

Happy Holidays!

December 2004

From David, Bonnie & Quinlan



*What do Henry and Martha duPont have in common with us?
– Read on!*

What a year it was:

Graduation!

Summer sojourns

Horse Coach Adventures



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Getting physical
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All the fits that's news

We always wondered at holiday newsletters. Finally, with a thump, it hit us. Yes, we are terrible, *really* bad, correspondents. Yes, we do have lots of news we want to share with all our friends. We really want to write it all out in each and every holiday card we send. Send? Wait, what day is it? Where are they? I know we got them early this year, no? Right. So here we are, with our brand new Whigmaleerie Times!

We made it - Graduation

We have no idea how it happened, but all of a sudden, somewhere between "too soon" and "will it never end", Quinlan became a college freshman.

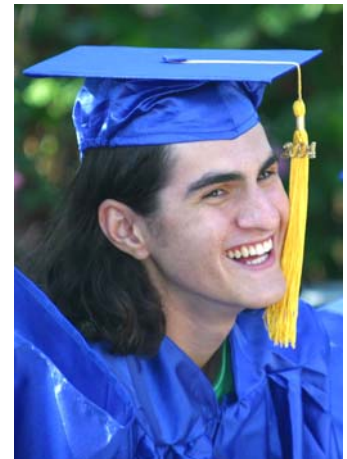
First, there were the dreaded tests and essays, but he ended up accepted at every school he (we?) applied for, including eight UC campuses. He also received several invitations for campus based scholarships and honors at entrance, in addition to a National Merit Commendation.

From, "Will I get in?" suddenly the question was, which school? In grand tradition, at the very last possible second, the day before the deadline, David and Quinlan drove up to Berserkely to take the tour. Q was very impressed by the NL (Nobel Laureate) Permit parking. In a feat best reserved for the young, strong and indecisive, they drove back the same day, only to decide to tour the UCLA campus on their own at 10p. Calling our resident Bruin via cell phone for remote building identification, they discovered a new physics building

under construction. UCLA finally eked out a win over Cal.

Quinlan is part of a dual admission, guaranteed transfer program which allows him to take his lower division work in smaller class-size community colleges rather than the 350 seat lectures taught by graduate assistants typical in UC, and do his junior and senior years at UCLA. So for now he is living at home and attending Pierce College in nearby Woodland Hills.

Thanks to so many who worked with us over the years, together, we finally made it!



Seattle in the Summer



August found the Q in Seattle visiting his favorite "aunt", Barbara Fudge and Jere Bacharach. Q fell in love with Paul Allen's EMP museum and earned his Auntie's gift of membership with some tech support on Barb and Jere's home computers.

When David and Bonnie joined them a week later, little did Bonnie realize the four had plotted to surprise her with an incredible birthday brunch atop the Space Needle, complete with captive chocolate-capped cloud. Even more incredible, it was one of the few clouds seen the entire time we were there, a gift from Seattle to us Southern Californian weather wimps.



Taking advantage, we visited the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, caught a Seated Sousa Band in the botanical gardens, motored across Lake Washington, catted around Lake Union, found the truth is still out there at the Science Fiction Museum, and developed a

bad shopping habit at REI's flagship store, where Q reached new heights in the great indoors. We also enjoyed soft summer evenings on the deck with good friends, way too much good food, too few walks to work it off, an island ferry, and of course, Pike's Market. Barb and Jere were most gracious hosts!



An English Horse Coach

Once upon a time, Henry and Martha duPont had built across the sea a vehicle with comforts for both man and beast. The one thing the Jolly Green Giant lacks. Many years later, another crazy eventing family showed us their new-used horse van they'd just driven in from PA, and by the way, the dealer has a couple more like it. Uh-huh. And here starts our latest adventure.

Frank DiBella has an amazing collection of horse vans in Pottstown, PA, including the now 20 year old but low mileage, previously duPont, RV/van. Must've been the red-eye and jet-lag; we write a large check. Now, the plan was to drive it back then, in balmy August. But it needed a little work and the current owner was Olympic watching in Athens. We leave the check and a work order; return to CA 24 hours later in shock.

