

Jan enjoys vacation tour of Great Britain

The long awaited tour finally came in April, and we understand Jan had a great time. We have the following report from her, along with some pictures.

My trip to Great Britain was great. Kevin met my mother Catherine, brother Wayne, sister-in-law Carol, niece Shannon, and me in London. We took the train the next morning to Glasgow. It was a 6-hour train



Lennoxtown B & B

trip and the countryside was beautiful. We rented a van and spent the next 3 days in Lennoxtown, outside of Glasgow, visiting with family and seeing the sights around Glasgow and Loch Lomond. We also visited Torrance and saw the house my mother's family had lived in for 400 years. It has been remodeled but is still standing, so is the local pub they frequented. When we went in we met several people who knew my uncles, cousins, and grandfather. We celebrated Kevin's 21st birthday at the pub at our B & B, where we sampled various alcoholic beverages- for the very first time of course. Then we were off to Edinburgh (my favorite city) for 2 days. It's a beautiful medieval city and we stayed right in the heart of the old port, around the corner from the castle. Kevin left us here to return to London, to meet his friends, Jan, Steven, Damian, and George, who were arriving from San Diego. It was hard to leave Edinburgh but we had friends to visit in Newcastle. On the drive there we saw surfers in the North Sea, we were cold bundled up on land, they must have been freezing in wet suits, but when the surf's up a surfer's gotta surf. After Newcastle we drove along Hadrian's Wall to Blackpool, where we



visited my stepfather's family. We visited a 900 year- old castle in Skipton (considered the best-preserved medieval castle in England). Then south to Stonehenge which is awesome and Salisbury where they have a beautiful cathedral. We met up with Kevin and his friends in Brighton where he has been living. We visited the Royal Pavilion, University of Sussex, and Kevin's dorm. He was able to show us around all of the local pubs too. He seems to really know where all the good ones are. I'm glad school hasn't



seemed to cramped his style. We were in Brighton for 2 days and then were ready to return to London. All nine of us spent the next 3 days in London seeing the sights; catching a musical, Chicago; celebrating my birthday (it wasn't my 21st); and visited as many pubs as we could. But all good things must come to an end and our trip of a lifetime was over and it was back to the real world in San Diego. We had a wonderful time and can hardly wait to go again, this time with Ed, Nate, Chris, and Tim have to come too.

We thank Jan for this excellent report and the pictures she supplied. I am sure she has lots more to talk about, and lots more pictures to show, the next time you can get together with Her.



Francie was another traveler in May, but she only got as far as Reno, where she worked another trade show. At the same time Robert was in Las Vegas, also on a business trip. Lyle had joined Francie in Reno, but was returning to San Diego by another flight, through Las Vegas. When Lyle and Robert checked in for their San Diego they met, to their surprise. I guess if you travel enough sooner or later you will run into

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someone you know. However it is still a great surprise.

Grandparents Days

There were two Grandparents Day celebrations recently, one at Francis Parker Middle School and the other at St Columba. Unfortunately, we were not able to make the Parker one, due to Grandpa's health. We did, however, go to St. Columba, where we had a chance to visit the classrooms of both Bryce and JJ. The day started with a mass and May Day service, participated in by the entire school, plus visitors. The next event was the art exhibit done by the various classes. After that the students were called to their classrooms, and the grandparents were invited to sit in on a class and see the various students perform. JJ worked on a project, involving several other classmates, and they were helped by Grandma, as shown in the photo. Meanwhile, Bryce gave a talk on his project, a summary of the life of the baseball player Cal Ripken, Jr. We then joined the food line for lunch, in the church hall. It was a fun day, and we were proud of both kids.



Bryce's art work (above left) was inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright, and JJ's is his vision of "Space". Both were well done, and deserve praise for their imagination and quality.

Grandma's niece authors article on her visit to Iran

As we mentioned in last month's issue of RFNL, the February issue of Harper's Magazine (Grest Britian issue) published an article by Marie Fairweather, daughter of Romulus Merica, Grandma's oldest brother. Marie also is the sister of the youngest brother. Michael Merica, who



lives here in California.

Michael kindly supplied me with a copy of the article, along with a copy of a February 2000 Time Magazine review of a book written by Marie,

"The Pilgrim Princess". The book is a biography of Princess Zinaida Volkonsky, who was born in 1789 into a very wealthy Russian family, and married into an even more influential Russian family. She led a privileged life in the company of royal families throughout Europe. She died in Rome in 1862, having converted to Roman Catholicism and taken vows of poverty. The review is very favorable, and would be of interest to those interested in the history of that era.

The Harpers article is very interesting in that she describes in some detail her visit to Iran. She visited Tehran, Shiraz, Persepolis, Isfahan, Yadz, and the Golestan National Park. The article is too long to copy, and we will use it as a fill in, as soon as we finish the history of Mission Hills.

Sick call !

Recently we had a call from Robert, telling us that Karla was in the hospital, having experienced a flair-up of her Crohn's Disease. At first there was some thought that surgery might be necessary, but after a couple of days in the hospital things were

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much improved, and she was allowed to go home. We understand that she is feeling ok now, and certainly hope it will remain that way.

