

# Russell Family

JUNE 2008

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE... WE WILL SERVE THE LORD!



*23 Years  
Darrel and  
LeAnn Russell  
June 1, 1985*

## Darrel and LeAnn celebrate Anniversary

### 23 years!

Though we spent the day very busy first with church, then lunch with friends (The Huses) then getting the house ready for company and packing the boys for camp, then having 30 plus people over for Jordan's birthday party. We still enjoyed our anniversary together.

**My Knight In Shining Armor** I have always seen Darrel as my knight in shining armor. I often wonder how God loved me so very much to provide Darrel just for me. I really do stand in awe. I know I am not deserving of either of their loves. But am very grateful for both. Darrel is my hero.



**Gloating** Darrel had a great day... he got me a card and thoughtful gift and left it on the bathroom counter for me to find first thing in the morning. I had not put out a card for him. He was so proud of himself. I held my card for a couple of days so that he could bask in his gloating. It was fun. I will enjoy what he gave me... bath salt, aloe bubble bath and a wonderful bath washer scratcher type thing for showering and/or bathing. He said "You can lock the door and get away, even if it is just for a few minutes."

**Traditions** The card that I got Darrel is one I had seen on a friends refrigerator like 8 years ago and loved. It looks like a marriage certificate. I looked for years and found it months ago.

A neat tradition that John and Loetta (Darrel's parents) do is they have a box full of cards they have given each other through the years and each year

25 years ago this summer is when Darrel and LeAnn really meet each other... at Crossview Camp.

they pick a card, add a few words for that year and re-give the card, along with a gift. I think it is a cute thing. Sort of like when my parents take communion, they break up their piece of bread and share it with each other. I love it!



"With this ring I thee wed." Each day when I put on my ring, I say



these words. Each day, I make a new commitment to Darrel and to our God. Each day I choose our covenant. I love it!

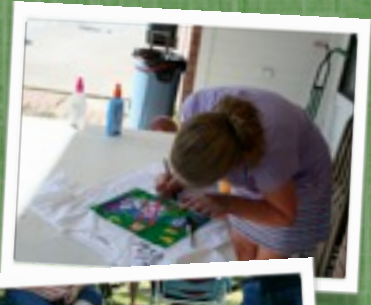


# Jordan's Birthday Party

**Hot Dogs** At Jordan's party we had hotdogs (chili, mustard, ketchup, chips, grapes, lemonade, and fixins) We had a monkey pinata, though everyone thought it was a cat. We made sand bottle necklaces, all the kids signed her birthday shirt and we all enjoyed the food, fun and fellowship. Though it was rather HOT.

**Who came to play?** Emma and Allie Hewitt and family, Victoria Moffett and family, Jillian Sorah and family, Christina Lowrance and family, Mercades was brought by Rachel and Wyatt Spraggins and they also brought Riley Huse. And as for the Russell's it was all of us except Joshua and Jonny who had gone back to camp before the party began.

Sarah organized a few balloon games. They did a balloon popping relay and follow the leader with balloon tricks. The kids just had a good time playing together. And the parents sad in the shade and enjoyed the fellowship. Daniel had a blast crawling and walking around everywhere. He pushed a toy car all the way across the yard to where the big kids were playing and he played with Amanda Joy while she was in his walker.



*Everyone had a great time at Jordan's 10th birthday party!*



# Jonny turns 16

## We successfully gave Jonny a Surprise Party

### While Joshua and Jonny are at camp we plan a surprise party for Jonny.

**Full Day** The boys got home and unloaded from camp, we had lunch, started some camp laundry and opened Jonny's birthday presents. We then loaded up to go to the Drive In. Jonny was a little bummed because none of his friends were going to the movie. He had called a couple and they were doing things with their family that night.

**Surprise** WE arrived at the Drive in really early and no one was there, we had time to waste so we left and drove around Granbury and then went back to the theater, by that time we were the 4th

car in line, but the two ahead of us were from church. We got out and the guys played football and we visited. Then another family came from church. Then a family gave Jonny a gift. He came and said Mom I feel bad, I think they found out it was my birthday and they gave me some of the movie candy they brought, I just smiled. Then I said...Jonny do you not get it, this is about you. This is a surprise party for you. He said oh, since they showed up, it is a party. I said no, we sent out invitations and more are coming. It is a surprise 16th birthday party. He said "No Way!"

