

Picture painted by Lois, 1987. It hangs outside our house during the month of December each year. It is an attempted duplicate of one done by Harry Anderson.



*Enjoy the Celebration
of the Birth
of Jesus*

Don and Lois Colton Family Newsletter
Christmas 1995 Edition



The Don & Lois Colton 20th Wedding Anniversary
June 20, 1995

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year to you and yours from the Coltons

Savior of the world. Without His atoning sacrifice we would not be able to return to Heaven and be with our Heavenly Father. It is through Jesus that we can hope for a resurrection. It is a privilege to worship our Lord and Savior not just through the holidays, but all throughout the year.

A Year of Change

We have had a year of change. Larissa graduated from High School and went to her last year of Girls Camp. This is just the beginning of our family leaving the nest.

During the summer Lois had her Valiant Girls over for a campout in our backyard. We pitched the big tent, which sleeps about eight adults. Lois and the other leader slept on cots outside the tent. It went very well.

In July, we had our annual neighborhood 4th of July festivities. Some of the Colton family during that time so it was extra special. We decided to make a "float." It turned out to very cute and was a hit in the neighborhood. After the parade the neighborhood children took turns up and down the street in it.

Later in the summer we had the Colton Reunion. Our van decided it wanted a new

**Don and Lois Colton
Family Newsletter
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To our Family and Friends:
Thank you for joining us!

Jesus Christ
We believe Jesus is the
Divine Son of Heavenly Fa-
ther. He is our Savior and the

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Isaac

I like to play Math Blaster on the computer. In fact, I probably use the computer more than anyone else in the family.

My father is Don Colton. My mother is Lois Colton. I have a big brother named Joseph. He has a friend named John. I like John. My name is Isaac.

Stacia is my sister. We shared a room until September, but now I have my own room.

I like to play Math Blaster, but it is not working right now. I need somebody to reinstall it so it works again.

I like to play green guy (Cosmo), Keen 1, Keen 4, Keen 6,

I like to tell stories. For example: when asked what I liked to play, I said, "Pigs."

"Where are the pigs?" mom asked.
"In the yard."

"Front yard or back yard?" asked mom.
"Front yard."

Now, we have no pigs in the front yard, or back yard.

I love to take baths in the morning. I stay in there a long time. I play with lots of toys, there. I always manage to get water splashed onto the floor, but mom puts towels there.



Favorites

Friends: Ben,
Daniel, Stacia,
Matthew, Chris,
Gabrielle, Keven,
Kaylene, Vanessa.

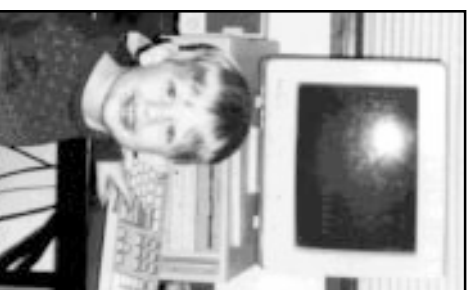
Foods: Macaroni
and Cheese, Milk,
Pickles, Cheese,
Pizza.

Toys: My Castle.
Computer Games:

Activities: Eating
food, playing the
computer, watch-
ing videos.

Animals: Dogs,
Cats

Christmas Wants:
For Christmas I
want food.



Stacia

I am nine years old. I like to roller blade and ice skate and jog a lot. Some games that I like are: house, school, tent. (Tent is when I put a blanket over the card table in my bedroom.) I like to play tent. Some computer games that I like are: Dangerous Dave, Jones in the Fast Lane, Jill of the Jungle, and Hoops P-O-u-s.

I like to read. Some of the books I read are: The Babysitters Club books, Sweet Valley books (Kids, Twins, and High), and apple books.

Some of the friends I like are: Whitney Steek, Danielle Lofus, Melinda Johnson, Briana Moyle, Brittany Scott, Rachel and Sara James, Courtney McBroom, Katy Buster, Lisa Surney, and Catrina Wynne, and Julianna Jimenez. (I am not sure how to spell all of the names.)

