

APOL'S *Salvage*

Issue #23— March 2008

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE
FAMILY OF JAY & GRACINE APOL

Rick & Mary

Dear all:

Life has been rather interesting the last few months. We really enjoyed seeing Bill, Helene and family in January. Thanks to Jeremy and Sarah for getting married so that the Dykstras came to Michigan. Don't wait for the next wedding to come back for a visit. The Three Gables Inn is always taking reservations. Then, we got to know Megan and Paula; Shane's friends from Australia. That was great fun too, and it was good to see Shane again.

In February, we went with a group from our church to work at Biloxi, Mississippi. We stayed at the Biloxi Hilton (First Presbyterian Church of Biloxi). Our accommodations were pretty good; the only bad thing was that Rick couldn't stand up in our room. Marylee, one of our co-ordinators, tells the church people that we are dutch leprecauns because we (CRWRC people) always wear green shirts. We worked mainly on the one house. The guys hung doors, put up trim, laid some tile and did some electrical work; the gals painted, grouted the tile, shopped for light fixtures and filled a dumpster with trash. We had great food, great fellowship (with a group from Zeeland Classis) and a great time. One night all of the CRWRC volunteers in the area got together and there we met a group from Wayland CRC.

From there, we went to Anna Marie Island in Florida. We stayed in a cute little trailer right by the fishing pier and close to the beach. Most of the days were warm (70's) and sunny, the flowers were blooming and the birds were signing. Every-time we called home and heard that there were 3 or more inches of snow, we enjoyed it even more! It was a very relaxing vacation.

Then we got back to Michigan, 20 degree weather and snow; on well. Spring is coming!

Aunt Mary

Herm & Barb

Well, it's been awhile since we wrote in the newsletter, so I thought we would let you in on our lives.

We had a very busy Fall and holiday season. Made a quick trip to Minnesota a week before Thanksgiving for a funeral of our nephew, Mike. He was killed in a truck accident.

Then was the holidays. Josh & Katie came here for a few days. Rod & Sharon and family couldn't make it this year.

On Jan 5, Herm and I flew to Port Arthur, TX to work for DRS—Disaster Relief Services, a part of CRWRC. We were there for 3 weeks. We worked Mon—Fri, 8-4pm and had Sat. and Sunday off. The first weekend we went with Rich & Phyl Grevnstuk to Galveston. Very interesting city. Saw how the oil rigs in the ocean worked. The second weekend we toured fancy old homes in Beaumont. Very rewarding work.

Then we came back to Winter, which has been very long. On Feb 9, Herm got a call from CRWRC, would he be willing to go on Rapid Response to clean up tornado damage. So he left on Feb. 11 and ended up in Arkansas doing a lot of cleanup. He thought they would probably move up to Tennessee the second week. He will be gone two weeks total, so I'm anxious to hear more of his experience when he returns.

In March we hope to head to Minnesota when Josh & Katies baby is born. Maybe we can be there for Easter.

That's about all I have. Looking forward to Spring! Wish you all a blessed Easter.

Herm & Barb



Beppe hanging out with 42 of the Great-Grandkids—January 2008

Next Newsletter Deadline is—July 2008

Don & Mary

Here's a quick update from the 2 of us:

In November I had Jury Duty for a week at GR Circuit Court. I was picked for one case on Monday but thankfully was not selected for the Jury (it was a tough one). The rest of the week my number was not chosen which was fine with me.

Don went on his annual deer hunting trip to the UP with the Fremont friends. The highlight was being able to fly home from Newberry to Fremont. I stayed with Jas/Jo's kids a night while Don was gone and they celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary.

In Nov. Dan was here for some volleyball refereeing. One day he helped Don dig out our front pond with the backhoe. Dan & Bonnie both came for a week at Christmas. Dan ended up working for Jason a few days and since Bonnie was here on her birthday (12/28) and Dan was working we enjoyed lunch at Max & Erma's.

We just returned from a wonderful vacation in St Croix, US Virgin Islands. We stayed at a nice place called Carambola Beach. Don enjoyed snorkeling in the ocean almost every day. His underwater camera worked great so he can prove he saw a sting ray, barracuda and even a shark. Don even got used to driving on the left side of the road which is how they do things there.

Hope you all enjoyed a great winter and are looking forward to spring. The calendar says only 3 more weeks!

Don & Mary Jo

Ryan & Jayne

Hi Apols!

Spring is finally coming, I think. The snowman is nothing more than a pathetic little pile in the front yard, so it must be.

Ryan is currently finishing up his last semester at Lake Superior State University, taking a tough math class and an independent study. He also had some business trips to Colorado and to New Orleans. After which he brought home a nasty virus, which he so kindly shared with all of us. We barely survived! It lasted about 2 weeks from start to end, and we are so glad to be healthy again.

