

Summers' Scrapbook

1998

As I sit at the computer, Christmas music envelops the house. Trina and the kids are decorating the tree and wrapped presents are starting to appear. The excitement of this time of year is contagious. As I reflect on the past twelve months, I am amazed at all the memories I have from 1998. As I begin typing, each member of the family stops by to make suggestions on what should be included. When I finish taking notes of what they want in the newsletter, I suddenly realize they have enough information for this to become a Christmas novel rather than a newsletter. So find a comfortable chair and have a cup of hot chocolate as we recount our (condensed) memories from 1998.

January

The New Year began with two celebrations. On January first we celebrated new years with a family get together. The kids were very excited since they were allowed to stay up very late. Dakota rang in the New Year by beginning to walk. Jeff quickly determined that his damage path increased by a height of two feet. Trina's brother Lonny and his family stopped over for a visit on their way from Florida. This was the first time they had visited and Trina was very excited.

February

During February, Mallorie performed in a Middle School band concert. She is playing the flute and doing very well considering this is her first year. Jeff and Trina were very impressed with the talent she has shown and encourage her to continue to play. With four daughters, Valentines Day has become a major holiday. Each of the girls insisted that Valentines meant candy and flowers and Jeff responded. The month ended with Ashley and Mallorie both beginning track. For Ashley, this is her first year of High

School track. She is long jumping and triple jumping. Mallorie begins Middle School track. She is long jumping and running the relays. They are both very excited.

March

March was very exciting time for the family. For Jeff's birthday, Trina and the kids gave him new golf clubs. He was very excited and has been practicing a lot. Unfortunately, he is not improving as much as he is practicing. Jeff also went to his annual baseball spring training game. This was the first baseball game Dakota has attended. He was fascinated with the pitchers and catchers and watched them nearly the whole game. The month ended with Jeff, Trina, and Dakota attending the Arizona Diamondbacks opening game. It was an experience none of them will forget. Although the Diamondbacks lost, the atmosphere was exciting. Jeff and Dakota were like a couple of kids pointing things out to each other all night.

April

April began with Jeff's parents visiting from Idaho. They had not been down in over a year. It was great to see them and for the kids to spend time with their grandparents. They planned their trip over the Easter holiday so the entire family met at Jeff's brother Rod's house for an Easter egg hunt. Dakota did not fully understand what all of this meant, but breaking plastic eggs on the patio and eating the candy was okay with him. As the month ended, Dakota celebrated his first birthday. For his birthday, Jeff took him to an Arizona Diamondbacks baseball game. Jeff and Dakota enjoy being together at the ballpark. Trina is not as thrilled since Jeff always comes home with more Diamondbacks merchandise from the team shop.

Summers' Scrapbook

1998

May

May is once again the birthday month. With both Ashley and Mallorie having birthdays within two days, the house is one big party. This year was even larger as Ashley celebrated her golden birthday when she celebrated turning 15 on May 15. There is a tradition in the family where you receive the number of gifts that equate to your age on your golden birthday. Ashley was overwhelmed with her 15 gifts. Whitney is still feeling ripped. Her golden birthday was when she was two and she got two presents. For Mallorie's birthday, Jeff took her to the Diamondbacks game. They had a lot of fun and Jeff gave her a Diamondbacks jersey to wear to the games. He also caught a Ken Griffey Jr. home run ball so they were both very excited. Ashley attended the Arizona state track meet where she competed in the triple jump. During track season, she set a freshman record in the triple jump bettering the existing mark by over three feet. The coaches have high hopes for her. Jeff jokes that this is the reason he and Trina married, "to breed fast athletes with great vertical leaps".

June

June was a special month for Tiffany. She had her eighth birthday and was baptized a member of the church. It was a wonderful ceremony that involved the whole family. Ashley and Whitney spoke while Mallorie played a musical number on the flute. Everyone commented on how strong the Spirit was at her baptism. Immediately after the baptism, Jeff took Tiffany to the Diamondbacks game. The family was beginning to see a pattern here. Not everything went well during June. Dakota attempted to help Ashley get ready and grabbed her curling iron and severely burned his right hand requiring a bandage and dressing for three weeks. Jeff joked that perhaps this would teach him how to

become left-handed but that was not the case. June ended with Ashley attending fourth level girls camp. She was very excited for the experience.

July

July started with Ashley and Mallorie going to girls camp. This was Mallorie's first year at camp. She got a little homesick, but she loved going to camp and can hardly wait for next year. While the older girls were at camp, the younger ones were at home. Whitney had her friend Courtney from Iowa arrive for a week. They had a lot of fun getting caught up with each other. Tiffany and Jeff went to the Diamondbacks games nearly every night. Tiffany is the biggest fan of all the kids. She knows each player and their position. Tiffany caught a ball during batting practice and had it autographed. She also went to Disco night at the ballpark and received a CD for having one of the best Disco costumes. Towards the end of July, Ashley and Mallorie flew to Idaho for three weeks. Ashley attended girls' camp with her Aunt JoAnn while Mallorie spent time with her grandparents.

