

HISLOP HEADLINES

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2009

ROY, UT



HANGING TOGETHER

American Fork, UT: What did you do on January 2, 2009? The Hislop family caused a traffic jam on I-15. Traveling southbound on the freeway that evening a young lady (notice the word “young”; it was NOT Teresa!) fell asleep at the wheel of her white Nissan. She bounced off the concrete median and, at freeway speed, careened toward the Hislop van. Lance saw her coming, performed what one witness said was a “mean piece of driving”, and steered the van such that she dealt them two side blows, rather than hitting them directly. They shot off the freeway, through a chain link fence, and into a power pole. The power pole broke into three pieces and the van flipped onto its top. The family hung out together for a few moments, upside down, at the side of the freeway. Miraculously, all six Hislops escaped (by crawling through the shattered windows of the inverted van) without injury. Life is the stories one can tell and the Hislop’s will be telling this one for a long time. Only two days into the new year and already they had a headline story for their Christmas newsletter.

BLADE RUNNER

Salt Lake International Airport, UT: A big, gruff man with plastic gloves pulled Teresa’s bag off the line and motioned her to follow him. “Do you have anything in this bag that you have not told us about?” he asked as he began to search her bag. She said no...and then realized she was using Chick’s scout camp backpack. There just could be something there of which she was unaware. Sure enough, the man unzipped a pocket that she did not even know existed and pulled out.....a 6” bowie knife. Whoops.



TAKING HER LUMPS

Primary Children’s Hospital, UT: Upper arm pain, a suspicious series of x-rays, and an MRI report that read “The lesion does exhibit some aggressive or concerning features by plain film radiography and MRI. At this time, a benign diagnosis cannot be confidently offered” caused parents Hislop to be quite concerned about a 1" x .75" x 2" lump on Tanah Hislop’s (age 12) upper arm. A surgical biopsy, multiple prayers, and several days later, the surgeon called to report “NO CANCER”. The lesion is a non-aggressive, benign growth that will likely be reabsorbed by the body.

SUPER THIN

Roy, UT: Teresa taught Grace (age 9) to thin the carrots. She showed Grace how the young carrots were clustered together and instructed her to pull the smaller seedlings, leaving the slightly bigger seedlings to continue growing. When she announced she was done Teresa noticed that there was a 3 foot empty space in the carrot row; ALL of the carrot seedlings had been removed. When asked about it, Grace explained, “You said to pull the small ones and leave the big ones. There were no big ones there so I pulled them all.”



MAGICAL THINKING

Roy, UT: Miles (age 5) put two quarters in his pocket, in preparation for a trip to town. Just before leaving the house, he tried to retrieve the two quarters to show Teresa that he was indeed prepared to make a purchase. There were no quarters in his pocket. His face lit up. “I am a magician,” he enthusiastically declared. “Magicians make things disappear. I made the money disappear. I am a magician!” He happily went to the store, in a self congratulatory mood. Life is all about perceptions, isn’t it?

KNOCKED COLD

Roy, UT: Lance attempted to haul a large roll of insulation down some ice covered steps. He slipped and fell flat on his back.....then lay still as waves of pain rolled over him and stars danced before his eyes. When he finally attempted to arise he found that he was frozen to the ground. [People with a twisted sense of humor find this funny.]



DEEP FRIED CHICK

Escalante State Park and University of Utah Burn Center, UT: Dragos and Hislops cooked, camped, and cavorted together in the Escalante area during the first week of summer. On the final night, Teresa cooked scones and then slid the oil-filled Dutch oven far under a table...but not far enough. Somehow Chick (age 14) tipped the Dutch oven, spilling hot oil onto his foot. The next instant he was screaming and jumping around camp on one foot. The next next instant Teresa was yelling too; “Sit down!” After emptying a thermos of icy pink lemonade on the foot, she made him soak the burned appendage in cold water. The next morning he had a toe-encompassing blister on his littlest toe, a large blister on his second-littlest toe, and several blisters on the side of his ankle. He also had a 3”x 1/2” third degree burn across the top of his foot. Ten days later he had a skin graft which put him out of action for about 10 weeks. Good thing he had fun the first week of his summer vacation!

NATURE’S CALL

Uintah National Forest: Answering the call of the wild, Marjorie Noel Watkins and her five children, Mom Noel, and Teresa and her four children spent three days on their annual “Women and Children’s Camp” in the wilds of the Uintah National Forest where they “rough camped”--- if you can call camping with a toilet rough camping. Luxury! Mom Noel received an R.V. toilet for Christmas, Dad Noel bolted it to a square piece of plywood, Teresa set it over a hole she dug next to a tree, and everyone enjoyed it—though seeing a toilet next to a tree in the middle of the woods seemed a little incongruent somehow.



WHO'S IN FIRST?

Washington State:

Ragnar Relays have staggered start times.

In the Northwest

Passage, the slow teams start at

8:00 a.m. Teams start

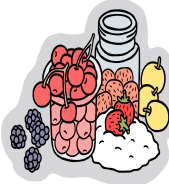
every hour thereafter with the

fastest teams starting at 4:00 p.m. The Hislop/Noel team was assigned an 8:00 a.m. start along with about 20 other less-than-speedy groups. Teresa was the first runner on their team and, at the end of her 6.2 miles, there was only one person behind her. She handed the "baton" (i.e. slap bracelet) to Andrew in second-to-last place. Then ran Andrew, Andy, Lance and Bryant. When Bryant got the baton the team was in the middle of the pack, the race's leader being 4 or so minutes ahead. Bryant went on the hunt; off came his shirt and out came his speed. At the end of Bryant's 5.9 miles the Hislop/Noel team was in first place. **FIRST PLACE!!**

Though they finished 130th of 148 teams, for a brief stretch of time the little rag-tag, motley crew of runners and wrestlers led the entire Northwest Passage. Now that is a story they can tell!