**Guests:** Sorahs, Bruces, Hentz, Powells, Youngbloods, Huses, Sniders, Jessica and Hannah Johnson, Brittany, Victoria and Annie Moffett, Shelby Hewitt, Hamptons. and Rachel Beck.

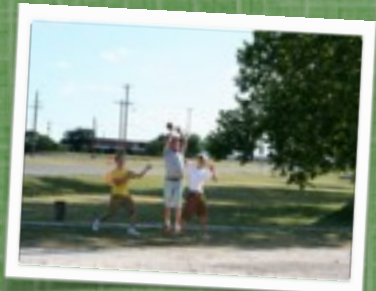
Before the movie, the kids played frisbee, football, and tag. We got Jonny a Kung Fu Panda book and a t-shirt from the Drive In and we had all the guests sign them. We took lots of drinks and

We ordered pizza and have it delivered to the theater. Pizza for 55 pizza is a good amount of pizza!

junk food and lots of blankets and lawn chairs.

I think he had a good birthday celebration.

# SURPRISE PARTY!!!!!!



*Thank you to all our friends who attended Jonny's sweet 16 party*

# Jonny

## SURPRISE PARTY



### Surprise 16th Birthday Party for Jonny Russell

Meet us at the Brazos Drive-In to watch Kung Fu Panda, play football and Frisbee, have cake and celebrate Jonny's 16th birthday!

**Shhhhhh!** We are not telling Jonny that any one is meeting us there. So if you are going, pretend that you are not! He may call friends and try to get them to go, but you can tell him you already have plans. **Families are welcome to come. The movie is PG and we are hoping it is 100% family friendly.** It is rated PG for Animated Martial Arts Action.

If you haven't been to the Brazos Drive-In, you need to go early and get in line for

the best parking places which are right up front. We will be getting there early (around 6:00 pm) so we can park right up front. If you are not there early, you can still sit up front with us. Just park where ever and bring your lawn chairs and put them in front of our van. We hope to get at least two vehicles there early, so we should have plenty of room for everyone to sit with us.

It cost \$18 per car load to get into the drive-in for to 6 people, but we have had up to 10 and they have never charged us more than \$18. The gate opens at 7:30 and the movie actually starts at dusk.

There is a concession stand. (candy, popcorn, nachos, hot doges, chili dogs, soda) But if you will **RSVP** to me (817-220-2626 or 817-676-4852) by Friday at 5pm. Then I will buy you PIZZA and have it delivered to the

Drive-In. (Dominos, I think it is Dominos, delivers to the drive-in.) You are allowed to bring coolers, with non-glass containers and snacks. So feel free to bring stuff.

FYI: His birthday is actually on Saturday, June 7th. Come and share his day with him.

### The Brazos Drive-In

Take 51 South through Weatherford to Grandbury to the SW corner of the Town Square.

Turn Right (West) onto W. Pearl St. and go 2.5 miles to Brazos Drive-In on the right, before the High School

The estimated driving time is about 60 minutes from Springtown.

## June 7th



# 2008

Bring words of blessing, we will have his blessing book there and would love for each of you to sign it. We will also get him a Drive-In T-Shirt and want everyone to sign it! Bring your footballs, frisbees and families.

## A Short History of San Jacinto

In March of 1836, the war for Texas' independence from Mexico was not going well for General Sam Houston and his Texan troops. On March 11, Houston abandoned Gonzales and retreated eastward in advance of the numerically superior forces of General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, the President of Mexico. Houston's poorly trained troops were restless, eager for revenge after the Goliad massacre and the fall of the Alamo. Houston realized, however, that the Texans had little chance of winning over Santa Anna's much larger army without some sort of advantage. San Jacinto Day reenactment.

On April 18, Houston arrived at Buffalo Bayou and found that Santa Anna had already sacked the small town of Harrisburg. Through a captured Mexican courier, he learned that Santa Anna had isolated himself from the bulk of his troops and had a force of about 750 men, slightly smaller than Houston's force of 820 men. Houston realized that his chance had come. On April 19, Houston and his men crossed to the south bank of Buffalo Bayou and marched east, setting up camp near Lynch's Ferry on April 20. An advance guard of the Texans captured a boatload of the Mexican Army's provisions at the ferry, providing food for the famished Texan soldiers.

