



THE DODGE FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1981 by Col. Robert Livingston Dodge,
Virginia Dodge Murphy and Earl Farwell Dodge

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In Kansas City, spring has come upon us all at once. Winter had a last hurrah one week ago, when we awakened Saturday morning to snow, accumulating over six inches before the day ended. As I drove 250 miles across the state to return my son to college the next morning, I counted 37 cars that had slid off the road in the first two hours of my

drive. But by Monday afternoon, every bit of the white stuff was gone and I was walking around outside with my jacket off. Today I drove another child back to college, but this time I headed 250 miles south. It gave my heart joy to see the forsythia were blooming in Arkansas, a promise that spring had indeed really arrived.

Kansas City winters are known for their raw cold and numerous gray days, but this winter was unusually cold, snowy, and long. (So much for global warming in the mid-west.) I realized the change of seasons was upon us, however, a couple weeks ago when I awoke one morning to the song of birds. A day or two later, the daffodils which line my driveway came up a perky yellow. I quit turning on my electric blanket at night, and put my car window down when I ran some errands. I now find myself browsing over seeds and realize that I need to start working out a plan of attack on my yard. The wild onions are towering over the grass, begging my attention along with the other weeds in my garden.

Even though spring has been flirting with my emotions for a couple of weeks, it overcame me today. As I drove, I noticed magnolia trees in bloom, fields turning green, and bare trees taking on hints of red and green, with the promise of leaves in the near future. Even the clouds occasionally rolled back to reveal blue sky and yellow sun. Until today, I hadn't realized how starved my senses had been over the winter months. The color I saw gave me unexpected joy and hope. My many responsibilities seemed easier to face, and new solutions offered themselves to difficult situations in my life. How amazing it is that what I see outside has the power to so affect my heart.

For centuries, people have celebrated new life in the spring. New leaves and flowers, longer and warmer days, and returning birds and insects all remind mankind that life follows death. In spring, God is inviting us to share in the joy of resurrection. How fitting that Easter falls at this time of year. I'm hoping to pick a big bouquet from my yard, provided that my forsythia, red bud, daffodils, tulips, and lilacs cooperate. As I celebrate the resurrection of my risen Lord, I'll adorn my home with all the beauty I can bring indoors. And I'll adorn my heart with the joy of God's great goodness in creation, in history, and in my own life.

This spring, may the beauty around you cause your heart to be overcome with hope and joy.

Faith

P.S. Be sure to look at your envelope to see when your dues are due. You might like to give a gift subscription to someone in your family. Also, we are still looking for resumes from anyone interested in being on our Board of Directors.

On the back side of this letter, are photos of many of the people who attended the Dodge Family Reunion near San Diego in January, some of them escaping from cold to a warmer climate. While my dad was still alive, he and my mother always looked forward to escaping the cold of Colorado to visit his sisters in Arizona and then driving to California to attend this reunion.

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Pictures from the Dodge Family Reunion that was held January 23, 2010 in the Officer's Club at Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar. California



Arnold Van Den Bosch and Brenda Van Den Bosch



Above: In the middle is one of the founders of The Dodge Family Association., with his wife, Hilda, and his son, Peter.

Right: Leslie Dodge, a descendant of Dr. James R. Dodge. See story on page 5 of the accompanying Journal.



Brenda Dodge talking with Chuck Dodge and Arnold Van Den Bosch



Right: Nancy Davidson and Jerri Jo Elliot



Left: Brenda and Henry Dodge with Diana Smith. Henry proved by DNA that he descends from Henry Lafayette Dodge. This was a BIG find for us and even bigger for Henry who now knows where he belongs.



Right: Doris Dodge and Dorothy Fetter. Left: (sorry the photo is blurry) Florence, Leslie, and Janet Lynn Dodge



Below: Jack and Robin Stanton



Above: Larry Storti



Bill and Judy Ragan and Hilda Dodge