Flash forward to November.

We land in Philly, meet David's first high school girlfriend, Wendy Graham-Hugo, and her family for dinner in a freezing rain. The next morning, Frank picks us up. Not everything's done, but we're on a tight schedule, we load and go. Generators act up, we fuss and fiddle, it takes 2 days to get out of PA. But we did see Hershey, take in a Christmas light show and buy all things chocolate.



Because it could freeze, the water system is empty. We join the RV'ers overnighing at WalMart. A whole new world! Next stop, Indiana. It was late, but Carole Nowicke and Leanna Smith still met us at Up'N Over. Bonnie got to drive Ed and Al took Q for a ride.



Crossing IL, it started to snow. Do you know there's a pod elevator to the top of the St. Louis Arch? Thanksgiving, we stopped at the OK City memorial, the chairs lit from beneath, the full moon shining on the reflecting pool mirroring the bookend arches. Many people were there even in the cold. Q spots Sonic Burger HQ, has to have Sonic for dinner. Not even a turkey sandwich! Although we skirted the real blizzard (whew!), the wind picked up across OK and TX. By the time we got to NM, it's a van rocking gale. We blow through the Painted Desert and Petrified Forest, hang on for dear life to keep from making an impact at Meteor Crater. Luckily between snowstorms, Saturday we drive into a spectacular sunset over the summit and into So.Cal. at last. Sunday finds us finally home, but the RV won't fit in the drive! Looks like we really need that grading now! Stay tuned.



Electrifying Events

Quinlan's Senior Physics Project was building a Tesla Coil. He spent months researching the design, and then he and his partner set about building it in the back yard.

They worked late into the night and then his poor non-techie partner had to call it quits.

Determined to finish by semester's end, Q called in another friend, drafted Dad, and stuck to it. It paid off.

Finally, the physics class came out for the great unveiling. Unfortunately, in the bright light, they couldn't see the spark. But Quinlan later rigged another "spark catcher" atop a ladder next to the coil, revealing some scarily spectacular (and loud) captive lightning at night.

The coil was damaged in a recent windstorm, but it's still an amazing, and beautiful, feat of engineering.

Horsey Happenings

Poet has taken up a new career. We bought another used vehicle recently, a Pacific Carriages cart. When we arrived to look at it, it was meant to be: it's Quinlan green. Poet's taken it all in stride, he acts as if he were born to pull. The clattering still rattles him a little when we pick up the trot, but he's so obedient, it's hard to believe it's our HDUP* in the shafts. We humans are still trying to figure out all those straps.

Quinlan started at Training this year and joined USEA Young Riders. Right after

Young Riders Camp in July, he and Devlin made their Preliminary debut at the Twin Rivers benefit show. Unfortunately, their move up to Prelim was cut short when they misjudged an enormous ditch-wall while schooling and Devlin hit with both stifles. Not used to being cooped up in a stall, Dev found himself a buried pipe to step on and bruised his coffin bone, extending his forced vacation. Can't say that either the vet, the farrier or any of us enjoyed his time off. Let's just say he's not a



good patient. He did manage to keep himself fit doing rollbacks in his 24' run. At last, after three months, the vet's given him a clean bill of health to go back to work. Maybe Dev just wanted to give Q time to devote to his first semester at college. We hope he picks a less painful, cheaper, method next time.

*Horrible Dangerous Unsuitable Pony™

Briefly Noted

This Christmas Eve, David's father, Abe, celebrated his 90th birthday with an open house for family and friends at home. • Quinlan's long-time babysitter, Lucia Govea, visited a couple of times from her home in Mexico. • For the first time in many years, the entire Kuboki family joined us to help ring in the New Year. We visited them three years ago for New Years in Tokyo, and Quinlan stayed with them on a trip of his own to Japan two summers ago. • This June, David completed 6 years as Trustee at Bridges Academy, including two years as Vice Chair and two as Chair of the Board of Trustees.