

Christmas Vision

The wind was blowing
The snow was snowing
White flakes of coldness showing

I was there
Snowy hair
Blowing swiftly from here to there

When in the sky
I saw them fly
Many reindeer caught my eye

I thought "how could this be?"
But they were there, you see!
It might be Santa, could it be?

I was right!
When it entered the moon light
A red sleigh flew like a kite
And then vanished without a sight

In awe I stood until dawn
Even though it was long ago gone!

— Joseph Colton
12 / 7 / 92

Don and Lois Colton Family Newsletter Christmas 1992 Edition



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

Don and Lois Colton Family
Newsletter
Christmas 1992 Edition

To our Family and Friends:
Thank you for joining us!

Night in Bethlehem

Our ward at church celebrated Christmas with "A Night in Bethlehem." Every one came dressed in bath robes, beards, and other clothing to remind us what people would have looked like 2000 years ago. We were each given a bag of "gold coins"

Contents

Family Photograph - page 1
Family News - pages 2 and 3
Don - page 4
Lois - page 5
Larissa - page 6
Joseph - page 7
Benjamin - page 8
Daniel - page 9
Stacia - page 10
Isaac - page 11
Christmas Vision - page 12

(painted metal washers) with which we paid taxes and purchased food from the local merchants. We all pretended we were travelers going to Bethlehem to be taxed. Joseph and Mary came through the Bethlehem crowd. Some people noticed. A lot of people were too busy eating food or looking after children to notice them.

At the high point of the program, shepherds and wise men came to a nativity scene at one end of the room. There, a father and mother posed with their new baby, their first, as Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. A narrator told the story. Everyone was watching the baby playing baby Jesus.

The whole setting, with a lot of people sitting on the floor and dressed in that time period, was thought provoking. It also helped me remember that these were Jews and non-Jews celebrating the birth of Jesus. We were all travelers in Bethlehem on that glorious night. Afterwards, we decorated the tree in the foyer with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. It was an evening we all enjoyed. It helped to bring us more in tune with the message of the season.

Jesus Christ

We believe Jesus is the Divine Son of Heavenly Father. He is our Savior and the 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

Isaac

I have changed a lot since last year. I have gone from crawling upside down and backwards to running and climbing. Mom and dad had to put the gates back up in the living room and dining room. I have not yet climbed over them, which amazes mom, but she seems grateful. I climb everything else, but since falling is not too much fun, I tend to be fairly careful.

My eating habits have changed. Last year I mostly nursed, drank from a bottle, and ate crackers. Now I am especially fond of hamburger. At around age one I had all twenty teeth. Since then, no one has been able to look in my mouth to see what I have.

I have recently learned to fold my arms for prayers. I have learned to take off various items of clothing when no one expects it. Mom finds this a little inconvenient, since it is rather cold here in the winter.

I got moved from Larissa's room to Stacia's room because I learned how to get out of my crib and into her earrings and spread them out all over the floor.

I can do the finger actions for

"Eensy Beensy Spider."

I have decided that I do not have to eat everything I find on the floor. I play with some things instead.

I also sing and dance. I enjoy music, especially if it has a strong beat.



Favorites

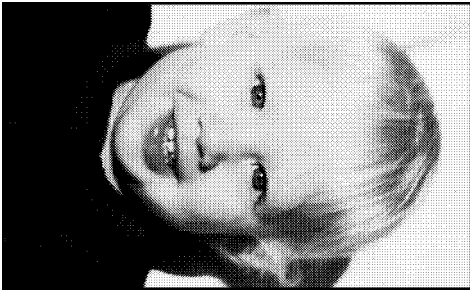
Relaxation: Being carried around
Friends: my family
Foods: Hamburger, Milk, Twinkies, Carrots, Cheese

Toys: Balls, Tops, Things I can climb in and on, Things that make noise
Games: Feed Me, Toss (especially when the intended recipient is not looking)

Activities: Running around like crazy, Dancing on the table, Climbing everything, Eating, Ripping paper, Unplugging appliances, Removing shoe laces and reinstalling them in my own

unique fashion, Escaping Animals:

Anything that moves
Achievement: Running
Wanna be: Free



Stacia

I am six years old.
I dressed up as a Princess for Halloween. I got lots of candy on Halloween.

