

# Summers' Scrapbook 2000

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sit here at the computer as Christmas music envelops the house. Trina and the children are busy decorating the house making everything festive. Sugar cookies are in the oven making it seem all the more like the holidays are upon us. The weather has cooled off so that if we leave the windows open at night, it almost feels like Christmas. I sit here with my journal our in front of me contemplating what should be written in the annual newsletter. Although most people last year celebrated the dawning of a new Millennium, our family has taken the traditional stance that the twenty-first century is about to unfold. Given this point of reference, I look back over the year 2000 and review the events our family has experienced and can't help but give thanks to my Heavenly Father for all the many blessings he has bestowed upon our family. I invite each of you to reminisce with me as I review the past year's events.

## January

The New Year began with the family attending the Phoenix 2000 celebration downtown. The kids had a wonderful time especially the fireworks display that lasted for nearly an hour. Whitney celebrated her sixth birthday; it is hard to believe she is that old. She and Dakota live on the bicycles they received for Christmas. The last thing Trina needed was those two to be more mobile. Jeff launched the family's new and improved web site at <http://www.nowhitting.com> to much fanfare. He was immediately awarded several awards from different Internet organizations. The family has become cyber-celebrities and is having fun meeting new people on-line. In January for mutual, Trina held a combined activity where the kids made Pinewood Derby cars. The girls had a great time but Dakota insisted he have a car too. Jeff and Dakota went to work and by the time the activity arrived, the boys had a car that was pretty cool and of course it was painted Diamondbacks green and purple. Dakota was pretty proud of his car, which went undefeated in his bracket. Mallorie's car took second place. The family had a lot of fun.

## February

February began with Dakota moving in with Tiffany and Whitney. Before he moved, Jeff and Trina redecorated the bedroom to give it a sports flavor. Ashley and Mallorie were both amazed that Jeff would allow Trina anywhere near a can of paint after last year. Tiffany and Whitney are now in a bunk bed and Dakota has a bed of his own. This allowed Mallorie to once again have a room to herself. Jeff's new computer finally arrived so he put the old one in Mallorie's room. Mallorie is taking full advantage of this and she is now constantly on-line. Trina is busy this month as she is in charge of New Beginnings for Young Women. She is quite busy with her calling and enjoys it tremendously. The month ended with Jeff taking the kids to the Milwaukee Brewers Fan Fest in Maryvale. Tiffany was chosen to go out onto the field and learn baseball skills from Major League players. She had a lot of fun and talks about it constantly. Trina once again surprised Jeff by introducing him to Hall of Fame pitcher Ferguson Jenkins. Jeff was able to talk to Mr. Jenkins and have his picture taken with his boyhood hero.

## March

With the beginning of March came the track season in Arizona. Ashley is again triple jumping but this year she is also long jumping and high jumping. She is doing very well in her meets and took first place in her first meet of the year. Jeff decided that the family was getting a little boring so he decided the family needed another dog. Of course it had to be another Basset Hound. This one is a female. Jeff decided that he and Dakota were enough male animals around the house. He again got to name the dog, which worried the kids. He didn't disappoint them, he named her Dog Dot Com. The kids threw a fit and have decided to call the dog Dottie for short. For Jeff's birthday, he again went to a spring training game with Dakota and Trina. They had a lot of fun. Tiffany began gymnastics this month at the YMCA. She has been waiting a long time for this and she is enjoying herself learning things in the beginning class.

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## April

April means only one thing in the Summers household, Opening Day of baseball. This year was no exception as the whole family went to the first game of the season against the Philadelphia Phillies. Dakota has not missed an opening day in his life so he was especially excited. April also meant Dakota's birthday. He is growing up so quickly and is now highly mobile on his bike and his skateboard. For Easter this year, the kids went to several egg hunts and had fun. Dakota went to the ballgame with Jeff on Easter and was able to go out onto the field for an egg hunt after the game. The month ended with Mallorie going to California to a band competition. She is playing the flute and her school took third place. The family met Mallorie in California and they spent an extra few days on vacation to Disneyland. Dakota was especially funny at Disneyland as the kids made him ride the Matterhorn. He screamed his head off but once the ride was over, he wanted to go again.

