

# Colville Update

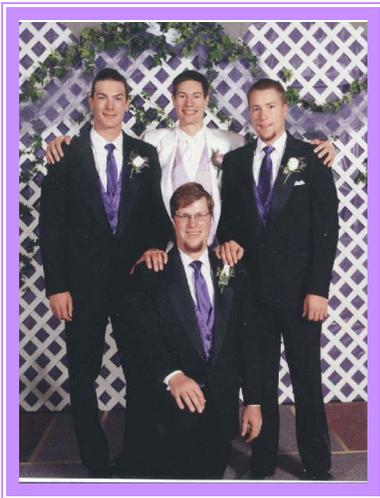
Arctic PI overland News

Spring, 2001

## Greetings From the Jim Helmericks Family

### Empty Nest

The day has finally come that Jim and Teena are "home alone". All parents must have the similar reaction of, "where in the world did the years go?" All the boys are pretty much out on their own now, although our two youngest still



Helmericks Brothers

consider the Colville their primary home and have not completely moved out or given up their rooms, even though they are away at work or college most of the time.

### Family News

God blesses us with good health and active lives. **Teena and Jim** stay busy at the Colville homesite, and have had to pick up on the chores that the absent boys no longer are here to do. **Derek and Melanie** live in their home just outside of Fairbanks, with

Derek involved in mining and taxidermy work on the side, and Melanie busy with her geology studies and art projects. Melanie will receive her master's geology degree from UAF this May. **Jay and Amy** have a small apartment near the university where they both work and attend classes. Jay will have his master's engineering degree in May, and has continued to work for the rocket research lab on campus. Both Jay and Amy stay very involved in various church activities also. **Isaac** enjoys his job with Alaska Airlines in Deadhorse, the many new friends he's made, and the flying privileges available to him. (Many family members have also enjoyed flying privileges, thanks to Isaac.) **Aaron** graduated with a 4.0 GPA and was honored with a Wal-Mart Competitive Edge Scholarship for \$20,000 for his college days ahead. His "edge" has remained sharp, as he has maintained top grades his freshman year at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. Throughout the year, oil spill training and activities were often attended by Teena, Isaac and Aaron. Aaron even worked for the Spill Response Team at the near-by Alpine oil production site during the summer. We had two special people staying with us as extra help over the summer. Roger Wieland from Michigan was our all around "fix-it, build-it" man who contributed a great deal to the Colville complex. He enjoyed some canoe/fishing trips up the Colville during his stay too. Aletha Bennett, from Washington, was Teena's right arm help, and was loved and appreciated by all. Such a cute 17 year old couldn't



help but bring out the competition between two brothers vying for her attentions. We enjoyed a great deal of company this year including Teena's mom & sis Marti and her husband Richard, who survived a boat outing in extreme high wind and waves. What a day! Also Teena's older sis Merrily & niece Grace helped out in October and experienced wild snowmachine rides among many other Colville adventures. Craig Bennett hunted caribou with his cousin Isaac in the fall. Sascha Seehaus, a friend from Germany, accompanied Derek & Mel to the Colville in September. Jay and Amy had a long visit at the beginning of the new year. Moreover, we shared our home and museum with many others to numerous to list.

### Special Events

One big event this year was the addition of another daughter to our family. Jay married Amy Jane Wilcoxson on August 31st in Fairbanks. It was a lovely wedding with many friends and family attending.

Amy's family lives in Fairbanks and many Helmericks and Wartes family members were there too.

Two other events were rather



