



THE DODGE FAMILY ASSOCIATION

10105 W. 17th Place, Lakewood, CO 80215
Tel. (303) 237-4947 E-MAIL barbdodge@dodgeoffice.net
<http://www.dodgefamily.org>
<http://www.dodgeoffice.net>

From the desk of Faith Dorothy Dodge Nelson

May-June 2008



Were you as moved as I was to read the diary of William Henry Dodge in the last issue of The Journal? After suffering the heart break of losing his beloved wife, he determined to preserve a record of her passing and his musings so that his young son would some day have a link to his own past and a mother he would never remember. Although today it would seem rather heartless to us that a father would place a young child in the home of another, in that time, it was deemed that a child really needed the care of a woman so William's decision to move his son to the home of the boy's aunt was really an additional sacrifice on his part.

Fathers are like that; it is part of their job description. In a culture that espouses a philosophy of 'Do your own thing,' and 'You only go around once, so go for all the gusto you can,' the father who works year after year to provide for his family is the unsung hero of society. Supporting a family is not simply a financial commitment. Fathers also provide stability and serve as role models to their children of what it means to be a man. They coach their boys' ball games and tell them how to vote. They teach their girls to ride a bike and how to balance a check book. Young boys want to be like their daddy, and girls want their dad's respect and approval. It is no accident that those who are most troubled in life did not have the all-important strong relationship with a father.

The older I get, the more that I realize how good a father my own was. He was faithful to provide for our family. I never once heard him express concern or complain about the cost of caring for us. We always had food to eat, clothes to wear, and a roof over our heads. Of course he wasn't perfect. He had a repertoire of jokes that would make a saint groan, and he tended to be a bit impatient (of course as a parent, I understand that foible). But once in a while, the depths of his love for us would be displayed, like the time I caught my long hair in the mixing beaters. As the batter dripped down my face and mom threatened to cut my hair, my father patiently untangled the mess. Later, when I learned how to drive and had my first fender bender, dad exploded, as I expected. I recorded in detail how upset I was and how much my father didn't understand or appreciate me. I must have left my journal lying open, because when I returned home from school that day, Dad immediately came to me with an apology and a hug. He also assured me that I didn't have to pay the repair bill.

Dad was a generous man. All my children have enjoyed posthumous birthday gifts from Grandpa, thanks to his squirreling away those great buys he couldn't pass up. And last week the whole family was able to visit the fantastic *Creation Museum* in Kentucky, thanks to the membership Dad and Mom gave us for Christmas, purchased before Dad's passing. Even though Dad is no longer here, and I can't tell him how much I appreciate him, he continues to have an impact on me and my children. So this Father's Day, I'll thank God for my dad, and as my sister, Karen, prayed last November, 'God, will you please tell Daddy that we miss him?'

I'm looking forward to this month's installment of William Henry Dodge's diary, to see how he fared. Give a gift membership to someone in your family and they too, will be able to read interesting articles about our Dodge forbearers, and remember that you can get an index to all of our past Journals from our web site, www.dodgefamily.org. If you do not have internet access, write us for a copy.

Dear Dodge Family: I am enclosing \$_____ to bring my dues up to date..

I am enclosing \$20 for a gift membership for: _____

I wish to pre-order _____ copies (2 volumes each) of the new Tristram Genealogy. I am enclosing \$_____ (\$110 per set including shipping)

Name _____ Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Norman E. Dodge
Genealogist
Seattle, Washington
President of DFA

Robert Livingston Dodge
San Diego, California
Vice President
rldodge@sbcglobal.net

Capt. Frederick J. Dodge
Mountain Ranch, California
Vice-President
kwolf@goldrush.com

Everett J. Dodge
South Pasadena, California
Vice-President
uscldodge@earthlink.net

Jim Bailey
North Providence, RI
Vice-President
dodgeri@cox.net

Diana Smith
Scottsdale, Arizona
Secretary
Diana1234@aol.com

Carl Joseph Klein
Centerville, Ohio
Treasurer
Kleincj@glasscity.net

Martha Dodge Wilkerson
Genealogist
Amherst, New Hampshire
maltemus2@verizon.com

Charles W. Dodge
Genealogist
Escondido, CA
cwdjhd@cox.net

J. Everett Dodge
Board Member
Greenlawn, New York

Blanche Dodge Day
South Hamilton, Massachusetts
Honorary lifetime board member

Frederick E. Dodge
Dugspur, Virginia
Honorary lifetime board member

Virginia Dodge Murphy
San Diego, California
Honorary lifetime board member



In the photo above, Faith and Joe are in the middle of this circle of children. Starting at the top and going clockwise are: Josiah, Linnea, Jesse, Andrew, Jonathan, Seth, Susannah, and Kristian.