Some of the foods I like are: potato chips, pizza, spaghetti, corn dogs, and broccoli, and sub sandwiches. Some TV shows are Goosebumps, Aladdin, Simpsons, Home Improvement, and Fresh Prince. Parts of school I like are: Lunch, Reading, Music, and P.E. CHERSTMASMASMAS ears pierced, a million dollars, sand art [\$9.99] Hobbies: coloring, reading and playing. Activities: watching TV, Valiant Girls. Good movies: Earnest Saves Xmas and The Ten Commandments. My favorite color is teal. Some other colors I like are magenta, purple, pine green, regular blue, rose, and emerald. These are all beautiful colors to me.



Colton's 4th of July Float Entry - S.S. Isaac

engine. It was not ready in time for us to take it to the family reunion. Grandma Colton offered to take Ben, Daniel, and Stacia with her so that they wouldn't miss out on all the fun and the cousins. We were very pleased that she offered. We were sad not to be able to go and have fun. We heard a great report when the children got back. The three children were gone about two weeks with their grandparents. They had such a great time. One thing they really liked seeing was the new film, Legacy, in Salt Lake City. They really want to go back and see it again. Hopefully, next summer we will be able to vacation.



The "New" Van

Don

"All I want for Christmas is my P-h-D..." That's the song I am singing these days. Making progress, and hoping to be done soon.

Last year I wished to do great on the class I would teach. I did do well, getting a 3.4 rating from the students (on a 4.0 scale). That is a very comfortable rating. I was invited to teach a second class, and on that I got a 3.8 rating, which is pretty much unheard of. I was absolutely delighted. When I first started teaching eight years ago, typical ratings were 4.1 out of 5.0 at Griffin. So it feels like progress.

I also wished that I would publish something. In fact, I published a bunch of things. Starting out in March, I published a manual on SLUSH, the local computer programming environment. Okay, so it did not affect many people, and would hardly be called scholarly (more like technical writing), but it was a publication. Then I got an article accepted to Eurospeech '95 in Madrid. I even got to go in person and deliver the paper as a poster. I enjoyed that. I wrote a course manual for the class that I got 3.8 on, and published it as a technical report. 200 pages.

Finally, I submitted a paper to ICASSP (International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing), another professional conference, and had it accepted. I will give it as a lecture in May 1996 in Atlanta. (I think a lecture is a step up from a poster, but maybe I am fooling myself. And I think ICASSP is a step up from Eurospeech. So at least I think I am making progress.) I plan to submit a paper to ICSLP (International Conference on Speech and Language Processing, I think. I don't remember... Oh, well.) for eventual presentation in Philadelphia next summer or fall.

I wished I would get my PhD topic approved, and I got it approved. The topic is "Vocabulary Independent Utterance Verification," which means that another computer program has concluded that a speech file (the utterance) represents some particular words, and my job is to verify that conclusion. Also, I have to do it without ever having heard that vocabulary before. That makes it vocabulary independent. Humans do this all the time, but it is very difficult for computers to do anything in this area that is nearly as reliable as humans. Anyway, that is my topic. I also wished to form my committee and get most of my research done. In fact, I have formed my committee and started on my research. I do not feel that it is mostly done, though.

Four out of five is not bad! It has really been an amazing year. It is hard to keep up with all the blessings we get. Nice house to live in. Nice school to attend. Enough to eat and spend and wear. Smart kids (and friendly and nice, too, sometimes). A really really great wife that patiently makes ends meet and lets me help her with her church job as Primary (children's organization) Secretary. It's a great life.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

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Favorites

Relaxation: Going back to bed after the kids leave for school.

Friends: Dan Burnett, and also Kay, Philipp, Karen, Terri, Vince, Terri, and the rest of the gang at OGI.

Foods: OJ, fruit, pretzels, and bread. Nuts when I can get them.

Movies: Toy Story.

Colors: Blue.

Hobbies: Riding my bike to school every day.

Radio Station: Boy, it's been a while since...

