

THE NORRIS NEWS

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9490 Norris Lake Rd. NW, Burns Township MN 55330, (763) 441-3444

2007

A New Year

Warren woke up to the new year feeling a bit under the weather. To paraphrase a famous holiday poem, 'Papa sprang from his bed to see what was the matter.' It wasn't Arthur or Barbara that "threw up" the sash! Unfortunately it was Warren, but he weathered it like a champ.



When we got home from Wisconsin, we were greeted with a thick covering of fresh snow. The swing set looked desolate in "the new fallen snow."

Gophers

After finding yet another dead tree (an 8' pine) whose demise was caused by gophers, Arthur stepped up efforts to eradicate the rodent threat. Warren was a big help in hunting gophers (22 at last count).



Trees

After the first year with our baby trees, we had about a 20% mortality rate (most of the dead ones were replaced). Even with the drought, a lot of the trees were established well enough to survive. It may have



helped that Barbara, Arthur, and Warren would go out and water **ALL** of the baby trees once or twice a week!

25 Year Reunion

How time flies! Arthur had his 25th high school reunion this July. He hooked up with long time friends Eric Falk (left) and Mark Gilbert (right.) How hairstyles change over the years!



Eric, Mark, and Arthur talked about everything from poopie diapers to the changes in St. Cloud over the last couple of decades.

Arthur had a second reunion in early October when his friend and classmate, Rebecca Haile, was in town doing a reading from her new book, *Held at a Distance: My Rediscovery of Ethiopia*.



Connie Crane (left) and Rebecca Haile (right)

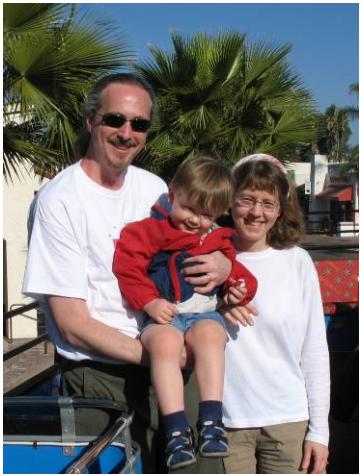
The book reading was an event organized by our high school teacher and friend Connie Crane to help raise money for the new St. Cloud Library.

San Diego

For our spring vacation, we went way out west...all the way to San Diego! The non-direct flight was 6 hours of air time. Warren enjoyed the whole thing. He especially enjoyed the shuttle bus rides.

We stayed in the "Old Town" area of San Diego. We took advantage of our location and walked over to

historic Old Town and took in the sights. We even toured a haunted house (no sightings, however).



While in San Diego we spent a day at the Zoo, which we toured on a double-decker bus! We got a second ride on a double-decker bus when we toured San Diego. We spent another day at Balboa Park looking at museums and gardens. Then we took a ferry ride out to Coronado Island where we rented bikes and toured the island.

We visited Mission and Ocean beaches, where SOMEONE accidentally sat down in the water (fully clothed) when a wave caught them by surprise.



For our final adventure, we hopped on the trolley in Old Town and rode it all the way down to Mexico. We walked across the border to Tijuana

and spent a couple of hours exploring and being solicited by every shop owner and "pharmacist". We had lunch at "La Placita", where Warren gobbled up a platterful of papaya.

Colorado



At the end of the summer we headed out to Colorado for a visit with Barbara's sister Heidi, who lives in Estes Park with her husband Curt.

Amongst other hiking excursions, Curt, Warren and Arthur took a little hike to Cub Lake. They saw elk (up close), ducks, squirrels, birds, and a mama bear and her three cubs. Curt ended up writing a nice article about this hike that was published in the Rocky Mountain Nature Association's Autumn 2007 Quarterly newsletter.

Later on, we camped in the mountains and took a ride on a steam train out of Georgetown. We stayed in Denver with Arthur's friend Tom and his wife Lara and daughter Olivia (Warren still speaks highly of Olivia's toy selection).

We trekked back home through South Dakota, stopping at Mt. Rushmore, the Bad Lands, Wall Drug, and of course, the Corn Palace in Mitchell.

Head Bump

While out in Colorado, Warren took a spill and cut his head open again. This time it was over his left eye. Instead of stitches, Arthur ended up gluing it together. Warren was feeling back to normal in half an hour.



Warren turned 3

Warren turned three this August. He has really turned into quite a clever little boy. He is very inquisitive and asks some thought-provoking questions, such as "What color is thunder?" and "Do tornados have legs?" He loves playing with toys, mainly his little matchbox cars and trucks. He also loves to swing, run around the yard, and check the garden for ripe veggies. His current passion is belting out Christmas carols at the top of his lungs, especially "Deck the Halls" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing".



Happy holidays to all!

Arthur, Barbara, &

Warren