

In Trouble Even From Across The Country

More on the title later. My parents' trip to Alaska began Saturday when they were to fly out of Detroit early that morning. However, there were mechanical mishaps on the plane which lead to the cancellation of the flight. Around 3PM, a flight was arranged that would carry them non-stop to their destination. Some good there since they were to have a 2 hour layover in Seattle. They arrived in Alaska around 10:30PM EST. However, their luggage did not arrive until 11:30PM Sunday night.

Yes, even with the parents being thousands of miles away at Fort Richardson near Anchorage, I still was able to stir up some mishaps. It seems that my sister wanted to get into the house Tuesday night. Thinking I was doing a good thing, I made sure that I locked the house before going to work. When Christi could not get into the house, she did what any normal 32 year old would do: called Mommy and Daddy and interrupted their trip. This could have been avoided simply by driving the half block to the grocery store and seeing that I was at work and asked for the key. My car was parked at the house... surely logic would dictate that I was nearby somewhere. Instead, I get a phone call from Alaska asking why I would lock the door. Well... needless to say, that will not be happening again. Who would break into a house in little E-town? And don't get any ideas. AAAAHHHH, sisters. But I was more upset that she bothered the parents. I mean, what are they going to do, use the remote control door unlocker? Oh, well such as life.

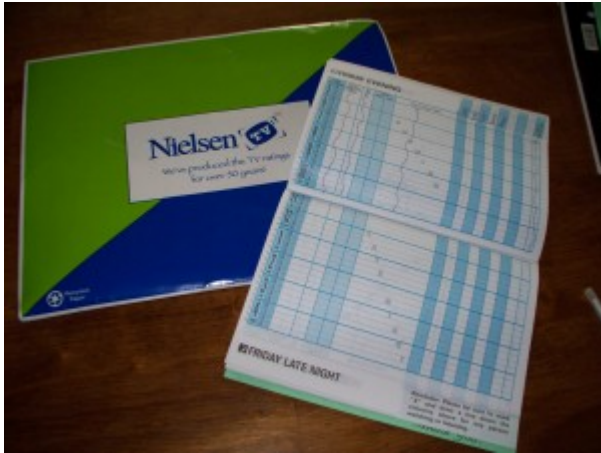
A Nielsen Family

It began with \$3 cash being enclosed in a letter – we had been selected to be a Nielsen family. You know the Nielsen company – basically, they gather information about how many people are watching what on tv in order to determine how much commercials should cost. So anyway, they sent \$3 cash, and I have to admit, that piqued my interest. They called with a short phone survey, and a few weeks later, we received a large envelope with 4 booklets (tv diaries), and \$30(!) cash. There were instructions; all we had to do was record what we watched on which tv for a week. But it turned out to be easier said than done...

Recording what is watched on all of the tv sets (what year were those diaries printed – who says “tv sets”?) in our household turned out to be quite a challenge! First of all, we have a parrot in the laundry room, and his tv is on all the time. I don't always know what is playing, but I do know that the bird loves The Price Is Right. So I made a little note in our tv diary for that tv and mentioned that it's on all the time for the pet parrot and that he especially likes The Price Is Right. I made sure to notate that I don't know if he prefers Bob Barker or Drew Carrey, though...

And then there is the kids' tv, which is in their room. I know they watch a whole lot of the Disney channel, but I don't know what's always on it. Because it's summer, we didn't watch much tv in the living room; we mostly use that tv for movies on DVD. It was challenging to remember to write down details every time a tv was watched, and if we forgot, it was hard to remember what was watched. So at times the task was daunting, but we had already accepted the payment, so I felt that we had to follow through with the project. Overall, it was a neat experience, and if they value our input, there will be a lot more of The Price Is Right, The Office, and hopefully Cubs baseball on tv ☐

Just for the heck of it, I took a picture of one of the tv diaries and the envelope:



Overall, a fun experience, but next time I might have to decline depending on how old the kids are when our names come up again. It was very difficult for me to have to complete "homework" with 4 small children underfoot – hard to say if it would be worth the \$30 again... maybe if the kids are older and can fill out their own diaries...

Now back in *MY* day...

While reading my daily geek.com, I came across this article they blogged about. For those of us in our middle years it is really quite interesting. To get you started, I have reprinted two or three from each section, but to read them all you will have to click the title or end of the article to go to the source. What really makes me feel old is the inclusion of 90s things like the Playstation... ☐

Oh, be sure to click the link at the source about the young teen trying out a Walkman for a week, the MP3 player of the 80s.

