

The Hilliard Herald

Celebrating eighteen years of reporting the news nobody wants to hear.
Please recycle before or after reading.

Christmas Edition 2002

Don: appears happier than ever; working around the house with a spring in his step and galloping around the golf course like a Back Street Boy. To the stresses of life, he is as oblivious as a neutered puppy, and he attributes his glee to a low-intensity job, a regimented flow of manhattans, and a disregard for unbridled flatulence. Other than suffering from wife Barbara's vocal intrusions, life is the best it's ever been for this grandfather of five. His golf game was on this year, and he placed second in the senior men's tournament, second in the Chartwell Shoot Out (he won \$800!), and his low score for the year was a 76! Working as an outside sales rep for Citgo continues to go well for this 62-year-old fartier, and his only product, Naphtha, continues to sell well. For the few of you who don't know what Naphtha is, it is a solvent used in coatings, asphalt, printing inks, and cosmetics. It is also one of the more ambiguous substances on earth, just as curious as "retsin," which help comprise the colorful crystals that give Certs their explosive and unmatched flavor. Current and recent home projects include installing crown moulding, and the painting of the deck with a blinding white paint that would make any gremlin run. This year saw the old man vacation (with Barb) in Florida for a weeklong golf tournament, and two excursions to South Carolina for more golf and to visit the Kleppin's. Rumor has it that Don has become increasingly frugal in his old age, stopping by Holiday Inn's when traveling for the free continental breakfast, and using the slower squirrels in the back yard for toilet paper. This cannot be confirmed, but Gizmo who is slowing with age, has become more watchful of her master's advances.

Barb: wants everyone to know that she is becoming computer literate, and encourages everyone to email her at dbhilliard@aol.com. She is excited to talk through a new medium, and is often in chat rooms with the screen name "Osama Barb Laden," terrorizing people by discussing things that just don't matter. She simply cannot shut up. Because her immediate family and friends have been numbed by her unrelenting squabble, she has sought out other encoders, and has been visiting hospitals, sitting with comatose patients until the family has to step in and pull the plug. Don has researched the option but hasn't had a plug to pull since 1983. Like her husband, she is excited about her golf game, and enjoyed rounds in South Carolina and Florida, as well as her weekly games on Thursday mornings, where she won the Spring Championship net for her flight. Barb and friends Gladys, Sharon, and Lois enjoyed another "girl's getaway" this summer, taking in sights in New York City, where Barb was seen on national television for the Today Show! The four chicks went to a Broadway show, ate at Tavern on the Green, and walked the sidewalks of Central Park avidly looking for flashers. This graying wonder also plays bridge and bunco weekly, does swim aerobics, and continues to be involved with newcomers. She is often seen cruising the streets in her white minivan, either between activities, looking for a mall, or searching for people to talk to.

Nana: is content, living in her pad in the finished basement, and hanging out with Gizmo. This aging wonder *also* surfs the web late at night, spreading what has become known as "The West-Nana Virus," a computer bug that electronically petitions for the boycott of all Michael J. Fox productions, as he is an obvious member of Al Queda and an enemy of all that is holy. Nana will be turning 87 in January and has given up smoking, drinking, illegal cable, and sex, in that order. This summer, this great grandmother of five finished a tube of chapstick she's been using since 1968, and is excited that the company is now offering a strawberry flavor. Unfortunately, she has recently fallen a couple of times and has suffered multiple compression fractures of the back and ribs, a self-healing condition stemming from osteoporosis. She is at North Arundel Hospital in the rehabilitation unit (until possibly the end of December) at 410-863-5396, and we continue to pray for her well being.

Steve, Jackie, and kids: are a busy bunch of furious energy, always on the go and enjoying themselves immensely. Steve is doing well with his company Pennquip, where he is a manufacturing representative for all kinds of stuff. Jackie continues to enjoy her part-time childbirth nursing position at Abington Memorial Hospital, where she works every third weekend and two nights a week. Now for the darling children, who continue to grow in leaps and bounds. Karly will turn twelve years old on December 18, and continues to get straight A's in every subject! This year she graced the local soccer fields of Ambler, playing on both the traveling team and the church team, "the holy rollers." She also played volleyball and will start basketball soon. Steve coached Michael's soccer team -- "The Orange Flames" -- and they went undefeated the entire season, including the playoffs and the championship game. At fifteen season goals, this fourth grader was the top scorer, a title he hopes to keep through his college years. Maddie is in second grade and has decided to trade dance class for gymnastics. She will start basketball soon and is currently working on an alternative energy source for a new America. Genna is now in kindergarten and continues to be the youngest Hilliard, a title that changes an average of every two and a half years. She is looking forward to playing basketball this year and she likes chicken and David Hasselhoff. Sheba, the family's 1 ½ year old Shiba Inu puppy, is doing well and enjoying all of the unconditional love this family of six has to offer. This year, Steve and the lovely Jackie took a weekend trip (without the kids) to Nantucket; and the family vacation was in Nags Head in a 7,000 square foot house with a coffee maker!

