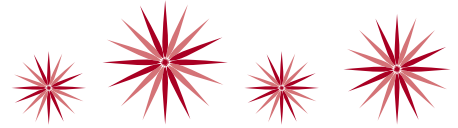




# Our Family Newsletter



## Christmas 2008 Edition

The Andersons (Oklahoma Branch)

*November 2008 picture*



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### Special Events in our family's life:

Jea

Pop Anderson

Mom Carlton

News from our House

## Happy holidays from our family to yours!

### Seasons Greetings!

We hope each of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We are fortunate that we saw many of you this past year and regret we were unable to catch-up with everyone.

There is never enough time is the truest statement ever uttered.

## Jea. Part 1 Growing Fast!



What a transformation has taken place in Jea! Everyone has told us how fast they develop but SHEESH! It seems something changes on a daily basis.

While not actually talking yet, she is practicing her vowels and says things like: thank you, pease (please) and kitty.

Here's a visual from January to November.





Pop Anderson and Pop with Jea.  
Jan.-Feb. 2008

### Pop Anderson

Mom & Pop came out to visit early in February. We had a good visit though Pop did not feel good much of the time. How bad soon became apparent. The weekend after their return, early on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, Pop had a heart attack.

We were fortunate our employment and financial situation permitted us to remain in SC throughout the situation.

Specters of 1984 quickly arose. Complications, hospital changes, dialysis and spectacular (and much less than) caregivers. A respirator with the associated coma-like state.

Unlike 1984, and despite an outstanding fight, Pop left us on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

We are thankful that Pop revived enough to recognize and acknowledge Moma, April and me before he departed. I can positively state...he knew and was at peace.

It's impossible to define how much that fact helps in dealing with his departure...however, just like the very true and sincerely meant platitudes given during such times...it's a very cold comfort.

We miss him.



Mom Carlton and Mom with Jea.  
Christmas 2007

### Mom Carlton

Mom Carlton, though bedridden, was alert and in good spirits last Christmas. Unfortunately, that alertness didn't last. While we were in SC, her condition worsened.

We put her in the hospital in May after she suffered another stroke (her 6<sup>th</sup>, we believe). In order to get her released, we had a feeding tube inserted. She rallied to a large degree for a time but gradually backslid.

She left us on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

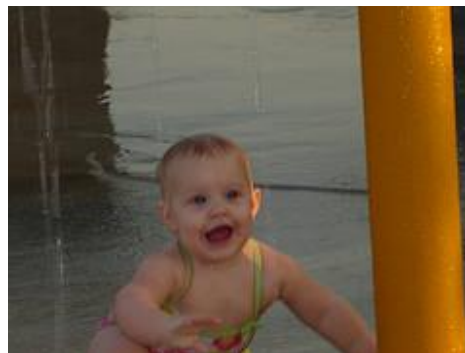
Unlike with Pop Anderson, Mom was not able to communicate with us at the end. We believe however that she too was ready and at peace.

Though it is a platitude, we are sincerely grateful Mom is no longer suffering the pain and indignities her life had become.

And yet, despite our knowledge, belief and gratefulness...

We miss her.

### Jea. Part 2 At the Waterpark



### The House & Yard.

After disastrous results with the first planting of roses for my wife, we now have an established flowerbed.



Some rocks lining the walkway, a couple of shrubs and house decoration (stylized initial A) are other examples of outside improvements.



While the inside made more progress initially, the ongoing child proofing process (it's not a single project!) has created turmoil.

We're told we succeeded in creating a comfortable homey atmosphere though.

### Bill's Career Change (Yet Again!)

Events of this year, personally and nationally, caused a re-evaluation of priorities and options. You may recall, I became a realtor just prior (within days) of becoming a father. I believe all of you will agree with which is of more importance. We are fortunate that Lisa's salary allows me to be primarily a Stay at Home Dad.

I went on inactive status on the real estate license, which is good for 3 years so I can return to it in the future.

On the other hand, a part-time work from home position makes a lot of

sense. I ran across such an opportunity while researching a completely different subject...child education. I was searching for information about materials to prepare Jea for the future and discovered Usborne Books.

While impressed with the information I found online, talking with some teacher and home-schooling friends clinched the decision.

The minimal investment required, ability to fit into my (Jea's) schedule, and to "work" anywhere while providing us a supplemental income fits our needs to a "T".

### Usborne Books at Home

Usborne offers a large selection of fun, educational materials (not just books) for children ages Infant to High School.

Award winning titles, acceptance and usage in various preschool and home school curriculums and a lifetime replacement warranty reflect the quality of these products.

Take a minute and check out my site at:

[www.startkidsreading.com](http://www.startkidsreading.com)

Email me for information on our new Internet Book Club program. Earn free books based upon purchases throughout the whole year!

[billisent@hotmail.com](mailto:billisent@hotmail.com)



Jea with Easter Bunny, 2008



Jea as a Stargazer Lily. Halloween, 2008





### *Jea. Part 3 First Birthday*

Jea's first birthday party was attended only by adults but as you can see in the adjacent pic's...she still had fun!

She had a cake all to herself and plenty of presents to rip, tear and dig into.

Yes, that Raggedy Ann doll is bigger than Jea!



*Life is like a dance. There are dips and sways, steps forward and back, shuffles left and right, even missteps and the occasional stumble. Regardless of where you step however, the dance continues.*

**We're on the Web!**  
Lots more pictures at:  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/lisemicheal>

### *A special message from our family*

2008 has been a difficult year for us. We have striven to recognize and appreciate all the blessings (and there have been too many to list) that have been bestowed upon us. The thoughts and prayers of each of you must be at the top of any such list though.

A picture of 4 generations within a family is not unusual anymore but it's not common either. Here we have my great Aunt Louise, affectionately known as "Squeeze", Moma, us and miss priss.