A small party of Texans retreated back to Houston's position near Lynch's Ferry, with the Mexican forces not far behind. Upon his arrival at nearby San Jacinto, Santa Anna tried to draw the Texans into battle. Skirmishes continued into the late afternoon, when Santa Anna established a camp about three-quarters of a mile east of Houston's position.

In a brief skirmish at sunset, a detail of Texan cavalry almost met with disaster, stoking Houston's fears about his poorly trained, individualistic troops. As darkness fell, both armies settled into camp for the night. Houston ordered his men to eat and rest, while he stayed up all night worrying. Santa Anna, realizing that Houston's forces was slightly larger, built fortifications using saddles, baggage, and anything else available and hoped that reinforcements would soon arrive. Even though his men were exhausted, he kept them up all night on alert, believing that the Texans would attack at first light.

On April 21, dawn came with no attack and Santa Anna relaxed. At about 9 AM about 500 more Mexican troops arrived, to the chagrin of Houston and his men. Houston sent a small detail to destroy Vince's Bridge to delay additional Mexican

reinforcements. At noon he held a council of war, at which no decision was reached. San Jacinto Day reenactment.

That afternoon, Houston assembled his troops and laid out a plan of battle. The main force advanced quietly in a frontal assault, hoping for the advantage of surprise. Two other groups circled around to the left and right flanks of the Mexican camp. The Mexican troops had relaxed in the knowledge of their numerical superiority and many were eating and sleeping.

The Texas had advanced to within 200-300 yards of the Mexican position before they were discovered and the alarm sounded. The main group of Texans charged the camp, screaming, "Remember Goliad! Remember the Alamo!" A pitched battle quickly ensued, much of it hand-to-hand at the Mexican fortifications. The two other groups of Texans attacked the flanks, quickly overwhelming the Mexican camp. Houston was wounded, but fought on with his men. In less than twenty minutes, organized resistance ended and many Mexicans were killed by revenge-driven Texans even as they tried to surrender. As the sun sets to the west, the battle ended, the marshes stained scarlet with blood. Nine Texans and 630 Mexicans lay dead or mortally wounded, a tremendous defeat for the Mexican Army.

Those with medical training did their best with minimal supplies to treat the Texan and Mexican wounded. The 700 uninjured Mexican troops were disarmed and placed under guard. A small number, including Santa Anna, escaped from the battle and headed westward to the several thousand troops waiting west of the Brazos River. Houston knew that if Santa Anna was able to reunite with the main body of his army, the war would continue, so he sent out scouts to search for the escapees the next day. By noon, Houston's men had captured Santa Anna, who was disguised as a private. Santa Anna ordered his troops to withdraw from Texas, securing independence for the Republic of Texas.

## Our Visit to the Monument

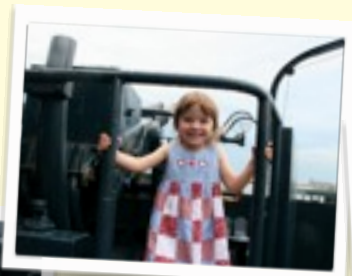
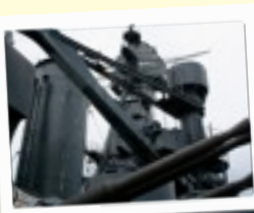
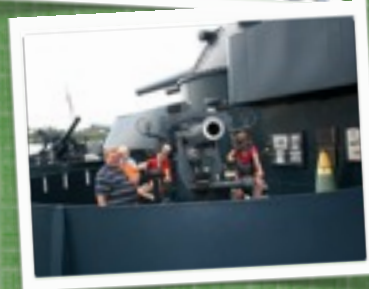
The San Jacinto Monument stands 15 feet taller than the Washington Monument and honors those who fought for Texas's Independence.