Musicians: Mannheim Steamroller, Harry Chapin.

Activities: Research. Achievement: making good progress toward my PhD.

Books: Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.

Vacation: Job hunting.

Wanna be: professor at a top-50 U.S. Computer Science department

Christmas Wants: Finish my PhD, publish some more, land a teaching and research job.

Daniel

I'm twelve years old. I have many teachers. My homeroom teacher is Mr. DePinto. My opinion is that school is not good. My easiest class is Social Studies and I'm getting a "B".

Life before Christmas for me is a drag because of an ear infection and a fever.

Christmas will be fun this Christmas, because Larissa has came home for Christmas.

I am going camping by Mt. Hood after Christmas. I am looking forward to that. I hope that I am well enough i time to go.

Well life is good and I have nothing more really to share, thanks for listening to this boring letter, and good-bye.



Favorites

Relaxation: Play with computer

Friends: Aaron King, Brad D., Eric James

Foods: Pizza, Hamburgers, Fries, Ice Cream (Neopolitan)

Toys: Action figures Parts of School: P.E., Lunch, Intermerals

Games: Computer games Movies: Stargate, Billy Madison

Colors: Green

Hobbies: Collecting Action figures

Radio Station: Z100.3

Songs: As I Lay You down to sleep

Singer: Sovie B. hackins

Activities: Running, Biking, Swimming

Animals: Zebra, Elephant

Achievement Wish: Buy a Nintendo (even though I don't have one)

Vacation: Oregon Coast, Olympic Coast

Christmas Wants: A whole bunch of toys

Benjamin

I have been busy seeing what I don't have to do. This newsletter is a good example. I can't think of what to say about myself.

I am now a sophomore at Hillhi. I don't really like school, but it is a requirement that I go to school. Occasionally my mom offers to teach me at home, but I'd rather go to school. I like to play a fantasy game with my friends at school, and after school. It is better than staying home all day. I don't mind some things about school, but I don't like doing homework. I don't mind learning, but grades aren't important to me.

At home I have my own room, I like to go in my room and sleep or watch TV. I like to be by myself sometimes. Other times I like to play on the computer. It's hard to play on the computer because everyone else wants to play on it also. So sometimes I stay up late to do it.

I have been taking Strength Training at Hillhi. I am getting stronger all the time. I can deadlift 345 pounds. I can bench 185 pounds. I really like working out. Joseph gave me his gym. It is usually in my bedroom or in the family room. Unfortunately there isn't much room in my bedroom.

I try not to eat too much, and be healthy. Hope you are healthy also. Ben



Favorites

Relaxation: Sleep,

Play the com-

puter, cards

Friends: John

Foods: Italian

Foods

Toys: The com-

puter, Stuffed

animal Abu.

Movies: Toy Story

Colors: Black, Grey,

Red, White.

Activities: Strength

Training

Christmas

Wants: Warcraft 2,

Command and

Conquer.

Luiz

This year was a good year. It was a little different than I thought it would be, but it made it interesting. We started the year without a car, and bought a mini-van in March. Unfortunately, in July we found out that the engine needed replacing. Larissa sold her car and went to BYU. That made my life different. I could actually go to sleep by midnight. Life was a lot calmer this past fall.

I have had such a great time talking to the kids and doing activities with them. I was able to continue to keep in regular contact with Larissa through email.

I have continued attending book club, the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Meetings, and Church activities and meetings.

Currently I am the Primary secretary (over children 18 months to 12 years) and Valiant Girls leader (over the 10/11 year old girls). We have had a lot of really fun activities. We had secret grandmothers in the summer. At the end we had a garden party where we disclosed who did which ladies. We've continued on with activities with these special ladies. We had a dinner, and did some Christmas things with them. We hope to do more in the future. There is such a love between the girls and the Grandmas, and the Grandmas and the girls.

Between my household duties, motherhood, church, neighborhood, friends, and hobbies, I keep fairly active. Sometimes I even hold project nights, still, to get some



Favorites

Activity: Talking to family and friends. In person is best, but I'll go for on the telephone or email also.