Kids have been busy making any kind of crafts that they can. Today we covered empty cartons with peanut butter and birdseed for the birds. What a mess!! And this weekend we went to Traverse City and stayed at the Grand Traverse Resort for 2 nights. That was our "Spring Break". Lots of fun, the pool had a water slide and kids' things. Rather busy, but fun. Our next big project around here is to renovate our ugly bathroom, which Ryan is doing a piece at a time.

Happy spring!

Love, the Tibbets' Family

Mike & Faith

Hi everyone,

The days are getting longer and robins and bluebirds have been sighted; spring is on the way! It has been a wonderful winter though. Having the kids around has been a time of staying in touch, having the wedding with all the family being out was a time for the kids to renew and stay in touch with all their cousins, uncles and aunts and grandma. Just a huge thank you for all of you who came out for the wedding and blessed Jeremiah and Sarah's day.

We have been working in the kitchen this week redoing the counter tops- what a beautiful change it is making! So along with that - then the walls really needed to be repainted (that is done) and the cupboards need to be resealed with the polyurethane finish and hopefully that will get done today.

We are hoping to make a quick trip to Minn. to see mom and the rest of the family. Spring work will start soon and then a trip will be not be as possible. It will be good to touch base with them and yet it will be hard to be gone at this time because the kids have planned a special day on Saturday which we will miss.

May your days be blessed,
Mike and Faith

We are planning an Easter Sunday meal at Wayland CRC Education Building at 12:30pm on Sunday, March 23, 2008.

Contact Faith or Mary Jo to let them know if your family is attending and what to bring.—Thanks!

Aaron & Nicole

Hello everyone,

It has been a mix of emotions these past few months. We started off the week before Christmas with Aaron losing his job at Pepsi. After only a little less than a month, he was fortunate to find a trucking job. This turned our household upside down as he never knew when he would be called into work and sometimes how long he would be gone. Although we felt blessed that he was employed, he began to look for something else. He is now working at a Ford dealership on Plainfield in GR as the Parts Manager. He is back in his old comfort zone and it seems to be keeping him busy. He is always keeping his options open however.

As most or all of you know, we are expecting our second child in late June. In early February, we found out we are going to be having another girl. We are ecstatic that Brooklyn is going to have a sister. Aaron's future baseball team will just have to be a girl's team :) Some of you already know the name, and I know others don't want to know. We are very excited about the family name and are willing to share for anyone who wants to know. We can't wait until she gets here, but we have lots of projects to get done around the house before she arrives.

Brooklyn turned 2 a month ago. I can't believe it. She has quite the personality and is talking up a storm, although I am frequently the translator. She has been busy playing with all her toys and dolls from Christmas and her birthday. We are both becoming quite stir crazy in the house and can't wait until Spring. She does however love to play in the snow. We have been keeping busy doing nursery two mornings a week at church and also doing storytime at the library. We are so happy that we have finally found a church that we like in Hudsonville. This has been a long time coming. We are now attending Evergreen Ministries and really feel at home there.

We also wanted to share a website that we created to share info and photos from our children. The following link should take you there: www.totsites.com/tot/fryingkids. Check it out!!

Hope all is well and we are praying for Spring to arrive soon. - The Frying bunch



Shannon & Jodi

Okay, so I'm really sorry that this is my first entry into the awesome APOLsauce newsletter. Thank you Joleen for putting a lot of work into this and not quitting it even though people like me don't write in it! I love reading it though.

Well I suppose there are a lot of things I could write about. Right now we are living in Wayland, 325 E Elm ST to be exact. We are living in the church parsonage, which works out well for the time being, we sold our house and needed a place to stay and the church doesn't have a pastor so they needed someone to live here. It has really been a blessing and will be interesting to see what the future brings.

I had a huge garden last year and think maybe I won't be quite as adventurous this year. I had 29 tomato plants, apparently that was a few too many. It was a bit overwhelming with many other vegetables as well. I think it was kind of the same mentality that you have to clean your plate, I thought I should probably plant every seed in the packets. Plus it only cost me \$12!

Moving on, we are blessed even though the work has slowed down enormously. The past couple of months has been a little stressful with a couple of Shannon's builders declaring bankruptcy. It is really sad too because you know that affects other businesses as well. In spite of that we are being taken care of and blessed every day.

The kids are doing great. Ally is in second grade this year and is having a great year. I remember Kari telling me how cool it was when her kids started reading and I have to agree. I really enjoy hearing and seeing Ally read. She is growing up, literally. I looked over at her while we were walking the other day and had a strange feeling of my child getting closer to my height. It made me feel old I have to say. The GEMS and Cadets had their derby car races today at church. That was a lot of fun. Just time spent having fun together without any agenda (well the dads might not agree with that!). Craig and Kari's kids have been coming to GEMS and Cadets so that has been really nice.