We enjoyed our visit to the monument, though we will want to go again. Due to the rain early in the day and the long tour of the battleship, we did not have it in us to do the full museum. We only did the bottom floor free museum which was wonderful, but we want to go through the full museum and go up the the star at the top and see the observation deck. That is on the calendar for August when we go to the THSC Conference in Houston.



# Battleship Texas

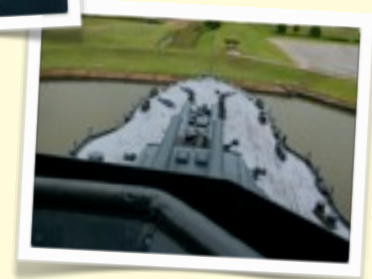
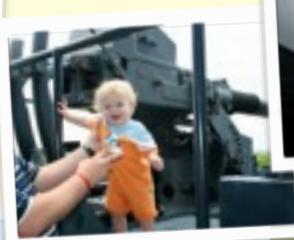
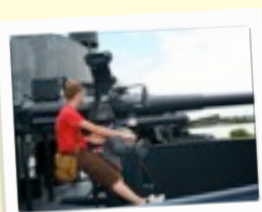
The U.S.S. Texas, veteran of two world wars, floats proudly in her permanent berth at San Jacinto State Historical Park, just off the Houston Ship Channel. A historic memorial of national and international presence, the U.S.S. Texas was present at all the important naval theaters of the first half of the twentieth century and remains the lone relic of the Dreadnought era -- when big ships with big guns were the most powerful weapons on earth. Today the oldest surviving U.S. battleship, restored to her 1945 appearance, she has another public service mission. Today the Battleship Texas is a museum dedicated to education. The goal is to interpret the role played by this ship in United States naval history and provide as accurately as possible a tangible reminder of the price of freedom in the twentieth century.



*The kids loved reenacting while manipulating the big guns.*

## Commissioned in 1914

The Battleship Texas was authorized by Congress in 1910 and commissioned in 1914, three years after her keel was laid in Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., Virginia. She weighed 27,000 tons, cost more than \$6 million, and threw the heaviest broadside in the world (14,000 lbs.). She has twice in her career represented the height of U.S. naval power: first when she was commissioned and again after her modernization in 1927, when she emerged as the flagship of the fleet. Although Texas saw action in World War I, her most valuable contributions to American and world freedom were made in four crucial engagements during World War II -- the invasions of North Africa in 1942, Normandy in 1944, and Iwo Jima and Okinawa in 1945. When the war was over, Texas made three trips, bringing American servicemen home from the Pacific.



*I miss my Josh-e-a!*

*Hannah cried.*



After World War II, Texans rallied to save their namesake from the scrap pile and brought her home. In 1948, Texas was dedicated as a historical monument and opened to the public, becoming the nation's first memorial battleship. Because of her unique Dreadnought status and her long operational history, Texas has been designated a National Historic Landmark. In addition, her two triple-expansion reciprocating steam engines are listed as a National Historic Engineering Landmark.

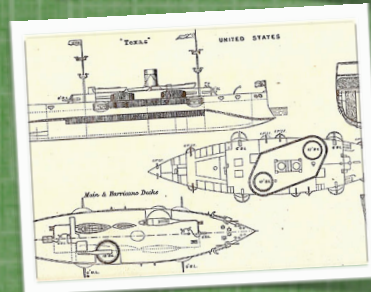
During her thirty-four year career as an active battleship, the U.S.S. TEXAS was home for thousands of young men during a formative period in their lives and in the life of the nation they served.

**Our Visit to the Battleship Texas** We headed out from the hotel to go to the Battleship, San Jacinto and the beach. On our way down it started raining and got continually harder and harder. By the time we made it to the Battleship, it was a downpour. We snapped a few pictures out the window and paid for them by getting soaked and headed back into town to ride

out the storm at a mall. After an hour or so we went back to the ship and had a wonderful visit.

The kids loved seeing and manipulating all the big guns on the ship. They had their own reenactment going on and they acted out all the parts. It was fascinating seeing how remarkable it was for the ship to be so modern and yet it was built in 1910-1914. Incredible that at it's height it held a 1600 man crew. I can't imagine how crowded they must have felt after just a short time out to sea. And to know that many of the men were actually boys, some as young as 15 and 16 and they were serving and fighting for our country. And now it sits docked in a little harbor right near where other men fought and won independence for our great State of Texas at San Jacinto.

