

December, 2002

Volume 13
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The Nipely News



Christmas Greetings from the Lone Star State

Well, your old editor in chief is at it again. Another edition of the Nipely News has been put to bed as we say in the publishing trade. What can you expect in this edition? Probably the same kind of dribble for which we have become famous. We have had a very unusual year weather-wise in Texas this year. In fact, the number of days that we hit 100° F could be counted on one hand and we had sufficient rain to keep our lawns green all summer. I was still mowing it in late October.

The end of the year is a good time to reflect on the things that have happened in the

past year and to contemplate our hopes for the future.

As always we continue to place our faith in the One who has always provided and promises to continue to provide. Jesus is still the best hope we can have for the future.

As we are told in John 1:1-5: **In the beginning there was the Word. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were made by him, and nothing was made without him. In him there was life, and that life was the light of all people. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overpowered it.**

I hope that you are among those of us who have come



Where did that elf get to?

to realize that the world does have a purpose and that even as we see terrorists, famine, and natural disaster, God's solutions for us are still the only true hope we have.

PepsiCo News

Well, I guess we've decided that we'll get your business one way or another. Maybe you don't drink one of our many soda products such as Mountain Dew or Mug root beer, and perhaps our vast variety of corn, rice, and potato chips are not to your

taste. You may even shun our Tropicana orange juice or our Sobe vegetable drinks. You may even be able to resist the energy drinks and bars from our Gatorade division. But I'm sure that all of you eat our Quaker Oats cereals or our Aunt Jemima Pancakes or syrups.

There's just no avoiding it and if you think you have from the list above, I ne-

glected to mention Life Cereal or Cap'n Crunch.



Our acquisition of Quaker Oats Corporation added an array of food and drink products. It also provided some opportunities for John, see his article later in the edition.

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Little known Texas facts

- Early Spanish missionaries in Texas hoped to encourage the spread of European values by offering flannel underwear to Native Americans.
- In Texas, it's illegal to put graffiti on someone else's cow.
- There's a Texas law that forbids people from carrying around a fence cutter or a pair of pliers that could cut a fence
- Forty percent of the farm-grown catfish in the United States is consumed by Texans.
- You can buy chicken fried steak at one Chinese restaurant in Fort Stockton, Texas
- In Texas, pharmacists can't be registered members of the Communist Party.



Greetings All:

What a year it has been! It has been fantastic! A little about my year:

Currently, I live in North Dallas. I still work for PepsiCo, INC. (I have officially worked there for 2 ½ years).



Recently, I have transitioned to a reporting position. I design reports, initiate quality assurance of reports, and take care of special requests, such as, trending, root cause analysis, etc... I report on hardware/software issues

Danielle Reports:

that our internal helpdesk receives calls about.

This year I have taken up hobbies that include: Scrapbooking, and taking lots of pictures with my digital camera. I also enjoy speeding around in my Mustang GT.

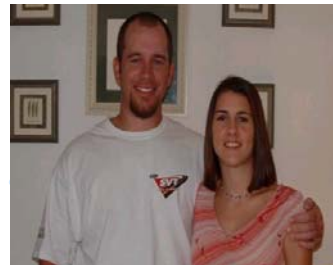
I have been dating a wonderful man, named Crawford Cooper, for 8 months. He is 28 years old and works for a small company, called Stonebridge Technologies, as their network engineer. He is a joy in my life, and I love him dearly.



Kiwi (my cat) turned 4 years old this year. She still enjoys playing with her toys and eating treats!

I am thankful, everyday, to the Lord for all of my blessings this year, including my family and my friends.

Happy Holidays, Ya'll!



Love, Danielle

The Pool

In Mom's letter on page three, you will read references to the pool. A bit of explanation is in order.

On July 4th our next door neighbor invited us to a holiday party with burgers and fireworks. I haven't spoken to Forrest or Robin since. You see, they have a pool in their backyard and told Mom and Geri to go home and get their suits. The rest as they say is history.

The good news is that if you cost out the pool on a per swim basis, it's down to about \$5.32 and I (John) have only been in it about 10 times!!).

There is also good news for all of you out there. Be sure to bring swimwear when you visit.



Rare view of an empty pool

both equipment and operational processes.

John's Year

Once again the Lord has been good to me. I was fully employed and became vested for a pension with the PepsiCo, Inc. Corporation. The merger with Quaker Oats gave me the opportunity to run with the operations portion of the integration project as we moved all their computing into the data center here in Plano, TX.. I traveled to Chicago (Quaker's headquarters)6-7 times this past year while coordinating the move of

There has also been a heightened emphasis on disaster recovery and I was placed on the core team to come up with a corporation wide plan to assure that we could resume business quickly in the event of a disaster.

I became a member of the Planning and Zoning commission for the City of Krugerville (if you call a town of 1000 a city).

Perhaps, though, the best time was spent in Nuevo Laredo with the vacation Bible school for the kids (niños) of La Iglesia

Bautista.

I also started teaching an adult Sunday School class at our new church (more on that in a later article).

Until next year...

