

February 2019 Issue 256

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FEBRUARY 2019

Rick, Jane, Debbie and I had the privilege of taking Mom to Arizona for the winter. Once again we all realize how lucky we are to have such a wonderful, fun to be with, talented Mom. Debbie left after a week to enjoy her new Grandson, Luke, and Rick, Jane and I came home after 10 days. We left her in the good hands of Kristen, Lewis, Kaylee, Jacob as well as Dan and Arlene, Nancy and Jerry, Gary and Sharon and Ron and Diane. Enjoy your winter Mom as it is below zero and lots of snow here.

The photos on this page are from our yard with all the new snow.



February Birthdays

Ed Mages	Feb 01
Steve Dammann	Feb 01
Lindsey Mages	Feb 03
Nancy Strate	Feb 12
Abigail Strand	Feb 12
Sarah Mills	Feb 16
Dylan Nelson	Feb 17
Mikayla Bruggeman	Feb 21
Melanie Mages	Feb 23
Tony Schmitz	Feb 25
Brady Mages	Feb 27

Mages Picnic

Hello Linda,

Amy and I were talking with mom tonight. We are in charge of the summer picnic, but with all the weddings and showers this summer, we have decided to postpone the picnic for this year.

We made this decision now, since we would have to reserve the park shelter already. This way everyone can plan their weekends this summer.

Could you please put this information in the newsletter for us? Thank you!

Love,
Mike

A special Hello to My
Grandson Tobi Mages From
Oma Barbara

A special Hello to our German
cousins, Helmut, Birgit, Andi
and Tobi

www.magesonline.com

News Deadline

20th of each month

Send articles and photos
to Linda at

lindagall@rocketmail.com

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Coming Events

January 25,26 & 27 – Men's Fishing, snowmobiling and poker weekend at Emerald Hideaway.

April 06, 2019 - Bridal shower for Kate Mages and Kristen Mages.

April 24, 2019 – Cards with Mom

May 04, 2019 – Wedding of Kate Mages and Byron Minnich

May 22, 2019 – Cards with Mom

June 19, 2019 – Cards with Mom

June 29, 2019 - Wedding of Kristen Mages and Lewis Olivero.

July 13, 2019 – Bridal Shower for Ashley Pfarr and Scott Mages.

July 22, 2019 – Cards with Mom

August 24, 2019 - 50th Wedding Anniversary for Gary and Sharon Mages

August 27, 2019 – Cards with Mom

August 31,2019 – Wedding of Scott Mages and Ashley Pfarr

September 23, 2019 – Cards with Mom

October 05, 2019, Wedding of Michelle Mages and Cody Becker.

October 23, 2019 - Cards with Mom

November 19, 2019 – Cards with Mom

December 12, 2019 – Cards with Mom

Cards With Mom

As you can see all the Cards with Mom are printed in the coming events. All start at 7:15 am with Mass at St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye with breakfast and cards following at Moms after. Hope you can all come.

Ketchup and Mustard Sandwiches by Mom

When the sun shines brightly in the spring, and snow is gone, nature takes over. The leaves come on the trees, the flowers start to bloom, and also the dandelions start growing. It was a tradition in the Mages family to have dandelion salad. The big, healthiest dandelion leaves were found along the corn cribs or in the road ditches near the house. They must be picked before they blossom into flowers. When mixed together with bacon, radishes, cucumbers, red onions, and a dressing of hot bacon drippings and vinegar, it was a real treat.

Deb, Donna and Lisa each took their turn having a demonstration at Home Ec. Class in school. They cut the dandelions in small pieces, also the other ingredients. They took the electric fry pan to school to fry the bacon. They served it on small plates with assorted crackers, and most of the students said they liked the salad.

One year when Alphonse, and I went to Arizona for the winter we saw dandelion greens sold at the Country Market. When we went home for Christmas, we bought a good supply of them, and had dandelion salad added to our Christmas buffet.

