

# A Whim? It Was The 19th Pregnancy Test!

I've blogged about the [Duggar family](#) before – they are famous for having a TLC reality show about their large family of 20. That's two parents and eighteen natural offspring – no adoptees, no foster kids; just two people who don't believe in birth control and who have the utmost faith in God and their marriage. I blogged about their daily routine (involving a cool-looking, specially outfitted custom-built house for a large family – think industrial size kitchen appliances and 4 washer / dryer sets) that seems to be successful in keeping their 20-member household functioning smoothly. I also linked to their website, which had pictures of the interior of their custom-made house. They had their own buffet line built into one of the kitchens, and their dining room has a drink station with cups for each of the 18 kids. As a parent of 4, I find their larger family way of life fascinating. Actually, some of their practices have changed since the eldest Duggar offspring is now moved out, married, and expecting a baby of his own.

Not to be outdone, his mother Michelle is pregnant with her *nineteenth* child. She says she took this latest pregnancy test “on a whim”, which is difficult for me to comprehend when she's had probably around a dozen and half positive pregnancy tests in her life. She said she was nursing, and her infant grew fussy – in the past, a fussy nursing infant meant that mother's milk had pregnancy hormones, so that's why she took the test. I can't imagine having kids close enough in age to be able to find that out once, let alone to test it over and over like a theorem. And another thought on this – when Mrs. Duggar gives birth to child #19 (wonder what personality traits can be attributed to #19 according to the psychologists who specialize in birth order? Do the books go

that high?), she will have spent roughly one-third of her 42 years on this Earth pregnant. I hope for her sake she doesn't go through a pregnancy withdrawal when her body is done having kids. But for now, the family seems happy as can be, and what's interesting is that Michelle's first grandchild will be about 5 months older than his or her aunt or uncle. And let it be clear that I'm not putting these people down – they have a solid family and all these kids seem well cared for by two loving parents who are still married, not to mention LOADS of siblings... more power to them!

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## Number 2 Meets Number 4

What an accomplishment to an already stellar career that shows no signs of ending anytime soon. Tonight, Derek Jeter joined Lou Gehrig (The Iron Horse, The Pride of the Yankees) as the all time Yankee hitter at 2721. A bunt, a blast, and a rip to right field brought the new and old icons even. Even if he is a graduate of Kalamazoo High School in that state up north where he spent a semester as one of those unmentionables, Derek has handled the spotlight that comes with the stripes with integrity, and maturity over the past 15 years. Even if I were not a fan, I would find it difficult to not cheer for the shortstop phenom. Jeter's work ethic makes it nearly impossible for him to place any solo accomplishment above those of the team... There is no "I" in team. While standing on first base following his third hit of the night, Mr. November rose his helmet not once but twice and acknowledged the ovation from the fans (including his parents), his teammates, the opposing team, the entire crowd at the home of the bombers. Play ceased however briefly for the star to have his moment. And at Captain Clutch's next at bat... he is walked and the crowd goes wild with boooooos as the pitcher is retired

and the Yanks score 4 and lead the TB Rays 4-2. Unfortunately, it will take some doing for Derek to get to Pete Rose's MLB All Time Record of 4256 hits. WOW! It took 70 years for someone to even the First Baseman's record. So... unless something terrible happens in this the top of the ninth the record will remain tied. And... THE YANKEES WIN! **THEEEEEEE YANKEES WIN!!!!!!**

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## Another Installment of Cute

I realized that I hadn't emptied my camera in awhile, so when I finally did, I found some great pictures!



*Told you it was a busy Labor Day weekend!*



*The girls dressed Charity up like a*

*princess – her blue eye always gets photographic red-eye, but she actually let the kids dress her up! Wonder what kind of food they enticed her with...*



*The “baby” has been climbing everything in sight. Here he is on top of the folding table in the laundry room. And he’s been running while using his walker-toy; he went right from crawling to running! Guess it’s time to start calling him a toddler!*



*Here are all 4 four kids in the same cart at Menard’s... awww!*



*And this is the ~~baby~~ toddler's first time going all the way up in the tunnels at the McDonald's Playplace – he loved it!*

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## **That's my job**

As I've said in previous posts, my youngest is now off at college. Earlier this year she also turned 18. By the laws of this land, that does make her a legal adult. For the past 25+ years I've been doing my best to raise my daughters. I not only wanted to get them to legal adulthood, I've been trying to get them to mature adulthood. It was, of course, my job.

