

Season's Greetings to our family and friends.

Welcome to

Susan and

Glen's first newsletter.

We both admit that we have been falling behind in writing to our friends, so we figured this would be the best way to update everyone on what has been happening to us the past six months. We hope to make our newsletter a semi-annual thing, and we hope you enjoy reading our newsletter. Hope all is well.

Susan and Glen

The G & S Gazette

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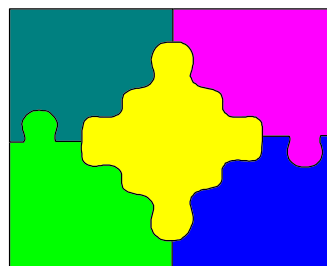
The Missing Piece

If you have not yet heard... Susan and Glen are engaged! The engagement happened on July 27, 1999 at 10:00 pm. Some people may be wondering how it happened and I figure it is my duty to inform you.

Firstly I have to let you know Glen was very creative and romantic about the engagement. I was quite surprised of all the work he went to and that's just one of the reasons why I love him so much.

Anyway, my parents and Glen's parents were visiting during the July 24th weekend. Glen and I had made arrangements to take both families out for dim sum on the 25th. Both families suspected something was going on but were not too sure. I

sensed something was going on with Glen but I wasn't too sure what it was. I had a subtle clue from my parents when my parents brought up to me that Glen was seeking their blessing to ask for my hand in marriage. I figured Glen was asking for approval for later on in the year when I thought he would propose.



So both our families went for dim sum on the Sunday and both families seemed anxious, I think they were expecting for Glen to propose then and there in the restaurant. All I could think of was... not in the restaurant. So nothing happened in the restaurant but our families still sensed something.

Glen's parents left on the Sunday afternoon and my parents left on the Tuesday morning. Glen came over to my place for dinner and he brought over a puzzle which he had ordered for my birthday (which was 1.5 weeks prior). Glen had a photo of the two of us made into a puzzle. Glen was very keen to do the puzzle which I found was kind of weird. I figured he wanted to have some bonding time. We started the

puzzle at 8:00 pm and at 9:00 pm, Glen was still keen about finishing the puzzle that evening which is quite odd for Glen. Usually Glen would get tired of doing jigsaw puzzles after 15 minutes. We continued to work on the puzzle.

As we were finishing the puzzle, there was one piece missing in the right hand corner. I was looking under the couch, boxes and all over the floor, but could not find the piece. Glen suggested that the piece may have slipped underneath the puzzle, so he took two pieces of

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Summer Summary

Summer '99 was wonderful. We started the summer (May) with some weekly hikes in the Lower Mainland. The hikes were lots of fun, however the weather did not cooperate. It rained or was cloudy almost everyday until late July. The weather did not stop us from going on hikes. It was cold and damp but we were able to look at the positive and made it through Susan's whining (not that there was a whole lot!). Some hiking shots are posted on our website:

www.homestead.com/glen_s/

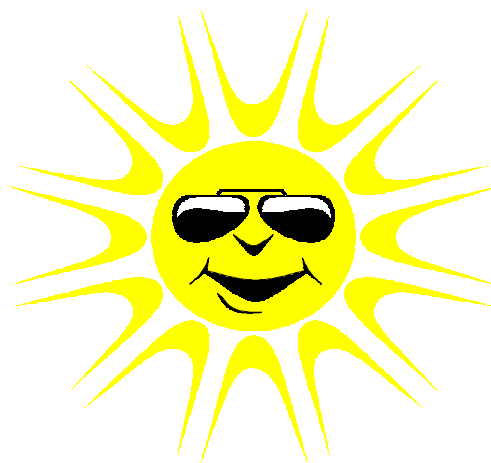
Also in May, we went and visited Susan's family in Calgary as well as attend a friend's wedding. (Congrats to Angela and Pete!)

Glen went to San Francisco in mid-June for a Java Conference (computer language conference). Our parents came to visit in mid-July. We did a couple of trips to Kamloops and Shushwap Lake to visit Glen's parents during July and August.

In September, we took two weeks holiday and drove to California. The trip details are given in the following pages. We vis-

ited San Francisco, L.A., Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm and Universal Studios. We came back in the third week of September, and had a bit of a family scare. The earthquake in Taiwan brought some stress to Susan's family. Susan's sister is living in Taiwan, so to hear that there was such a large earthquake made the family worry. The good news is Susan's sister is doing fine and is continuing work as usual.

And that was Susan and Glen's summer in a nutshell! *



The Missing Piece (Continued)

cardboard and flipped the cardboard over. On the backside Glen had written "You're my missing piece, will you marry me?" I enthusiastically said "YES"! Once we settled down, I asked Glen where the missing piece was, and the funny thing was there really was a missing piece.