Bridgett is in kindergarten this year. She loves it, in fact she's the kid who doesn't want me to come into school with her. Little stinker. Some of her favorite parts of school have to be that she can get mashed potatoes and gravy for lunch and free time. She likes learning and is always pointing out words that she knows. It is still nice to have her home on the days she doesn't go to school.

Emmitt is 4 1/2 now and all boy. It is fun seeing the big difference between him and the girls. He can't wait for summer to ride bikes, hit balls and use his skateboard he got for Christmas. It's crazy thinking of him growing up and going to school soon. He'll love it though.

It was really nice having Jesse, Christina, and Sawyer here this Christmas and for the wedding. I didn't get to talk to Jesse much, I guess I'll just have to go visit. Christina is an awesome mom to Sawyer and we had some good talks. I realized how much I missed my sisters. Speaking of sisters, Kari and Craig and the kids have been here and we have been having a lot of fun. Isaac and Emmitt have been playing a lot and getting to know each other. Isaac is Emmitt's brother from another mother, they just needed to meet and become best buds. Even Sophie is getting used to us I think. This Saturday we are going to have a big birthday party with all the cousins minus Sawyer. Next year we will have to do it all together. It reminds me of when all us cousins would get together for birthday parties after school. Those were good memories.

The end of May Shannon's sister is getting married. The girls and Emmitt and I are in it so Sarah



and I have started running. I think she is doing it because she is a nice sister and wants to become a runner, I would like to be a runner also but I do crazy things like ordering bridesmaid dresses a size too small. My motivation for running is a bit of dread that I won't fit into the dress.

That is enough of my babbling for this newsletter. We will see you all in a couple of weeks for Easter.

Jesse & Christina

Hello everyone!

We have been enjoying our Alaskan winter the past month. It has been in the upper 30's and sometimes mid-forties with lots of sunshine and daylight...we are ready for spring! Sorry to hear about all the cold and blizzards you have been



having in MI. =) We are still plugging away at the house. The bathroom now has a counter with a sink! No more brushing teeth in the

kitchen. We also got the woodstove put in just in time for the warm weather. At least we're not burning too much wood! Jesse is itching for the snow to melt so he can plant a lawn and garden. My brother is coming out to stay with us for the summer. It will be a good experience for him. We have lots of plans for this summer and fall, many things that we didn't get to do last summer. Sawyer is growing like a weed. He now has 1 tooth and has mastered the army crawl. He loves to take baths and sing in church... I think he just likes the opportunity to make noise when everyone else is. I'm sure the Lord loves to hear those baby praises! Well, it was great to see you all in January. We hope you all have a wonderful spring.

Love Jess, Christina and Sawyer
encl. a picture of "The House Jesse Built"



1. Does a clean house indicate that there is a broken computer in it?
2. Why is it that no matter what color of bubble bath you use the bubbles are always white?
3. Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?
4. Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?
5. On electric toasters, why do they engrave the message "one slice"?
How many pieces of bread do they think people are really gonna try to stuff in that slot?
6. Why do people keep running over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?
7. Why is it that no plastic garbage bag will open from the end you first try?
8. How do those dead bugs get into those closed light fixtures?
9. Considering all the lint you get in your dryer, if you kept drying your clothes would they eventually just disappear?
10. When we are in the supermarket and someone rams our ankle with a shopping cart than apologizes for doing so, why do we say, "It's all right?" Well, it isn't all right so why don't we say, "That hurt, you stupid idiot?"
11. Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?
12. Is it true that the only difference between a yard sale and a trash pickup is how close to the road the stuff is placed?
13. In winter why do we try to keep the house as warm as it was in summer when we complained about the heat?
14. How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?
15. If at first you don't succeed, shouldn't you try doing it like your wife told you to do it?

TO ALL THE KIDS WHO SURVIVED the 1930's 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's !!

- First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while They carried us.
- They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes.
- Then after that trauma, our baby cribs were covered with bright colored lead-based paints.
- We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets, not to mention, the risks we took hitchhiking.
- As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags.
- Riding in the back of a pick up on a warm day was always a special treat.
- We drank water from the garden hose and NOT from a bottle.
- We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO ONE actually died from this.
- We ate cupcakes, white bread and real butter and drank soda pop with sugar in it, but we weren't overweight because WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING!
- We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were Back when the streetlights came on.
- No one was able to reach us all day. And we were O.K.
- We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride Down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.
- We did not have Playstations, Nintendo's, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 99 channels on cable, no video tape movies, no surround sound, no cell phones, no personal computers, no Internet or Internet chat rooms.....WE HAD FRIENDS and we went outside and found them!
- We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents.
- We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.
- We were given BB guns for our 10th birthdays, made up games with sticks and tennis balls and although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes.
- We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just walked in and talked to them!
- Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that!!
- The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law!
- This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever! The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL!