**Bread making** The ship had a couple of different 'kitchens'. It had the crew galley, the butcher shop, the bakery, cafeteria and the scullery. It also had a canteen and a soda fountain called the 'gedunk' station. To think of baking enough bread for 1,600 men everyday in such a small cramped space. I am sure they were baking bread (and cakes and other sweet baked goods) all day, if not 24 hours a day. They did work and sleep in shifts so they could share the same jobs and the same bunks, perhaps they kept bread going all the time also... That's more than the Red Hen Sister can handle.



*Battleship Texas BB-35*

1914

## Convention News

**A full week for the family** The convention actually started on Thursday, but on Wednesday they had grassroots training from 8am - 6pm and Darrel went to it and Jonny also had a meeting because he was a page at the convention. We drove from Springtown to Houston on Monday, Tuesday was the Battleship and monument. Wednesday was the training. Thursday the convention started at 12, but the exhibit hall opened at 8am.

**Be Careful of your influence** At one point early on Thursday they were debating whether the GOP was following it's own rules. We had heard rumors about those we respect supporting opposing views. So we went out to find them and ask them. We found Tim Lambert of THSC and asked him to clarify his point of view. He did. But he was perhaps supporting some one we did not support and so we told him we did not support him. He said he did not support him either. I felt that I was suppose to say something to him about making sure others who respected him knew that he did not support this person. So about 30 minutes later it was Tim's turn to speak from the convention floor. He spoke for a while then he said, someone questioned me today about my stance and they said..... and he quoted exactly what I said. At that point, I knew that 1) I needed to be careful of my words, because people might repeat them to over 7,000 people like they did that day and 2) I had an incredible amount of influence and needed to make sure I was consistently pointing toward the Lord Jesus Christ with my words and actions.

# Republican State Convention



*Russell Family (minus Joshua) enjoys the Convention. Day three of the convention on the Floor of the Convention.*

## A Learning Experience for the Russell Family.

Though we were just alternates this year and were only seated to vote a few times, we still feel that not only did we take a stand for what we believe we also were influential at the convention. No we are not anywhere near the big dogs, but we did have some influence over some of them, or at least God did and were just the vessel that the Lord used to influence them.

**H a p p y Birthday Angie.** It was really fun to be involved in our friend Angie Huse's birthday. She had her birthday on the last day of the convention. Someone, I shall mention no names but someone was able to get them to announce Angie's birthday from the caucus floor and the whole delegate/

alternate caucus sang 'Happy Birthday'. Then at lunch we walked to mall and had lunch, someone secretly ordered her a birthday cake and when it was ready, we surprised her and sang happy birthday there in the food court. Then for dinner we went to Benihana's and though it was an interesting experience with 23 people squeezed into seating for 16. And after the dinner there was another cookie cake, this time with a book of matches as the candles and another rendition of Happy Birthday.

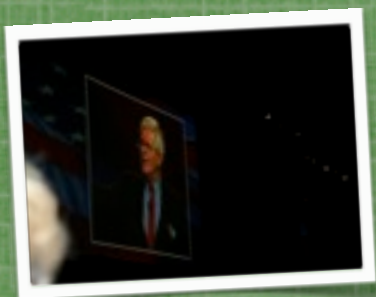
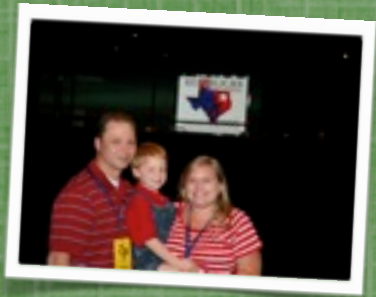
Also on the last day of the convention we took all the kids up to see what it was like at the convention. They had been at the hotel during all our meetings and were glad to get out.

Jonny worked as a page during the whole convention and on the last day was even moved to a lead position.