The next evening, I went to Glen's place for dinner where he showed me a video of him putting the puzzle together. He planned the proposal, many months ahead of time and he recorded his thoughts while doing it. The video got me teary-eyed.

Now we have been making wedding plans. Yes, we are going to be one of those couples who will be marrying in the millennium. The date has been set for September 16, 2000. We will be getting married in an Anglican Church in Burnaby, B.C., and having the reception at the Atrium Inn in Vancouver. So far the marriage plans have been coming along very nicely and it's been fun so far. Many ideas have been given to us from friends and family and we thank them all for their great suggestions. I'm sure the wedding details will be pretty much finalized by the next

Glen's Update

Hi everyone, it has been a busy year. I've hit thirty, got my toastmaster's DTM, started a new job, started going to the gym, and am getting married.

After 10 years of work in Toastmasters, I've finally achieved Toastmaster's highest honor: the Distinguished Toastmaster. For that, I had to give many speeches to both my Toastmaster clubs and in public. I had to teach speaking courses to both adults and kids. I had to be involved with starting a new Toastmas-

ters club, give educational sessions, spend a few years in organizational roles and bring new people into Toastmasters. All this got me my DTM (hitting 30 was a whole lot easier!)

After spending a few years working at Millennium Technology, helping build a MRI, I moved to a software company that sells software for the e-commerce industry - Sideware. There are numerous things I really like about this job. One is the opportunity to work with new technology (nothing different there). The company is full of neat people (nothing much new there). But

California Cruisin'

As mentioned earlier we drove to California for 2 weeks holiday at the beginning of September during Labour Day weekend. The trip took us along the Oregon Coast, down to San Francisco, L.A, and Anaheim. These were the highlights of our trip:

Day 1- Drove for 8 hours, camped on a volleyball court at a KOA at Devil's Lake by Lincoln City, Oregon. Campground was packed.

Day 2- Drove along the Oregon Coast past cute little towns. The coast was very beautiful and serene. Stopped very briefly at a sand-dune viewpoint. It was very brief, made a pitstop and instead of enjoying the scenery.... Glen rushed me back to the car since it wasn't a scheduled stop (there were no hard feelings, just very amusing as he was dragging me along). Looked for a campsite at the National Redwood Forest, but all campsites were full. Found a campsite in Trinidad, California.

Day 3- Passed through Eureka, and Fortuna. Drove through the Avenue of Giants and stopped at the Mystery Hill Tourist site in the Redwood Forests area. This was a really neat place.

There was a gravity house built on a slope, where water ran uphill, we walked on the walls, rolled marbles uphill, and leaned when we were standing straight up. Continued our drive, and came across a forest fire that was just starting (due to a head on collision). As traffic came to a halt, we saw a sign with Smokey the Bear saying "only you can prevent forest fires" and in the distance flaming trees were seen. Pretty ironic. Made a detour and arrived in San Francisco in the evening. Stayed at Glen's old roommates place near San Francisco (thanks Chris and Bill!) for two nights.

Day 4- Took a 4 hour trolley tour through San Francisco. Hit all the major

sites i.e. Pier 39, Fisherman's Wharf, viewed Victorian style houses, Palace of Fine Arts, Golden Gate Bridge, viewed Alcatraz, and Presidio. San Fran was a beautiful place, but an expensive place to live. We found the panhandlers in San Fran to be the most honest in comparison to other cities. They sat in the busy areas with signs saying they needed money for drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and/or hookers. Very odd but a neat city to visit.

Day 5- Glen got a tour of Netscape with Bill before we left San Fran. Stopped to get the car checked since we were having potential car problems. The Honda shop had to hold the car for the morning, so we walked around the mini-mall and Glen got a haircut. Made the best out of a 2 hour wait. Headed to Anaheim. As we were approaching LA, there was a long hill stretch (5+ miles at a 5% grade) near Santa Clarita. The car started overheating about 3/4 of the way. But we were able to pull off. Again we made the best of the situation, pulled out the camping stove and made dinner on the side of the highway while trucks drove by. Finally arrived in Anaheim at 9:30 pm.

Day 6- Spent the day at Knott's Berry Farm. Rode all the amusement rides, including the big rollercoasters. They were neat because many of the coasters would go forward and backward and the water ride was really, really wet!! Lots of fun.

Day 7- Went to Universal Studios. Got free tickets to see the taping of Suddenly Susan Show. Visited majority of shows at Universal. Took the Backlot Tram tour which was really cool, and the T2 exhibit was really good also. Mid-afternoon, we were driven to Warner Brother's Studio for the Suddenly Susan taping. The show took four hours to tape for a 30 minute show. It was really interesting and a lot of fun to be at. Susan won a Mad About You Hat for asking the "Warm

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California Cruisin' (cont'd)

up" guy a question. The "warm up" guy entertains the audience in between shoots. The bus drove us back to Universal and we picked up some Tonight Show tickets.

