hotel California saw visits by both Grandmas, the Mahers, Jenny Sanders, Patty's brother John, and others. This year we installed free Wi-Fi access in all rooms, next year we're thinking about putting in coffee makers and re-doing the breakfast buffet..

Flying the family places is getting to be a juggling act, but we did get a few trips in during the year.

In February we visited Seattle for a nice get together with the friends there, renting a cabin near Mt. Baker. The kids had a great time in the snow, quickly figuring out how to hit Sean with snowballs (he's not as quick as he used to be..). We're not sure they

quite understand the significance of "yellow snow" yet, though.

In June took the van to Yosemite for a camping trip with some other families from San Diego and had a fun staying in the tent cabins there.

It was off to Michigan in August for a visit with the Motor City branch of the family. The kids had a great time with their cousins, and Todd and Patty survived a day at Cedar Point. Late August had Todd in Seattle working on the rental house there.

September saw a trip to Palm Desert, giving us the opportunity to say "no" to timeshare salesmen and (at Anna's request) go down the waterslide one-hundred million times - as well as ride the Tramway so they could take

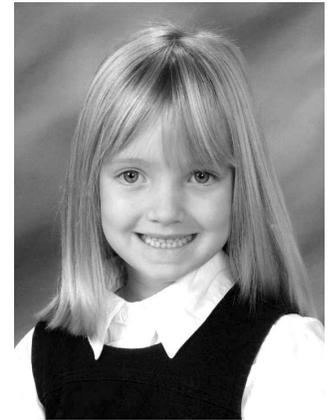
this picture.

October had Patty on the plane back to Detroit again, both for her class reunion (her 10th of course..) as well as her Dad's wedding.

In November Grandma Marilyn was nice enough to take on few days of baby-sitting while Todd and Patty escaped to Puerto Vallarta. That gave us another opportunity to say "no" to timeshare salesmen (in several different languages) as well as mix in some fun on a zip line and do some snorkeling under Los Archos. When we returned of course Grandma had the kids saluting when addressed and doing their own laundry...

Mid-November Todd did a backpacking trip to Mt. San Jacinto. Camping at 9100 feet was a bit chilly (he had to whack his water bottle every morning to break up the ice) but it was an outstanding trip.

Despite our best efforts to keep them little kids, Mary passed her 1st birthday in January, Katherine turned 3 in May, and Anna celebrated 5 in June. We might have them take up smoking or perhaps periodically starving them to stunt their growth. Nothing seems to be working so far, I guess we might just have to let them grow up..



Anna Starts Kindergarten!

It was grueling taking the KAT's (the Kindergarten Aptitude Tests) but Anna managed to pass and started Kindergarten at Ivey Ranch Elementary School.

Interviewed about the process, she said she'd had some difficulty with the math portion of the test. "I don't get why we have to count above 30. Can't we just call it "lots" from there?" she commented.

Of course she aced the English portion of the test, pointing out several questions had improperly conjugated verbs. She doesn't understand why some kids seemed to have problems with such simple sentences as "I seen Joey go wee-wee in his pants."

Outside of school, Anna spent her time learning to swim (she's got it down now, next year she'll be surfing...), dancing (her first recital was in May), and being a Daisy Scout—along with gymnastics and her weekly religion classes. Not to mention calculus and Mandarin Chinese... Whew!



Katherine Spends The Year Being 3!

Katherine spent most of 2005 being three years old. Playing with her Barbies and Pollies, refusing to eat anything brown, and protesting having to brush her teeth were key items in her year.

She started preschool, attending the same school

that Anna just left - beginning a lifetime of comparisons to her older sister we're sure will continue for decades and cause severe psychological trauma (right, Mark?)

Oh, and she's going to dance, gymnastics, and religion classes too!

Mary Learns To Play Nicely



“Mary?”

“Mary?”

“NO, Mary, it’s not NICE to pull your sister’s hair!”

“Mary, don’t take your sister’s Barbie without asking!”

“Mary?”

“Hey, no splashing or bath time is over!!!”

... and so the day goes for our one year old...

Mary learned to walk this year, and is excelling at being a toddler - running everywhere, attempting to break anything she can reach, removing her clothes at random, and generally making a mess out of every room in the house. What more can we say?

Next up, the Mysteries of the Potty...



To Yosemite!

One of our trips this year was a five day adventure to Yosemite National Park. Arranged by our friends John and Erin, we joined them and several other families—all with multiple children five and under—for a stay in some tent cabins at House-keeping Village.

Although the kids were almost all girls (poor little Sean..) there were many bugs examined, stumps climbed on, trails walked, and dirt accumulated.

It was a great trip and we’re all looking forward to a repeat in 2006!

Todd and Patty continue to work...

Yes, despite all the rumors we still have to work. Todd’s still Director of Service at Tweeter (picture of he and the service management group in Boston to the right.)

This year his territory changed , replacing Chicago with Houston, (which makes for a bit better travel schedule), his manager in San Diego took on full operational responsibility for the region, and he moved the office upstairs and got a bit better view. Enough of that.

Patty continues to juggle the kids, school, extra-curricular activities, meals, laundry, and the rest of the house—slaving away to keep everyone and everything in line and doing a great job of it all as usual!



The Year in Pictures!

