

Summers Scrapbook 2001

It has been quite a year as we ushered in a new Millennium. Our family has gone through many changes over this past year and I am amazed at all we have seen and done. I am once again sitting here at the computer reflecting on all we have experienced. The weather is finally cool again in Arizona and the kids have made sure that we have either Christmas music or Christmas movies on constantly in one room or another. The family is busy working about the house getting it ready for Christmas to arrive. The tree is now up and decorated. Each of the kids had to have their hand in that tradition. Dakota, Whitney and Tiffany have Trina busy in the kitchen doing holiday baking. Mallorie is once again wrapping presents to be placed under the tree. With everyone busy with the activities going on, I decided to take out my journal and look over what has happened over this past year. I invite you to pull up a chair and read with me as we reminisce over all the events that have occurred during the past twelve months.

January

The New Year began with the family celebrating the new millennium. Jeff wanted to take the kids to the Tempe block party but they all wanted to stay home so that they could see the fireworks from several locations around the valley. After New Year's, Whitney had her seventh birthday. It is hard to believe how fast she is growing up. When she returned to school after the break, she was moved into the highest reading group. Jeff and Trina are very proud of the work she is doing. January was also an exciting month for Ashley. She has been working hard in school and getting ready for college. During this month she applied to Brigham Young University and nervously waited to hear if she had been accepted. As the month ended, she received a letter congratulating her as a new incoming Freshman at BYU. She is quite excited. Jeff had no doubt she would get in but Ashley did not share his confidence.

February

As February came, Jeff was once again getting ready for baseball season. Although Trina would like to think that February 14 means Valentines Day, she knows to Jeff it means pitchers and catchers report to Spring Training. To celebrate that fact though, Trina did get flowers and they were not even the color of the

Diamondbacks. Tiffany continued to have problems with her teeth that were knocked out during her gymnastics accident and went through several painful steps to try and save her two permanent front teeth. The family is holding its breath that everything will work out. Dakota is now quite mobile with his bike and his skateboard. As soon as he is up he is outside playing. During this month, Trina's Aunt Helen and Uncle Clyde came to visit. They had a condo in Scottsdale and the family went up to visit them. It was wonderful seeing them again. According to the kids, it was especially fun since their condo had a heated pool and it was right next to an In-&-Out Burger. As February ended, Ashley and Mallorie began track season. This will be the only year that the two of them will be on the same high school track team. Both were going to be jumping. Ashley would be doing the high jump, long jump and of course the triple jump. Mallorie had planned just to long jump but with the coaxing of the coach and Ashley, she also took up the triple jump.

March

As March began, Jeff's parents came to Arizona to visit. Jeff and Mallorie met them in Tucson for his brother Rod's birthday. They spent the day together at a Diamondbacks game. It was fun to spend some time with them. The next day Jeff's parents went to watch Ashley in one of her invitational track meets. March also meant that Jeff became just a little older celebrating his fortieth birthday. Although he still acts like a kid, he is quickly aging and is struggling to keep up with Dakota. For his birthday, the family went to Tucson to a baseball game of course. Not just a game though, it was a double header so the family endured two full games. Dakota loved it though. Zorro was at the game and there was a sword fight staged directly in front of Dakota on the dugout. Jeff's Aunt Jan and Grandma Olsen came to visit as well and Jeff of course drug both of them to a baseball game. Jeff and Rod also went to Mexico with Jan and Grandma. This time Jeff even behaved himself so they were not detained at the border.

April

As April began it meant only one thing, baseball season had started. The entire family was once again in

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attendance as the Arizona Diamondbacks held Opening Day at Bank One Ballpark. Dakota is quickly becoming quite a fan as he has been to every Opening Day ever held for the Diamondbacks. April also meant Easter. Easter around this household is something to behold. All five children line up to begin the Easter egg hunt. The Easter Bunny hides approximately 200 plastic eggs (Jeff made a note to talk to that rabbit about providing the family with an exact number since they are still coming across plastic eggs with really old candy in them). Towards the end of the month, Dakota had his fourth birthday. There has been days that Jeff and Trina have wagered he would never survive this long but the boy is so far proving them wrong. This year he received a scooter for his birthday. That is just what he needed, another form of transportation. Jeff and Trina may never see him now.