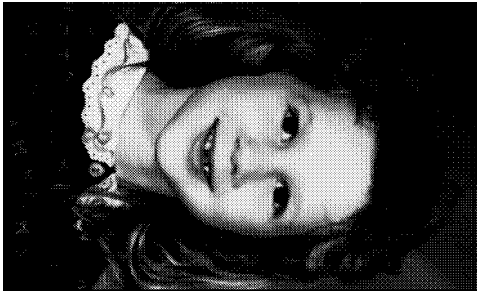
I am in first Grade now. I already am on Spelling Tests. I do good on the spelling tests. My teacher's name is Mrs. Bird. I like my teacher.

I am a good reader. I practice almost every night with mom. Mom also reads library books and the Boxcar Children books to me. When I go to bed I take books with me and read them. I have lost three teeth so far this year. I have learned how to jump rope. I can

cross my arms and uncross them while I am jumping. I am trying to learn how to do double-unders. It is really tiring but fun. I am also teaching Isaac how to turn the rope. He loves jump ropes.

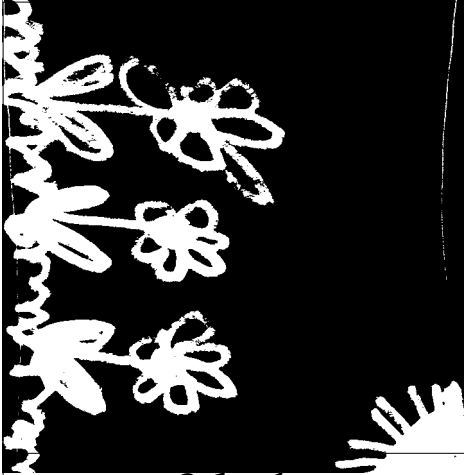
I still love ponies and play with them a lot. I love to have friends over or go to their homes and play.

Even though I knew two classes of Kindergarten's last year I still only knew two kids in my first grade class when it started this year. Now I know everyone and we have lots of fun together.



Favorites

- Friends: Courtney McBroom, Cassie Evans, Jennifer Donney
- Foods: Spagetti, Macaroni and Cheese, Carrots, Lettuce, Apple
- Toys: Teddy Bear, Doll, Stuffed Animals, Ponies
- Parts of School: Recess, Lunch, Math, Reading
- Game: Candy Land
- Movies: Duck Tales, Church movies
- Colors: Red, Green, Pink, Purple
- Songs: I Am A Child Of God, Love One Another
- Activities: Running, Riding my bike, Playing, Eating
- Animals: Giraffe, Monkey, Panda Bear, Dog, Birds
- Achievement: Cleaning the Floor of my Bedroom
- Books: Lots of my School Books, Fairy Tale Books
- Vacation: When I went on an Airplane, When I go to Grandma's
- Wanna be: A Missionary
- Christmas Wants: Box of Cereal, My Room Clean, That I get a new Computer, and that I get some computer games (like Mixed-Up Fairy Tales)



privilege to worship our Lord and Savior at this time of year and throughout the entire year.

In the tinsel, glitter, gift-giving of Christmas, the true meaning of Christmas is often dulled or lost. I see a lot of the spirit of Christmas, however, as people reach out to one another's needs in love. This is what the Savior taught. "Love one another." Because of this feeling many people enjoy the Christmas season that might not really have

any religion in their lives. We hope and pray you have an enjoyable Christmas season as His birth is celebrated.



Family Picture (Really!)

