

THE 1997 GORDON FAMILY NEWS

We have had a very tough fall. First the sad news:

Aldene's father, Henry C. Stoner, died at home September 7. Henry was 86. Haley, and loving wife of 61 years, Betty, were at his side when he died. Always an extremely active man all his life, Henry was confined to a bed for over a year. Betty and their son, Jim Stoner, took the best possible care of Henry during his last couple of years. We have never seen such devotion.

Henry was a graduate of Pomona College and Stanford University in biochemistry. He once told me that if he had tried to continue with his Ph. D. at Stanford, he would still be there. Along with Betty, Henry founded Stoner Laboratories, an agricultural laboratory. He helped found CONTACT, a suicide prevention hotline. Henry taught ESL (English as Second Language) for 16 years. He played the organ and sang in his churches' choirs, he hiked, he traveled, and grew outstanding roses, fruits and vegetables.

Barry's father, Sydney Gordon, after a failed half-assed attempt on Christmas day 1996, successfully committed suicide on October 22, 1997. At 93, his health was finally starting to dramatically fail. He started to fall and would have needed a wheelchair, etc. He obviously thought that it was not worth hanging around anymore.

Sydney was a business graduate of New York University. He wrote greeting cards, was a machinist, an inventor (check out that little date mechanism in your wrist watch!) and owned a very successful hardware business in Long Island for over thirty years. Next spring Aldene and Barry, his sister Mickey, her soul mate John and, perhaps even, Mickey's son, Alec, will dispose of Sydney's and his wife's ashes in a section of the Colorado Alps.

Now for happier stuff:

Haley has been enjoying work at Dancing Cat Productions. She has been keeping George Winston very busy. Dancing Cat Productions also produced a wonderful video, *The Pumpkin Circle*, featuring the music of George Winston (of course). Haley also appears to be happy with her latest domicile in Santa Cruz. She left her last place due to an obnoxious housemate who was subsequently evicted.

Aldene has continued her winning ways on the bicycle by winning a bronze medal in her age group at the California state championships in the 40 km individual time trial. (If Aldene had raced in the 18-29 year old group, her time would have given her the gold medal! Those older women are tough!) Barry continued as the President of the Los Gatos Bicycle Racing Club (LGBRC), an amateur cycling organization that has had nine members selected to various Olympic cycling teams since 1960.

With Aldene's help, Barry continues to haul his timpani all over the bay area performing with the Saratoga Symphony. Some of the concerts are for the Austrian Consul and the San Francisco Waltz

Society. Barry has performed at the World Trade Center and Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco, Clairmont Country Club in Berkeley and Corinthian Yacht Club in Tiburon.

Aldene has continued her relentless attack on the computer word! Through various agencies, Aldene's grant writing skills have won 47 PCs to date plus a variety of printers and scanners. She has obtained equipment from General Electric, Smart Valley, The Detwiller Foundation and Hewlett Packard.

The Gordons made their annual spring time trip to Fort Collins, CO, to visit Sydney, Mickey and John. Because of its the beautiful scenery, Rocky Mountain National Park, excellent bicycle riding and more breweries per capita than any other city in the nation, Fort Collins is a great place to visit. Aldene and Barry also hiked in Dinosaur National Monument, Utah. This was also the first trip to Fort Collins where the Gordons camped along the way. However, the return trip was characterized by the self destruction of a relatively new clutch throw-out bearing and, subsequently, the 5-speed transmission. Fortunately, AAA Plus paid for the tow from Sacramento to Los Gatos (\$550!). Ford had no explanation, no guilt. All they got was \$1329 for their efforts.

Mickey is now an adjunct professor at Front Range Community College teaching ESL. Mickey and John are big Denver Bronco fans and have visited the Bronco training camps. Mickey even advised Bronco star running back Terrill Davis on migraine headaches that he subsequently shared with the media!

Aldene and Barry share season tickets for the bottom-feeding San José Sharks hockey team. Although neighbor San José Shark Ulf Dahlen was traded to Chicago and then unconditionally released back to Sweden, winger Tony Granato have moved into town and is a regular at the Los Gatos Safeway, often shopping with his children. Barry provides him critical advice!

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

Aldene, Barry and Haley