## May

May is always a busy month around the house with Mother's Day plus Ashley and Mallorie's birthdays. For Mother's Day, the kids all got together and bought Trina a mother's ring with all of their birth stones. It was an emotional gift that she really enjoyed. Ashley continued excelling in track collecting several medals and ribbons in the triple jump. She qualified for state in both the triple jump and the long jump. Mallorie graduated from middle school this month. It is hard to believe that she will be going to high school next year. The end of the month brought an end to the school year. As soon as school was out, Trina, Ashley and Mallorie went to girls camp. They had fun and were amazed that Jeff and the younger kids were still alive. Tiffany is continuing to take gymnastics. She has now moved up to the advanced class. In the three months that she has been taking classes, she has progressed to the next level each month. Jeff and Trina are not quite sure what to think of this but they are very proud of her. Of course they never see her head around the house any more since

she is always standing on her head or doing the splits. The house has turned into a big apparatus for floor exercises.

## June

Jeff started the month of June with another business trip. Well, that is what he is calling it. The kids aren't quite sure they believe it. He flew to Orlando to a Microsoft conference for a week. Everyone knew he was really going so that he could go to Disney World for the Millennium celebration. When Jeff packed his Disney pins for trading, Trina was on to him. He spent a week playing around while the kids were sweating in the desert heat of Arizona. They did make him promise to take them next year for vacation. Ashley is again working this summer. She is a lifeguard for the City of Chandler and she is also teaching swimming lessons. Her students really enjoy her and she is having fun. Mallorie is itching to have a job but she is still too young. Tiffany spent her tenth birthday at Bank One Ballpark with the ball players. Jeff took her to an autograph party and told some of the players it was her birthday. Before long, she was hanging out with them and they were singing to her. She was in seventh heaven and came away with an autographed bat from Matt Mantei, her favorite player. Whitney and Dakota spent the month hanging out at the pool and playing with the dog.

## July

July is always the hardest month on the family as that is when it is hottest in Arizona. The kids don't seem to mind it as they spend every waking hour in the pool. This year, they spent many of the evenings swimming as well. For the Fourth of July, they sat in the pool and watched as the valley fireworks lit up the sky. Ashley was again working long hours and when she wasn't working, she was dating. She is getting to that age when she is looking for a little independence. Tiffany has been working hard in gymnastics absorbing everything they are teaching her. This month, her hard work paid off and she was named to the YMCA gymnastics team. The other team members



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have been taking gymnastics for several years so her 4 months experience is amazing. There is nothing she can't do and Jeff and Trina will encourage her to continue as long as she enjoys it. Whitney has decided that during the summer she would like to learn how to read. She has Trina work with her daily and before long, she is reading on her own.

## August

During the first week in August, the kids suddenly realized that they would have to be going back to school in three short weeks. They immediately began to complain that they had not had a sufficient amount of vacation. With this in mind, Jeff and Trina loaded up the troops and took them to Idaho. Trina claimed it was for the kids but she seemed to plan this at the time when raspberries were ripe just so she could go to Bob and Debbie's to pick berries. While in Idaho, they took Ashley to Ricks College to look at the campus. They also stopped at BYU so that she could see the difference between the two schools. Ashley came away very excited and ready to start her college career. In Idaho, the family went fishing with Jeff's parents and Grandpa Summers. It was a great time, especially watching Dakota stand at the bank calling the fish. The kids of course loved spending time with their cousins and Grandma and Grandpa Jensen. It was a good trip and well timed just before school started.

## September

By the first of September, the kids were settling down in school. Whitney is now in the first grade and going to school for a full day. Tiffany is now in the fifth grade, starting her last year of elementary school. Mallorie is now in high school and is a freshman. Ashley is beginning her senior year and is already looking forward to college. Dakota is now ruling the house and is in a daily battle with Dottie for house supremacy. During gymnastics practice this month, Tiffany was on the balance beam attempting an English handstand when she fell off hitting her mouth on the beam knocking one tooth out and damaging another two. This

started a long series of dental adventures, as Tiffany had to have three root canals done on these teeth. To her credit, she missed only one day of school and was back at gymnastics the very next week. Dakota of course could not be out done and decided to do a little damage himself by stepping on a piece of glass requiring a trip to the emergency room where they tried to stitch his foot back together. The doctor suggested Jeff and Trina keep him off his feet for a few days. They are still laughing about that. The only way to keep Dakota off his feet would be to strap him to a bed with duct tape.

