



# The Taylor Times



The Newsletter with "Schmaltz"

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## WILD PLACES AND SOUNDS

### TRAVELS AND TREKS

Every year we visit Mom in Florida and last year, the first year Donna came along with me, we also had the chance to visit Donna's brother, only an hour and a half from Mom. Her brother is a pilot,



*A scenic stop along the Icefields Parkway in Banff National Park*

among other things, and took us up in one of his small planes, at one point even turning the controls over to Donna. With my stomach just barely managing to maintain I was inclined to blame Donna's roller-coaster handling of the wheel for my upset until it was pointed out to me that the pivot point of the aircraft was pretty much right where I was sitting and therefore a very bad spot for even the seasoned flyer much less the average landlubber. I guess I'll let it go... *this* time.

In July, Mom arranged for a second memorial service for Dad at the site where his ashes would be interred, Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery near Joliet, Illinois. The ceremony was solemn and somber, yet stately, and the luncheon that followed was more a reunion of all the

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### MUSICAL MOMENTS

My involvement in music seems to constantly find slightly different directions, like shifting sands beneath my tuba. Last year's summer intensive with the Pacific Northwest Film Scoring Program served as

a great introduction to the harmonic tools most beneficial to writing film music. Unfortunately, it was too short and too intensive to sink in very far. Those of us who had taken that course, however, were able to retake it without cost at its regularly scheduled time. So from late January through June, Thursday nights with the brass quintet were frequently sacrificed in favor of the film scoring classes, first harmony, then orchestration. Later, with successful completion of these classes, the next series, which required the actual writing of music for hypothetical films, proceeded from October to December. The final push will begin in January, (if I can handle the schedule), when we will start writing music for real live student films, including all the elements to ultimately

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## **Music** (Continued from page 1)

marry the audio to the visual. Several times in the last two years I had the chance to play in the studio orchestras recording music for some of the films done by current students. This fall the musicians, composers, and filmmakers were invited to



*In rehearsal at QWest Field with Alice in Chains*

a screening of the finished products. The creativity of the films, professionalism of the scoring, and quality of the recorded performances was, to quote Darth Vader, "Impressive... most impressive!" I hope to be working from the *other side* next year.

Involvement with my regular musical groups also continued full-force this year with tuba-playing in Brass Band Northwest, the Black Diamond Brass Quintet, and the Highline Symphonic Band, tuba and bass trombone-playing with the Pontiac Bay and Rain City Symphonies, and most recently, bass trombone with the Northwest Symphony. I also subbed with Philharmonia Northwest and the Federal Way Symphony for a couple of concerts. The Philharmonia Northwest concert was one of the season highlights, featuring winners of the young artists competition. Prodigious musicians brought their incredible musical talents to life on violin, 'cello, and piano. Memorial Day weekend found the Highline Band ferrying to Victoria, B.C. for a couple of shared performances with the Greater Victoria Concert Band and allowing some time to visit Butchart and Butterfly Gardens. This summer saw also another performance with the Northwest Mahler Festival Orchestra, which has now changed its name to the

Northwest Mahler Orchestra in order to expand its concertizing beyond the summer festival. This year the orchestra performed a second concert at Benaroya Hall, home of the Seattle Symphony, with an extraordinary, first time in Seattle rendition of Messiaen's Turangalila Symphony.

Despite a couple of rousing concerts with Federal Way, featuring the Saint-Saëns Third "Organ" Symphony, the spectacle of the season had to be the Children's Hospital benefit concert with the Northwest Symphony in late October. I started playing bass trombone with them in September and with gradual and increasing leanings toward trombone, I also began serious studies with Steve Fissel, bass trombonist with the Seattle Symphony. The outrageous concert I mentioned was also at Benaroya, this time to a sold-out house, and included not only moments which showcased the symphony itself, but pieces where we acted as accompaniment to several world-renowned soloists and groups: acclaimed classical guitarist Andre Feriante; Michael Shrieve, original drummer for Santana; Ann and Nancy Wilson of Heart; and Alice in Chains, who closed the program with Led Zeppelin's Kashmir with the full orchestra. I now know what it's like to be on stage with a rock group when the crowd goes insane.



*Holiday lights in Leavenworth before a Brass Band NW concert.*

The Black Diamond Brass quintet finally put our first CD into production. While it is not being sold in stores just yet you can certainly get a copy through me. If you're interested send me an email at [myoozik@aol.com](mailto:myoozik@aol.com) or to the quintet at [info@blackdiamondbrass.com](mailto:info@blackdiamondbrass.com). The cost is \$15 plus nominal shipping of \$2.



*Just one of a never-ending series of gorgeous mountain views in Banff and Jasper National Parks, Alberta.*

**TRAVEL** (Continued from page 1)

friends and family we'd known over the years. It was truly a loving sendoff.

With so much music going on all year it was difficult to find time for any actual vacation travel, but the Worldmark timeshare points needed to be used or lost, and I preferred the former. Late July and August is about the only time available for travel outside the winter holidays. Donna had expressed interest in going to Las Vegas, but I reminded her she also has a low tolerance for summer heat. After noting that the average high temperature in Vegas in August is 102°F I suggested we try somewhere else, like the new facility of Worldmark's in Canmore, Alberta, Canada, just a short drive east of Banff on the edge of the national park. It

turned out to be a most spectacular choice.

The drive to get there was a long one, some 15 hours through northeastern Washington and southern B.C. I'm not golfing much these days but had to play one round at the spectacular Silvertip G.C.



*Donna the Navigator*



*"The Boys" having lunch after Dad's memorial service.*

in Canmore where the scenery was a serious distraction. The restaurants everywhere were divine and the drives we took brought us within throwing distance of the wild places. From the provincial parks just south of Canmore, up through Banff and Jasper National Parks and along the Icefields Parkway to the town of Jasper, the gorgeous scenery was almost mind-numbing. I have a friend who once took the same trip and said he eventually got tired of so much grandeur. I'm happy to say we didn't get to that point.

*Odds and Ends*

Whenever there was time, especially in the summer and fall, we'd try something a little different. While the zoo and aquarium, and even Northwest Trek Wildlife Park,



*An elk in Northwest Trek Wildlife Park*



*Dad's memorial service at Lincoln National Cemetery*

were not terribly unusual, the Murray Family Harvest Festival certainly was. A tubist friend of mine is a member of the Murray Family. What started some five years ago as a neighborly gathering of local farmers and ranchers has turned into a feast and music festival, complete with hayrides. That's what happens when you leave things

up to the tuba player.

Oh, yeah. And I guess I also work for a living.



*Loaded on the ol' Jimmy reefer waiting for a roll on the hay*