UPDATE: I just visited Worthy Christian Forums, and apparently someone posted this same article, but with 37 more things (plus more in the replies)! At a glance, I could see they weren't just tacked on to the end and I'm too lazy to figure out which are new, so [CLICK HERE TO GO TO READ ALL 137 THINGS](#)

Audio-Visual Entertainment:

1. Inserting a VHS tape into a VCR to watch a movie or to record something.
8. 8-track cartridges.

Computers and Videogaming:

19. The scream of a modem connecting.
22. Using jumpers to set IRQs.
33. Having to delete something to make room on your hard drive.

The Internet:

38. Using a road atlas to get from A to B.
44. Filling out an order form by hand, putting it in an envelope and posting it.
56. When Spam was just a meat product – or even a Monty Python sketch.

Gadgets:

58. Putting film in your camera: 35mm may have some life still, but what about APS or disk?
69. Vacuum cleaners with bags in them.

Everything Else:

70. Taking turns picking a radio station, or selecting a

tape, for everyone to listen to during a long drive.

81. Han shoots first.

86. Finding books in a card catalog at the library.

(beginning of actual article follows below)

[100 Things Your Kids May Never Know About](#)

By Nathan Barry

July 22, 2009

8:00 am

There are some things in this world that will never be forgotten, this week's 40th anniversary of the moon landing for one. But Moore's Law and our ever-increasing quest for simpler, smaller, faster and better widgets and thingamabobs will always ensure that some of the technology we grew up with will not be passed down the line to the next generation of geeks.

That is, of course, unless we tell them all about the good old days of modems and typewriters, slide rules and encyclopedias ...

[\[CLICK TO READ FULL ARTICLE ON WIRED.COM\]](#)

Home Alone

So... now that I have the house all to myself for the next two weeks while the parents are in Alaska, I have found that I am

not at a lack of things to do. Of course, there are the hours I must spend at work. Friday night, I did something I have never done before: Monster Jam at the Toledo Speedway. Megan, Carol, and I drove and met admin and family. It was really a fun night even if Superman got jipped (not biased, even if I was decked out in my Man of Steel Cap... maybe I should have worn one of my t-shirts) in the freestyle portion of the evening. I think obvious local favorite, Gravedigger was at only a slight advantage as I found his performance less than thrilling. I have seen ads for the show in the past and remember Gravedigger announced prominently. Very fun and Vera got the three of us to and from the event quite nicely. And we did not have to make any pit stops along the way ☐ Plus in the 4 wheeler event, the Ohio team was beaten by the Michigan team (B00000!!!!) I have a feeling a bit of proximity favoritism was in evidence.

Sunday... short work day, cleaned the beauty shop, ran to B-town to pick up a few things. Then, I did something I have not done for years. I brought the X-Box downstairs, had my 9 year-old niece and another friend come over and play. **And play we did!** We started at about 5 and it got darker and darker and by the time I knew what time it was, it was midnight. **HOLY COW!** About 2AM, we decided to call it a night. Elizabeth was asleep in the chair, anyway.

Monday... great fun day. I had some friends over for a pizza/movie night. We started at Munchkin Junction. Later, I had Elizabeth stay to play with the kids while the adults watched the totally captivating movie, *The Island*. I don't know why, but I kept thinking *The Beach* with Leonardo DiCrapio (never seen that one either) but I am S000 glad it was not. This was a somewhat typical but nottoo typical Michael Bay production with lots of action. I REALLY liked it... futuristic sci-fi with Ewan McGregor and Scarlett Johanssen (whom I just learned will be in *Iron Man 2*... scheduled for release next summer).

Soo... the start of my two week adventure has been fun. More to come. And yes, the house is still standing.

A non-camp post

I found this little brief to funny not to share. Click the title to see the picture:

[THE COOLEST MUTT IN THE EAST](#)

COOL canine Fei Fei left other dogs in the shade after his owner bought him a pair of sunglasses as a joke.

But now the fashion mad mutt refuses to leave owner Bo Lee's home in Chongqing, central China, without being given his wraparound shades!

"I think he likes all the attention he gets on the street," said Lee.

"I bought them to protect his eyes but now if I try to leave the apartment without them he howls the place down," he told the Austrian Times.

A Bridge Over Not So Troubled

Water

I received a cool picture via email the other day – a river bridging over another river! It's man-made of course, but what a feat! It bridges the River Elbe in Germany and connects two important shipping canals. The project was put on hold indefinitely when Germany was split during the last century and was finally completed in 2003. I think this is pretty cool, so I'll share it and thank fellow tangents.org blogger [Jamiahsh](#) for sending it to me. I don't know why he didn't put it on his blog, but I figure he probably would have gotten a chance by now if that's what he wanted to do with it ☐ Check it out:





For more information about the bridge, [click here.](#)

The New Bonnie & Clyde

This story is so sweet, I just had to share it.

