Family News

December 9, 1996

The Latest:

You know its getting close to Christmas because you now have our Newsletter. Its hard to believe, but we have been doing this for almost five years now. There is a lot to catch up on since last year's edition so sit back and get ready.

We'll start with our visitors from Orlando. Kathy's Mother and Grandmother came up for a wonderful visit. While they were here I made them pose for this photo.



Justinn and her Mother and her Mother and her Mother!

In late January I had a business trip in Orlando and was lucky enough to get tickets to a Magic game. But while I was gone Kathy woke up one morning and found we had two inches of water throughout the House! A water line under the kitchen sink had come loose and poured hot water all over the house. When I came home the carpet people had already removed the carpet and we lived with bare concrete floors for a month! We had wanted to get new carpet, but not like that!

In March we bought a 12' x 24' portable building. We wired it for electricity, telephone, and cable; made two and a half rooms out of it; insulated; sheetrocked and painted it. We placed it near the back door and built a 16' porch from it to the house. TJ and Perry have been living in it ever since. The extra room has given each of the kids their own bedroom at last. When the boys move out Kathy and I are going to use it for much needed office space.



Kathy is still working in the Electronics Department at Wal-Mart. About six weeks ago she applied for a computer repair position at a local community college. They interviewed her, but the day after her interview she decided she would not take the job. It would have meant a 40 mile commute to work and she decided Wal-Mart couldn't get along without her.

Last spring she had glamor shot done (photo on the left). I scanned in the computer and printed a 2' x 3' poster which now hangs in our living room. But if you ask me, I think any photo with her in it is a glamor shot!



Kathy still works most weekends (she gets two or three weekends off a year). Justinn, Marc, and I fill our time on weekends riding bikes, swimming, roaming the internet, and cleaning house. I still make candles along with creating new computer art.

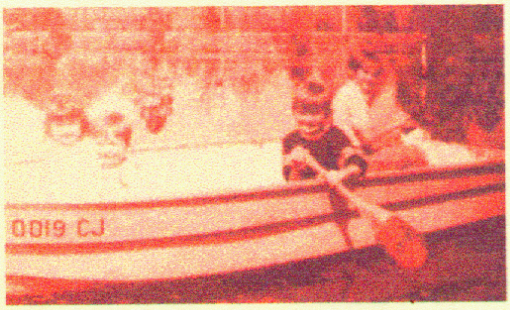
I still ride my bike to work. In March it will be three years since I started riding. I will hit 3,200 miles this month. I am proud of my $90.00 Walmart bike. I have not spent any more money on it, and it is working fine. I may have to spring for new tires before long. The tread is almost gone.

In July I had my twenty year class reunion. It was one more reminder that I'm getting older (and so are you <grin>). It was fun seeing old classmates and learning what had happened to them. Just didn't seem like it has been twenty years.



The day of my reunion my Grandfather was taken to a hospital in Pensacola. He passed away on July 15th. There is not another single man who has had more influence on my life than Grandad. It's been almost five months now and I still hear his voice giving advice and loving guidance just as he has done all my life. But the reality of not having him here hits hard at times. Like while I am writing this Newsletter, its the first one he will not be reading. Death is just another step in each of our lives. It comes to all living things. I know this and have faith in my beliefs and can be happy for Grandad with complete confidence. Thats why I mention him here. Because this one man gave me a gift worth more than any other gift in the world. Grandad you are missed!

In October I had a meeting in Orange Beach, AL (between Pensacola and Mobile). The hotel was right on the beach so Kathy took the week off and went with me. I also took some extra time off so we could enjoy some rare time alone. The weather was gorgeous and we had a wonderful time. Who could ask for anything better than watching the sun come up over the water with the most beautiful woman in the world!



Guess that will have to wrap it up for this year. Can't aford to mail more than two pages and I've about filled them up. Our whole family wishes you a Merry Christmas and we hope you are happy. Remember to drop us a line now and then. That's about it for the Latest now on to the kids:



TJ

Last Spring TJ got a part time job at Wal-Mart. In May he graduated from High School. Tom, Sylvia, and family came from the North. Jim, Pat, and Grandma Blue came from the South. And two more sets of Grandparents came from here along with us (of course) and Aunts, Uncles, and Cousins. He had quite a cheering section since he was the first grandchild to graduate. The day he graduated he also got his operators license. He and several classmates celebrated by going on a cruise in June. He spent the rest of the summer working and saving his money for a car and college. He bought a red Ford Escort in September. Two days ago he registered for his second semester at Okaloosa Walton Community College (about 40 miles from home). TJ's life has changed dramatically since our last Newsleter. It is great to have a third driver in the family and a second car. Sometimes it was hard to run errands on my bike. Especially when one of the kids needed a ride from school and Kathy was working <grin>.



Perry

Perry is almost as tall as TJ. He is in his first year of high school this year, and getting pretty anxious about getting his driver's license. He love's having his own room. He has a table set up for working on models and some of the gatgets he creates like the lego model of a working motor. He listens to country music which sometimes clashes with TJ's music. He also likes to hunt. He hunts when he goes to his Dad's on the weekends. Except for not knowing when to keep quiet both at home and school (but he is learning <grin>), he is becoming a fine young man.



Justinn

Justinn has been at the Middle School (7th grade) by herself this year. Yes there are other kids there just not any of her brothers. She is getting old enough to cook supper for me sometimes. Sure is nice after riding the bike 4 miles home from work and her having supper all ready cooked! She is still very creative. They amaze me sometimes with some of the things they come up with for fun. Last year she and Marc got a kareoke machine for Xmas. She loves to tape her own radio shows where she is the dj. She got roller blades for her birthday this year and is getting pretty good on them. She also likes to make videos with the video camera when I let her. She is getting older, but she is still "Daddy's Girl".



Marc

Marc is in the fifth grade this year. This is his last year at the Elementary School and next year he will be going to the Middle School with Justinn. Last May Marc began wearing glasses. Now half of our family wears glasses, the two oldest and the youngest. He also got roller blades for his birthday. He has gotten very good on them. He can even skate backwards! His school picture was taken before he got glasses. He continues to smile most of the time and keeps everyone else smiling. He loves having his own bedroom. I sometimes wish he would stay just the way he is, but I know he can't. But I do hope he will always stay happy and full of life.



Mother and Daughter

By Popular Demand

I have had many people ask about this photo. Many of you have seen it hanging in our house. It is a photo of a mother (left) and her (daughter (right). Yes I admit it has been doctored... just a bit. Now everyone has a copy of it.

The Gipsons
1963 Juniper Lake Road
DeFuniak Spr., FL 32433

Favorite Thought:

"If fifty million people say a stupid thing, it's still a stupid thing."

Leroy Jack Syrop

From Our World to Your World:

If you ever get on the Internet you can E-mail us at tommieg@wwia.dfs.~~wwia~~ net We finally dropped our America Online account so that email address is no longer valid.

Hope this Newsletter finds you in good health and we wish you a

Merry Christmas!