August

August saw a lot of activity for the family. The month began with Jeff taking the family to Idaho to both retrieve his wayward older daughters and to visit with family. Trina's father has had health problems recently and the family wanted to see him. It was a great trip as Trina's sister KayeLynn came from Indiana. This was the first time in several years that the entire family was together. After the Idaho trip, the three older kids once again began school. Ashley is now a sophomore, Mallorie is in seventh grade, and Tiffany is now in third grade. Whitney is feeling left out. She has another year before she starts school. As the month ends, Jeff took the entire family to the Arizona Diamondbacks game for the Sly the

Summers' Scrapbook

1998

Fox Beanie Baby giveaway. This was the first time the entire family had attended a baseball game together. To Jeff's surprise, it would not be the last.

September

On September 8, the family watched on television as Mark McGuire broke Roger Maris' home run record. Jeff and Tiffany went to the Diamondbacks game that night and saw the historic home run at the game. While he was there, Trina received a phone call from the Diamondbacks. During the Beanie Baby game in August, Trina met Rich Dozer, president of the Diamondbacks. There she made arrangements for Jeff to throw out the ceremonial first pitch at the last game of the season. On September 27, with the whole family in attendance, Jeff threw out the first pitch in front of 48,390 fans. He had attended all 81 regular season games for the Arizona Diamondbacks, and this was his reward. It was a tremendous experience that he will never forget. These events made September the most exciting month of the year by Jeff and all of the family.

October

October was another month where Dakota determined that life was becoming to boring around the house. He and Tiffany were playing ball in the house when he fell backwards cutting open his head. This resulted in him having three stitches and a severe distrust of the medical profession. October was also the time when Ashley and Mallorie had their Young Women in Excellence program. They each had to do a project and present it to the ward. They both did a very good job. Jeff and Trina are very proud of each of them. As Halloween approached, Trina was again busy making costumes for the kids. Ashley is no longer trick-or-treating, but she has a costume party to go to with her friends as a girl from

the 1950's. Mallorie dressed as a hippie from the 1960's. Tiffany went as Frankenstein. She was very scary and people could hardly tell who she was. Whitney dressed as little red riding hood while Dakota went as a 50's dude. They did very well in collecting candy. Dakota is still finding pieces of candy in the girl's rooms.

November

November is usually a quiet time of the year, but with a family this size that has never been true. This year was no exception. In the first part of the month, Tiffany had a school program. She played the part of a bus driver in a production about occupations. She is very talented and could do very well in drama. Thanksgiving was quickly here and the family prepared for the holiday. Jeff jokes that with five kids plus he and Trina, they have more people attending dinner than the pilgrims did for the first Thanksgiving. As the month ends, it is time to begin thinking of Christmas. The day after Thanksgiving, Jeff and Trina made their annual trek out to the stores to do their Christmas shopping. It seems that this ritual gets earlier and more crowded every year. It is amazing the length people will go to save themselves a couple of dollars. Trina kids Jeff that this day of shopping is the only date he ever takes her on that does not include a baseball.

December

As December begins, the house is once again transformed into a winter wonderland. Jeff and Trina decided to decorate the outside of the house this year. Since this is Arizona, they have to simulate the cold weather and decide to put up icicle lights along the eaves of the house. They also placed Santa and his reindeer on the roof of the garage. Dakota is fascinated with the display and has to see Santa each night before he goes to bed. Mallorie is once

Summers' Scrapbook 1998

again playing the flute in band and had a Holiday concert. She is playing very well and enjoys the flute tremendously. Jeff's shoulder is feeling much better and he is again playing softball. Trina kids him about losing a step in his old age, but he is enjoying playing again.

As you can see, our family has been very busy. Our lives are filled with activities each day and through these activities we have accumulated a lot of memories. We are grateful to each and every one of those people who have touched our lives and helped us to make these memories. As time moves on and society advances, new ways of communication open up. Though close to our hearts, many of the people who receive this newsletter live miles apart. I began thinking how we could share our lives with you on a more regular basis. With that in mind, our family has made the jump into cyberspace. As of the first of the year we will be on the Internet with our very own web site. I am frantically putting the finishing touches on our site. Graphics are being drawn and code is being written. The kids are very excited, as they will each have their own page. Our web address will be <http://home.att.net/~jeffsummers/>. We also have electronic mail and can be reached through the following addresses:

- JeffSummers@worldnet.att.net (Jeff)
- TrinaSummers@worldnet.att.net (Trina)
- Ashley_S@worldnet.att.net (Ashley)
- MallorieS@worldnet.att.net (Mallorie)
- Tiffany_S@worldnet.att.net (Tiffany)

We give thanks to the Lord for all that he has given us and we praise Him always. We are excited at what the future holds and we invite you to join us as we begin to build memories over the course of the next year and beyond. Please write or e-mail and share with us all that have happened in your lives as well.