After the front cover portrait was taken, we decided to get a picture of the "real" us. Each person dressed "natural," and grabbed props to show better who we really are. Don in Griffin shirt and black shorts sits astride his famous bicycle. Lois is barefoot reading a book. Larissa has flowers (in another shot, she holds a telephone to her ear). Joseph's fingers dance across a computer keyboard. Benjamin plays with Isaac and the computer. Daniel in 49ers shirt and bicycle helmet sits against his BMX bicycle. Stacia perched in the background holds flowers. Isaac drinks his bottle. Can this be who we really are?

Don

I am working on becoming a famous scholar in Computer Science. But before that I need to get employed at a good school. But before that I need to earn my Ph.D. But before that I need to get admitted to graduate school and get funding (a grant or fellowship would be nice). But before that I need to get some excellent letters of recommendation from a few notables in the field of Computer Science. That is what I am working on right now.

(I tried for fellowships and grad school this past Autumn, but had some problems: the NSF fellowship thought my application would have been stronger if I had better research experience; the UW noted my letters of recommendation were not from

professors in the computer science field, and I skipped certain prerequisite classes. To solve these problems, I am taking classes part-time at UW, and plan to ask the professors to write letters of recommendation. Although the competition is fierce, I am still "cautiously optimistic."

I continue to teach full-time at Griffin College. I particularly enjoy the students and the challenge.

At church, I served nine months as Elder's Quorum President, and now serve as Teachers Quorum advisor.

I have enjoyed working on Family History (Genealogy) with my father. He has collected many thousands of pages of information, and has organized them into computer files. This fall I made some major advances in producing indices, reports, and other databases (including PAF and GEDCOM) from his massive collection. This is a result of skills I am learning at UW.

I am excited that I may earn my first "publication" based on an observation I made to my UW professor about the "Pumping Lemma" which is an important theoretical tool in proving things about languages. He encouraged me to write it up.



Favorites

- Relaxation: Sleeping, Bus riding
- Friends: Lois and the computer
- Foods: Burritos, cheese
- Classes: All of them
- Games: Avalon Hill
- Movies: Beauty and the Beast, Land Before Time
- Colors: Blue and Purple
- Hobbies: Teaching (but if it paid better, I wouldn't have to call it a hobby!)
- Radio Station: KOMO, KUOW
- Songs: 70's oldies
- Singers: John Denver
- Activities: Solving puzzles
- Animals: Crows
- Achievement: Riding 2900 miles this year on my bicycle
- Books: My Teacher is an Alien, Chronicles of Narnia
- Vacation: Camping and Biking
- Wanna be: Computer Science Professor
- Christmas Wants: Ace all my classes. Get excellent letters of recommendation. Have something published, Win a scholarship or fellowship to pursue my PhD.

Daniel

I am nine years old. I am in Mrs. Haesly's fourth grade class at Helen Keller Elementary School. She is the same teacher I had last year for third grade. She is very nice because she lets me do my homework at home instead of study hall.

This year I like sliding down the hill on my feet. You have to run really fast to do it. It makes green marks on my pants.

I like baseball, basketball, soccer, floor hockey, and swimming.

I like collecting legos and making islands with boxes. Then I play with them. I play legos and war.

On our family reunions at the Duckabush, we get to go in the river, and get to go on inner tubes down it. And collect frogs. (We bring them home and they die.) We get to climb up on the swings and we get to play volleyball. We get to play in the creek and roast marshmallows and eat black berries. And we have picnics and we get to meet people that we've never met before.

This year I want for Christmas a Super Nintendo and lots of Legos and a Sega Genesis.

I like to go in the creek, and I like to go down the hill on a sled in the winter.

On January 28, 1993, I have my tenth birthday. I will go to Valiant B class in church.