Linda was studying to be a nurse, and Dan was in the Air Force, but we still had a family of fourteen children to raise. It was New Years, and my resolution was to count the loaves of bread I baked in the coming year. In January I baked twice a week, sometimes three times. In that time I counted eighty-nine loaves of bread, thirteen pans of cinnamon rolls, thirteen pans of hamburger bun, twelve pans of finger rolls, and sometimes the deep fryer was set up for fry bread. Needless to say, I did not count anymore. This did not include the bread that was bought for breakfast and toast.

But the family loved warm baked bread with butter on it. So the reward was great.

Some of the boys were putting mustard on their bread - ,so I wondered why – It seems that their Dad had told them if one of them ate all the mustard in that jar he'd give him \$5.00. But no one ever collected that \$5.00. But they could collect a handful of change. Once in a while on Sunday morning, Alphonse would collect the change from his pockets, and give the kids a quick look, and whoever could figure out the total would get to keep it. It would take a few quick looks, but one of the kids would end up with it.

It took a lot of change when the children went to St. Mary's School. When you have ten children in school, they need money for hot lunch, and having the correct change was not easy. So I asked at the school if the oldest student could take a check for all, and that was okay. So that was the way we did it until the last one graduated.

Alphonse was an excellent provider. We always had beef and pork in our big freezer. He bought a special freezer that I kept on our enclosed porch just to put chickens into it. We raided our own broilers every year. We had our own dairy, so if we needed milk we went to our Grade A Dairy, and took milk directly from the bulk tank. We put it in two quart glass jars, and the cream would come to the top. Tuesday was butter day on the route, and the milk hauler would leave seven pounds of butter every week, in sweet corn time we'd order ten pounds every week. Also cheese came in three pound blocks. I would buy eggs from Rose Haala, my neighbor lady, who had a large chicken barn.

Ketchup and Mustard Sandwiches Continued

Who had a large chicken barn. I would buy a thirty dozen case, and store them in the refrigerator in the garage until needed.

Every year we had a beautiful garden, and would can many jars of pickles, and I made sauerkraut. We'd freeze most vegetables like sweet corn or green beans, but not peas. The kids liked them fresh from the garden, and they could pick their own. We always had many tomato plants to can, and with many tomatoes we made homemade ketchup. I had a special implement that would cap the bottles, The kids would put this homemade ketchup on their buttered bread, because they said, "It tasted so good." In the fall there would be melons, and squash, and of course pumpkins.

There was a patch of horse radish on the end of the garden. Alphonse would dig it for me as it grew quite deep. I would peel it, and then the fun began – haha. We would grind it in the garage as the scent was overpowering. Even with a big fan blowing all the odor in the other direction, one would end up with eyes so full of tears that you couldn't see. After it was ground once, we put it in the blender with vinegar and salt, and blended it until it was a fine quality. Then we put it into jars, it was ready to use. I could use only a little bit at a time, as it was still very powerful. It could still bring the tears to your eyes.

When the warehouse grocery stores were starting to open in Mankato, we thought we should try that – see what that was all about. We bought several cases of cereal as quantity meant price-cutting. We bought other things we could save on, like flour and sugar. Filled up the car on the way home.

But our regular grocery store was Piggley-Wiggley right here in Sleepy Eye. I had bought a great amount of groceries one day, and when paying for them, I found I had left my billfold at home. One of the kids had needed some money that morning, and I forgot to put my billfold back in my purse. Now that is very embarrassing. What was I going to do?????? But the clerk was very friendly. She said she would write my name on the receipt, and I could pay the next time I was in town. Then she took the receipt, and scotch-taped it on the front of the cash register. My next trip to town came very soon!!!!

The Schwan's truck would stop at our farm every two weeks, and we'd order two or three tins of ice cream from him. Schwan's, the best delicious ice cream there is, and when we were all walking beans one summer day, the Schwan's truck was coming down our country road, just as we were getting to the end of the field. He stopped, and offered each one of us an ice cream treat. It was so refreshing on a hot summer day. We sure loved that ice cream man.