May

May is always a very busy month for this family. Ashley and Mallorie both have birthdays this month separated by two days. These of course follow right after Mother's Day so the first half of the month is usually spent in one massive party. This year was even more crowded with activities. It began with Ashley winning the district track meet in the Triple Jump making her the champion from her region. She also graduated from high school with honors. Jeff's parents as well as Trina's mother and sister JoAnn and niece Natalie came down for the graduation. It was a new experience for Jeff and Trina. They had never attended a high school graduation outside or one where the graduating class was over 1,000 people. After Ashley's graduation, Tiffany graduated from the D.A.R.E. program in school. She was recognized for the essay she wrote and was asked to speak at graduation. Tiffany did a wonderful job. Jeff and Trina are very proud of her and the commitment she has made to remain drug free.

June

With June came the beginning of summer in Arizona. As such, temperatures stayed well above the century mark and the nights became quite hot. The family is getting used to the heat and spent a good portion of time at the pool now that school was out. Baseball season was now in high gear and Jeff spent most of his

time at the ballpark with the kids. Tiffany is somewhat depressed as there was no Diamondbacks game on her birthday this year. This is the first year that she will not have spent it at Bank One Ballpark in 4 years. Regardless, she still has fun turning 11 and the family had a small party for her. She too got a scooter for her birthday so all the kids with the exception of the three older ones (Ashley, Mallorie, and Jeff) have scooters. Ashley is again working for the City of Chandler as a lifeguard. She is also teaching swimming lessons and has made it a quest to try and teach Dakota how to swim. Jeff and Trina wish her luck trying to corral the boy but Ashley does very well in getting him more comfortable around the water.

July

July is the one month that the family most struggles with since they moved to Arizona. Growing up, Jeff and Trina were used to the huge festivities associated with the Fourth of July. In Arizona because of the heat, there are very few activities. At night, the kids all crawled out onto the upstairs roof and watched the fireworks from the various cities around the valley until lightning began to be seen then they all came in to watch it on television. This month was one that was filled with activity. Jeff had another one of his brilliant ideas that resulted in Trina having to work to make it happen. He and Trina were scheduled to go to Orlando in August for a pin trading convention. He suggested that it would be cool if Trina could make lanyards for them and a few friends that would be attending. Trina of course agreed when Jeff promised that it would only mean about 15 lanyards. Well, his number was slightly off and Trina was tasked with creating 225 lanyards over a 3-week period of time. Besides this, she was also preparing for girls camp. She and Mallorie left Jeff, Ashley and the younger kids the last week of the month as they went to camp. They were both betting that when they returned none of the kids would be left. While they were gone, Jeff took the younger children to the ballgame for Luis Gonzalez Bobblehead Night. This was a much more difficult proposition than he imagined as he and the children waited with 15,000 of their closest friends for a doll with a bouncing head.

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August

August was a logistic nightmare for the family. Trina and Mallorie began the month still at camp. When they arrived home, Trina had exactly enough time to unpack her bags, do laundry and repack before she and Jeff left for Walt Disney World. They were like a couple of kids running around the parks. It was the first vacation they had been on without the kids in 14 years. The kids of course were not amused that mom and dad were hanging out with Mickey Mouse while they were at home. Jeff and Trina flew back to Phoenix where Jeff left Trina to collect their luggage while he and Tiffany went directly to Bank One Ballpark for the first game of the Pittsburgh series. The next morning, Jeff loaded Trina and the kids into the car. While he stayed in Arizona, the rest of the family went to Idaho. They went for the Jensen's fiftieth anniversary and as a final vacation for the summer. When they arrived back home, school had already started. Whitney is now in the second grade. Tiffany began Middle School this year and is in sixth grade. Mallorie is now a sophomore in high school. And Ashley? Trina was home a total of 3 days before taking her to Provo where she is now a Freshman at BYU studying Chemical Engineering. Of course if that were all there was, it would be too easy. Ashley also had to have her wisdom teeth removed between the Idaho trip and leaving for school. In all, Trina was actually at home a total of 6 days in the month of August.

September

September began with Trina finally coming home after her World Tour. Jeff had almost resorted to having her face put on the side of a milk carton and the family did ask her to please wear a name tag for a while until they could remember who she was. Trina's luck continued to hold out as she won another drawing. This time, she won the use of a Diamondbacks Suite so the entire family along with friends spent one game in comfort. This month the family was stunned like the rest of the world at the terrorist attack on New York City and Washington. It was troubling especially since the family was separated with Ashley at school. Through it all, their faith kept them strong and they know that the Lord will protect his people through these trying times. Ashley is adjusting well to college. She is down to only calling once a week to ask her mother to send more

stuff. Jeff and Trina are also knee deep in another one of Jeff's schemes. The lanyard thing went over so well in Orlando that Jeff sent a couple to Utah with Trina when she went. Based upon the response she received, Jeff and more to the point Trina are now creating pin trading lanyards for the Salt Lake Winter Olympics next February. Although the kids were all arguing who would get Ashley's room when she left for college, it was Trina who was victorious turning it into what closely resembles a turn of the century sweatshop. She has enlisted (or is that indentured) child labor to help in her efforts. Jeff is responsible for preparing the gruel for their employees and making sure they have rags to wear.

