



THE 1995 GORDON FAMILY NEWS



Approximately 10% of the holiday cards we receive each year contain some type of family newsletter. This unwanted and unwarranted social pressure is awful. So, now its time for revenge! Read this and weep or throw it out now and smile.

Motivated by Barry's special guest appearance at the Mexican Corrosion Society meeting in Veracruz (IMICORR even paid for Aldene's trip!) in June of 1993, Aldene and Barry traveled to Oaxaca, México last February to test Aldene's newly acquired Spanish skills. She did very well with the local people. Aside from private conversations, los gringos essentially did not speak English for a week. Visits were made to Monte Alban, Mitla and a local Tequila factory. The living room in Monte Sereno is now adorned with the famous Oaxacan carved wooded animals. The Gordons took second class bus trips for one peso each! Barry has continued with Berlitz Spanish lessons through GE. He is now the only student in the class!

Aldene has continued her winning ways on the bicycle by winning five California state championships in the 40 km individual time trail and four track events (1000 m, 3000 m pursuit, points race and match sprint) for the Los Gatos Bicycle Racing Club (LGBRC). Aldene hopes to participate in next year's Masters National Championships. Barry was elected President of the LGBRC, an amateur cycling organization that has had seven members selected to the US Olympic cycling teams since 1960 and the club has two candidates for the 1996 Olympics, including one from Sweden.

Barry has been hauling his timpani all over the bay area performing Brahms, Humperdinck, Dvorák, Strauss, (but no Beethoven!) etc. with the Saratoga Symphony. Sometimes Aldene will make a cameo appearance with the violins when the Saratoga Symphony plays for the San Francisco Waltz Society (ump pah pah). At least our symphony gets paid for playing that stuff.

Haley has been rocking and rolling at Rice University in Houston. She is a second semester senior! Yes! And should graduate with a double degree in English and Art on time within budget and with honors! Yes! Yes! Haley was Vice President of the Rice Student Association and Advertising Manager for the Rice newspaper, The Thresher. She has shared lox and bagels with former Presidents Bush, Carter and Ford plus James Baker at the same time. Along with studying her little tushy off, Haley is currently interning with Justice Records.

GE is down sizing with the rest of the US corporations. Although Barry has survived to date, many of his coworkers have been laid off or have left on their own. Barry has obtained four patents in the last year and a half! His patents included reducing radiation levels up to 80% in nuclear reactors via zinc oxide injection, a battery powered by beta radiation and a self-contained electronic device that prevents corrosion. Barry's idea of feeding mayonnaise to tuna fish to facilitate the fabrication of tuna salads has yet to be filed. Barry traveled to Sweden last winter for his technology exchanges with ABB, Hitachi and Toshiba. In February, he will lead the same type of meetings in Hitachi City, Japan.

Aldene has entered the World Wide Web! Aldene obtained 10 PCs, 2 Macs and 4 printers from GE this year for her fourth/fifth combination class. Her excellent class is going wild over this stuff. Aldene is hauling her CPUs and mice everywhere. Aldene has turned into a hacker! Look out Bill Gates!

The Gordons made their now annual spring time trip to Fort Collins, CO, to visit Barry's dad (91 years old), his sister, Mickey, and her very significant hockey-playing other, John. Aside from the beautiful scenery, Rocky Mountain National Park, excellent bicycle riding (but not as good as the bay area) and more breweries per capita than any other city in the nation, Fort Collins is a great place to visit. However, this year's trip was characterized by taking Mickey to the hospital for breast cancer. Mickey had a mastectomy and has finished chemo. She will rest up over the holidays and start radiation treatment. She has kept her spirit up (and ours) very high. She is now the hospital standup comic. Although hairless, Mickey taught Spanish at a local school. Mickey and John are planning to vacation in San Diego and watch the San José Sharks play the Colorado Avalanche this spring.

Aldene's mom, Betty (80) and dad, Henry Stoner (84), are doing well. Henry had his usual bi-annual confrontation with the Grim Reaper. He was hospitalized twice this year. His last operation required the installation of a brain drain to remove excess fluid and pressure. He is no longer singing "Granada" to imaginary woodchucks, observing bears fighting with ravenous man-eating Pliocene clams on hospital walls or stepping on King cobras. "Hammering Henry" is back at home, walking and soon will be battling aphids again in the huge Stoner garden.

Prior to watching the Sharks get their butts whipped by Mario Lemieux and the Pittsburgh Penguins (9-1), Aldene and Barry decided to eat at one of San José's landmark restaurants, Original Joe's. As Aldene noticed the four fellows sitting next to us at the counter, she remarked, "too bad Haley isn't here. Those guys are really nice looking." As Barry looked over, he did not so much gaze into the eyes of the guy next to him but rather what this fellow was eating. Barry asked the guy what it was. He told Barry to grab a menu and proceeded to show Barry the formulation of this special meal. When Barry asked the waiter for the same thing, the waiter replied that "this is a special meal made up by the chef, because these guys are special." Barry asked the guy next to him what was so special about him and his friends. He answered that they all played for the Detroit Redwings! During the rest of the evening Barry provided Doug Brown with the finer points of the game. No wonder the Redwings all went to the movies! Doug Brown did have a goal and an assist the following night against the Sharks.

This Redwing incident only enhanced Aldene's rink rat reputation. Previously, in front of a Halloween capacity crowd of 17, 190, Aldene, dressed as a sailor with a shunken head mask and a shark biting his shoulder, was featured between periods of the Shark Ranger game. She was on center ice striking a Ranger Piñata to win goodies for variou hockey urchins. Now, Aldene is skating in Palo Alto and at the new San José Ice Center (Shark's practice complex) with the LGBRC once a week. She hopes to go to training camp with Sharks next year in Minnesota and play power forward. Just don't let Aldene cross-check you!

Finally, Aldene, Barry and Haley wish you all a Happy Holiday season and prosperous New Year!

Aldene, Barry and Haley