

# Colville Update

*Arctic Ploverland News*

*Spring, 2005*

## Greetings From the Jim Helmericks Family

### Introduction

The sun has passed its 12-hour above-the-horizon mark and is rapidly approaching its 24-hour mark on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We have commented every year of our life in the Arctic that the returning sunlight brings joy and grand feelings of renewed life and energy.

We are forever thankful for God's love and goodness to us.

### Family News

It is getting more and more difficult to keep up on family news. The family website grows larger as new photos and news is added, but not nearly as fast as many family and friends encourage us to produce. We are sorry for this. Getting older has slowed us down, but there always seems to be the same amount of work to do here on the Colville homesite. Jim and Teena continue to maintain the compound at Colville Village,

although the "Kids" have agreed to pitch in whenever energy, funds, or abilities are lacking from



Family Aug. 2004

us "old folks" here at home. Teena is still working full-time for Colville, Inc., and travels back and forth to Deadhorse on a weekly basis, as she maintains a "week on-week off" schedule this year. She still has to travel part of the way by snowmachine in all kinds of weather, but counts on her fur outdoor gear to keep her warm. Jim has his hands full maintaining the homesite, flying, and other business pursuits. His bird projects continue to bring exciting results and enjoyable bird watching for us all.

Derek and Beth moved to Fairbanks in May, 2004, and are building a new home on a beautiful piece of land outside of town. Derek now works for the

state as an engineer for the Dept. Of Transportation and Beth works for Watterson Construction as Quality Control Inspector. When not busy at work, they are both busy working at home on their building projects there.

Jay and Amy remain in Fairbanks with two little girls to keep them constantly in demand. Jay continues his work as Project Engineer at the Geophysical Institute for the University of Alaska Fairbanks. His skills continue to take him south to his Antarctic project and other places across the U.S. Amy is a "stay at home" mom, yet finds time to contribute her many talents both at church, local musical productions, and various teaching opportunities.

Isaac and Crystal continue home-making in Anchorage, as Isaac finishes up his Aviation Technology degree at the University of Alaska Anchorage and maintains his full-time work status at Alaska Airlines. Crystal is enjoying a new job as technician for Lens Crafters.

Aaron has been renting a room from his brother in Anchorage since returning from his New Zealand trip and is currently working a "two week on-two week off" shift up on the North Slope for Colville, Inc. Although his current job is not directly computer related, his extensive computer skills benefit everyone

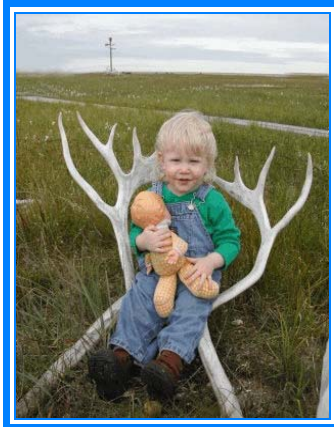
around him, and are greatly appreciated.

one at the beginning of this newsletter and below.

### Extra Tidbits

### Highlights

Two highlights make this year's list. First is the addition of another family member. Melody Hope arrived on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Another beautiful girl to join her big sister Natasha. Joy and Hope added to the family.



Natasha's Colville Seat

The oil-field continues to grow around us, and besides other summertime guests in 2004, we hosted a bird study crew for ConocoPhillips, the biggest oil company working near us.

If you're interested in reading about an encounter Teena had with a polar bear in October, 2004, then go to the "Newsletter" page on the family web site listed at the end of this newsletter.



Melody Hope

### Travel

Besides trips to Anchorage and Fairbanks, Teena made a business trip to San Francisco in February and took a couple of extra days to tour the city and visit Yosemite National Park. All the area was bursting with greenery as spring growth was amply supplied with rain this year. Derek and Beth made a quick trip to the San Francisco area early in the year also. Jay and family made several trips, both business and pleasure, to places in the Lower States, including Texas and the East Coast.

Love,

*Jim and Teena  
Jay, Amy, Natasha, Melody  
Derek & Beth  
Isaac & Crystal  
Aaron*

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### Helmericks Family

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Secondly, was an August gathering of the entire family at home on the Colville in honor of Jim's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. Teena had prepared a surprise get-together that spread out over several weeks where all our kids and grandkids could be together, plus some dear friends arriving as they could, to participate in the surprise. [Of course, with Jim flying them into Colville Village from Deadhorse, he met his surprises at the rendezvous point in Deadhorse.] What joy for all of us to be together. It was Jim and Teena's first chance to meet their newest granddaughter also. Many pictures were taken like the



Melody



Natasha & Melody March 2005