*Happy Birthday*

*Angie Huse*



*Houston, Texas  
Republican State Convention*

# More about the Convention

## Some Great Speeches

I would say that during the convention our favorite speakers were first and foremost, Mike Huckabee, but also included David Barton (Wall Builders), Tim Lambert (THSC), Newt Gingrich, Michael Williams (Railroad Commissioner) and even Paul Perry (running for National Chairman).

**Well worth the wait.** We and the Sorahs had planned to attend the Texas Eagle Forum Banquet. But it filled up before we called for reservations. Sadly the Sorahs had about 100 people in front of them on the list. We were however the 2nd ones on the waiting list. We were able to get in, but not until close to 8pm. It had started at 7pm. Basically all we missed were some songs and some of the eating time. The dinner was eloquent or fu fu as Darrel would call it. Each course looked like a work of art. We sat at a table for 8 and enjoyed getting to meet some of the other guests. But the best part far and away were the speakers. Not even mentioning the ones who gave short speeches when introducing the main speakers, we thoroughly enjoyed the featured speakers: Phyllis Schaffly and

David Barton. Phyllis looked and spoke as if she were the queen of England, so refined and well spoken, yet beautifully Christian and graceful. She spoke on..... Next was David Barton, president of Wall Builders. He did an historical presentation on the War on Terror. He is very well spoken and an incredibly knowledgeable historian. He is also a delegate from our County (Parker) and is now a delegate to the National Convention. We also had the honor of meeting a man who was in the pentagon on 911, his office was completely destroyed by the plane and explosion and everyone in it was killed, but he was down in the hall at the water cooler and he lived though he was burned over a large part of his body and spent much time in the hospital.

Excerpts from Speech given by Michael Williams at the Texas Republican Convention.

..."I know the liberals think Americans are finally coming their way... that suddenly working families are for higher taxes and bigger government. But the election of a Democrat Congress is not an endorsement of Democrat ideas. The fact is Democrats campaign as conservatives so they can govern as



liberals. The problem is Republicans started doing the same thing, so the people chose the real thing."..

..."As an African-American from the South, I am proud of the fact that someone who looks like me will be a major party presidential nominee for the first time in our nation's history.

What Senator Obama has done is extraordinary. His nomination speaks well, not only of his own personal political skills, but of the America that exists today. But Americans will not fall for identity politics over good ideas or slogans in the absence of substance or for promises and platitudes that are the wrong policy prescriptions."...

..."Change is just a slogan when the ideas are the Democrat leftovers of the last 50 years. When it is the same menu as McGovern, Carter and Mondale: higher taxes, bigger government and a steady diet of class warfare and expanded welfare."...

To read the rest of the speech go to:<http://www.texasinsider.org/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=3877>



*Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness*

## Slogans

**Keep Texas Red Hot!** Meaning that we need to stay a red state, red being republican.

**Drill Here, Drill Now, Pay Less** Speaking of drilling locally instead of in foreign countries and we will pay less.

**No TTC** No Trans-Texas Corridor. It will take away land from small farmers, it will be owned by foreign countries and it will take power to control trucking from the USA.

**Politically Incorrect and Proud of It!**

**Proud Member of the Vast Right Wing Conspiracy**



*Daniel's first time to have Spaghetti*



## Homesteading.....

### Timing and perspective changes things

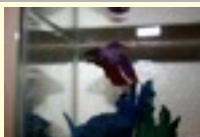
When we arrived at the Doubletree Hotel in Houston, we were greeted by the bell boy and parking attendant. Valet parking was not an option. So we unloaded our stuff onto one of the little carts they have for luggage, tipped everyone in site and headed through the lobby to the elevator. The cart was very full and Darrel and Jonny were pulling/pushing and guiding it and I had the children right behind them, holding hands as we made the trek to the elevator. Two men setting over by the bar/lounge area said "Well, Oh boy, you don't see that everyday" and the other guy said "Yeah, they are homesteading." We laughed. They meant it as a curse, but we know the blessings. Then the day after

we get home from Houston they deliver our mail that had been on hold at the post office and in it is an anniversary card (belated) and when I open the card it says.... your love has pioneered a homestead and a vision of blessings. You are an inspiration." What timing! What they had meant as a curse had actually told of the blessing that we had in tow.