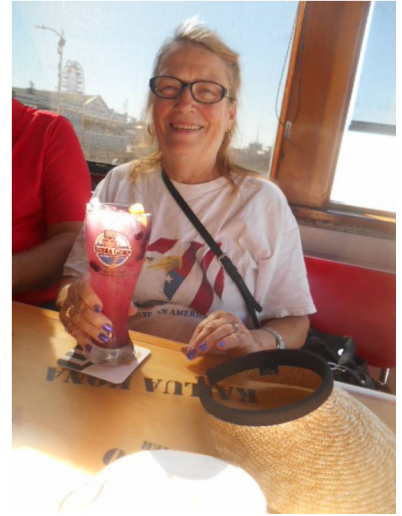
So my dear children, you will remember many of these short stories. The Grandchildren wonder how we could support such a growing family. Each one in the family did their part to help out your Dad and Mom. We had Family, Faith and the Blessing of Almighty God.

Hugs and Love,
Mom, Grandma, Great Grandma

“Faith”

A song written by Larry Mages on November 16, 2018

Lord help me to find, the strength to hold on
Help me understand, Now that She's gone
A love that won't die, still, She had to go
She'll always be mine, I feel that it's so



Faith, Faith that I'll be with you, ... Faith, even though I'm blue
Faith, You'll be back with me, ... Together, forever, in Eternity

The day will come, when we'll live in God's grace

Together my love, Yes, I'm keeping the faith

Time will go by, No matter how long

The day will come for, Our eternal song

Faith, Faith that I'll be with you, ... Faith, even though I'm blue
Faith, You'll be back with me, ... Together, forever, in Eternity

Scott Mages and Ashley Pfarr Engagement Photo.

The wedding will be August 31, 2019



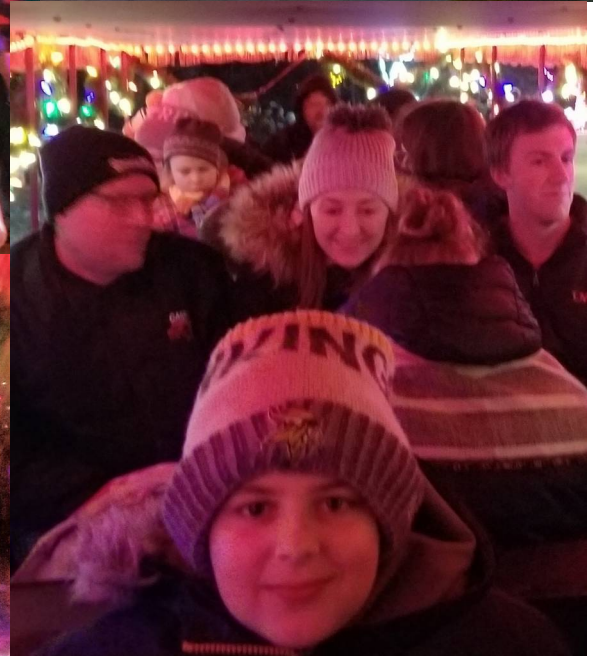
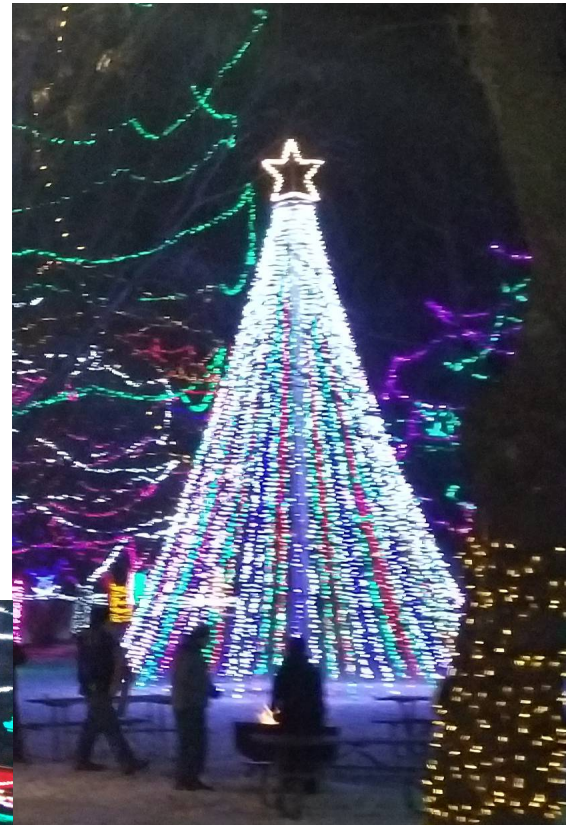
Sleepy Eye Holiday Lights In Motion by Lisa

