



THE BALDING EAGLE

NOVEMBER 10, 2011



All - Mary and I drove down to Garden Grove on Sunday the 6th to visit Howard. He has made remarkable progress with his recovery. He looks good, is articulate, and is in good humor. He reports receiving a Halloween card from Marylyn Manly Lewis which pleased him. (Good move, Marylyn) On Monday, the 7th he was scheduled to begin physical therapy to rebuild strength in his legs. He has lost about 25lbs, but has been lying in bed for nearly two months, so re-hab is necessary. He thinks there is a chance he could be home by Thanksgiving. However, although he is off of the ventilator, he still has a breathing tube and is still fed intravenously. If he doesn't make it home for Thanksgiving, my guess he surely will by Christmas....for others of you who want to send him cards, do so to his home address, 713 Kenoak, Placentia, CA 928 70. His daughter, Kathy Wicks will deliver them to him in the care facility.

Pat Fleming Opp had a birthday on Tuesday the 8th. Actually, she reports she is having a birthday week with lots of visits from friends and family.

In the absence of additional news from any of you, perhaps I can say a few words about my grandchildren. My older son, Bill, lives in Florida and has four sons, three with his first wife and the most recent, young Bengt Arthur Widen, with his second significant other. Young Bengt will be two in February. He is named after my Dad's youngest brother because son Bill liked the name. It is Swedish. Bengt's mother spent two years in Japan teaching English as a second language and became interested in Buddhism. Consequently, when young Bengt arrived in February of 2010, he was destined to be the subject of a Buddhist Baby Baptism ceremony in May of that year. Mary and I attended the ceremony - drove there from E.S. (The story of the trip I'll save for another time.) An added complexity for young Bengt is that he has a Spanish speaking nanny. It is a toss up as to whether English or Spanish is going to be Bengts' first language. So now I have a grandson with a Swedish name, baptized a Buddhist, who is bi-lingual in English and Spanish!!My oldest grandson, Will, is 26 and teaches math at a regional high school outside of Stowe, VT. His half brother will soon be two, but is not my youngest grandchild. The youngest is Robert Anders Widen, born in New York City the 6th of last month to parents Scott and Jayne Widen. They also have two daughters, Julia age 5 and Avery aged 8. Scott is my younger son, his brother's junior by five years. Scott's first name is Robert, after me, but we have always called him "Scott". The new Robert's middle name of Anders is also Swedish, taken from my paternal grandmother's side of the family. He is likely to live more comfortably with his middle name than Bengt will with his first. Although, as with my uncle, he will likely become "Ben" to his classmates, whether his father likes it or not.

Well, that is my grandchildren story. I am embarrassed to realize I had more to say about them than anything else. Well, help me out by providing me with news about yourselves. We now have 17 members in this communication loop, 12 using e-mail and 5 using USPS....All the best to all of you.

Until Again,

Bob