Favorites

- Relaxation: Play with Legos
- Friends: Aaron King, Heath Pock
- Foods: Pizza, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Ice Cream (Neapolitan)
- Toys: Micro Machines, Legos
- Parts of School: P.E., Lunch, Recess
- Games: Fire Ball Island, Clue, Monopoly, Chinese Checkers
- Movies: Terminator II, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Treasure Island
- Colors: Red, Blue
- Hobbies: Collecting Legos
- Radio Station: KPLZ 101.5
- Disk Jockey: Kent and Alan
- Songs: Won't You Play A Simple Melody
- Singer: Ozzie Osborn
- Activities: Running, Biking, Swimming
- Animals: Zebra, Elephant
- Achievement: Buy a Nintendo (even though I don't have one)
- Books: Box Car Children, Three Investigators
- Vacation: Oregon Coast, Olympic Coast
- Wanna be: a P.E. Teacher
- Christmas Wants: A whole bunch of Legos

Benjamin

I am twelve years old.
I attend Kamiakin Jr High. I am in the Seventh Grade. My classes are, first, Social Science with Miss Jordan, second, PE with Mrs. Smith, third, Math with Mr. Murray, fourth, Art with Miss Haven, fifth, English with Mr. Schneider, sixth, Language Arts with Miss Bauer.
I like math and computers. I am in the Math Olympiad, which is a Math contest between schools.

I enjoy inviting my friends over. We usually play on the computer.

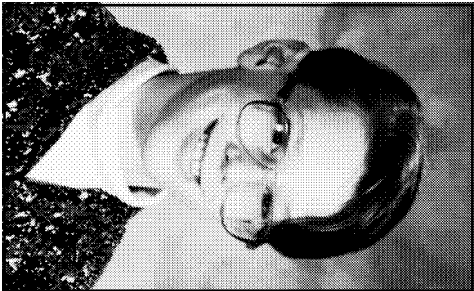
I have a morning paper route. I do 31 houses. It gets COCD in the winter. I earn around \$90 per month, but I have to pay tithing and savings. Sunday papers are the biggest and the second-biggest ones are Wednesdays. All the rest are kind of small.

For Halloween I was a Yeti.

I like adventure books.

On scouts I hold the rank of Star. I have about 13 merit badges, including half of the ones required for Eagle.

I like "Quest for Glory," you start out with either a fighter, a magic user, or a thief. They go around in a forest and make themselves strong and intelligent by killing Trolls and Goblins and stuff like that. They can rob places. They gain a lot of money so that they can buy armor.



Favorites

- Relaxation: the Computer
- Friends: Troy Fisher, Shawn Collett, Brian Petersen
- Foods: Pizza, Potatoes, Corn, Ice Cream, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, and Turkey Sandwiches
- Toys: the Computer, Legos, Cards
- Classes: Art, Math, Social Science, Tech Lab
- Games: Monopoly, Quest for Glory, Life
- Movies: Beauty and the Beast, Crocodile Dundee II, Peter Pan
- Colors: Blue, Black, White, Red
- Hobbies: Collecting money (to spend)
- Radio Station: 101.5 KPLZ
- Sports: Track
- Activities: Computer playing, Swimming, Capture the Flag
- Animals: Monkeys
- Achievement: Getting A's in school, and beating a computer game.
- Books: Rumble Fish
- Wanna be: a Computer Programmer
- Christmas Wants: Quest for Glory III, Super Nintendo, a New Computer, personal TV, any other computer games that exist.

Lois

I suppose this has been a year of change. What year isn't? Isaac has changed a lot. Staci started to read. Daniel started after-school sports. Benjamin started "Young Mens" and Junior High. Joseph goes to the dances at Church. Larissa started High School and has her driving permit, and Don has gone back to school. I have had three different church callings during the year.

I think my biggest challenges this past year have been trying to keep up with the family early schedule and late schedule and still get enough rest to have the energy to keep up with it all.

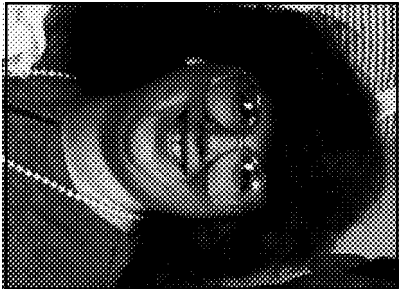
I have thought more than once about the statement Don heard from one of his students. When asked about Christmas, his friend's grandmother replied, "Sonny, when you're my age, Christmas comes every other Sunday." Time is speeding up for me, too.

