



The Insider

Fall 2025

Relative Dysfunction

By Poison Pen

After a reporting career that lasted only one season, Poison Pen was forced to hang up her writing utensils after certain family members failed to see the humor in a report that I made regarding, shall we say, certain "irregularities" by a past commissioner of Nicolls football. All in good fun, but she has hesitated to report on anything else in order not to offend beloved family members and risk getting un-invited to the post Thanksgiving festivities (no less missing out on Chex mix and peanut butter fudge)

However she was recently approached by a person (or persons) who were concerned about some misconceptions regarding a heretofore silent and uncomplaining (mostly) group within the family: the "Unbloods"

Now, first of all where did this term originate? Who are the Unbloods, and where did they come from? To find out, we must go back in time a couple of years ago when the third generation Commissioner of 99 was presiding over a game. There was some dissension over a call and the Commissioner said, "you are not even of the blood" Not wishing to invite a lawsuit, Poison Pen will not name this...this...PERSON (but she

is the third oldest great-grandchild and she has four children herself. AND she was speaking to her MOTHER (who does not hold a grudge.)

So, who are the "Unbloods". They are a delightful group who have married, or been adopted into the Nicolls family. From the beloved Matriarch of this group (St. Grandma) to the most newly-wedded and adopted members, they count themselves as strong, valued members and survivors of this family. From hiking up mountains, being told that there is an ice cream stand on top (who does that??) From hosting and cooking for some sixty family members in Colorado, to Turkey Bowl festivities the weekend after Thanksgiving, the Unbloods bake and cook, provide stimulating conversation (maybe a little sarcastic at times?).

Now the Unbloods do not wish to isolate themselves. After all, we are married to Nicolls. So they would like to open the membership to any person who can show a long-time connection to the Nicolls clan, has sarcasm as their native tongue, does not care to hike twenty miles in a day, uphill both ways, has no innate desire to wear a kilt, does love "White

Christmas" and likes to laugh. If you can meet these qualifications, congratulations you are in! See Cindy Nicolls for details or questions. Poison Pen is outta here.



In the tradition of Grandma Nicolls, all are welcome

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Turkey Bowl XL MVPs

BOB'S BIG "NO NAME" HIKE WAS A WILDLY SUCCESSFUL HIKE THROUGH BEAUTIFUL SCENERY

Bob's Big "No Name" Hike a Stunning Success By Dee C. Washington

In unexpected developments on August 1st, "Bushwhacker" Bob Nicolls successfully led a motley reunion crew on an epic six-hour hike through uncharted territory just west of the Continental Divide in Monarch, CO. The group set out with 11 bright-eyed but mostly novice hikers and, despite all odds, also returned with 11 rain-soaked but far more seasoned adventurers. The lightly planned trail left from the brand new "No Name" ski lift at Monarch, went up the ridge to the divide, several miles out to a desolate log cabin, then all the way back around. The moniker "No Name" was indeed fitting as much of the trail was non-existent. The last section was the most harrowing with a substantial boulder scramble and a near-vertical bushwack that was mind bogglingly somehow the least dangerous route down the mountain.

In the limited planning discussions, Danny "the Guide" Nicolls was overheard repeatedly saying "...but why?" Despite these valid questions, Bob's Big "No Name" Hike was a wildly successful hike through beautiful scenery with only mild injuries sustained. In a post-hike interview, Dr. "Long "Legs" Lisa Dettling

gave high praise to the father-and-son expeditionary duo: "I'm not sure we would have made it back without Danny's GPS." With only minor grumbling and a few reluctant piggy-back rides, the group unanimously agreed that the hike was totally worth the cost of admission. Let's do it again in two years!



Ken and the Penguin



Pics from the 2024 Reunion thanks to Hillary Wildt