**Colored Blind** Background, we have friends, the Hewitts who are pretty fair complected and they have three fair complected children. Then they have adopted two children. Ella is half black/half white and favors the black race more than the white, she is absolutely beautiful. Samuel is a very dark black boy. He is just adorable. Anyway, last night ont he way home from church Jordan says Mom did you know that Samuel is adopted. I said yes, I know. She continued, but mom, how can he be adopted, his parents

are his parents. I said, well they are not his birth parents. She said, I think they are. I think Mrs. Jeana gave birth to Samuel and Ella, they are twins. I said no they are not twins and they had different birth parents. She thought for a minute then she said. If he is adopted then why does he look like Mr. Alex (the dad)? ... Now that is truly colored blind.

**Why can't I pet him?** Jordan is having a great time taking care of her pet fish, though she did ask me why she could not pet him. She said that sometimes she will put her finger barely in the water and feel of his back. She thinks he likes it.... maybe he does. She talks to him and feeds him without being told even once.

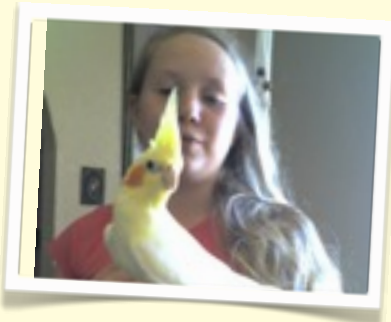


Jordan got a fish for her birthday. We picked it up after we got back



**Welcome to the family, Joe Liberty** from Houston. She decided to name it Joe Liberty, because we gave it freedom.

# Sarah Beth Goes on a Business Trip



We Made the Newspaper



While in Houston at the convention, a reporter from the Weatherford Democrat asked us a few questions. She asked us and several others to send her photos of the convention. I sent her about 8 photos and they printed four of them along with her article about the convention.

**Extra! Extra! Read all about it!**



Her article was a pretty good representation of the facts about the convention. Though she was a democrat and not a republican. I was impressed to see that she wrote without a negative bias.



*If we would have had time, Sarah could have taken some of her bread from her Red Hen Sisters business.*

## Darrel had to go to New Mexico on a trip so Sarah went with him to visit an old friend.

Darrel had to take a short trip to Los Cruces, New Mexico so we decided sort of as a thank you for helping with the children while in Houston, we would let her go with him. She has a friend there, Chaylene Downing that we meet several years ago when we went there for 6 weeks. We also went on another trip there for 4 or 5 weeks. And once when we went to the cabin we drove half way and met them in Alamogordo for an afternoon. The girls have kept in touch via letters and phone since before Hannah was born.

**First Class**

Because the flight was full, Darrel was able to use points and move them up to first class.

**First Class** Because the flight was full, Darrel was able to use points and move them up to first class.

**Surprise!** The Downing parents knew that Sarah was coming, but they did not tell their kids. So Wednesday night they told their kids they were meeting grandparents at Cracker Barrel for dinner. Darrel and Sarah got their early and got a table, so when they walked in, the kids were totally surprised! The trip was extended to Saturday morning, so Sarah got two full days plus the dinner Wednesday night with her friend. They went swimming at the hotel pool and just had a great time visiting.



*Sarah and Chaylene have been pen pals for over 4 years.*

# Shower to Shower....

## Joshua

### The Tan Man

When Joshua came home this past weekend, he was pretty tan from being outside all the time and he had already used up all the sunscreen and needed more. He doesn't really like driving home on the weekend. Who can blame him, he drives in usually on Saturday morning and drives back on Sunday afternoon. 210 miles each way.. \$100.00 gas after working all week. Gives him no time to rest. But he does it to pick up or drop off Jonny. The worship team at church is happy when he comes home, they love to have him on the piano.



*Baby Shower for April Pitney. She is having a little boy she plans to name Eric Alexander Gonzales Pitney. Thanks to the Options clinic in Weatherford for playing a part in this new life.*



## Annie Mae's 3rd Birthday

Annie Mae Moffett had her birthday at a bounce house And all the Russell children have decided they want to have their next birthday party there too! Everyone had a good time.



*Leo vitae diam est luctus, ornare massa mauris urna, vitae sodales et ut facilisis dignissim, imperdiet in diam, quisque adipiscing*