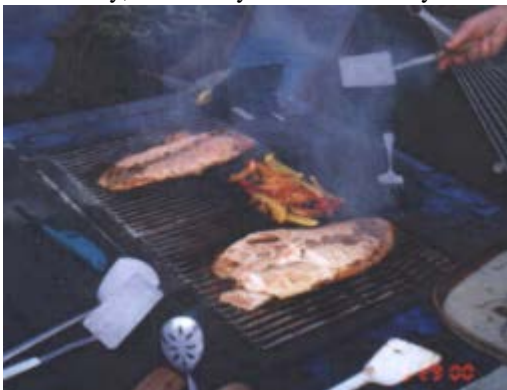
Grampa also has been somewhat under the weather recently. Last September I began to experience neck pains which were quite sensitive to motion. However, they did not slow me down until early May, when they became much stronger, and spread into the left shoulder. After several visits to the doctor I was informed that I had Fibromyalgia. Fibro- means fibrous, my- means muscle, and -algia means pain. Hence, I now know that I have muscle pain, which I already knew. In addition, an x-ray indicated some mild arthritis, which also may be contributing to the problem. Therefore, I was told to take arthritis pills and fibromyalgia pills, along with some pain pills. This treatment seems to be working, since in the last week the pain has lessened, and I hope to get back on the golf course soon. However, we did have to postpone our regular spring jaunt to Palm Springs to later on in the summer. I am scheduled for physical therapy next week, and will see the specialist in a month. Hopefully I will be ok in another month or so.

We had another scare recently, when Francie reported that Bryce was involved in a car accident while riding his bike to school. As he was riding along the sidewalk a car turned into a driveway, and they collided. Fortunately, Bryce was wearing his helmet otherwise he might have suffered a severe head injury. He was shaken up a little, but is ok now.

Birthday celebrations

There were three birthday celebrations in May. First of all, Margaret organized a party for Bud's 59th. After enjoying some snacks we were served delicious barbecued salmon along with salad, and lots of other choices. The guests included both family and friends of Margaret and Bud.

Everyone had a great time and we wish Bud a very happy birth-day, with many more on the way.



On the same day we took the opportunity to celebrate Megan's 16th birthday. We picked her up at home, and set out for the Flower Garden Plaza. For lunch we visited

Papachino's Restaurant. Then we saw the movie "Passion of

Heart", which was quite interesting, with an unusual plot.



After the movie we headed right back home, in order to be on time for the big party. Also, Megan took advantage of Grandpa's presence to do an interview for a school project.

Her project was to interview someone who had lived through the WW II period. We covered many subjects, and hope that she collected enough for a good project.



The other birthday kid was Dustin, who celebrated his 15th. The Benesch family joined in for lunch at Souplantation. Afterwards we took in the movie "Frequency" which was fairly good, as movies go.



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Birthday calendar for June

Elizabeth Gillingham	June 3	42
Roberta Hartman	June 3	42
Bruce Hartman	June 5	41

Mothers Day celebration

The family celebrated Mothers Day by enjoying a fantastic brunch at the Hilton, near the Del Mar track. They served every kind of



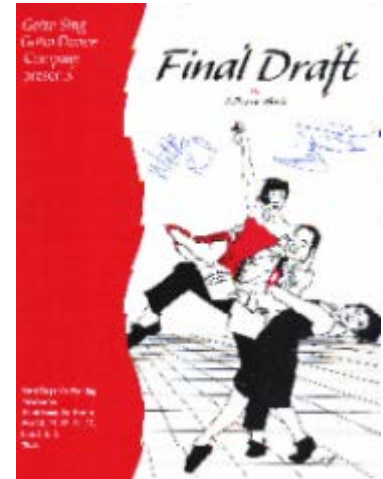
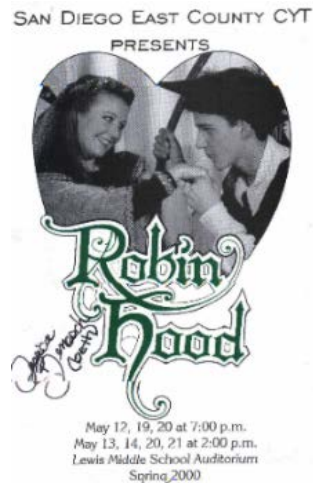
food you can think of, along with champagne and other drinks. Grandma had a wonderful time, and she thanks all who shared in the fun, especially Carol and Jeff, who made the arrangements, with help from Lyle and Francie.

Family has three in Rock and Roll Marathon

This famous 26 mile event was run on Sunday, June 4th, and the family was well represented, not only by our Boston runner, Listy, but also by Carol and Robert. It was a very warm day, and there were about 15,000 entrants. In spite of the heat, all finished the race in style. We understand that all three had a great time, and we were sorry that we were not able to see our team in action. The contestants started in the downtown area, ran up Rt 163 to Mission Valley, then out to Mission Bay, and finally to the finish, at the Naval Training Center. The only problem was that closing some streets led to some horrendous traffic tie-ups. We were held up for 45 minutes, going from church to our Chinese buffet lunch. However, we forgive, the event was for a good cause.

Jessica, Chris and Nathan have important roles

May was a busy month in the arts front. Two shows were put on , and three kids played important roles.



In May the San Diego East County CYT presented the popular musical



"Robin Hood". Jessica played the role of Beth, one of the important roles in this popular story, set to music, of this timeless tale of good versus evil. Due to health problems Grandpa was unable to attend, but Grandma was there and tells us that Jessica did her usual fine job in both skits and

in a singing role. We are sorry we missed all the fun, and hope to be there for the next show.

We were able to make the second production, by the senior class at Point Loma High School. This was the 24th consecutive year that a musical has been put on. This years version was created in it entirety by the class of 2000, under the supervision of their Musical Director, Larry Zeiger. The entire story line and musical numbers were derived from numerous ideas developed by the members of the class. The show was a lot of fun, with much singing and dancing. There were lots of good old songs (That's Amore, Route 66, Fever, I've Got Rhythm, etc.) and the twins did a great job. We all loved the show - Congratulations, guys !!!