Day 8- Our first day of Disneyland and it was buzzing. We caught all the shows that were offered for the day. Glen got to be an assistant (knight) to Merlin in the Sword in the Stone show. Spent the next 3 days at Disneyland. We completed everything at Disneyland. We did all the rides that were available, and our favorite ones twice and more. Good fun.

Day 10- Drove into LA to NBC studios for the Tonight Show with Jay Leno. We didn't have great seats so we weren't able to see the stars too well. We didn't know who the guests were at that time.. but now we do. One was the boxer Oscar De La Hoya and the other was an actress named Gina Gershwin. It was en-

joyable to watch a live show.

Day 11- Spent a half day at Disneyland and went shopping at a place that sold cheap software. Last day in Anaheim.

Day 12- Crammed all our camping stuff back into the car and headed back to Sunnyvale/San Fran to stay at Chris and Bill's again.

On our drive back to Sunnyvale, we saw lots of cows along the I5. It looked as if there were thousands of cows (no exaggeration).

Day 13- Drove along I5, passed Shasta Mountain and stayed in a State Park near the California/Oregon border. Congrats to Glen for driving in California... wild, and fast drivers in California. Susan drove through Oregon and Washington. Camped out .

Day 14- Camped in Oregon

Day 15- Arrived back in Vancouver.

And that was Susan and Glen's summer



the best part is getting to work at home!

Something I never thought I'd do... I've been going to the gym! Susan decided to use me as a pet project and take me out 3 times a week, and so we've been going to the local community centre for the last few weeks. Neat!

And finally I'm getting married! Having dated Susan for the last few years it seemed like an easy next step. It also was a good opportunity with both our parent's coming to town the same weekend this past year (see the story on page 1).

For the coming year, the big focus is getting married. We also have to decide where to go for h o n e y m o o n

Susan's Update

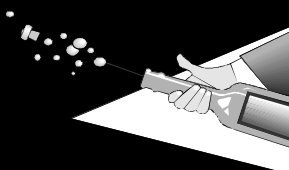
This year has really flown by. I can't believe 1999 is almost over. What else is new with me?? As mentioned, Glen and I are excited about our engagement. We've been doing some wedding planning and I've ben browsing at detailed items. I already purchased my wedding dress, have an idea of what the invitations will look like, and I've even looked into the favour containers. What more is there to organizing a wedding?? I'm sure things will start adding up in the next couple of months. Anyway, work has been going well. I'm still working with the same company, LifeWorks, as a Fitness Consultant, and through this company I'm contracted to

supervise two Telus Fitness facilities in the Lower Mainland. Having fun with it still. I've been doing some side contracts with Lifeworks such as fitnss facility design for a high rise building, and re-designing layouts for Distance Education Packages. I'll be doing some Post-Rehab Training in the New Year. I'll be training clients who are on ICBC claims. I'm sure it'll be challenging but very interesting. I've been looking into a career change, most likely in the next 2 years. I have an interest in marketing as well as graphic design. I 'll be looking into some educa-

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(probably dictated by how much money we have left). Maybe a trip to Dubai (stay with Richard & Helen-- Susan's brother & his wife), maybe a cruise to Alaska, or maybe a quiet car trip around B.C.

For New Year's celebration 2000... after getting sticker shock at how expensive an evening out is, we've decided to stay in for dinner with friends. We'll have some fun counting down to 2000 and playing one of those dress-up murder mystery



games.

tion options in the upcoming year and hopefully decide something. Still going to the gym. After all, I have to fit into the wedding dress in September.

I'm still involved in Toastmasters. Working towards my Advanced Toastmaster Bronze, I should be able to obtain it in 2000 some time. Right now I'm on the executive again, but this time as Treasurer. So trying to keep a low profile in the club.

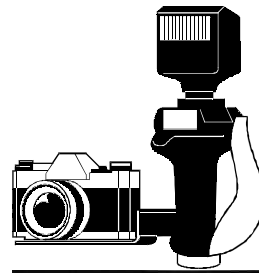
I'm looking forward to the New Year. With wedding plans, my sister visiting in late January, potential trip to Calgary in the Spring, new work experience... It must be the NEW Millennium! Have a



Susan standing straight at Confusion Hill in Redwood Forest area.

If you would like to see more photos from our summer or would like to see these photos in colour, then visit our website at:

www.homestead.com/



Photos



Glen blowing out his 30th birthday candles.



Glen and Susan in front of the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco.



This is the photo Glen had made into a puzzle for me when he did his proposal.