I've often said that I've had little to do with how my daughters turned out. Their mother was the primary reason they turned out the way they did. My job was to follow her lead. I thought I did that very well. Even after she died, I tried to follow her lead. She had a way with her daughters, I could never hope to do as well.

Anyway my youngest is now a young adult. In my eyes, she has grown in to a very mature young lady. Now I can say all four daughters survived into adulthood. Me, I'm just the guy who listened to their mother. Hey, it's my job.

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# Two Laborious Days Or Surviving The Fumes

My Labor Day Weekend beginning Saturday afternoon was full of labor (at least the first two days of it). Overnight Saturday into the wee hours of Sunday, a group from our sister store across the state line came and stripped and polished our floors... not a job I would be first in line to accept. However, Saturday I found myself doing the menial task of clearing displays and whatever could be moved from the sales floor into the backroom. Small chest freezers were defrosted, pallets full of 24 packs of Pepsi product were pulled back, gumball and sticker machines, Rug Doctor rental machines... EVERYTHING! Some customers began to wonder if we were moving out. WOW! I hope not! I remember the last time I was part of this prep being July 4th Weekend of 2008 although I was assured that the process was completed since then. By the time 8 PM rolled around I was ready to call it a night. HOWEVER, I was asked to come in at 7.30AM Sunday morning to help move everything BACK to the floor. VERY begrudgingly, I agreed.

7.30 AM Sunday morning. I arrive at the store to find nothing even being attempted to be moved into place. I also notice the quite distinguishable aroma of waxed floor and more than a little slickness as I make my way inside. The manager informs me that the floor is not nearly ready to have all of the displays put back. UGH!!!! I could have stayed at home for at least a half-hour longer. However, if she was willing to pay me for an hour of standing around in the office off the floor... who was I to argue? I did get a free donut out of the deal.

So, by the time 2PM came around, I was once again ready to

call it a day. Diane must have been ready for me to call it a day because as soon as the hour began she said: "Go home." The fumes from the cleaner still lingering created a slight sense of weirdness. Once again, customers very strangely commented that it smelled good. By 7.45AM, I had had enough of the odor thank you very much. At 3.00PM, I could still smell the after effects of the cleaning. When I went to work at noon today (I did have Labor Day off), the scent still lingered. But I still am glad that I did not spend the night polishing. ☐

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## **What happened to my coffee???**

I have written many times about my love of coffee. I will admit that I am a bit of a coffee snob. But I never needed to have gourmet coffee at every turn. But for the past couple of days the coffee I've had just didn't taste right. Hmmm...

At work last Friday I had one cup of coffee. It was flavored coffee (beans from a local coffee shop) and it had an off flavor. Ok, maybe I don't like that flavor, I've had some experience with that.

Saturday no coffee. Sunday no coffee. Tea tastes fine both days...

Monday coffee at lunch. It was bad even for store brands... Arrrg.

Monday dinner. I was at a well know chain restaurant that usually has decent coffee. The first cup was ok, the second cup not so good. More Arrggg.

Today I had one cup at work. My Kona blend. Can I just say it

was nasty..

I think I found the problem at work, the water in our new office just isn't right for coffee or tea. My green tea in the afternoon had a weird/off flavor too. I really hope they get the water coolers. Or at least put a filter on the water. Maybe I should get a pitcher with a filter on it...

Told you I was a bit of a coffee nerd/snob. If I can be upset with the coffee based on the water it was made from. Funny the water doesn't taste bad from the faucet, just when mixed with coffee or green tea. The black tea was fine..

