



MADDISON FAMILY HOLIDAY TIMES

Oceanside, California

Christmas 2006



2006 Round-Up

Hmmm.... The eternal Christmas newsletter question....what to bore you with this year...? We'll just launch right into it and hope you stay awake!

Both Grandmas visited around Christmas/New Years, Mary turned **two** in the end of January. Jean also turned (er... we **won't go there...**) in January so everyone flew to Seattle for the party!

We were lucky enough to see Uncle Johnny (**and his tickle finger**) in town for a day in early February, the Doran/Gallagher clan invaded a week later (complete with little **Tommy and Ginger!**), we saw Grandpa Harry in March, followed quickly by

"Auntie" Deanna.

Katherine turned **four** in May with a wild party at Chuckie Cheese (woo-hoo!), Anna turned **six** in June with (what else?) a **pool party** with her friends.

She also celebrated with a Daddy/Daughter **backpacking trip**—to Round Valley in Mt. San Jacinto. Anna did great hiking in—*just* as she was beginning to get a bit tired of walking we saw some **deer** in a meadow...

Dance recitals went well (Katherine's "**King Tut**" routine was the cutest thing..) and then we were off on more travel..

July saw us home for maybe a few days—first there was a trip to

Florida to visit Grandma Marilyn.

We went spent a few wonderful days at the Titusville Ramada Inn to see the **shuttle** go up but they postponed it too long, no luck!

Next up was a trip to **Yosemite** for Patty and the kids—with Marilyn flying out to join in.

Then the family flew off on a major **Minnesota-Michigan** trip. It was a logistical challenge but Patty did an **awesome job** coordinating it all.

Our friends Karen and Ron **moved away** in the summer, sad news for the kids, who miss their playmates .

More sad news, **Katie-Kitty** passed away early fall as well. She was a great cat, and certainly will be missed by all.

Todd did a backpacking trip (back to **Mt. San Jacinto**, this time for a climb to the top) with John between their birthdays in October.

Grandma Judy came to visit for **Halloween** (and did a spin around the cul-de-sac with the girls in their costumes), The Freibergers were back for a few days around **Thanksgiving**, and Grandma Marilyn came to help cook up a great Thanksgiving meal (along with every type of **pie and cookie** under the sun!)

No one planned to visit for Christmas, we hope yours is as restful as ours will be!



Katherine turns 4!

Our four year old moved up a a step in preschool, is learning to write (can spell her name now), and is spending more time learning how to draw (with her sister's help.)

Like all the girls she's becoming a computer expert, logging herself in and playing games (while of course doing her part to help find extraterrestrial life in the SETI-At-Home project..)

She had part of her 15 minutes of fame this fall when her picture appeared in the Union Tribune's Halloween issue. We're sure she'll be going on to become a top fashion model (if she can spare the time from her career designing rockets for NASA...)

PHOTO: THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE; CAPTION: PASSAGES: LINDA

Snapshots Memorabilia



Anna Graduates!

Yes, it's amazing what they do with kids in school these days, but after only a year of morning school hours Anna has graduated!

Oh.... It's only **kindergarten** graduation? Nevermind.... And don't tell her she's got at least another 12 years to go!

She got great "grades", excelling at "snack time", "listening to books", and "recess" (of course being good at math and spelling are a given...)

After a hard year in Kindergarten she spent most of the summer in the water. She's a slippery fish these days and will spend as much time in the pool as we'll let her. This fall she started first grade, is doing well and seems to like all-day

school so far. She's doing well at calculus, reading night and day (mostly Dostoevsky with a little Joyce), and we hope she's learning to write much more legibly than her Dad...

Anna continues to love anything to do with artwork—drawing, painting, clay, glue, whatever she can get her hands on (or get on her hands?) Next year will be colorful!

She talks!



And... sometimes may not shut up (which I'm sure you all recognize as Todd's influence..)

She's a little go-getter, voted "Most likely to grab what she wants " in the

family. She's certainly a challenge to the older girls!

Mary's developing into a bit of a ham as well, her Polly Pockets dance routine—where she's the lead singers and her sisters are the backup dancers— is famous (at least throughout the house.)

She's more than proud to announce when she's used the potty, and Mom and Dad are more than happy to be retiring the diapers to nighttime-only duty! Next year? The Shock of Preschool!

To Minnesota...



In July/August we packed up and flew off on a multi-state adventure, starting in Minneapolis, driving to Cook for a Musech family reunion, then bringing the kids and Grandma Judy North for their first stay at Namakan Lake with Grandpa Harry, Doris, and Uncle Mark (thanks Zikmunds!)

From there the crew headed for northern Michigan for a week with the Schwegman clan at Steve and Ann's place near Petosky.

Joe tried to kill Todd on a dirt bike but he survived, and it was great to spend some time with Grandpa Ben, Grandma Marilyn, and all the aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A great time was had by all, of course!



... and Michigan

Todd and Patty continue to work...

Patty's work was once again busy. Having Anna in school full time and Katherine in preschool three mornings certainly is good, but the girls all have their school/dance/Brownies/Awanas schedules, and Todd did quite a bit of traveling at some parts of the year—leaving it up to her to do the juggling!

Todd's work was even busier than usual. Tweeter changed extended warranty providers (a business worth \$30 million a year) and he was involved in the sales contract negotiations and the point man for the service agreement. The previous company didn't like the change, leading to potential lawsuits, again with Todd spending much time dealing with them..

In April Todd started in on one of the more intensive travel periods since joining Tweeter—being out of town for various reasons almost every week through the end of June..

On top of this he again found himself the point man on a big project, changing the pay plan for all of Tweeter's technicians nationally. More travel, more meetings, more number crunching... Fortunately things calmed down later in the year, we'll see how 2007 goes!

The Year in Pictures!