This year Brandon Schmitz, age 12, son of Tony and Lisa (Mages) Schmitz, was one of the many dedicated volunteers to help put up lights at the Sleepy Eye Holiday Lights in Motion display located on the North side of Sleepy Eye Lake, just off of Hwy 14. As a volunteer representing St. Mary's School, he helped to wrap lights around the base of many trees, a task he, and his friends enjoyed doing together back in October. It was such a delight to go to through the light display which features eighty five trees lit with over two hundred thousand colorful LED lights, knowing he volunteered toward something so great. When our family was all together at Christmas time, we were able to tour the lights via a horse drawn trolley ride. I have also been helping the organization by donating the use of many of my photographs of the display which helps them to promote this event. The photographs will show a visual story of how special this event is in our area. Happy New Year from Sleepy Eye, Minnesota everyone! Lisa

Sleepy Eye Holiday Lights In Motion



Sleepy Eye Lake Lights in Motion in Photo



Brandon front, L-R:
Second row, Tony,
Becca, Ethan

Luke David Fischer, son of David & Jennifer Fischer, brother to his big sister- Elizabeth. Paternal Grandparents- Larry & Deb Fischer and great grandmother- Barbara Mages all of Sleepy Eye, Mn. Maternal Grandparents Joel & Deb Janni of Springfield, Mn. Luke was born Jan 10, 2019 at the Sleepy Eye Medical Center weighing 7# 2oz, 21.5 " long.

Congratulations Fischer Family!