Seems like the seasons are going by so fast that I hardly have time to enjoy them before they are gone. However, winter still stays longer than I wish.

July was a really fun month for me. It was a month that I could enjoy myself. We had David and Kristine and their children down from Alaska. Most of the time between July 3 and July 19 we had eighteen people living at our home. I was really pleased at how smoothly everything went, how well everyone got along, and how good the food was. (It's funny, but it seems like we have better food when relatives are around) I especially enjoyed all the cookies that we had. I thought it was fun going to my parent's house, having a hot dog roast there, and then riding home on the ferry. Ruth was impressed by all the different modes of transportation she got to experience on her vacation.

I love to do photo shoots. One of my favorite pictures taken is on Larissa's page. The pictures of Isaac (page 11) and Family (page 3) are also my work.

I am currently revamping my 4'x4' nativity painting which hangs outside our home during the month of December. It was originally done in 1987 and was really weather-beaten. I'm sure all the protective spray had disappeared because about half of the paint was gone in places. Anyway, this time I am doing the painting by Harry Anderson using the grid enlargement system. Since the painting is on the board I am now going over it. I am using a lot more shading and feeling as I paint. I feel a little like the painters you see on public television. I am really pleased with how it is turning out. The only problem is that it isn't getting out until just a few days before Christmas. (Just like this newsletter!) Life is going fast for me but it is really fun and worthwhile.



Favorites

- Relaxation: Sleeping,
- Reading: Jigsaw Puzzles
- Friends: Don, lots of others
- Foods: Mexican, cookies
- Toys: Computer and VCR
- Games: Dominos and Scrabble
- Movies: Beauty and the Beast, Little Princess, Secret Garden, Parent Trap movies, Anne of Green Gables.
- Colors: Hot Pink
- Hobbies: Reading,
- Gardening: Photography
- Songs: Cat's Cradle
- Activities: Picnics
- Animals: Wild Birds
- Achievement: Surviving 1992
- Books: L. M. Montgomery I have 24 of them.
- Vacation: Clayton Reunion 1992
- Wanna be: By myself
- Christmas Wants: Key fob that cannot be lost, new vehicles, new dishwasher, and a mug that sings when you drink from it

Larissa

I am a sophomore at Juanita High School. My classes include Intermediate Algebra (better known as Algebra II), Modern World History, Chemistry, English, Spanish II, and Lifeguard Training.

I am a MiaMaid II in Church, and President of the MiaMaid class. On a usual Saturday night, I will be at a stake dance somewhere. These range from really exciting to really dull. My other church activities include seminary, young women activities, and church volleyball. Our volleyball team lost only two games, winning the other five. At our tournament we won our first game by forfeit. Our second game we won the first round, lost the second by a narrow margin, and lost the third. This year was a lot better than all our other years. I met a lot of people from Finn Hill Junior High.

This has been an exciting year. On Nov 7, I passed the written test for my driving permit. I am currently enrolled in Traffic Safety Education (Driver's Ed).

I think my most challenging class this year is Lifeguard Training because it is not just a swimming class. We have to learn all kinds of rescues, and then we get tested on them. In order to pass the class, you have to get 100% on all of these water tests. We also have to take a First Aid / CPR class in order to certify as a lifeguard. In December I took the Red Cross class. It was a long day. Most of my good friends were also in the First Aid / CPR class so we had a lot of fun. In my math class, my

Favorites

Relaxation: Talking on the phone.
Friends: everyone.
Foods: Mexican.
Toys: Phone and Radio.
Classes: Math, English, and Spanish.
Games: Monopoly.
Movies: Top Gun, The Cutting Edge, and Beauty and the Beast.
Colors: Navy and Emerald Green.
Hobbies: Reading, Sleeping, and Talking on the Phone.
Radio Stations: KUBE and KLSY.
Disk Jockeys: Kent and Alan
Songs: In the Still of the Night, How Do You Talk to an Angel, 90210 Soundtrack.
Singers: Boyz II Men and many others.
Activities: Scoping guys.
Sports: Basketball and Baseball.
Animals: Panda Bear and Horses.



