



# THE DODGE FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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*From the desk of Faith Dorothy Dodge Nelson  
March/April 2009*



One of the privileges of my married life has been to be a part of my husband's family. Joe's parents, John and Arlene Nelson, are a remarkable couple. In the 1950's, they left America for Venezuela as missionaries, and spent thirty years there, working among the Venezuelans they came to know and love. Three of their four children were born in Venezuela, and from their parents, all of them learned a love for other people and a respect for their cultures. Joe now has one brother serving as a medical doctor in Ecuador and the other—the PhD kind of doctor—is working in Spain; his sister and her husband have served at a camp outside Colorado Springs for several years.

Over thirty years ago, Joe's parents—along with help from their children—built a home in the foothills west of Denver. The home was up the canyon past Morrison, near a quaint tourist attraction called Tiny Town. Perched on the side of a hill, with a spectacular view of evergreen-covered Rocky Mountains, their home was a retreat to us during our visits. Our children loved scrambling over the hills looking for wild raspberries, playing in the playhouse, and hopping on Grandpa's ATV for a ride up the dirt road. And we weren't the only beneficiaries of their hospitality. They constantly invited people up for a day in the mountains and a meal outside on their deck, surrounded by God's creation.

On Friday afternoon two weeks ago, we got the call that their home had burned down. Their grandson, who lived in the basement apartment along with his sister, happened to look up as he was leaving for work in the morning and noticed that there was smoke on the roof. He went inside and alerted John, who immediately called 911 while everyone quickly dressed and left the house. Within a few minutes it took for firemen to arrive, the roof was engulfed in flames. The main level was entirely destroyed, and most of the basement was gone as well. Anything that didn't burn sustained water damage.

So much was lost! John, Arlene, and their grandchildren got out with only the clothes on their back. Furniture, appliances, papers, and the possessions of a lifetime were gone. An organ that had come across the country in a covered wagon over 120 years ago as well as an antique tapestry and embroidery samplers are irreplaceable. But in spite of the loss, a few miracles occurred. The fire chief drove John's car out of the garage to safety, and some musical equipment was also saved. As family members dug through the rubble in the aftermath, old photos were recovered. Joe even found the helmet and gas mask that his grandfather had worn as a soldier during World War I, and the calligraphy that John had given Arlene on their 50th anniversary—frame charred, but paper intact—which reads, "***There are many things I can do without, but you are not one of them.***"

My father-in-law plans to rebuild, not withstanding his 88 years, and it will be interesting to watch the work progress. I admire his indomitable spirit, and Arlene's calm demeanor facing this catastrophe. For my part, I'm ordering fire escape ladders for our three upstairs bedrooms. When they come, we will have a family fire safety day. I'm certain my children will get a kick out of climbing down from their windows, and I'll rest easier at night confident that they know what to do in case we have a fire. I can live without the stuff in my house, not the people who live in it.

*Faith*

## **P.S. CORRECTION**

*My Letter that accompanied the last Journal, was dated as the November-December Letter. It was really the January-February Letter.*

*Be sure to read the other side of this letter for information on about our Treasurer, Joe Klein.*

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**UPDATE on DFA Treasurer Joe Klein:** Joe is recovering from TWO surgeries. The first was a 4 heart bypass and the second was to remove a tumor on his bladder. Joe says that he and Sue walk at the mall up to 45 minutes each day, and that he is doing fine. If

**Printed here are the rest of those Nicknames...from "M" through the end of the alphabet.**

| <b>Nicknames</b> | <b>Proper Names:</b>                        |                     |                                   |
|------------------|---|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mabel            | Mehetable, Mehitabel                        | Penny               | Penelope                          |
| Madge            | Margaret, Margery                           | Phil                | Philadelphia, Philomena           |
| Maggie           | Margaret                                    | Phoenie,            | Pheney Tryphena                   |
| Maida            | Madeleine, Magdalena                        | Phosy               | Tryphosia                         |
| Mallie           | Malvina                                     | Polly               | Mary                              |
| Mamie            | Mary  | Pru, Prue           | Prudence                          |
| Manda, Mandy     | Amanda                                      | Puss                | Prudence, Philadelphia            |
| Margie           | Margaret                                    | Rana                | Lorraine                          |
| Mate             | Mary (NY State, 1840s)                      | Reenie              | Irene, Maureen, Sabrena, Serena   |
| Mattie           | Martha                                      | Rena                | Alexanderina, Irene, Sabrina      |
| Mellie           | Amelia, Melanie, Melinda, Melissa, Permelia | Retta               | Loretta                           |
| Meg              | Margaret                                    | Rilla               | Gabrilla, Marilla                 |
| Mena             | Almena                                      | Rita                | Marguerite                        |
| Millie           | Amelia, Emelia, Mellicent, Mildred          | Sally               | Sarah                             |
| Mima             | Jemima                                      | Sene                | Asenath                           |
| Mimi             | Mary  | Silla               | Priscilla                         |
| Mina             | Mindwell, Wilhelmina                        | Sissie              | Cecily, Cecilia                   |
| Minnie           | Mary, Wilhelmina                            | Sophie              | Sophia, Sophronia                 |
| Missy            | Melissa                                     | Sukey               | Sarah, Susan, Susannah            |
| Myra             | Elmira                                      | Tabby               | Tabitha                           |
| Mitty            | Mehetable, Mehitabel, Submit                | Tallie              | Natalie                           |
| Mollie           | Martha, Mary                                | Tempy               | Temperance                        |
| Nabby            | Abigail                                     | Tennie              | Tennessee                         |
| Nan              | Ann, Anna, Ellen                            | Tenty               | Content                           |
| Nancy            | Ann, Anna, Agnes                            | Tess                | Theresa                           |
| Nannie           | Nancy, Anna                                 | Thea                | Althea, Theodosia                 |
| Nell             | Helen                                       | Thenie              | Parthenia                         |
| Nellie           | Cornelia, Eleanor, Ellen, Helen             | Thirza              | Theresa                           |
| Nettie           | Antoinette, Henrietta                       | Tilly               | Matilda                           |
| Neva             | Genevieve                                   | Tina                | Christina                         |
| Nonie            | Joan  | Torie               | Victoria                          |
| Nora             | Eleanor, Honora, Leonora                    | Trudy               | Gertrude                          |
| Orolia           | Caroline                                    | Vergie              | Virginia                          |
| Patsy            | Martha                                      | Viney, Vinnie, Viny | Lavina, Lavinia, Louvina, Melvina |
| Patty            | Martha, Parthenia, Patience, Patricia       | Waity               | Waitstill                         |
| Peggy            | Margaret                                    | Winnet              | Winifred                          |
| Peddie, Peddy    | Experience                                  | Winnie              | Winifred, Edwina                  |
|                  |   | Zubia               | Azubah                            |

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