Jim, Carrie & Jake: are a happy little family, living less than two miles from both in-laws, and exploiting them for all of the free babysitting they can get without involving the IRS. Jim continues to do well in his financial planning practice with American Express, where he is in his tenth year. Carrie enjoys her position as Public Relations Chairman for the Junior League of Annapolis, where she maintains the web site and helps to author the monthly newsletter. She also hosts the Mom's Club website and heads the "Sunshine Committee," whatever that means. Anyway, Jake "the tripod" Hilliard turned two on June 21 and is adding new words to his vocabulary daily. The toddler earned the nickname during a seemingly routine diaper change, when he was found to have inherited the most coveted Hilliard trait. **He was able to stand at three months of age.** Jim & Carrie enjoy golfing at Chartwell Country Club, where Jim shot a 75 this year and won low gross for the kick-off tournament. They cruised the Caribbean with the Bruciak's, spent a week in Scottsdale, Arizona, and visited Disney World, buying a time share in Orlando. Now for the heavy on Jim -- he has been warned to stay away from turkey farms during the last three months of the year, due to a distinct "waddle" that has developed between his second and fourth chin. The authorities concede that while most people would enjoy the

traditional taste of turkey, it is easy to see how Jim's large frame could grace any table. Also, a less discussed war is brewing between spandex and Jimmy. So far the action has been slow and the scientifically manufactured material has held, but honestly, how long can it last? Jim was bragging about his bar and golf game and was unavailable for comment. Mike loves his brother Jim.

Mike & Kim: are happier than ever. Mike continues to thrive as a financial advisor and registered principal with American Express, and enjoys the freedoms and challenges the roles have to offer. Kim enjoys working as a Director for "Southern Living At Home," where she is currently 35th out of 22,000 sales reps in personal sales. She also chairs the Provisional Committee for Junior League of Annapolis, where she helps new members matriculate into the group, which helps local charities. In 2002, this couple traveled to Cancun, Mexico with friends Dave and Emillie, went on a Carnival Cruise to Key West and Cozomel (that Kim won), and took separate but corresponding, weeklong vacations. Kim went to Orlando, Florida for the Southern Living at Home Convention and joined friends Lauren and Dori to visit the parks, while Mike and his friend Yutz rented a car and drove to Michigan, Chicago, and Mount Rushmore. Recently, they skipped Thanksgiving and traveled to London and Paris with good friends Dana and Larry, taking in sights such as the Jack the Ripper tour, St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey, seeing the play "Chicago," seeing a Burlesque show at Lido's in Paris, going to the top of the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, cruising the river Seine, and seeing Jim Morrison's grave (The Doors singer). In April, they purchased a brand new BMW X5, the easiest to spell car on the road, and Kim has already hit the side of the garage with the mirror. This followed a June incident where she hit the fender of Mike's Jeep with the garage, and they are looking into rubber walls. Now for the most important news – Mike and Kim are expecting their first child on June 1, 2003 and are very happy and excited! So far, Kim has made all of the baby's major organs, and is currently working on perfecting the eyes and ears. Mike is perplexed at how she knows how to do this, as he must call his handy father Don to hang a simple shelf. The fertilization process is still unclear, but it is widely speculated that Mike played a Barry White CD in between her Southern Living parties and Junior League meetings, and the magic happened. In other news, Mike continues to suffer from EES (Elongated Eyebrow Syndrome), and still cannot walk into a room with candles for fear of going up in flames. This couple thanks god everyday for their blessed lives, and the continued good health and happiness of those around them!

Gizmo: turned thirteen this year and is acting out by pooping wherever she wants and loudly playing Three Dog Night past nine o'clock on most weekday's nights. She has developed cataracts and is seemingly going deaf, much to the chagrin of Barb, who is losing someone to talk to, but she remains a constant and unconditional source of love and affection for those around her. She loves Nana more than anything and cannot wait until her best friend is back home, so they can watch Johnny Depp films and hang out together.

NOTES

* Barb, Don, & Nana (410) 647-3142, Steve & Jackie (215) 641-9457, Mike & Kim (410) 729-4026, Jim & Carrie (410) 647-0232.

* Mike loves Kim.

* Jake has asked for a drum set and an ant farm (with no less than ten thousand species of insects) for Christmas.

* All apologies to those whom I may have offended. Yeah right!

* All lies & exaggerations exist intentionally and should be taken with a grain of salt and a shot of tequila.

* Mike's fast action fiction novel "The Last Patriot," **will be** published by December 2003. If you'd like periodic updates and information on how to purchase it, please email him at michael.g.hilliard@aexp.com.

* From all of us to all of you, all our love and best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season and a prosperous new year! May God continue to bless this country and let us never forget the cost of the freedoms we enjoy every day.

Michael G. Hilliard



Editor

michael.g.hilliard@aexp.com