

Refior News Bulletin

July 17, 1995

Greetings from the Refior clan!

It's hard to believe that it's already July and that it's been over three months since our last bulletin. Time certainly is flying. I hope that everyone is enjoying these nice summer months.

This is Laura - I'm writing the first part of this letter. Well, I've finished up my first year of college. It was better than I ever imagined. I've been home just a month since Cedarville gets out so late, and I already miss it! My spring quarter was a little crazy...but fun. I had the opportunity to be in the cast of Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing. I wasn't a big part by any stretch of the imagination, but it was great to even be in it as a freshman. It took a lot of time...some nights we would be there from 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. During the final three weeks I literally had to schedule every minute of the day so that I could get my work done! But I made some wonderful friends and tons of memories. We put on nine performances, and everyone seemed to enjoy it and understand it (despite the fact that it was Shakespearean!)

It's not surprising that in my first year I made some very close friends. My two closest friends at school are Mindi Pickell and Jennie Reed. They were able to come home with me over the Mother's Day weekend. They were both too far away from home to make that trip so Mom substituted as their mom for a couple days. It was a nice little break for all of us. And the play and midterms were finally over so we just relaxed. The whole family came over for the weekend too.

This summer has been interesting so far. I knew that I would have to adjust when I came home for three months. I'm a realistic person so I also knew that things (i.e. with high school friends) would be different. After over a month, I think that I'm still adjusting! Let's just say that I spend TONS of time with Mom and Dad! I have been able to get together with my old group, and my best friend and I do something at least once a week. But after living in a dorm where you can socialize just in the next room, this summer seems a bit slow. Thankfully, I have a wonderful relationship with both of my parents. We've had a lot of fun. I'm also working for Dad again this summer. It's a good job with a nice employer! In fact, I'm going to be traveling with Dad to Iowa and then to Chicago in a week for business. Since I'm planning on being a lawyer, this exposure is invaluable.

As soon as I came home I began helping with the Kosciusko County fair queen pageant. As last year's queen, I helped the girls learn how to walk down the runways, do turns, prepare for the interview, and all those other little things that people don't realize go into a pageant. The contestants and I were in two parades and had several workshops prior to the actual pageant. We had a new director this year who had never done anything with pageants before. She did a great job and brought in a lot of new ideas. But that allowed me to step in and do a lot of the planning and detail work for her. It all took quite a bit of time, but in the end it all turned out so beautifully. There were thirteen very well qualified and beautiful girls in the pageant. I tell you, I'm glad I wasn't one of those judges! During the whole pageant itself I was able to stand up there with the emcee. Then while the girls were changing from their sportswear to evening gown, I was asked to sing two songs in addition to giving my little "going away" speech. I sang

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"Helping Hand" and Point of Grace's "This Day." That public speech gave me the opportunity to give my personal testimony which included my desire to have that inner beauty talked about in I Peter 3:4 and that someday Christ will return and then all those who are saved will receive a crown of glory that will never fade away (I Peter 5:4.) I had been excited about that opportunity to share ever since they placed that crown on me last year!

I have two more months of summer break left. I'm looking forward to a family trip to Virginia that we have been planning for a year. Mom and I are going to drive out with some stops along the way to see some college friends. Then Dad will fly over and spend a week with us. During that time we're going to go to the beach, see some family friends in Norfolk, and go to Williamsburg and DC. I am also working with the church youth group this summer. It's a great opportunity to hopefully impact some lives. Since I'm barely out of high school myself, I still know these kids and can definitely identify with them.

Well, Dad is going to take over now and fill in all the family details. I hope that God blesses you all with a wonderful, relaxing summer. * * * * *

Shortly after the last *Bulletin* Pam and I went to Phoenix, Arizona for a honeymoon to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary. Before I report about our trip I would like to take this occasion to declare to the world (at least to everyone who is reading this *Bulletin*) what a wonderful and heavenly blessing it is to be married to my precious Pamela and to have been united in Christian marriage in a Christian home over these delightful years. I thank the Lord with my entire being. And I thank Pam because she has been the key to a great marriage. You know, when we were growing up it seemed that the only reason a married couple would not reach their 25th wedding anniversary, was if one of the two had died. Twenty-five years of outstanding marriage do not seem like a huge accomplishment when compared to our friends who have been married for fifty years and sixty years. However, it has been interesting the number of people who have expressed how unusual it is for a couple to stay married for twenty-five years these days. Well, I want to declare that we are simply doing that which God considers to be the way it needs to be..."what God has joined together let no man put asunder." I do not know all marriages and I can only speak from my limited perspective, but I most certainly am overjoyed by the fact that I do not know of any couple who has a more delightful, fulfilling, loving, happy and fun marriage than my sweet Pam and I do [and I hope that any married people reading this will immediately be saying in your hearts, "Wait a minute...MY marriage is the most wonderful marriage I know of"].

