

Where does the time go? Believe it or not, Mary Beth and Richard celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary this year! Richard also marked his 20th anniversary with National TeleConsultants and we have lived in Glendale for 20 years, 19 of them in the same home. Robert is now 10 and Michael is 9.

Robert and Michael continue to enjoy school even though their work is becoming more difficult and challenging. Keyboard music lessons keep them busy as well. Robert has joined the school's choral program this year, and Michael will get his chance next year as he enters Fourth Grade. They love to swim as often as they can. Mary Beth continues to be a stay-at-home mom and volunteers in the classroom two times each week. Chauffeuring and making sure that the homework/extra assignments get done keep her busy—along with the usual home-related tasks.

We have been touched personally by the wars in the Middle East as the dad of one of the boys' friends from school has been in Iraq since February. It was so disruptive to the family that they have now moved back to Hawaii to be with the boys' grandparents. We pray for and support our troops who are risking their lives for the safety of the world while we question the decision process and motives that caused this escalation.



Robert, John, and Michael  
Glendale Train Station, April 5, 2003

custom orthotics to help with the problem. We're mentioning this to emphasize the need for early, continuous, and proper corrective processes for any foot problems so they don't become major problems later on.

In mid-June, we managed to spend a long weekend in Cambria, which we had postponed from the Memorial Day weekend due to Richard's surgery. As you know, these are precious family getaways.

On July 4th, we headed east for yet another cross-country driving trip. A few images of the trip are online (this fall, Richard substantially updated our Web site). We visited the Grand Canyon, the Arizona Meteor Crater, Petrified Forest/Painted Desert, and Cadillac Ranch on our way driving to visit Richard's dad in Pennsylvania. We spent two full days with Richard's parents and had a great time. They are doing well for being in their mid-to-late 80s!



Michael, Richard, Robert, and Dick  
Three generations of the Hess family  
Willow Valley Manor North, Lancaster, PA, July 9, 2003

We then drove to Toronto, stopping at the Oil Museum in Bradford, PA, and Niagara Falls. Richard spent three weeks working in Connecticut for NTC while Mary Beth and the boys enjoyed John's new swimming pool. Mary Beth also had the opportunity to catch up with several relatives and friends she doesn't see very often. Richard rejoined the family for a week before we returned to Los Angeles via the north shore of Lakes Huron and Superior. We stopped again in Minneapolis at the Pavek Museum of Broadcasting and were graciously entertained by Steve Raymer, the staff of the Pavek, and Joe Dundovic and his charming wife. From Minneapolis, we stopped at a museum featuring some Lewis and Clark memorabilia and traced a portion of the Lewis and Clark route. We drove through many scenic portions of southern Colorado, including Royal Gorge and the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. We also saw Shiprock in New Mexico and the Glen Canyon Dam. Our final day driving in from Page, Arizona, took us through the southern part of the ever gorgeous Zion National Park.

We managed to turn around and sneak away for the Labor Day weekend in Cambria which was, as always, enjoyable and relaxing.

This fall, we visited Legoland California for the first time with the boys and had a great time, dropping in on friends Eve and Paul Collier who have recently moved from Camarillo to Fallbrook. Eve is the daughter of Jack Mullin who helped define the craft of magnetic recording in the mid-1940s with his work with Bing Crosby and others.

In his spare time, Richard continues to restore audio tapes, some of which have ended up in the Library of Congress and other archives. He will be presenting at two seminars in the first half of 2004, one at Cal State Fullerton in February and one in San Antonio in May.

This Christmas, we will all be flying to Toronto to spend two weeks (December 20–January 3) with Mary Beth's brother in the old family homestead in Aurora (an hour north of Toronto).

Richard has had some fun this year. He and Marie-Lynn Hammond released a fourth CD on his label in January. He bought a 2.4 GHz Pentium 4 computer with 1 GB or RAM and two 120 GB hard drives. The whole family has been migrating to digital imaging. Richard purchased a Nikon D100 and was very pleased with the quality of the pictures. He has added three new lenses that give him complete coverage from 12-400 mm (35 mm: 18-600 mm) and provide for vibration reduction from 24 mm up. All the images in this newsletter were "born digital!" With digital imaging, storage becomes a challenge, and we've added a 500 GB NAS storage appliance.



Robert, Mary Beth, and Michael  
Niagara Falls, Ontario, July 11, 2003

We hope that this finds you all well. Let's hope that 2004 brings peace to the whole world! With all our love,

*Mary Beth, Richard, Robert, and Michael*

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