FAMILY NEWS

July 18,1993

Here's The Latest...

Hope we didn't give anyone a heart attack when you got the mail and found our News letter. I figured most people had given up on seeing an edition this year. Its just that this happened, and then that happened, and then this happened again.... There were many reasons for the time gap between this news letter and the one last Christmas. What is it they say: Better late than never?

I'm sure after you read this you'll see just how much is going on in our lives. And until things slow down (like after the kids have all grown and left), we will probably send out the news letter only twice a year. Was that cheering I heard?

March Madness

I'll begin by turning the clock back to this past March. I still work with the electric company and on Friday March 11 we were warned to be prepared for a freak storm early Saturday morning. When I came home from work at 5:00 that Friday I told Kathy I would probably have to go back if the weather got bad. At 10:00 pm I got the call to go in to work. At 2:00 am Saturday it hit. Rain, sleet, and then SNOW! But it was the wind that kept us working until the following Monday to restore power. I worked 36 hours. But that didn't stop me from sneaking home after the sun came up Saturday morning to record two hours of video tape of the snow before going back in to work.

When it was all over 8,000 homes had lost power. That is one third of our system. We had 2 inches on the ground and the wind had reached 70 mph! But the most unusual thing was that it happened in the middle of March!!



Back Yard Pet

Around this past April a friend of ours was fishing in the part of the lake behind our house. He saw something swimming in the water and took his small boat closer to investigate. Suddenly he was thrown from his boat by a six and a half foot alligator! He managed to get back in the boat without getting hurt.

The next day after he told us about it, Perry and I took our row boat out to investigate. I saw two one foot babies and that was enough to convince me to head back. She is about 250' across the water from our lot, so we're not worried. But we have post-phoned using the boat for awhile.

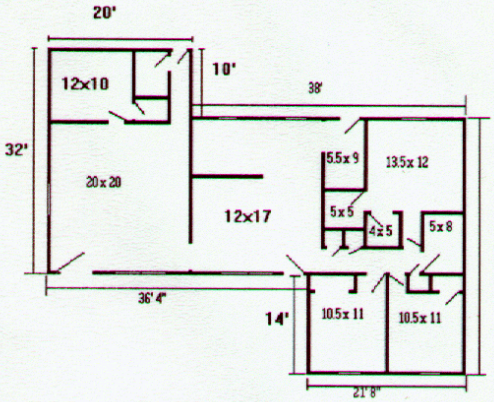
The kids have a tree house near the water. Using the binoculars the gator can be seen laying in the sun each afternoon.

More Of The Latest

This past May I attended a seminar in Orlando. I had dinner one evening with Pat, Kathy's Mom. She had just had surgery a couple of weeks before and we were talking about how we cope with pain. I have always felt a reluctance to take medication and was telling her about some of my relaxation techniques as well as some of my other strange theories. From what I hear I would have gotten along great with her Dad. We had a wonderful talk.

Within an hour after dropping me off at my hotel an unbearable toothe-ache hit me. It lasted the entire night and forced me into a commitment to do something about it when I got home. By the way, my meditations didn't work.

Any way the next day Kathy had a dental appointment so I tagged along. The dentist sent me to an oral surgeon. On the first visit he cut three teeth out, and one of them on the upper jaw left a hole in my sinuses. Once the stiches were out from that visit I had a hole in the other side after he removed a toothe. Over all it took 5 visits throughout June and early July. I wound up using 60 hours of sick leave from work. And I was on medication throughout the whole time!



I think the next time I talk to Pat, we'll talk about winning the lottery instead of dealing with pain. Maybe I'll get first hand experience with the Lottery!

I know they've had plenty of rain in the Midwest, but from April until mid June we had almost no rain here. Until...

Until we decided to pitch a couple of tents in the back yard and camp out with the kids. We had a great time until about 10:30 pm when the rain came. It dowsed our camp fire and kept us from taking a midnight swim.

So we cancelled and drug pillows and sleeping bags back into the house. We tried it again two weeks ago. Guess we've found a new way to make it rain besides washing the car.

We are still working on adding on to the house. Above is the latest plans we are giving to the bank.

This is what it will look like after we are finished. We hope to start contstruction in the next couple of months. We figured we had better go ahead and take the plunge. TJ will at least get his own bedroom for a few years. And just think of all of the room we'll have after all kids are gone!

We have been wanting to do this for so long that we've already used up all the space.

T J

He made it through his first year of high school. I'll not mention his grades except to say it wasn't a disaster. Since he is used to high school now I'm certain he will improve. (grin)

This past March was the first time he enjoyed snow in DeFuniak. If you ever come over remind me to show you the video of his giant snowball. The last time we had snow was in December of '89 and TJ was at his Dad's in Orlando.

Speaking of his Dad, Tom and Sylvia moved this past May. Instead of flying to Orlando this summer, TJ flew to South Bend, Indiana by way of Nashville. He had to change planes for the first time. But from what I hear it was no problem. Especially since Terresa, Kathy's sister was kind enough to help out.

TJ will miss those Magic games, but I guess he's within driving distance of the Bulls.

Perry

We are proud to say all four kids advanced to the next grade this year, including Perry. He'll have a challenge next year because he'll be moving to a new school.

He's only got three years at the Middle School before he too will be in High School. Of course by then TJ will graduate. Are we all getting older or what?

The kids are definitely getting bigger. Perry can almost look his Mom in the eyes.

He got a new baseball glove for his birthday. And on his birthday we had a family softball game over at my Mom's just for him.

Perry is still into Lego's and models. You can tell that by stepping into his bedroom. He always has Lego's and models all over the place.

He's turning out to be a pretty good artist as well. One of his favorite pastimes is drawing.

Justinn

This past April Justinn skipped school (with the school's permission) and went with Dad to work. It was Take Your Daughter to Work Day. She got her own photo ID and spent the day working with me. She was interviewed and had her photo in our monthly news letter at work.

This was her first year getting letter grades at school. Her first six weeks in the third grade she made ALL A's and stayed on the A-B honor roll all year.

She also knows when it will snow again. She figures since there are three years between each of the kids, and then three years after Marc it snowed in '89, and then in three more years it snowed, that means it will either snow in the winter of '95-'96 or we will have another kid.

I guess we had better plan on it snowing again. Kathy says there will definitely be no more kids!

Marc

Marc will start second grade in August. As usual he had he had his teacher wrapped around his finger. In fact Justinn's 3rd grade teacher is putting off retiring until after she has Marc in her class.

The pool is still over his head, but he can swim as well as most adults. He had his head shaved for the summer. It was his idea. And each time Kathy cut a little she would ask, "Are you sure you want to do this?" He is still a fountain of joy with his laughter. Smiling just comes natural for him. He got that from Kathy. His class went to the zoo in May for their field trip. He turned seven this past May. He decided he wanted a pool party. He walks in his sleep. He is also missing several teeth. And he made all S's in school.

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One of our Favorite Thoughts:

The greatest of faults is to be conscious of none.

One Final Thought:

That about wraps it up this edition. Hope everyone is doing well. Kathy and the kids said to tell you hello. I hope you feel like this was worth reading. At least I won't have to feel guilty about not writing. ***TG Editor***