CANNING 2009

PINTS: Chinese cherry syrup, 17; maple syrup, 4; cherry jam, 10; applesauce, 38; salsa, 21; jalapeño jelly, 5; venison, 5; elk, 15; cranberry applesauce, 29; grape jelly, 10; chili sauce, 7. **QUARTS:** spinach, 4; Chinese cherry juice, 13; raspberries, 10; broccoli, 18; green beans, 112; blackberries, 52; tomatoes, 120; peaches, 71; plum juice, 2; spaghetti sauce, 6; grape juice, 216; apple pie filling, 21; peach juice, 3; apricots, 7. **DRIED:** apricot fruit roll-ups, 170; bananas, 58 quarts; plums, 9. **TOTAL:** 802.5 quarts.



MENTIONED BY MILES...

© Miles said, "Mommy, your kisses get into my blood and go all the way down to my toes."

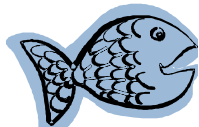
Teresa has that effect on Lance too.

© Miles observed,

"Rainbow trout must be stupid. All the fish we catch are Rainbow trout. The other kinds of fish know not to bite."

© Miles went to Allie's birthday party. He came home and told Teresa that he wanted a "pee-on-ya" for his birthday. "Pee-on-ya"???? Piñata.

© What is the name of your head? Miles asked Teresa this question. Puzzled, she responded, ".....uh....Teresa, I guess." Then she returned the question. "What is the name of your head?" "Knuckle," he replied proudly. "I am Knuckle Head."



CLIVE???

Clive, UT: Where in Utah is Clive? If you don't know, you should find out. The Hislops and Dragos went on a field trip to Clive as guests of Energy Solutions. The eleven of them boarded a chartered luxury van at the Energy Solutions

headquarters in SLC. While they ate a catered lunch, their tour guide drove them 80 miles through Utah's west desert to Clive. There the site's president spent 90 minutes explaining their operations, showing slides, and answering questions. They then toured the facility and returned to SLC. Teresa, a science nerd, was fascinated. Lance, a current issues junkie, was fascinated. Joe, an engineer, was fascinated. Michelle, a city planner, was fascinated. Chick, the eager-learner-of-all-things, was fascinated. Even eight year old Grace was totally absorbed; she asked some fabulous questions. Hislops and Dragos recommend the experience to everyone.



CHICK PLEDGES

Roy, UT: Chick was told to dust the plants on a Monday night. The next day Teresa returned home from an errand just after Chick had returned home from school. He met her at the top of the stairs, bursting with pride. Ripe with responsibility, he enthusiastically told her that he had already dusted the plants....with furniture polish. One uses Pledge when dusting in the front room; the plants are in the front room....



LANCE GETS LUCKY

Petrified Forest State Park, UT: Lance caught his limit before breakfast in the Escalante Reservoir. According to him, it is the first time in his life he has had the "hot pole". [Note: A "hot pole" is the fishing pole that is catching fish when no one else in the group is getting bites. It is not a cute girl from Poland.]

From Teresa: "All things work together for good to them who love God." (Romans 8:28) This is SO true. I love God and things are SO good. In fact, 2009 has been the best year of my life so far. I thank my Eternal Father for the gift of His Beloved Son, for life, and for the countless blessings brought to my life through His Son.



From Lance: Merry Christmas. Happy New Year. God bless us everyone. You get the idea.

SHEEP TALES

Roy, UT: Teresa discovered a two day old lamb hypothermic and all but dead. Hugging the lamb, she raced to the house where she spent the next 75 minutes blow drying the lamb back to life. The lamb's life was saved....but it was too weak to suckle. Ewe milk is more nutritious and less expensive than formula. Have you ever milked a sheep? Beth, the ewe, outweighed Teresa by 80 lbs but Teresa had a distinct obstinacy advantage. Wedging Beth into the corner of the shed, her knee in Beth's chest and her head in the flank, she held a quart jar in one hand, and used the other to coax milk from the udder. Beth often tried to bolt. Sometimes Teresa won by brute force, sometimes she won by sheer obstinacy; always she won. Once she won by treachery. Beth decided to bolt just as Teresa grabbed her teat. She bowled Teresa over but Teresa held on to the teat. St-r-r-r-e-e-t-t-c-h-h! Beth came back.



Dad Noel and Teresa were working the sheep, attempting to catch a wily ewe. The ewe ended up catching Dad—right in the chest. The impact caused him to step back....and trip over Annie (the dog) who was hovering at his feet. Boom, splat! The next thing Teresa knew she was looking at a Dad sandwich; Annie howling at the bottom of the heap, the sheep bleating on the top of the pile, and Dad in the middle, calming grasping the struggling ewe while sitting on the yelping dog.

Grace and Tanah trained their lambs to show at the county fair. The girls washed the lambs weekly, practiced showmanship in the driveway and took the sheep on walks, a task that was much easier planned than executed. It is quite frustrating to be a 60 lb girl trying to control a 60 lb lamb. Sometimes the lamb drug Grace around, sometimes Grace drug it around. If Grace knew any swear words, she might have used them. Nothing like livestock to elicit colorful language!

The Hislops reached several conclusions.

1. Sheep are stupid.
2. People who own sheep are stupid.
3. People who know that sheep are stupid and still own sheep are the most stupid of all.

Hislops fit into the third category.

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