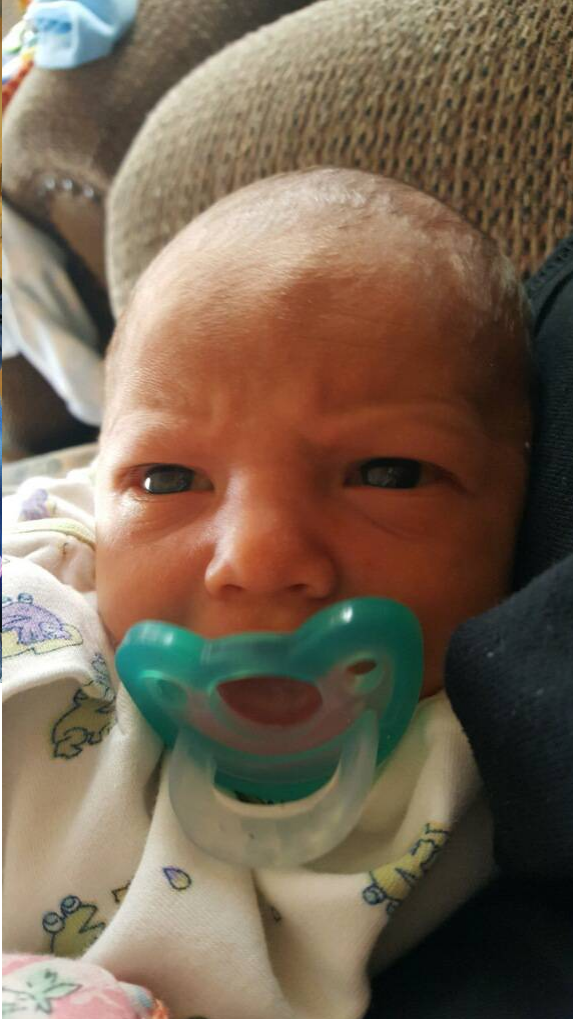


Luke David and Family in Photo

David, Lizzie,
Jenny and
Luke



Deb and Larry
with Luke and
Lizzy



Mom Winters in Arizona

On Friday, January 04, 2019, Rick, Jane, Debbie, Mom and Linda flew to Mesa, Arizona to take Mom to her winter home. Our flight left at 7:15 am, so the Sleepy Eye bunch had to leave home at 2:30 am to pick Linda up in Mankato. Rick is a good driver so we made it to the airport just fine. We flew out of Sun Country, which does not open its ticket office until 5:00 am, where they also have to make out your ticket for everyone, and weigh and take your luggage. It was a long process, and the line was full and slow. Rick must have ESP as he ordered a wheelchair for Mom, Linda and Debbie, so guess what. To the front of the line we go. GOOD THINKING RICK!! We didn't have any trouble meeting our deadline, but many passengers had to run to the plane to catch their flight. The plane had to wait one half hour to give these people a chance as Sun Country was the reason for the delay. Our flight was smooth, and pretty soon we are all in for that day only in sunny Mesa, Arizona. None of us had eaten anything yet, so Mom treated us all to a buffet at the Golden Corral along with Dan who picked us up at the airport. After we got things all put back together, and a produce run made to the Superstition Mountain Market and Fry's Grocery Store it was supper time.

On Saturday we went to Kohls as Jane had some Kohls money to burn up before it expired. Deb, Jane and I all found clothing that we just could not live without, so our visit was successful. We then went to visit Dan and Arlene's new home about ten minutes from Mom on the other side of the flea market. We had so much fun. Dan and Arlene have a beautiful home. That evening we met with Nancy and Jerry and Dan and Arlene at the Silver Star for a dinner show of country music and comedy. It was really good.

Sunday morning us five went to Mom's church, All Saints, and then home where we played cards the rest of the day. We played snoozle and Hand and Foot. No sun today, and a bit on the cool side.

On Monday us gals went with Mom to IHOP with her Mesa friends for breakfast, while Rick went to Lowes for supplies to fix the sink that is leaking in the first bathroom. In the afternoon while Rick slaved in the bathroom, Mom, Deb and I went to the clubhouse, and played Hand and Foot with Mom's friends. After cards we forced Mom to take us to the clothing store Bonworth where we all found something we could not live without. Debbie heard from David that baby may be coming by Friday, so she called the airline, and being her ticket was insured got a flight for Thursday late afternoon, so she can be home on Friday.

On Tuesday Gary and Sharon came, and we played card. Mom's pickup had a big screw in it making the tire lose air, so here is Rick again coming to the rescue, and got the tire fixed. We played Hand and Foot again, as it was cool, and light rain so no sun. Now Debbie is getting really anxious as David Fischer called to tell her Jenny may be having the baby before Friday.

On Wednesday we all went to Nancy and Jerry's for potluck. We learned two new games of cards. Left, Right, Center which was won by Cindy Mages, and Debbie Fischer, and Chase the Ace which was won by Linda. John and Cindy had just arrived in Arizona for ten days. That night the five of us all played Snoozle and Hand and Foot. More sun today, but we were busy playing cards.

