

# Watson Family News & Views-Christmas 2005

## Merry Christmas!

From our family to you and yours, this newsletter brings wishes for a happy holiday season, a Merry Christmas and joyous New Year. We are “flying high” with excitement to share the events that we experienced this year and look forward to hearing about yours.



## Colorado/New Mexico Vacation

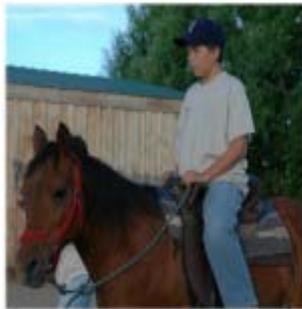
As grandparents, we decided this year that each of the grandchildren would enjoy a “special vacation”. For **Michael Amador** and **Kori Segerer**, two of the older grandchildren, it would be a vacation to Colorado and New Mexico. Southwest Airlines provided a convenient destination for the start of the trip: Albuquerque, New Mexico. From there, we headed towards four corners, where each of us stood in a different state. Having been born in Colorado, Kathy took the opportunity to stand

in Colorado for the picture. Kori was in Utah, Michael in Arizona, and Marston in New Mexico.



One of the most spectacular places that we visited was Mesa Verde where we all took a tour of Balcony House, one of Mesa Verde’s most unique adventures. Unfortunately, we also saw the devastating effects of the fire in 2000 which destroyed nearly 20,000 acres.

We stopped for several days at the Sundance Bear dude ranch owned by **Bob and Sue Scott**, our friends who relocated to Colorado nearly eight years ago. It would be Michael’s first chance at horseback riding. You can see that he made great progress in riding Tessa, one of the three horses that Bob and Sue own. Kori, an accomplished rider, rode all three horses at the ranch. Sue arranged for a horse ride with another ranch to give us a good opportunity to get the feel of riding.



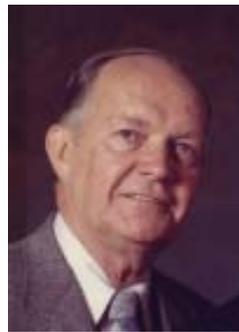
We switched modes of transportation many times during the trip (air, car, horse, train, swing, coaster, tram, etc.). By far the most exciting for all of us was the two hour river raft ride on the Animas river in Durango. The temperature of the water was 34 degrees and we were told to expect at least level three rapids. Here we are in the front of the raft going through “Smelter”, the

most difficult of the rapids.

Colorado and New Mexico are spectacular states to visit. From Mesa Verde to Durango to Glenwood Canyon to Denver to Taos to Santa Fe and ultimately back to Albuquerque, we enjoyed a wonderful two weeks with Kori and Michael.



## Joseph Daly Watson



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Marston’s 90 year-old father, **Joseph Daly Watson** on Memorial Day. He took ill with pneumonia in late April and succumbed in San Francisco at the California Pacific Medical Center on the holiday weekend. Joe was a World War II veteran who did not feel that he ever did anything special for our country in the war. He was, however, the recipient of a purple heart for being wounded in actions related to the Battle

of the Bulge. We will miss Grandpa Joe at the family events this holiday season.

## Dandy Disneyland

We have many memories of a dandy Disneyland trip with **Sophia, Alexander, and Haley** in late June. During our three-day adventure, there was breakfast with Minnie, front row seats at the afternoon parade and the electric light parade, and early entry to the park to get a good start on the exciting rides. We visited the Build-a-Bear workshop upon our arrival, where, instead of building bears, two rabbits and a cat were born and taken home.

Thanks to Dionne, the trip was made truly memorable. Disneyland, celebrating fifty years, had scattered in many places, both big and small 50’s in Mickey’s ears (see sample). She wanted to take a picture of as many of the fifty available to find as possible. All of the kids kept a sharp eye for them so we ended up finding over half of the fifty.



The kids met Minnie Mouse, Pluto, Lilo, and Stitch at the character breakfast. There were games to play, good food, and time for autographs. Our first visit to California Adventure was superb, again as we had guidance from Dionne. We really enjoyed the bumper cars, a train, ferris wheel, and tea cups. The



most memorable for me was the big ferris wheel with the chairs that went round and round inside the big wheel and the super fast roller coaster. We hated to part company with Disneyland at the end of the trip. The good news is that it will be there for the next visit, whenever that may be.

## Kathy Knighted

Following in Marston's footsteps, Kathy was knighted at the investiture event of the Sovereign Military Order, Knights Templar of Jerusalem. At the same ceremony, she was promoted to Knight Commander. The Knights Templars are Christians who are 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 was appointed editor of the national magazine for SMOTJ called the Beauciant. Publishing the organization's national news will be labor of love for both Marston and Kathy.

## Marston Surprised

November 14, 2005 - Watson family members and friends surprised Marston with a 70th birthday celebration at Salute's Ristorante in Richmond. Good food and fun was had by all who attended. All the grand children dressed as Marston look-alikes, participated in a roast led by his daughter Karen and son Erik. Included in those singing his praises to the tune of Winter Wonderland were Al, Karen's husband, and Jill, Erik's wife. Marston was a good sport during the roast and speaking from the heart, he thanked family and friends



for the "best birthday" EVER.

## MOLLUS New This Year

Marston joined the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States this year at the invitation of a close friend, Tom Curtis (who painted the Watson portraits). Almost before the ink was dry on the membership certificate, Marston was appointed "Editor-in-Chief" of the MOLLUS Journal. Prior to attending the 120th National



Congress in Philadelphia, the first issue was "put to bed" as they say in the publishing business.

MOLLUS was started on April 15, 1865, as word of President Abraham Lincoln's death spread throughout the country, by three Union Army officer friends who met in Philadelphia to discuss the tragic news. Rumors from Washington of a conspiracy to destroy the Federal government by assassination of its leaders prompted the three officers to form an organization that could help thwart future threats to the national government.

A mass meeting of Philadelphia veterans was held on April 20, 1865 to pledge renewed allegiance to the Union and to plan for participation in the funeral arrangements for the President. The Philadelphia officers, who served as an honor guard for President Lincoln's funeral cortege, met again after the funeral was over to establish a permanent organization of officers and former officers patterned after the Society of Cincinnati established after the Revolutionary War. The name they chose, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, first appeared in a notice calling a meeting on May 31, 1865 at Independence Hall.

Our family and friends will hear a great deal about the organization from us in the future as Kathy is Assistant Editor and a DOLLUS member (Dames of the Loyal Legion of the United States).

## Bowling and Writing

Kathy's father was a bowling writer and historian for the Bowling Writers Association of America (BWAA). This year, Kathy, a member of two bowling writing organizations: National Women Bowling Writers (NWBW) and California Bowling Writers (CBW) was appointed editor of the "Knows for News", the NWBW news publication. She is the webmaster for both organizations, just putting the CBW on the web for the first time this year. With all of the writing/editing/layout activities, Kathy spends a great deal of time using Pagemaker software and dealing with deadlines and printing/ mailing organizations.

But bowling is not far behind the writing about bowling. Kathy now bowls in two leagues, one of which is a sport bowling league where the lane conditions are more challenging. So far she is averaging close to her best ever in the regular league and meeting the challenge of sport bowling.

## Charity begins at Curves

Each year, Curves has a Christmas Angel Tree to help Contra Costa county foster children. As we did last year, the Watson family will participate in this event by purchasing gifts for children in lieu of exchanging gifts with adult family members. Last year, seventeen children benefited from our generosity. This year we have selected twenty names from the Curves Angel Tree and are looking forward to shopping for them so that their Christmas can be as bountiful as ours!