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## **All You Need Is An Octopus To Hold Your Hand In A Submarine That Is Yellow**

Today seems to be one of those moments when it appears that Beatlemania will about however briefly. Not only is The Beatles: Rock Band hitting gaming systems the world over but many of the greatest albums are being reissued as remastered CDs. Abbey Road, Revolver, Rubber Soul, and the quintessential White Album are just four of the titles dropping today.

While I was cleaning the shop today, I glanced at a *Parent and Child* magazine and one of the cover articles pondered...["Why Kids Love the Beatles"](#). I don't know how many parents today introduce their children to the Fab Four but I know of at least one [father](#) whose youngest can rip off lyrics during a game with the best of them... oven obscure songs that flew right over my head. I agree wholeheartedly with most of the



article. I believe that the longevity is due in large part to the creative genius of Lennon and McCartney who penned some of the most memorable songs imaginable that still hold up 40+ years after the groups break up. Classic melodies and words from ballads like "Yesterday", "Hey Jude," and "Let It Be" to pop standards such as "I Saw Her Standing There," "Can't Buy Me Love," and "Penny Lane" to the wildly odd lyrics of "Octopus' Garden" and "I Am the Walrus (goo-goo-ga-jooob)" are just a few of the hits produced from the Lads from Liverpool.

The article went on to give a small bio of the four gents. Who was the Cute Beatle, the Quiet Beatle, the Brainy Beatle, and the Sad Beatle? I did not list them in order they appear in the article so if you decide to cheat you better make sure you read the question carefully. Not only did John and Paul contribute to the songwriting but George and Ringo wrote some classics as well.

No matter what kind of personal lives the quartet lived outside the stage or studio, one thing remains undeniably clear. Even after 40 years, millions are still listening to, singing along with, and commemorating the world's greatest rock band. I'm not sure if The Beatles will hold up to classic composers like Bach and Beethoven 100 years from now and I don't think I will be around to find out. Plus, we had an Elvis themed game night... why not a Beatles? At least we can introduce one of our friends to the classics who shall remain anonymous... unless they care to comment.

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## **Another annoying late night**

I'm not really sure why I'm up so late this evening, but I am..

I was skimming through some of my old posts because I noticed somebody was going back and looking at things. I think it was some sort of 'bot looking into my blog, but I can't tell for sure unless they reply.

Last year at this time I made a plea for some blog responses. I did get a few and that really made my day. I realize that not everyone sees something in blogs to respond to. I know that I visit a blog site or three and don't respond. Not because I don't like the blog, but because I really think that I have nothing to add.

I've just been thinking, maybe (just maybe) I should respond every once in a while with a simple "I like your blog." response. That would take very little of my time, and would give the other blogger a small lift. I mean, it couldn't hurt.

That may or may not show up on blogs I semi-regularly post responses to. You know who you are, and I really enjoy your blogs. Sometimes they say everything that needs to be said. My response would be redundant.

I'm going to try to get some sleep... Ha Ha...

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## Looking for Meatloaf

I haven't made a meatloaf in sometime and since I'm the only one at home, I can't see myself making one in the near future. Small meatloafs just don't taste the same as one of at least 1 to 2 pounds.

Anyway when I get the urge for meatloaf, I've been trying it at different restaurants. So far, I haven't found one I really like. The taste or texture just doesn't match what I think

meatloaf should be. The best I've had so far is from the Ten-Pin Tap in Ridgeville Corners, OH. A little bar, that was the major place to go for lunch before we switched buildings. Now, I'm not sure where to find it.

There are many reasons for this. #1- Most places don't serve meatloaf. It is too plain for most restaurants. #2- I don't think they drain the grease. Just shouldn't be swimming in it. #3 - I'm wondering if they use the worst kind of ground beef. Just doesn't cut it sometimes. #4- Do they ever add any spice? Bland, bland, bland or maybe swimming in Ketchup..

Anyone else on the lookout for good meatloaf? Have you found any? Where?

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## Putting The Fun Into Labor...

Well, it was a last-minute attempt at a Labor Day outing with friends, and even though we strayed from our original idea of going to a Lake Erie-area haunted house and drive-thru zoo, we had LOTS of fun!