Mom in Arizona Continued

On Thursday Rick needed more parts for the sink, so off to Lowes he and Jane went. After he got back, and no more leaky sink off to Tortilla Flats. The Men had decided at Jerry and Nancy's the day before to all take their Harley's to Tortilla Flats. It just happened that the men all brought their Harleys along. Nancy picked up Debbie and Jane, and they drove out. I stayed back because I get too car sick, and that drive would accomplish that, and Mom had been there many times. So while the cats away the mice will play. Mom and I went to a Chinese restaurant that was delicious, and then we went and played BINGO at Red Mountain. Deb, Jane and Nancy were back long before we expected them, so I guess we worried them a little. Debbie took off for the airport, as now she knew that little Luke David has all ready put in his appearance. In the evening I bet you can't imagine what we did. We played Hand and Foot.

On Friday Jane, Mom and I just had to go back to Bonworth, and what do you know - they got in a new shipment. Gosh I hope I can get my suitcase to close on the way home. Gary and Sharon Mages came, as did Lewis and Kristen, and Jake and Kaylee, and we played, Hand and Foot. The kids as we called Lewis and Kristen and Jake and Kaylee stayed for supper, and us senior citizens just enjoyed them.

On Saturday the kids joined us for breakfast, and then they had their day planned. They came back later armed with groceries, and we all ate supper together before attending, "Nashville Gold," at the large hall in Mom's community. Everyone enjoyed it very much, and I liked all the music as I recognized all the songs, but I had a very tall gentleman in front of me, so I couldn't see very much. The kids had been over to Mom's neighbor, Patti, and picked huge lemons, grapefruit and oranges. They were so sweet, and Jake made lemonade that was delicious.

On Sunday the kids and us four all attended Mass at All Saints. I had sent out an email the day before to all the relatives in or near Mesa to join us for brunch at the Golden Corral after Mass. There were nineteen of us there. Dan and Arlene, John and Cindy, Nancy and Jerry and Jerry's sister, Jan, Gary and Sharon, Ron and Diane Mages, The kids and just four of us as Debbie had to go back home. It was so good to see everyone. Mom invited all of them back to the house for cards. Gary and Sharon, and Ron and Diane were the only brave ones to take us on. We played snoozle Olivia, Mn. Style. At 4:30 pm with heavy hearts us four had to say good bye to Mom, and the Kids took us to the airport. We had a nice flight home, and Rick and Jane dropped me off at 1 am, and they still had to go home to Sleepy Eye. I told Rick he was making points with Our Lord, as he was going to Adoration at St. Francis chapel at 5 am. And then photos for the Sleepy Eye Herald Dispatch at 8:30 am. If you get a chance tell Rick Thank You! My Gosh he sure took care of everything that Mom needed a man to do. What great siblings I have. Nancy, Jerry, Dan, Arlene, Gary, Sharon, Ron and Diane are all there at a moments notice, and I know we can count on them to make Mom's stay pleasant. Thank You Linda

Arizona in Photo



At the Silver Star, L-R: Dan's Viet Nam buddy, Dan, Arlene, Nancy, Jerry, Mom, Rick, Debbie, Linda and Jane



Nancy, Mom, Linda and Debbie

Arizona in Photo Continued



At the Golden Carrol, L-R: John, Rick, Ron, Dan, Gary, Jerry, Sharon, Arlene, Diane, Mom and Linda. Back row L_R: Kaylee, Jake, Nancy, Lewis, Kristen, Cindy, Jan Walner and Jane.

The Kids in Arizona – Jake, Kaylee, Kristen and Lewis

We had so much fun visiting with grandma. It was really great that we were able to see you, Rick, Jane, Jeff, Cindy, Nancy, Jerry, Dan and Arlene too! We really enjoyed the country concert, our hike and as always playing several card games. I mentioned to Grandma that I would love it if she put a section in the newsletter one of these times of Mages card game rules. For example, hand and foot, grandmas game, and Duane's Game. There are so many rules that it would be nice to have them written down for printing so we can reference when we don't have grandmas sharp memory. Hopefully she can do that one of these times. Kaylee

The Kids in Arizona in Photo



Above, Kristen, Jake and Kaylee with fruit from the neighbors back yard.