Relaxation: Watching flowers bloom, and playing the computer.

of those long needed projects done.

Hope your holidays were wonderful. Our Christmas Day was the most peaceful day our family has had since I don't know when. John Rupp, our "does he live at your house" son, came during the afternoon. It was a great day.

*Lots of Love,
Lois*

Larissa

Hi again everyone. I guess it is that time of year again when I get to tell you all about me. Fun huh? Well I am now 18 and 1/2 years old and currently attending Brigham Young University. It is fun, but difficult to pay for. I worked last summer at Godfather's Pizza and Oregon Graduate Institute. I was promoted to "Shift Supervisor" at Godfathers and so I started to work a few more hours. Between my two jobs I worked between 65-70 hours per week. Needless to say, I didn't have much of a social life. My boyfriend at the time drove me to and from work. That was about the extent of my social life. I paid off my many debts to my parents for most of the summer. By the beginning of August I had paid them off and I began to save for college. It has been hard ever since, but there is a certain amount of pleasure that comes from knowing that you don't depend on anyone else for your college education. Now I work at the Missionary Training Center in Provo. I serve food on the lines during lunch time. I get to see lots of missionaries and it is fun to see old friends who are now old enough to be serving missions.

At BYU I am taking several classes. I have English, Aerobics, Accounting, Sociology, Economics,



and Book of Mormon. I have to admit my grades have not been desirable, but I guess that I have been trying to get used to a different lifestyle and so things have been hard. I expect that next semester will prove to be much better for my academic side. My major at the time is Family Sciences with an emphasis on Home and Family. I really like children and learning good ways to deal with them and family life in general, so the major seemed ideal.

Larissa

Favorites

- Relaxation: hanging out with boys, listening to music, sleeping
- Friends: boys
- Foods: mexican
- Toys: credit cards (ha ha) my radio
- Classes: sociology or Book of Mormon
- Movies: "The Cutting Edge," and "The Client"
- Colors: Emerald Green and Navy Blue
- Hobbies: Chatting with Boys
- Radio stations: country ones
- songs: right now - "Lady in Red"
- Singers: Chicago, Vince Gill, Patty Loveless, Duran Duran
- Activities: Hangin' at Kimball Hall (boys hall in my ward)
- Sports: Baseball and Basketball
- Animals: Horses, little Kittens
- Achievement: Graduation (of course) and getting the Foreign Language award for my Senior class
- Book: Kiliashandra by Anne McCaffrey
- Vacation: Any Vacation
- Wanna be: a relaxed person
- Christmas wants: MONEY to pay college bills

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Joseph

I'm finally the oldest teenager living at home. My parents like to consider the fact that now that Larissa is gone, I can change rooms. I personally have no intention of changing rooms anytime soon. I plan to keep this room until the day I leave for my mission. I'm now seventeen years old. In school, I am learning a lot about programming in C.



I can now do some graphics, and a little bit of math in C. One of the things I do for fun is quote phrases from The Princess Bride with my friends. I also quote sayings from other things. Well, that is all that I can think of to tell about myself. Until next time... Er, um, I'm done.

Favorites

- Relaxation: To relax. I sleep or just sit there thinking about sleep.
- Foods: My favorite foods are Top Ramen, Pizza, and Bean Burritos.
- Toys: My favorite toys are the computer, my Sega, the phone, and the Taco Bell Sour Cream Guns.
- Classes: Advanced Programming, Seminary, and Economics.
- Games-Board: Risk, Monopoly, The Farming Game, and Strat-ago.
- Games-Computer: Dune II, The Quest for Glory Series, Betrayal at Krondor, SimCity 2000, Masters of Magic, and WarCraft.
- Movies: The Princess Bride, Far and Away, Charlots of Fire, Pochanarias, and Toy Story.
- Colors: Dark blue and red.
- Hobbies: Surfing the Internet, talking with friends, and Sleeping.
- Books: The RitWar Saga, The Shannara Series, The Redwall Books, and various other books.
- Sports: Track.



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