

*May the Peace, Joy, and Happiness
of this Blessed Time of the Year
be with You and Yours*



*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from Mary Beth, Richard, Robert, and
Michael Hess*



Richard Robert Mary Beth Michael
September 1997, Cambria, California

It is unbelievable that another year has passed by! The boys are growing and learning and doing what all young boys do...but we don't need to go into that!

Mary Beth is still a stay-at-home mom and Richard has just completed his fourteenth year at National TeleConsultants.

We ended last year with a trip to Aurora, Ontario, Canada, to visit Mary Beth's mother and brother for the Holidays.

Fortunately, we had good weather and the boys were well. It was great seeing all of our friends from that part of the world. This was the second year in a row we had made a Christmas trip with the boys.

Richard finished working on a production studio for Microsoft and the technical system design for The Newseum in Arlington, Virginia, during the spring. The Newseum project ended with Richard attending a local chapter meeting of Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers there.

On February 16th, Mary Beth and Richard celebrated Valentine's Day by taking a day trip to San Francisco. We had brunch at the Top of the Mark and attended an organ recital at Grace Cathedral by Gerre Hancock from St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue in New York City. It was good to see Gerre again after all these years.

Mary Beth's brother, John, came via train and visited the last week of February. As always, all of us enjoyed his visit. He is ever the doting uncle.

There has been ongoing travel to Salt Lake City and Portland for the project Richard is working on for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In early April, Richard attended the General Conference of the Church in Salt Lake to better understand their needs, then flew to The Newseum for its first taping, and flew back to Las Vegas for the annual National Association of Broadcasters Convention. Whew!

Later in April we attended a Judy Collins concert at the Thousand Oaks Performing Arts Center. Richard has been a fan of Judy's for many years, especially when he lived in New York and went to her concerts. A year ago we started going to her concerts whenever she plays in the area. Richard has put together a web page on her and other folk artists as well as his many other interests. Check it out at:

<http://rlhess.home.mindspring.com>

email: rlhess@mindspring.com

In mid-June, John returned and we took a trip to Cambria. On our way up, we stopped at the Live Oak Music Festival near Santa Barbara to hear up-and-coming folk artist Dar Williams. John even treated us to a horse and carriage ride!

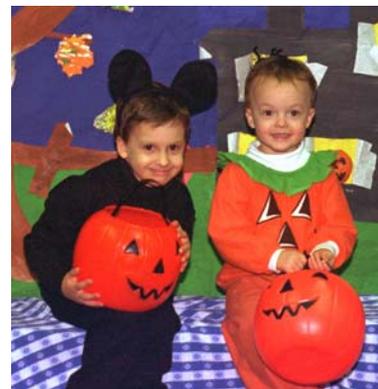
Two weeks later we returned to Cambria for the July 4th weekend. At the end of July, we went to hear Anne Murray at the Greek Theater—an outdoor venue like the Hollywood Bowl, but smaller. We both had a great time.

On August 24th, we heard Tish Hinojosa at McCabe's Guitar Shop in Santa Monica. This is a great small venue, and Mary Beth joined Richard in being a Tish fan. On August 26th, we went to the Hollywood Bowl for a symphony concert. It was interesting but overwhelming. On the 28th, Richard had a meeting in Portland, but we still made it up to Cambria for the Labor Day Weekend (where the photo at the left was taken)!

Robert started his second year in a Presbyterian-Church-affiliated preschool in Eagle Rock. Michael started his first year there. They both go mornings, three days per week.

We had a full fall of music. We saw Judy Collins in September at the Cerritos Center and again in October at Citrus College. This lady does fly around a lot! We also saw Dar Williams again at the Troubadour in West Los Angeles. This time she had a full band.

In October we started looking at private schools and find the decision daunting. Since our local public elementary school is perhaps the best in Glendale, we probably cannot make a bad choice, although we are exploring all the options.

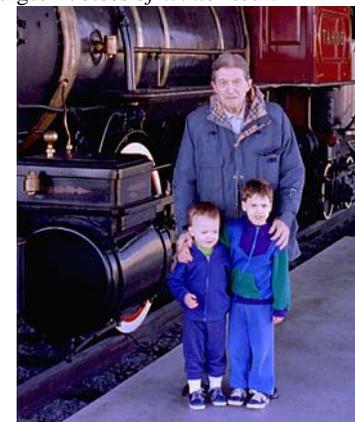


Here we see Robert and Michael in their Halloween costumes for the pre-school party. They appear to be enjoying themselves at school.

Richard had not seen his Dad since our driving trip back East in 1995. So we thought we'd go see him sometime. Richard noticed that another

lady who is featured on his folk music web page, Priscilla Herdman, was giving a concert in Harrisburg on the Saturday after Thanksgiving so we scheduled our trip to have Thanksgiving with Jay and Dick and for Richard to go to the concert—which was wonderful. This was part of the Priscilla Herdman, Anne Hills, and Cindy Mangsen *Voices of Winter* tour.

Strasburg, PA, is very close to Lancaster where Jay and Dick live so the boys got to explore the (unheated) Railroad Museum with their Grandfather. Later, we all went for a ride on the Strasburg Railroad which used a 90-year-old steam locomotive!



We all had a really good time, although I think the boys were a bit too wild for Jay and Dick. We also saw Richard's Uncle Don (Dick's brother) and Aunt Chris who recently celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary! They hosted a fantastic lunch for us all. Richard drove all six of us down to Arlington for a behind-the-scenes tour of The Newseum.

We started our Christmas celebration by seeing Judy Collins's wonderful Christmas Concert in Irvine on December 7th. Robert had his preschool Christmas Program on December 12th and we celebrated Michael's Birthday on the 13th including the boy's first concert—Mary Rice Hopkins at Glendale Presbyterian Church. With all this, the trip, work, and getting ready for Mary Beth's Mother and Brother to arrive on December 22nd (gasp-today), we apologize for getting this out late. However, due to the marvels of the Internet, some of you may still receive our wishes and news by Christmas!

Love to all from us all!