Left is Jane, Mom and Rick with oranges, lemons and grapefruit from the neighbors, Patti and Ralph's back yard.



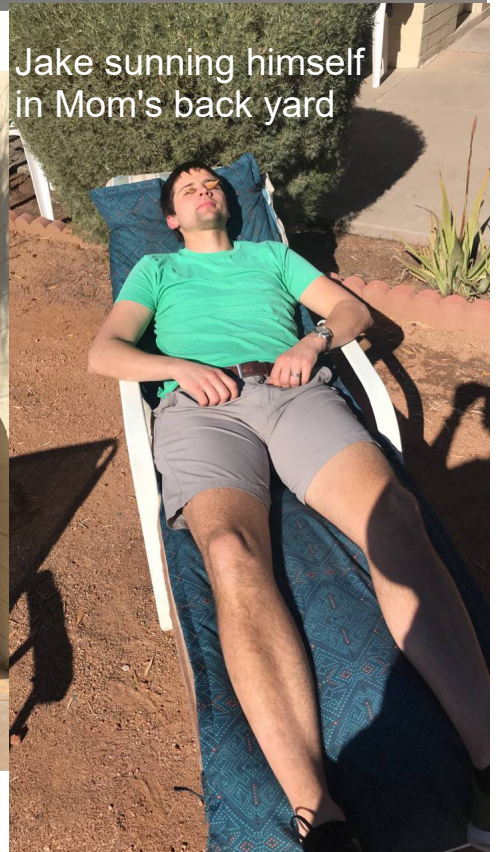
Left – The Kids. Lewis, Kristen, Kaylee and Jacob. Right - is Lewis, Jake, Mom, Kaylee and Kristen with the delicious fruit.



Arlene, Mom and Kaylee in front of Organ Stop Pizza



Mom doing her sudoku in the back yard in the sun



Jake sunning himself in Mom's back yard

The Golden Corral Photos by Kaylee Fischer



Lewis, Jane, Jan Walden, Cindy, Nancy and Kristen



Kaylee, Lewis, Jane and Jan Walden, Jerry's sister



Diane, Mom and Linda

Below, Arlene, Diane, Mom and Linda



Rick and Linda



Left, Ron, Dan, Gary, Jerry and Sharon

The Kids in Arizona in Photo by Kristen Mages



Playing Dominos in Mom's Arizona back yard. Kaylee, Kristen, Mom, Lewis and Jake



Left, Dan, Lewis, Kristen, Jake, Kaylee and Mom playing Hand and Foot



Page 17 Left - Lewis riding Mom's trike

The Kids in Photo Continued One More Time



Below is Jake and Kristen taking lessons from Grandma on how to make lemonade from those beautiful, large, juicy lemons in Mom's neighbors, Patti and Ralph's back yard.



Above is Kristen with the Lemon bread she made from lemons from Mom's Arizona neighbor, Patti's back yard.

On January 11-15, Jake, Kaylee, Kristen and Lewis made a trip down to Arizona to spend a few days with Grandma! We got especially lucky because we also got to see Linda, Rick and Jane, Nancy and Jerry, and Dan and Arlene among others. Lots of fun was had playing cards & dominoes and picking huge lemons from the next door neighbor's backyard orchard. We ended up making everything lemon - Grandma's famous lemonade, lemon tequila chicken, lemon pancakes, lemon bread - it was all so tasty and delicious! We also got to attend a fun country music show called "Nashville Gold" at Grandma's big clubhouse as well as do an evening out to Organ Stop Pizza where they played "Que Sera Sera" and "Edelweiss" especially for Grandma. Thanks for once again being a wonderful host, Grandma. We are blessed with the best! Kristen, Lewis, Jake & Kaylee