As you know, Earl always wrote a cover letter that went out with each Journal. When he died, I felt that I, Barbara, did not want to do that so I asked our daughter, Faith, if she would be willing to take over that job. She has always been very good at writing and as a young girl, she kept a journal, as she mentions herself in the letter on the other side of this page. I thought that it would be nice to have her picture as part of her letter each time as others who have columns in the Journal have their picture shown. I think that it helps those of you who never get to a reunion to know what some of us look like. The letter included with this May-June Journal, is the 3rd one that Faith has written so I am using the back side of this month's letter, to tell you a bit about Faith.

She was the 5th child born to us. We already had, Earl Jr.(5), Barbara Jr.(4), Allen(3), and Calvin(1). (Our daughter, Karen, was born 2 years after Faith.) It seemed that that 5th child just threw me for a loop. Faith likes to tell people about being left behind when she was 2 weeks old and I went grocery shopping. When I got to the store and began unloading children, I realized that I was minus a child. She was back home, wrapped in her little bunting, laying on the living room couch. Fortunately, in the small town of Winona Lake, Indiana, we did not have to lock doors, so I was able to phone the neighbor to go and get her.

Faith was left once more when we moved to Colorado. This time it was at a gas station. I was driving the truck with two children and Earl was driving the car with the rest of the children. We had stopped for gas and Earl had me leave the station once the truck gas tank was filled because the truck went rather slow. Earl was figuring out the mileage and he would catch up to me. Awhile later, I saw him merrily pass me and I noticed Faith was not in the car. I flashed my lights to no avail. He would travel for some time and then pull over to the side of the road to wait for me to catch up. I flashed the truck

lights many times as I approached him but he thought that I was telling him to go. FINALLY, 70 miles later, I started to flash the lights as soon as I saw him in the distance. I also slowed down and he finally realized there was a problem. I walked to the car window and asked 'do you have Faith?' He responded, "Oh No!" We switched places, and he took the truck in to Howard Johnson hotel in Omaha, while I drove the car back the 70 miles for Faith who was nonchalantly drinking coke, waiting for someone to come. Fortunately, she never held that against us but that is her nature. When I arrived at the hotel in Omaha, Earl went out to purchase Kentucky Fried chicken for us to eat in our room, but alas, in spite of this VERY SPECIAL TREAT, I just curled up on the bed and fell sound asleep!

Faith has always been known as the peacemaker of the family. She graduated from Rocky Mountain School of Art with a degree in graphic design. She married Joe Nelson and worked as a commercial artist until she had her first child, Josiah. She always wanted a large family. She determined that she would home school her children and... **she did!** Josiah, age 23, has now graduated from College, and Susannah, age 21, and Jesse, age 19, are in college. Linnea, age 17, is a pianist and a violinist. Kristian, age 14, now goes to a school outside the home for 3 days a week and works on school at home the other two days. At the moment, Kristian is the only child who is not totally home schooled. Jonathan, age 11 likes to draw and is very good at that. Seth, age 9, and his little brother, Andrew, age 4, round out this happy family.

Jesse was named 'Jesse Earl Dodge Nelson' with his 2 middle names after his grandpa Earl. Earl was always so pleased about that and in spring of 2007, Earl and I drove to Gladstone, Missouri so that we could attend Jesse's home school graduation. There were over 100 students in his graduation class. Faith had a wonderful reception at her house after that graduation. Jesse is exceptionally good at doing digital imagery on the computer and I am sure he will end up being a master at that occupation. All of the boys have been, or still are, involved in soccer and softball, and their parents and siblings have always attended all of their games. Now that there are other drivers in the family besides Faith and Joe, they can help get the younger children to practices. Faith has taught all of the children, as soon as they were old enough, to get their own breakfast and lunch and help with chores around the house.

The family lives in a Cape Cod style home on a good bit of land that includes a little brook. They have a dog, Luigi, a black lab who has his own chair in the living room, two cats who are no longer allowed in the house due to inappropriate behavior, a leopard gecko, and many assorted fish.

I asked Faith to review what I have written here so that I would not make any misstatements and also to add ages of the children. That is one thing it is difficult for me to do...remember the ages of all the grandchildren. When Faith sent the copy back to me she added this: "If I can write, I know that I got it from you. (As well as how to fix a toilet!)" I guess I have made an impact of sorts on her also. I am known as the 'fixit mom' and have had to do a lot of fixing of things over the years. I know that you will enjoy these letter's every two months that you will receive with your Dodge Journal.

Barbara