October

October seemed to just fly by. The month began with what is usually a very depressing time around the house. Baseball season ends in October and Jeff is usually depressed for most of the month, as he has to wait until spring for another season to begin. This season though the Arizona Diamondbacks made the play-offs so Jeff is enjoying himself. Not only did they make the play-offs but went to the World Series. Because of his dedication to the Diamondbacks, they named him the Ultimate fan. The Fox television network picked up on this and interviewed Jeff for the pre-game show during the play-offs. This went so well that they followed up with a live broadcast from the house the next morning at 6 AM. Jeff was not aware that there were more than one 6 o'clock in a day until that happened. Besides these interviews, FOX also came back on Halloween and went trick-or-treating with the family. It was odd to see people's reactions in the neighborhood when they opened the door for the kids and had news reporters with cameras pointing at them. The end of the month Jeff's parents came down to spend time with the family. Dakota especially liked playing football with grandpa in the yard. Besides his television career, Jeff was also asked to write a daily sports column for FoxSports.com during the play-offs. This resulted in a lot of e-mail and visitors to his web site. Everyone was excited about all the attention except Mallorie. She received countless amounts of grief in school being the daughter of the ultimate fan.

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November

For the first time in Major League Baseball history, the World Series went into the month of November. With the Diamondbacks involved that meant Jeff was at the ballpark. Mallorie went with her father to Game 6 and came away with a new perspective of baseball. Trina beat out all the kids and was able to go to Game 7 where she and Jeff witnessed the Diamondbacks becoming World Champions. Trina was busy this month with Young Women in Excellence and even got Jeff involved. She did a wonderful job and everyone commented it was one of the best presentations they had ever attended. Thanksgiving is a special time around the house as the family gathers to give thanks for their many blessings. This year, they decided to go to Idaho for Thanksgiving to be with Trina's family and Jeff's parents. They traveled to Provo where Mallorie spent a couple of nights with Ashley in her dorm and went to classes with her. Mallorie had a wonderful time as Ashley showed her around. Dakota was very excited for this trip and spent the days leading up to their departure wearing his snow pants and parka. Unfortunately, it was still 80 degrees in Arizona so he was constantly begging Trina to turn on the air conditioning. He was amazed to find that he could actually see his breath when the weather was cold. He also witnessed his first snowstorm and had a great time making snowballs to throw at his sisters. It was wonderful seeing everyone again and the kids now appreciate the warm Arizona weather much more than they did before the trip. As the family was getting ready to leave Idaho, Dakota retrieved his snowball and insisted they take it home. Unfortunately, it did not make the trip as it finally melted at the outskirts of Phoenix. As soon the family arrived home, it was time to start the Christmas decorating. According to Dakota, they should have started in September and he pestered everyone until it was complete.

December

As December arrives, the family is busy with Christmas. Trina is once again hand making special gifts for people and is trying to set some sort of Guinness record for lack of sleep. The younger kids are eagerly awaiting Santa's arrival and have spoken to him on several occasions. Dakota is especially excited. Jeff and Trina are somewhat nervous though as each

time he visits Santa he changes his list. The family is also eagerly awaiting Ashley's return from college. She is scheduled to fly home just before Christmas. Dakota of course wants her to bring him some snow for Christmas but no one is sure how she will manage that. Mallorie is counting the days before she can get her driving permit. Trina on the other hand is dreading that same number of days. Jeff is busy at work with several deadlines looming and he too can hardly wait for the holiday break. The Christmas season is in full swing around the house and the family is looking forward to all that it has to offer.

This has been a very full year for our family and one that has seen many changes. It has defined a new phase of our lives. With the children growing up, the memories we gain every day become more and more precious. We would like to thank everyone we have met and who have allowed us to share in their lives. You have helped to make our memories everlasting. As time continues to unfold before us, we are mindful to thank our Heavenly Father for all the many blessings he has given to our family. It is through His grace that we have been able to walk upon this earth and gain the knowledge and experiences necessary for us to return to Him in heaven. Although 2001 is nearly complete and we have taken this time to look back over the course of the last year we are most excited by what lies ahead. The people we will meet and the experiences that we will have will make us stronger and bring us joy. We hope that you will join us on this grand adventure of life and enjoy the journey with us.

*Jeff, Trina, Ashley, Mallorie,
Tiffany, Whitney & Dakota*