## October

October is always a depressing time as it brings the end of baseball season. This year, Tiffany was able to go to the last game of the season with Jeff. They were there early and Tiffany was able to say good-bye to the players. After the game, the batboy came to the stands looking for Tiffany. When he found her, he gave her the bat Matt Williams used during the game to hit his home run. It is now a prized possession around the house and everyone who comes to visit has to see the bat. As October came to a close, the kids began to get ready for Halloween. All of the kids dressed up this year. Mallorie and Ashley both had Seminary and church parties. Mallorie went as an angel while Ashley dressed up as Maid Marian. Tiffany continued with her scary costume tradition by dressing up as a zombie. Whitney was dressed as Jessie the cowgirl from Toy Story 2. She even had Trina dye her hair red. Dakota went as the Bear in the Big Blue House. He was an instant hit and got twice as much candy as the other kids because of his costume. The girls didn't think that was fair but he didn't seem to mind.

## November

November was another busy month for the family. Tiffany and Whitney both had their Turkey Trot at school. This has become an annual event at the elementary where the kids walk or run around an identified course behind the school. Tiffany decided she wanted to run

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the entire 1-mile course and she wanted Trina to run with her. Trina and Tiffany completed the course running the entire way. Of course at the end, Tiffany was feeling refreshed while Jeff had to carry Trina back to the car. Thanksgiving came to the house and found the family all together for a traditional dinner. It hit Ashley especially hard since she realized this would be the last Thanksgiving she would have before going to college next year. Trina and Jeff went out for their annual shopping excursion the day after Thanksgiving. Jeff was nearly killed when he got between some women and a display of scooters. He is just now getting over his shock. As the month ended, Tiffany had braces placed on her bottom teeth as part of the continuing treatments from her gymnastics accident. She seems to be holding up ok and even went with a Thanksgiving motif of yellow and orange braces.

## December

December is always a busy time around the house. Ashley and Mallorie are working hard for school trying to get ready for finals. Tiffany, Whitney and Dakota are busy rewriting their letters to Santa on a daily basis. Each day they change their minds on what they would like. It is unclear to everyone what will ultimately be under the tree Christmas morning. Besides her schoolwork, Mallorie is also directing the Christmas entertainment at the Ward Christmas party. She has also auditioned for the school play and is awaiting word as to whether she will be in the production. Trina is busy decorating the house and is in her annual sleep deprivation mode where she stays up trying to complete last minute Christmas gifts. Jeff is of course on the computer as always. If he is not working on the web site, he is responding to e-mail from visitors.

In a never-ending effort to keep you informed about our family, I have added this newsletter and a photo gallery to our family web site. I have also added previous years newsletters as well in case you just can't get enough of us.

The family web site can be found at <http://www.nowhitting.com/family/>.

The newsletter and pictures will be listed in the news section. We look forward to seeing and hearing from all of you during this holiday season and throughout the new millennium.

As you can see, we have been quite busy during the year 2000. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone we have met and shared experiences with along our journey this year. The journey of our lives continues and we are grateful to all of you for marching along this path with us sharing your own thoughts and memories with us. Our lives are blessed by the company we keep. So many times, we look back to reveal what we have done but often we forget to look forward to see where we are going. As a family we are mindful that we each have a goal and a mission to complete here on this earth. We are each striving to complete this mission so that we may join Lindsay and be reunited as a heavenly family. The dawning of a new millennium gives us hope and an opportunity to reestablish our goals so that our lives may be successful. We are looking forward to what 2001 shall bring. We have already begun many plans, which shall unfold as time marches forward. We ask you to join us on our journey and share in our experiences and memories.