Pam and I had so much fun in Phoenix. We went during the period of time when the temperatures were a nice contrast to the cool spring of Indiana this year. We took advantage of a very great savings by flying to and from Phoenix on the "red eye specials." That meant that we flew in the middle of the night and hoped to get some sleep on the planes. We arrived in Phoenix at 3:45 a.m., picked up the rental car and then drove to the Ritz Carlton Hotel to be sure of its location (it was a bit early to check in for that following night). Then we started driving out of town, and we found a road up into the mountains. We stopped in a place where we could watch the sunrise over the mountains, and then we drove to a state park where we went on a wonderful hike through the cacti and other desert plants. Pam and I had a beautiful, heartwarming time talking, laughing and being together. The cacti were in bloom and it was spectacular. We then had a super lunch together in Scottsdale before going to the hotel. Fortunately we were able to get into the room a little early and take a nap before going out to the pool. We dined out and did some sightseeing and window shopping. We were having a most delightful honeymoon. The next day we drove down the scenic route following the mountains to Tucson. We stopped at the Case Grande ruins on the way. We went out to old Tucson studios which is a replica of old west Tucson. That was a lot of fun. We climbed a rocky foothill to get a spectacular view of the plain below and to watch the sunset over the distant mountain range. After a wonderful supper in Tucson we drove back to the hotel in Phoenix. The next day we went to the Desert Botanical Gardens, to old Scottsdale, dined at an open

air Italian restaurant, spent time swimming and sun bathing and continued a most relaxing, delightful honeymoon. Our anniversary was on Tuesday, March 28th. Pam and I went for a very long walk through a very nice residential area. We laughed (as we do so often) and reminisced. What fun. We drove out into the desert and into the mountains again. We enjoyed God's creation and each other. We had supper at a very nice Japanese restaurant. Later that night we went out to the airport for our "red eye" trip to Indiana. Because of three obnoxious and loud people nearby us in the plane who decided to have a party through the night it was impossible to get any sleep on the plane. We arrived home tired but very happy.

Nikki and Jonathan are approaching their first wedding anniversary. They are doing very, very well indeed. They have been in the process of house shopping. They have been looking for a starter home that would be their own and would actually result in their monthly payments being less than they are presently paying for rent. It looks like this week they have come to an agreement to purchase a very nice little home. There will be a lot of excitement and activity in the weeks ahead relating to the new Lambeth home. They are very active at Faith Baptist Church in Lafayette. They were both a part of the cast and choir in the Passion Play on Easter. This summer Jon continues his work in the laboratory as he pursues his doctoral studies in bio-chemistry. Nikki is working half time at the university as a secretary while studying in the afternoons for her upcoming comprehensive oral and written graduate examinations. We have been able to see Nikki and Jonathan several times in recent weeks. It is so nice to be able to get together like that.

Lakeland Child Evangelism Ministries is having a very fruitful summer. In addition to the faithful ministries of Al and Norma Buhler, we have four summer missionaries. There have been many hundreds of children and adults who have come under the sound of the gospel through the countdown clubs, vacation Bible schools, and the ministries with the Good News Caboozes at various fairs and festivals. There have been a significant number of volunteer workers who have assisted in these dynamic ministries.


Things at Pleasant View Bible Church continue to be excellent. A decision was just made to go to two services to relieve some of the crowding and to increase opportunities for ministry and participation. Very serious planning is underway to energize the programs of evangelism, one-on-one discipling, accountability groups, as well as the other tremendous programs of the church. I am thankful and delighted about the unity and spirit of service among the entire church family and the vision of the leadership. Laura has sung a solo at church a couple times.

Holidays have been special time around the Refior house. Mother's Day, Father's Day, and the Fourth of July have brought family and friends together and we have had a lot of fun. I think we have used our pool more this year ever before. I love to go home from work and swim laps, I love to play in the pool, and I love to talk with the family around and in the pool.

Pam is walking in the early mornings and doing aerobics classes. I am playing full-court basketball, and Laura is jogging and rollerblading. I still want to get rollerblades for Pam and me.

Please drop us a line. Come see us. Until next time, we remain,

Sincerely yours,



Laura and Paul for the whole family



The "honeymoon"



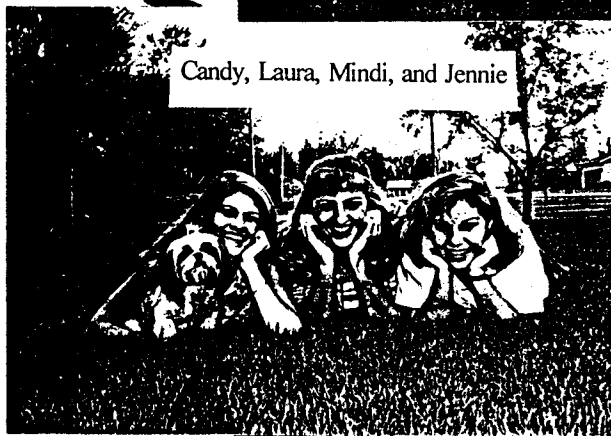
Easter with the family



All the girls!



Father's Day fun!



Candy, Laura, Mindi, and Jennie



Laura's last night to be queen

Some of the cast from *Much Ado About Nothing*



Nikki and Jonathan after their Easter Passion Pla