

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Mary-Alice Wilbanks

The year was 1978 -

- The movie, *Superman*, debuted, starring Christopher Reeve;
- Taito Corp launched the first arcade video game, *Space Invaders*;
- In England, Louise Brown became the *first test tube* baby
- Karol Wojtyla of Poland became *Pope John Paul, II*
- Sweden became the first nation to *ban aerosol sprays* that were thought to damage earth's protective ozone layer;
- Lt. Marilyn R. Koon of the Arizona Air National Guard, became the *first female Air National Guard Pilot*;
- The *Blizzard of 1978*, one of the worst Northeastern in New England history, hit the region with sustained winds of 65 mph and dropped snow at a rate of 4" per hour;
- United States Senate proceedings* were broadcast on radio for the first time;
- The Blues Brothers* made their first appearance on Saturday Night Live;
- Resorts International, the first legal casino in the eastern United States, opened in Atlantic City, New Jersey;
- The comic strip, *Garfield*, first appeared
- President Jimmy Carter authorized the minting of the Susan B. Anthony dollar; -
- Just as is the case to day, there were political problems throughout the world, but

here in the Great USA, a star was born. "I'm ready to come out now" he informed his mother and while the sun began to glow in the (very) early March 4<sup>th</sup> sky, the young parents were told - "It's a boy!" "By what name will this child be called?" Zachary Scott Mabe! His mother described him as the cutest, roundest, chubbiest, but quiet and very calm child, weighing in at 8#, 2 ozs. (No feather weight.)

Zack joined his sister Jennifer, 18 months his senior and now herself, the proud mother of 2 girls. They were very close growing up, and much to their parents' delight, though miles apart, are still close. His mother said he had a hard time pronouncing *Jennifer* so she became *Don'er'fer* a name he still lovingly calls her. It's funny how names and words stick. In talking to Rev. Zack's mother, I realized she frequently uses the word awesome, an adjective we have all heard him use. She said he loved to twirl the hair of those caring and holding him until he finally got some of his own. That may explain his short haircuts, so take care everyone. Don't stand too close.

Besides his sister, when asked if there was anything special he liked, both his parents, without a moment's hesitation, quickly said that *Zack absolutely loved the "Dukes of Hazards"*. He would bounce to the rhythm of the music when watching the show and had to be ready when the opening number began. Although he loved the fast driving heros, they never influenced him into being a fast driver himself. He was always one to take good care of his things.

His dad said that Zack's favorite piece of apparel was a tee shirt displaying "The General Lee", an orange Dodge Charger (a car, for those not familiar with chargers) on the front. Zack would be very upset if the shirt was dirty and he could not wear it to school.

His mother had other concerns about school as he never brought papers or drawings home. In speaking with the teacher, she learned the teacher also had concerns and felt Zack just wanted to be a friend of everyone. However, both were pleasantly surprised and relieved when he met all objectives and passed his first test with flying colors. He apparently absorbed everything that went on around him and was placed in accelerated classes throughout much of his school years. Zack loves music - all kinds. He played the clarinet in the school band and graduated to drums later in high school.

*—and the boy grew into a man.*

While attending Yale University, Zack met the lovely Melissa and as they say, the rest is now history. They met while serving on the Student Governing Board, he was a representative from the School of Divinity and she from the School of Nursing.

Melissa was born in Seoul, Korea, adopted through the Holt International Children's Services Adoption Agency when 4 months of age. She joined her older sister, Lara, and was later joined by her adopted brother Robert, only 9 months older than Melissa. To quote a beautiful statement by her mother, "Adopted parents are the lucky ones."

The family lived in Parkridge, Illinois for a year, moving to Montclair, New Jersey following her father's job transfer. (Note of interest - The book *Cheaper by the Dozen* was written in Montclair.) Mr. Berkfeld retired in 1999 at which time her parents moved to Eugene, Oregon.

Following high school graduation, Melissa attended Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. She completed her Nurse Practitioner graduate work at Yale University.

Melissa's interests include photography, reading, knitting and the outdoors. She also places a high value on *friendship*, a trait many of us can attest to. She worked a year following graduation from Wesleyan to save money for a year long tour through Asia, New Zealand and Australia, loving the latter two very much. Melissa has completely hiked the Appalachian Trail, south to north, in 6 weeks. She also enjoys camping, skiing and snow shoeing.

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The year is now 2007. As a bright, shiny moon shown overhead, the young parents were told, "It's a boy! By what name will he be called?" Joshua Bergfeld Mabe! (Weight, 8lbs, 1 oz.)

**And another saga begins!!!!**

