



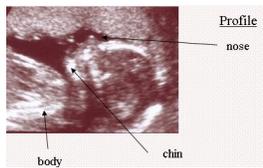
Rocky's Holiday Gazette

New Expanded Holiday Gazette Format for 2006

2006 has been such a busy year in this household, the Gazette had to be expanded to 4 pages.

In a nutshell:

Leonor's daughter, Rebecca, is expecting her first baby early in 2007. Here's Addison!



Rocky and his middle daughter, Kelly, have reunited and are loving it! Here I am with all my girls: Jen-



nifer, Kelly and JoAnn.

The trip to South Africa was super duper—well, better



than that. Gorgeous scenery everywhere.

Summer was busy with family—JoAnn visited from Paris, brought her French boyfriend, Pierre, to

“meet the parents”, then married him.



Here I am with Jeremy, JoAnn, Ian, Pierre and Zoë.

Rocky turned 60—in South Africa, photographing a lion in the wild, then celebrating in the poorest of poor



areas in Port Elizabeth. I was honored in a Township pub.

Tennis again/still is a big activity. This is



my Super Senior (Over 60) team that is going to play in the National tournament in Charleston, SC, next April.

My nephew, David, had a lovely wedding near Eugene in early August—seen here with his brother Mason

(on left), my other nephew.



Rocky's granddaughter, Brook, had surgery on one foot to correct severe flat footedness (is that



really a word?).

Rocky hosted a mini-reunion of his 1963 Hermiston (Oregon High School



class and opened his memories box—wow! Yup, I'm in there!

Leonor and Rocky were suffering the heat and humidity in Puerto Vallarta in early November—while the Northwest had record rains.

Rocky did his usual Paris trip in December to be Santa Claus to the French kids.

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Big News on the Paris Front

Every other year (or so), JoAnn brings the kids here to visit the grandparents. This was the year...

As usual, they planned their arrival on the Fourth of July. But due to a delay leaving Paris, therefore missing their connecting flight leaving Heathrow, they were stranded for a day in London.

Unfortunately, that day was the day (I think there have been several) that the baggage handling system at Heathrow decided to stop functioning. So JoAnn and the kids arrived a day late—with no luggage. For three days!!

But that was only a small distraction. Their visit was, as usual, lots of fun for all of us.

Zoë and Ian sure are getting grown up! Zoë is a beautiful young lady now—12 going on 19 of course. As I have often mentioned in prior Gazettes, her English is as good or better than most U.S. kids her age.



Carly and Zoë

And Ian

has grown so much in the last year - he is such a handsome young man. His English has improved considerably in the last year since Jeremy and I went to



Here are Nick, Jeremy, Ian and Carly.

Paris last Christmas.

Anyway, the Big News... Their visit - the kids', that is—ended on the 26th of July, but we had another visitor arriving. JoAnn had met a new guy late last year (he lives just across the street from her new house), and he was arriving to visit the US West Coast with JoAnn.

They spent a week or so visiting us, then headed for Los Angeles via Las Vegas and other points of inter-



Pierre and JoAnn

est. We liked Pierre a lot, and he and the kids get along very well—not an easy task for a new beau. Well, we got a phone call from JoAnn in Las Vegas, and they were getting married!!

So what do you know; we have a new son-in-law! He's a rugby player, golfer, car enthusiast (his pride and joy is a 1929 Bugatti in



near-perfect condition, followed by his "new" 1984 Corvette he bought from our next-door

neighbor and shipped home to Paris), and motorcyclist (he has

ten, I think—several are vintage collector's bikes!).

I'm looking forward to many years of good times for us and for them. And

many more bottles of fine wine!

A Fun Family Summer

This summer was full of surprises and pleasure. It is always fun when JoAnn decides to come here to visit—we get all the kids and grandkids together. Even though Jennifer lives only an hour away, we don't seem to get together often enough. Lots of phone calls, but too few visits.

But when JoAnn comes to town, all of our routines are disrupted, and Jen spends a lot of

time here. But this year... Wow!

As many of you know, I have not seen my middle daughter Kelly in almost 20 years. We encouraged her to join us in some family activities, and



My girls: Jennifer, JoAnn, and Kelly

hooray! - she accepted the invitation!

We all had so much fun! Kelly and I have spent a lot of hours getting reacquainted and caught up. It feels so good to have my family whole again! And I'm really enjoying my "new" 14-year-old granddaughter, Brook.