Mom's byline

The year 2002 was a busy year filled with all sorts of reunion. In Feb, I had an informal reunion with the Christian forum SS class at the Morrison UME church in Leesburg Fla (I was a surprise guest teacher!). I then spent a week in Tavares, Fla. with Charlie & Ruth Sparks & planned for their trip to Texas later in the year. I spent 2 weeks in NJ in June while there I attended my 60th college Class reunion & met my Room mate Dean Adams .I enjoyed visiting with 2 of my Sweeten cousins (Ethel Combs & Anne Pebley) who are also graduates of the

same School (Douglass) . Also during this visit (spent at my daughter's home) an informal Nipe reunion was held with a combined graduation party for my grandson and a sweet 16 party for his sister I also got to Visit with a nephew and niece (Brendan Layton and his wife Kathy and his sister Kathy). During the summer months I stayed home and enjoyed my pool. I always thought that I was an avid swimmer with no peer, but Geri out swam me. She even was in the pool a couple of times in October. In Oct. I returned to NJ once again. This time with my son, John. As his "date" to his 40th high school reunion Since I had been On the faculty while he was in high

school So all of his Classmates knew me I think that I enjoyed his reunion as much as he did if not more. At this present time the entire TexasNipe family is planning to spend Thanksgiving in NJ Whew, what a year this has been.



Thanksgiving at Warren's

David's Continuing Great Adventure

David has a good deal of news for this year's issue. Let's see if we can get it all, we'll try to list them order of impact not chronologically.

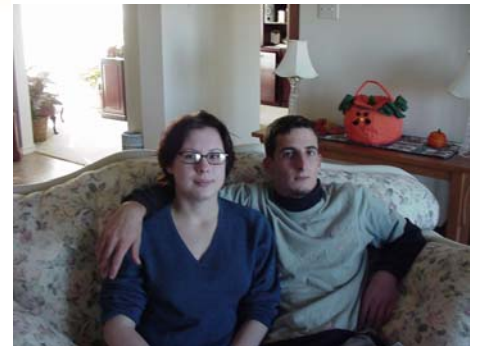
First, David will be married shortly after the first of the year. He is engaged to Elena Hernandez of Fort Stockton, TX. She's a lovely girl (makes one wonder how David managed it, huh?) and has fit in with the family very well.

First, David will be married shortly after the first of the year.

Secondly, David will become a proud father late in the spring. Yes, one is related to the other, but not the cause. We hope you join with us in the joy of both occasions.

Third on the list, David has attended the Austin School of Massage Therapy for the last 5-6 months and will graduate in January and become licensed in the state

of Texas as a Masseur. If you need a massage, we know where you can get a good one.



Geris Corner

Geris continues to be the glue that holds us all together. She's really excited at the prospect of becoming a grandmother (see article above) so she can spoil the baby.

She continues to be proud of Danielle and David as they have progressed into adulthood (yes, David, too!). She takes pretty good care of Mom and I as well.

I want you to know that we have the



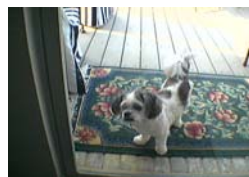
Duke surveying his domain.

cleanest pool in North Texas and while accomplishing it, Geri became as brown as a hickory nut.

I won't let anyone say that

she doesn't work, since she probably works the hardest in the household.

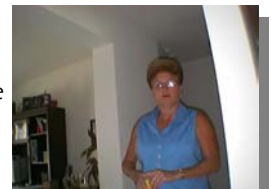
Of course, Duke (the miniature Pinscher) is without a



Timber in a rare outdoor photo.

doubt the true master of the place. He's joined by several birds and Timber a true indoor dog.

Geris sends her love and her hope that you have a wonderful holiday season.



Geris checking the state of the household.

The Texan Nipes John, Geri, Danielle, David & Catherine

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

843 Sherry Lane South
Krugerville, TX 76227

Phone: 940-266-0022

Cell: 214-564-4896

Email: johnnipe@earthlink.net

Family motto:

**The family that dines out together needs
a major credit card.**

Other important information, (okay maybe not
all that important).

Catherine's phone no. (940) 266-0023

John's work no. (972) 334-3005

Geri's Cell phone no. (469) 222-1733



Epilogue

Well, it's time to put another edition of the Nipely News to bed. You know, I would have stopped doing this long ago if it weren't for each of you. My first edition was sent out just to let everyone know that we had gotten to Texas okay (many were worried about Indians, rattlesnakes and the like). But, as the years progressed many of you have assured me that you look forward to the issue. I've heard that it makes good kindling or liners for bird cages.

In those early issues, you may have gotten the impression that we were here temporarily and would someday return to North Carolina if not New Jersey. Well, I think that this is our home for some time, we're in our 14th year and with the children getting settled as Texans there seems to be no other recourse.

Anyway, Here's to a great 2003.

Our door here in North Texas is open for all of you to visit. We would enjoy seeing you – bringing your swim suits! (and money). We live in the horse capital of Texas (Irvi!) and the area is

quite scenic. As well, just up the road is the birthplace of Gene Autry the singing cowboy who brought us great tunes such as "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer".

I wanted to close with some vignettes of the last year:

- Mom & I attended my 40th high school class reunion this past fall—it was great to see so many of my classmates and about half a dozen of my elementary classmates (considering there were less than 25 in my 8th grade class, it was an incredible turnout).
- My family and I joined with the First Baptist Church at Aubrey. Though a small congregation, they are large in love and fellowship.
- We attended "Rutgers Day at the Races" as a part of the north Texas Rutgers alumni association.
- We visited New Jersey for Thanksgiving



Texas favorites, a longhorn in a field of Bluebonnets and Indian Paintbrush.

as a family for the first time in 15 years. Thanks to my siblings for making us welcome

- We celebrated Geri's dad's 80th birthday in Mannford, OK.