



Holiday Newsletter 2008

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Dear Friends,

This has been quite a year of both sadness and great joy, with a good bit of “remodel stress” along the way! After we survived the fires of 2007 with our house intact, we decided to undertake a major remodel. We engaged the services of the same contractor, Kevin Bablewski, and cabinetmaker, Dale Haggerty, who had worked with us before, and embarked on several months of “managed chaos” with George as project manager. As a result, we were on time and within budget but the dogs will never be the same.

Just as we were getting the remodel underway, Marguerite’s mother, **Jessica Stafford Neville**, 87, died on January 31, 2008, in Gainesville, Florida, in a tragic home fire. Many of you got to know her when she visited in the summers and at Christmas most years, and she was a woman ahead of her time in many ways. She was born in Statesboro, Georgia, to William Gesmon Neville and Marguerite Nunnally Neville on October 31, 1920. After graduating from Georgia Teachers’ College (now Georgia Southern University), she moved to Gainesville in 1950 to attend graduate school at the University of Florida where she was awarded their first Master’s Degree in Early Childhood Education. As a life-long educator, she taught for over 40 years in Alachua County schools, the University of Florida, and other schools in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Alaska. After studying the Montessori method in England in the 1960s, she was one of the first teachers in Florida to integrate Montessori principles into her teaching. Throughout her life she enjoyed travel to destinations all over the world and spending time with family and friends. We are so glad we took the cruise to Australia in February of 2007 and spent time with her during the following summer. View cruise photos: <http://members.cox.net/dill-jac/kiwi-oz.htm>



Jessica Stafford Neville

The Remodel...

This remodel involved a totally new kitchen, new family room, new guest bathroom and new carpet, wood floors, and total painting of our home. Because we lived in the house the whole time, it was about 6 months of h..... But the marriage survived and Marguerite loves her new kitchen. George is thrilled with his big screen HDTV, complete with 8 remotes!

The new kitchen has all new cabinets with drawers and a large corner lazy susan, new Kitchen Aid refrigerator, regular oven, convection oven, warming drawer, microwave hood, dishwasher, and cook top. Buying everything new upset George since all the old appliances worked fine, but Marguerite was in a mood for change (yea Obama). Now that Obama is in, George is hoping the market recovers.

The master bedroom was painted in a three tone teal and had crown molding added. The rug is a blue-green that matches the paint somewhat and hides the dogs’ shedding as their beds are also in our bedroom. The kitchen, family room, hallway, and computer room had distressed Brazilian oak floors added and lots of rugs to make it comfortable. The LR/DR and guest bedroom were carpeted with taupe carpet. We kept the old tile and mirrors in the main hallway.

Crown molding was added to the guest bathroom and LR/DR. The majority of our home is painted in three shades of taupe with accents of white Swiss coffee for the woodwork. We used lots of red to “punch things up” throughout the house.

For Marguerite, a Jacuzzi tub was added to the guest bath so she can soak with the bubbles after a hard day dealing with the Georgie.



Kitchen’s Evolution



The NIH Project for which Marguerite serves as administrator has completed 5 years – we have made lots of progress and created many interesting learning exercises about tuberculosis (<http://ntcc.ucsd.edu>). We are seeking some additional funding for another year to complete some unfinished work, then Marguerite plans to “retire retire” and devote her time and energy to other things such as sewing and cooking. She is also on the California Hospital Building and Safety Board, President of the UCSD Retirement Association, and a member of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases Board of Directors – grass doesn’t grow under her feet and she keeps earning those United FF miles!



Marguerite & Matterhorn

Vacation to Switzerland, Germany, Austria, and Slovakia

In May we embarked on a two-week vacation to Europe. We left the house and dogs in the capable hands of our dear friends, John and Barbara Warner from San Jose, who enjoyed the virtually completed remodel and the sights of San Diego. Our Globus tour was cancelled, so rather than start over, George just made arrangements for hotels and EuRail passes, and we went on our merry way. After an overnight flight we rented a car and visited the tiny country of Liechtenstein, then settled into our hotel in Zurich. Then on to Munich, a day at Dachau, several castles, and the Hofbrau House for beer – Marguerite had first been there in 1964 when she and her Vanderbilt friends did “Europe on \$5 a day”!! Salzburg included a visit to Hellbrunn palace with the water tricks (another 1964 memory for Marguerite) and a Mozart dinner concert. George’s favorite place was next – Hitler’s Eagle’s Nest – and lots of WWII history. Vienna included a boat trip down the Danube to Bratislava, Slovakia, and lunch in a very trendy restaurant on top of a tall edifice that included very interesting bathrooms. Weather had been quite warm so far, but then we went up the Alps to Zermatt and enjoyed the snow and the Matterhorn. We finished the trip in Geneva and Lucerne, by which time we were quite “tripped out”. View trip at: <http://members.cox.net/jacksonconsulting/dill-jac-overflow/swiss.htm>

Eighth Annual Milestones Party

Consistent with our annual celebration for Gar and his friends, we held the Eighth Annual Milestones Party in August after Marguerite, Gar, and Betsy spent several days at Gar’s cabin in Port Angeles, Washington. The most important milestone celebrated was Gar and Chandi’s engagement! It was so much easier to create this event with the new kitchen. There were 18 guests and 9 “wait persons” who, between serving courses for the guests, also had their own party on the patio, then helped clean up! Everybody consumed lots of food and wine, and a good time was had by all. Plans are to continue this event each summer until we are too old and tired to do the work!!



Wait Persons Extraordinaire

Wedding

On September 6, 2008, Gar married Chandi Neubauer in a beautiful wedding at Sherman Gardens in Corona del Mar, California. The night before, Marguerite and George hosted a rehearsal party for about 70 guests at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club where Gar is a member. The wedding and reception were attended by over 140 friends and family members. Then on September 20, a cake and champagne reception was held in Long Island at Chandi’s parents’ home. Marguerite, Betsy, and Betsy’s son, Neville, his wife Dune, and their children, Anne and Lachlan, also attended this reception for about 70 people. Marguerite and Betsy stayed at Dune’s family home about 10 minutes from Chandi’s family home – small world!! The entire wedding experience was just lovely and the bride and groom are gloriously happy. They are living in a charming cottage in Corona del Mar close to the beach and shopping. Gar was recently promoted to Vice President of Investor Relations for Pacific Sunwear and Chandi is a financial analyst. Life is very good for them! View wedding photos on our website at: <http://members.cox.net/mjd-cd/overflow/gw2008.htm>



Mr. & Mrs. Jackson

Marguerite, George, Apollo, and Dreyfus