We went to the Toledo Zoo, always a great zoo, even if this Labor Day Saturday of 2009 equated to being one of the most crowded we've ever seen that zoo. It was just over 80°, so the animals weren't all that active, but we did get to see Louie, the "baby" elephant (who is now 6 years old and awaiting the completion of construction of his very own zoo exhibit area) lying down and taking a break, which was cool. We also saw one of their huge hippos swimming in the underwater hippo-quarium, which is always a treat because you can see a humongous hippo swim right past up close. After the zoo, we ate at one of our favorite places in the Toledo area - Nick's Cafe on Reynolds (not sure if it's actually Toledo or

the suburb of Maumee). But the place is just north of Ohio's turnpike, I 80/90, and they have great food and almost *unimaginable* portion sizes – are they used to feeding GIANTS?!? Unfortunately for Nick's, the place was empty, but this is (just) one of the reasons we go to Nick's when we're in the area – they have GREAT food. Besides, **you** try withstanding the crowds to get a table at the Olive Garden on a Saturday evening, especially with 4 starving kids!

After dinner, we were going to head to another nearby Toledo suburb for a free exotic animal / magic show, something right up our alley. But the combination of the big weekend, crabby kids and crowds at the zoo caused our driver and his wife to veto that great idea, so luckily we hadn't told the kids since it sounded like fun and they would have been disappointed (no matter their exhaustive state) to miss it. But we've learned that over-doing it with little kids along is **always** regretful, and so we happily prepared for our journey home after we gorged ourselves and piled leftovers into boxes at Nick's. But we grew distracted by a strip-mall across Reynolds from Nick's Cafe, and that's how we finally discovered what Nickel World of Toledo really is...

We had seen it in the strip-mall before, but we had always busily assumed that it was the 2009 incarnate of the early 20th century 5 and dime store. On Saturday night, we discovered that Nickel World is actually a family entertainment place, filled with **many** arcade, skill, and video games! They have a unique business model – they charge an entrance fee of \$2.50 per person, and then they sell \$5 bags of nickels for use on the games. Most of the games are just one nickel to play, some are two, and there's even a large selection of FREE games! The place is so cool; what a great concept! For about \$25, our party of 4 adults and 5 kids were easily entertained for at least an hour, PLUS the kids took home quite a bounty of prizes with the 5,000 tickets they were able to rack up in just that hour! Nickel World has just

about every type of video game you can think of – two types of Skee-ball, multiple Crane Games, ball-roller games, basketball shooting games, racing games, Bozo Buckets, even air hockey as well as FREE! vintage arcade games like X-Men, Bust-A-Move, Dueling Dragons, and many more... We had a GREAT time, and Hubby and I are dying to return on a date night to fight, race and out-shoot each other without distraction from the kids! The only thing is that they are closed on Tuesday nights when we have our date nights... oh well, perhaps we can reschedule. If **you** are in the Toledo area, you **have** to check out Nickel World on Reynolds (US 20) – a rarity for an awesome value in family entertainment in this day and age of recession! And while I'm on the topic, Nickel World reminded me of another cool arcade-type place in South Bend, Indiana. [Megaplay](#) has two indoor mini-golf courses, as well as lots of video games (some of the classics are free) and even an inflatable jousting area where they hold tournaments. I've never had the pleasure of participating in something like this, but it looks like lots of fun. If only I had discovered this sport before my sense of balance expired... I did see an indoor inflatable jousting space at another place in Toledo that we visited a few months ago. This place was pretty cool – they had adult-sized bouncy slides and ladders to climb, and my husband and I bounced down the slides and ran around like little kids until the unfortunate voices of reality (muscle strain and fatigue) made it loud and clear that we had better take it easy... But I can't remember the name of that place or where exactly it is, and I can't find it on the internet. Probably a bad sign that we were the only ones there at the time, I hope it hasn't closed down, but that's a lot of why it was so much fun – my kids weren't getting run over by eager older kids, and hubby and I weren't laughed out of the place by nasty teenagers...

So... back from my tangents. We had a really nice and safe Labor Day weekend free from any of the [speed traps we encountered in previous years](#). Hope yours was safe and fun

also! God Bless!