



Family News...

Kathy is pregnant with NUMBER 5! How's that for a bogus attention grabber? Happily, the only plump one in the family other than me is kid sister Nancy.

This year's family highlight has to be the trip to Florida this year to see my Mom and Carl at their home in Sarasota. We stayed down there for a week soaking up the sun and playing in their pool. Dad came down at the end of the week and accompanied us to Disney World where we played and got poor during the second week. All the boys loved it, and are begging to return next year.

Kathy & I celebrated 10 years of wedded bliss this past June 22. It's hard to believe the time has went by so fast, but we have plenty to show for it with these 4 hungry dogs we call sons. It's still funny to see Kathy's total devotion to me as most nights before bed she ends her prayers with "... and thank you for that man of mine. I have been truly blessed!..."

Sadly, as most of you know, Kathy's mom passed away in May. The relationship Kathy and her mother had was a great example of two people who were not only mother and daughter, but best friends as well. We draw comfort knowing that she is in a better place, free of her illnesses, and watching over us now. Obviously, we KNOW she is in heaven. I sure didn't take her long to straighten out her alumni Northwestern and drive them into the Rose Bowl. Mom we love you, miss you, and will ensure your grandsons always remember you....

Happy Holidays!

Rick...

I hit the big 40 milestone this past October. Continuing to play plenty of golf. In fact, I have good news and bad news concerning me and golf. The good news is I joined a private country club called Prairie Dunes with buddy Bob Moran. The bad news is, the club is located 800 miles away in Hutchinson, Kansas. Try and figure that one out.

Work at Motorola continues to be busy as ever. New travel locations this year included the Garden spot of the world, Bangalore, India. My 2 days in India mark the only time since Eisenhower was president that I didn't eat anything.

Following Bangalore, I was supposed to go on to Beijing China, but along with other American businessmen, I was refused entrance to China upon arrival in Hong Kong. Apparently, the Chinese authorities were less than thrilled with Hillary Clinton's negative comments concerning Chinese Oppression she made that week at the Int'l Women's conference held in China. As a result, adios Rick, you're expelled... Nice Touch Hillary. I travel 20,000 miles to be turned around and sent home.

Kathy...

Who cares about what's going on with her??



Bryan...

9, is a busy 3rd grader at Riley Elementary. He is doing very well in school and is an excellent big brother to his siblings. He played baseball this year and is excellent at both home plate and (like his daddy), the dinner plate. It brought a proud feeling to us when he stepped up to bat and the other teams outfielders were told to play deeper. He also had an unassisted double play by snagging an infield pop up and tagging out the runner on first base. I signed Kathy up to be the team scorekeeper for the entire season. She was real happy about that.

Bryan does alot of reading and especially likes mysteries. The kids now have their own computer and Bryan usually can help Kathy out with any question. His favorite ride at Disney World is 'The Alien Adventure'. He's still requiring psychiatric therapy on that one. Ask him about it.

Ben...

7, is in first grade at Riley with brother Bryan. He is doing well in school and has apparently tricked his teacher into thinking he is a polite, sensitive young man. He has played outdoor and indoor soccer this year and has both Kathy and I very proud. Through four games in his indoor season he has 3 goals and 1 assist. He plays especially well with younger brother Brett.

A traumatic event in Ben's life this year was enduring a haircut gone wrong from his Daddy with his new hair trimmers. Michael Jordan had more hair than Ben after I got done with him. Only a short 6 months later, you could begin to see hair reemerge from the Ben's head. Whenever I approach Ben for a haircut he makes sure it is only a close trim, not a scapling.



This summer he taught himself to swim in Grandma's pool in Florida. Him and Brett have proven to be quite the fish. Check out one of my favorite pictures of a rascally baby Ben about to hammer the head of his unsuspecting Uncle Mike.

Brett... (AKA "Stonewall")

5, is completing his first year at the St. Charles Juvenile Offenders Boot Camp. No, I guess it just seems that way. It seems like every year we list what happened to Brettie this year. For beginners, he had another (his 2nd) hernia surgery. Earlier this spring he took a swan dive off the downstairs couch and cut his head for 7 stitches. Kathy and I thought he was clowning around when he staggered up the stairs all rubber-legged until we saw his head. He currently is sporting an egg shaped purple bruise under his chin courtesy of roughhousing with Ben and me.

He is still enamored with all things that involve 'Batman' and still likes being called one of Batman's villains like 'Joker', 'Penguin' or his current favorite 'Two-Face'. At Disney World we had to all pry him out of the Haunted House after it seemed like 50 times. Kathy picked him up a Haunted House computer game where he can assemble and dissect monsters using a chain saw. Very educational and he loves it.

Brad...

It's hard to believe the baby is now 3 years old. He has already found his wife in the little girl next door named Shannon. (I know she likes him too.) They play quite well together and little Shannon appears unconcerned about Brad's frequent desire to cross-dress while pretending he is Snow White. I guess the more you have, the weirder they get.

He goes to a pre-school and has become potty trained with only the occasional accident. Like his dad, he is kind of a homebody and frequently asks to go home when we are out visiting at friend's homes.

Disney World was great fun for him and he asks me every day... "How long until we see Snow White?" I tell him next year and he always goes away smiling thinking 'next year' is tomorrow.

Kathy... (Revisited)

Of course, there is plenty to write about Kathy. The only anatomically incorrect member of the Johnson Men's Club, she turned 34 this year, although she still gets carded occasionally when she buys liquor.

In addition to the family trip to Florida, Kathy spent time in Mexico, New Orleans and Minnesota on separate girls trips this year alone. Yes, you might be thinking, it would be fair to call her a part time wife and mother in light of her leisure activities. Luckily, she is married to a sensitive, tolerant and patient man who insists she make time for herself, while denying those same pleasures to himself.

Kathy is a great mom who juggles all the work of raising and shutting kids, while still doing 15-20 hours per week of Medicare billing out of our home. She is the heart of this family and the love of all of us Johnson boys...

MERRY CHRISTMAS