Blind border collie gets his own guide dog

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By [Aidan McGurran](#) [24/07/2009](#)



Collies usually round up sheep not each other... but as the eyes of her blind canine companion, little Bonnie steers Clyde away from trouble.

The five-year-old long-haired border collie, who has lost his sight because of a degenerative disease, relies entirely on Bonnie as his guide dog. He follows her everywhere.

And like the American gangster lovers they have been named after, the friendly dogs are on the lookout for a safe, new hideaway.

They were recently dumped in the street during a storm and are currently being cared for at Meadow Green Dog Rescue Centre in Hales Green, near Loddon in Norfolk.

The centre's Cherie Cootes said: "If Clyde's unsure where he is, he will suddenly go behind Bonnie and put his face on the back of her so she can guide him. He totally relies on her.

"And when she walks she tends to stop and make sure he's there – she does look out for him. When she's about you wouldn't notice he is blind, but when she's not about he refuses to move. There's no option of homing them separately. They've got to go as a pair."

A driver found the dogs running through Blundeston, near Lowestoft, Suffolk, during a storm three weeks ago. Neither

Clyde nor Bonnie – a short-haired border collie aged two or three – had identifying collars or chips.

Cherie, 40, added: “They’ve got very nice manners and they walk well on the lead.

“They really are a very sweet pair of dogs.”

If you can give Bonnie and Clyde a home, call the centre on 01508 548 216.

A New HOPE From The Evil Empire

No, no this post has nothing to do with the original *Star Wars* film (or as it is officially known: Episode IV: A New Hope). Such rather derogatory names have inundated my favorite baseball team for as long as I can remember and definitely beyond that. This week, The New York Yankees have been on the streets, in apartment buildings, and in the new stadium giving back to the community that they call home. Whether it be something seemingly trivial like throwing pop flies to a ten year old or participating in an event honoring a Navy veteran who is afflicted with Lou Gehrig’s disease, the NOW solo first place American League East sluggers have been receiving praise both on and off the field.

HOPE (Helping Others Persevere and Excel) week began Monday and has included the following events:

- Alex Rodriguez and pitchers Joba Chamberlain and Andy Pettite were in Greenwich Village and visited a young boy who has Cerebral Palsy. The sixth grader is

confined to a wheelchair; however, the Bombers conducted a clinic for him and his little league teammates.

- Ace closer Mariano Rivera, second baseman Robinson Cano, and outfielder Melky Cabrera visited a small Washington Heights apartment where a couple open their home to children for lessons in community and leadership.
- Captain Derek Jeter and first baseman [Mark Teixeira](#) (who my mother claims closely resembles our admin... I don't see it... sorry I cannot find a photo good enough to compare) participated in a ceremony honoring a Navy veteran with Lou Gehrig's Disease and his wife.

Say what you will about the Yankees... overpaid, over-privileged. The new stadium is a homerun hitters paradise. Any team who takes time out off the field to help and inspire (yes, even if the team happens to be from Bean Town) deserves some appreciation.

Welcome To The Craziness

The family received news today that our extended family has grown by one. Around 3PM, we got a phone call from Alaska informing us that my cousin Charnel had delivered a 6lb. 3oz. baby girl, Chloe Mae who is being welcomed I am sure by her big 2 year old sister, Kyli Nicole. 20 inches long and has a thick head of black hair (can she mail some to me...or just send it back with grandma and grandpa when they fly up on Saturday). One very cool thing, the proud papa who is on deployment in Afghanistan was on the phone listening as their second daughter made her entrance into the world. When Charnel called and talked to Mom, she told her to call everyone. Well... everyone but two people she called had already heard via text messaging or were called by someone

else whom it seems tells everyone in the world after she hears any juicy gossip. But all is well – healthy baby girl with ten fingers, ten toes, and healthy mama. Won't be able to see and spoil her until March when Rich returns from Afghanistan and they come South for a visit. I'm surprised there haven't been any pictures sent over cyberspace. What are you waiting for?!

Welcome Chloe (I like that name)



Humor From The Bulletin

I recently received two HILARIOUS emails. The subject of the two was religious but I am going to share anyway they are so funny. I laughed so hard at the following that I cried. It is so true. I have read many a bulletin that could be misinterpreted or have a little typo that creates total hilarity... ENJOY!

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick in our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
