

Watson Family News & Views-Christmas 2004



Merry Christmas!

So many “firsts” have happened this year that our theme for this News & Views must be: Watson Family Firsts. Marston and I want to, of course, be among the first to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year. It is our hope that everything about the holidays is just as you like it.

Retirement for Kathy

Friday, October 29th, 2004, I retired from CGI Management Consultants. The decision to retire earlier than planned was made shortly before the announcement that Fireman’s Fund Insurance terminated the outsourcing agreement with CGI (excellent timing on my part!). With the Christmas holidays looming ahead and an evermore stressful work situation, full retirement was so desirable that we reviewed our financial situation to find that retirement was indeed the first chapter to the rest of our story.



First Cruise for the Watsons

We set sail for Cozumel and Playa del Carmen by boarding a Southwest flight on Halloween bound for Galveston. We enjoyed the company of many of our Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) friends on board the Ecstasy (Carnival) that left Galveston on Monday, November 1st. While on board, we attended the SAR’s Mexican Society Fall Meet-

ing. A significant part of the event was two full days of presentations on genealogical topics. Marston presented his renowned “Keeping Our Genealogy Alive” and I presented “Capturing Family Data” for which I received the SAR Martha Washington medal (a real coup).

At the Cozumel stop, Marston toured by bus and I toured on foot, taking a 3 hour jungle hike. Over three dozen mosquitoes found me to be rather tasty despite the use of bug spray. We never got to see Playa del Carmen as the tour we chose took us to the Mayan ruins at Tulum. Our tour guide, Conrad did a terrific job explaining the Mayan culture, traditions, and calendar. Tulum is on the Caribbean sea, so it afforded me the

opportunity to dip my toes! The water is so clear and blue!

Our favorite time on board ship was meal time, mostly for the company of the close to 50 SAR attendees. Of course, the food did not hurt either, as it was plentiful and delicious.

One of my favorite activities was use of the running track and the gym. The level of activity maintained during the trip helped to mitigate the affects of the great food (in large quantities).

The experience we had on our first cruise will have us definitely going back for more in the future! We probably will not choose Carnival, though, as the ship caters to a much younger crowd, which typically expects Las Vegas glitz.



Kathy Completes 1st Year

August 2004 marked the completion of my first year membership at Curves. My membership began in the first week of the opening of a location about one mile from our Richmond home. Curves is the largest fitness franchise in the world with 8,000 locations in the U.S. and internationally. This reasonably priced alternative to gym membership provides me with a way to keep healthy close to home. Exercise has become a part of my daily life, now that I’m retired.

Marston Knighted

A really big first in the Watson house was when Marston was knighted at the investiture event of the Sovereign Military Order, Knights Templar of Jerusalem. Shortly after the event, Marston learned that he will be promoted to Knight Commander in

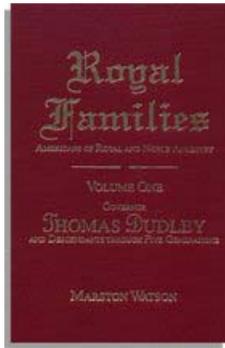


2005. The Knights Templars are patriotic and committed to the betterment of the country. They are devoted to the preservation of Liberty, which is essential to freedom of conscience and religion for all and to the performance of good works. The principal mission of the Order is Charity. The Order approaches this mainly through charitable works (both locally and in the Holy Land) which try to help people to help themselves, thereby enhancing Hope.



Marston, the Author

Marston's third book in the Royal Families series was published in October. This book on *Royal Families: Governor Thomas Dudley* is a second edition of his first book with over 900 new names added. This edition is receiving great reviews. Marston is continuing writing a five-generation book on *George Watson of Plymouth, Massachusetts, and Five Generations of His Descendants*, plus the Watson male line through 2004. He hopes to have this book ready by mid next year.



Kori Graduates

Kori is developing into a lovely young lady at now twelve years old. This year she graduated to middle school in Walnut Creek. We are extremely proud of Kori as she is really doing well in school, so the adjustment to middle school seems to agree with her. Kori also attends Kumon after school program to improve her reading and math skills so important to her overall academic performance. One of her favorite hobbies is climbing the big tree that is in front of her house in Walnut Creek. Another is handsfree bicycling.



Haley Dances-Lexie Talks!

Precocious Haley, daughter of **Erik and Jill** had a number of firsts this year. She's going on five, developing great motor skills by learning to ride her bicycle, dance and do gymnastics. She and her younger sister, Alexia, play together every day with mom, Jill, supervising - a first for both girls as Jill is now a stay-at-home mom. She continues to attend preschool and has begun to write. She even was working on her Christmas list just this last weekend.



Alexia Rose who is 2½, began to construct sentences rather than communicating in baby talk. She is really easy to take care of, specially in the night-night department. This year she graduated out of her crib and into her own bed.

Christmas Spirit!

Seventeen Watson family & friends opted to purchase gifts for needy children rather than exchange gifts this year. Pictured at the right is all the gifts purchased, wrapped, and delivered to Curves who provided the names of the needy children in the Angel Tree program. It took five hours to wrap more than fifty gifts. Christmas spirit is alive and well in the Watson clan!



Alexander Goes to School

Alexander, son of **Dionne and Rob Maniaci** and almost four years old started preschool this year. He knows the alphabet and enjoys playing with his best friend Raymundo. This year, he played host to the Watson extended family Thanksgiving event held for the first time in Patterson. **Michael, Sophia**, and their parents, **Al and Karen** plus **Kathy and Marston**, joined Zander to carve up some terrific turkey. He showed off his complete set of Highway 35 hot wheels, soon to be (if not already) sought after collectors cars. He does take time out from playing with his cars to take in play time in the snow with Mom and Dad.



Super Soccer Year

Michael's soccer team played really well in the playoffs, winning all of their games which sent the team to the Tournament of Champions where they won two of three games. Their overall record this year was 12-4, due in large part to father **Al Amador's** excellent coaching as assistant coach. At age 10, he enjoyed his fourth year on a soccer team. Now in 5th grade, he enjoys riding his bicycle, roller blading, as well as a skateboard



(what boy doesn't have one of those?). As grandparents, we are proud of Michael's grades in school. This year, his 5th grade class went on an outdoor experience, spending five nights camping in the wilderness.

Sophia Dances On Stage

Sophia, now age seven, danced in a production of Cinderella put on by her dancing school. What a treat for us to see her perform. How proud we were as she stole the show by giving us a wave as she left the stage. We are also proud of her reading ability. Sophia loves to read and it shows. At Thanksgiving dinner, she read her part of the Thanksgiving story (an annual Watson tradition) really well, using excellent voice inflection.