friend Jori and I have become the Life of the Class. If it weren't for us, everybody would probably be asleep. My teacher, Mr. Groeten, is also Juanita's Baseball Coach. He has won many awards because he is a good coach. Our Baseball Team has won State many times. Jori and I are hoping to be Baseball Managers, which is one good reason to "become good friends" with Mr. Groeten. He is a real cool teacher anyhow.
I got a DayTimer in which I carry everything. It cost \$60, which is a larger chunk of money than I really have.
I also bought a

Achievement: Getting my learners permit.
Books: Crystal Singer, and Killashandra, Crystal Line.
Vacation: Trip to Ocean Shores.
Wanna be: a Mother and an elementary school teacher in first or second grade.
Christmas Wants: a tape deck, or walkman, better TV antenna, my own phone number and line, a couple of skirts, some jeans, a small inexpensive four-door car.

cordless phone. That makes everything so much easier. I can now go to any part of the house without having to switch phones in the middle of a conversation. That cuts out quite a lot of hassle.
This is the toy on which I spend most of my free time. Our family got a Gold Pass to the Pacific Science Center, and so on one school-free Monday morning, Joseph and I took a bunch of friends up there. We took the bus there and back. It was quite an exciting trip.

Joseph

I am fourteen, in the ninth grade at Kamiakin Junior High School. My classes are first, English with Sabol, second, P.E. with Matsutoni, third, Leadership with Leland, fourth, Math with Conner, fifth, World Geography with Conrick, and sixth, Home and Family with Strong.

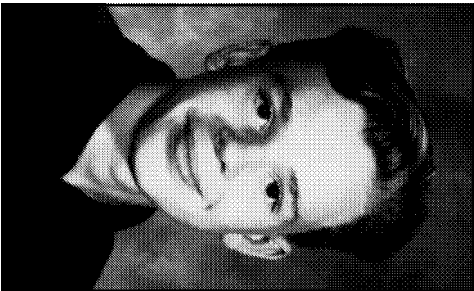
I am in Math Olympiad. It is a math contest between schools. It will take place in mid-April. I like Space Quest I, II, and III.

In Space Quest I you are a janitor and you have to get off your ship before it explodes, and eventually get home. In Space Quest II you are captured and taken to a planet. You have to beat a bunch of jungles in order to escape. I am halfway done with SQ2.

Space Quest III is a continuation of SQ2. You are drifting in your escape pod when picked up by an enemy robot ship. You must escape and rescue the two guys from Andromeda. I have beaten SQ3.

I bought a bike. It is a GT Mountain Bike. It has automatic switches for the gears. It is a 21-speed. It has a rack on the back. I rode quite a bit this summer, at least 750 miles.

I made a 56-mile bike ride. It was in Oregon along Highway 101. Our scout troop was traveling south. We visited the Sea Lion Caves along the way, and went dune buggy riding.



Favorites

Relaxation: I guess sleep. I don't know.
Friends: David Briggs, Mario Fulmer, and Andy Rhodes
Foods: Pizza and Mexican
Toys: Computers
Classes: P.E., Home And Family
Games: any Avalon Hill game, A-10 Tank Killer, Capture the Flag
Movies: Robin Hood Prince of Thieves
Colors: Red and Blue
Hobbies: Bike riding, Computer playing, Computer programming
Radio Station: KPLZ 101.5
Disk Jockeys: Kent and Alan
Sports: Track, Volleyball, sometimes Baseball
Animals: Kestral (it's a bird)
Books: Redwall, Lord of the Rings, Prydain series
Vacation: Summer
Wanna be: good at Track
Christmas Wants: King's Quest VI, Red Baron, Aces of the Pacific