South Africa—Friendly, Scenic, Sunny, Warm—We’d go back!

In last year’s Gazette, I announced that we had been offered a once in a lifetime opportunity to travel to South Africa. Well, we did it, and it was fabulous!

It started more than a year ago, when we were at a tennis tournament with a couple from Canada, Mervin and Lyn Watson. They both are originally from South Africa, and wanted to lead a group of tennis players on a month-long South African vacation. Primarily, it was a sight-seeing trip, but of course, tennis was to figure into the plans.

I knew there was no way I could take a whole month off work. And I knew the airfare would be way too expensive, to say nothing of the cost of the trip itself—So we said yes. This was an opportunity we just couldn’t pass up.

We started in mid-February, flying to Atlanta, then directly to Johannesburg (with one stop for refueling and crew change). After a 34 hour airport-to-airport journey, we were in Cape Town, where we spent our first week.

Mervin had done a masterful job of finding us accommodations. We stayed at the award-winning 4 Rosmead, the nicest



B&B I’ve ever seen!

A full week in Cape Town is barely enough time. It is a

beautiful city, rich in history and multi-cultural flavors. While there, we visited the Cape of Good Hope, Table Mountain, Robben Island (Where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned), penguins, markets, ate our first ostrich, played tennis, tasted wines, and saw many other wonderful sights.



Leonor indulging in the most elegant finger bowl we’ve ever seen.

During the second week, we started up the east coast of South Africa, staying near George at a beautiful five-star golf

resort, Fancourt, which hosted the 2003 President’s Cup international golf tournament.

We headed north, staying in the aptly named Tranquility Lodge a couple of nights,



then it was off to the Amakhala Game Park for our three days of big game “hunting” (with cameras, not guns). That had to be the highlight for me.



We found this guy in the bushes on my 60th birthday! We saw and photographed

zebra, impala, springbok, blaspbok, gnu, giraffe, elephant, rhino, jackal, hyena, termite hills, and more and more and more.

The third week found us in the port city of Durban, Mervin’s home town. Here, we stayed with local families rather than B&Bs, and played more tennis.

The final week was spent in Pretoria. One of my lasting impressions of South Africa is the fortress-like conditions that people live in—tall fences with glass shards on top, and barbed or electric wire to protect from intruders—crime is a major problem there.

As a final act, we played in the South African National Veterans Tennis Tournament. All in all, a wonderful, worthwhile way to spend a month.

A good Tennis Year

Since my elbow surgery two years ago, my tennis game has been pretty mediocre—not up to my normal standards at all! I don’t have the power I used to have, especially serving, and I suffer elbow pain after a particularly difficult match.

But this year, I turned 60.



We also play for fun! Here we are in a group in a “Whites and Woodies” event we sponsored at our club.

That is a very special age for tennis players—we not only can move to the next age group in tournaments, but

now can play in the Super Senior team tennis events. (Super Sen-

ior is a nice way to say “old”). My Super Senior team won first place in the Northwest, and will travel to Charleston, SC, next April to compete for the national title.

And, better yet, my partner and I managed to get the first place ranking in the whole Pacific Northwest for our age group. Not bad for an old guy!

Picture Page - 2006



Pierre and Ian being silly, with JoAnn, Me, Colette (Pierre's mom).



Jeremy, 10, receiving Student of the Month Award



Doug and Carly and Nick at a Seattle mariners Baseball game.



Pierre, Me, Zoë .



Detective Jeremy ready for trick 'r treating.



Pierre, JoAnn, Ian.



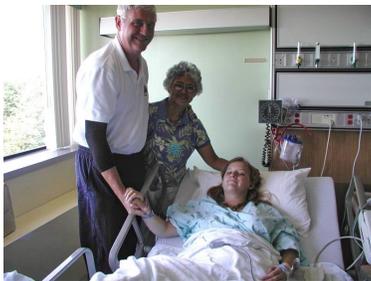
Jesse, now 16 & Leonor



Here I am "driving" Pierre's 1929 Bugatti. I never left the garage— weather was too cold, and I don't think I would have dared try!



Carly, Jennifer, and Zoë .



Leonor & Rocky visiting Brook after her first foot surgery.



A family day at the zoo in July.



Nick and Carly in their Seattle Seahawks Matt Hasselbeck football jerseys