

# The Insider—Colorado Edition

Fall 2017

## Colorado Reunion 2017—4 Generations

by Bob & Kathy Nicolls

"Kathy and I had a great time hosting the reunion in CO this year. It was the first one with four generations!! Certainly was great

to have all the gens cross communicating and having fun together. Whether it was; an activity, meal time, beer time or whatever the

contributions of everyone's time made it a great event. We look forward to hosting again in 2019."

## Bob and Kathy Rollout the Red Carpet for Uncle Don

by Beth Nicolls

It started one fine spring day when I called Dad at the office. Dad as a rule is a happy guy, but today there was an extra bit of excitement in his tone as he told me that Bob and Kathy were willing to send a private jet to pick him up to go to the cousin reunion in July. I said, "Well, how can you turn down an offer like that, this is an opportunity for serious consideration! Do you want to go?" Dad said, yes, he would love to go and that it was an offer that he couldn't refuse. He just needed to make sure it was doable as he wanted someone on the plane with him. Bruce and Cindy were driving, Dale and Barb were a no and I was uncertain as I might not get the time off if I was at a new job then. Bruce and Bob came up with a plan. Enter Cheri. Cheri volunteered to give up her other vacation and leave during the busy sea-

son to accompany Dad on the plane. Enter Hillary who would drive to New Castle and escort her grandpa. The plane started to fill up and happily added Monica and Hank and I am still with Nationwide. Accompaniment, check, double check.

The day was finally here as dad was packed and Barb took us to the airport. The excitement and anticipation was thick and a bit of, "Wow, this is really happening!". Dale met us there at the same time Hank and Monica arrived. Waiting on the tarmac at New Castle international airport, we squinted into the gray day and strained our ears for the first indication that Cheri and the private jet has arrived on their first leg from Charlottesville. Right at the scheduled time, Monica spotted the lights approaching and we heard the smooth roar of the en-

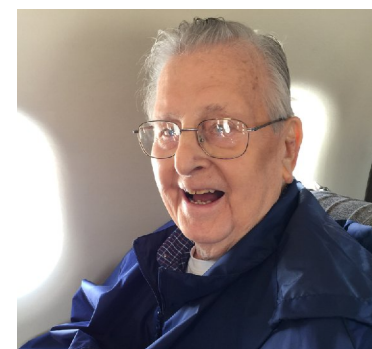
gine. In a moment, Cheri was there and we all rushed to greet her and to check out our ride. A rainy day, caused some delay but soon enough Dale wheeled dad out to the jet to board. This was it! We surrounded the staircase as dad started to step onto the plane. Dad's knee just was not cooperating, so dad backed down the stairs. "I soooo wanted to go!" No, this wasn't happening. Dad was going and that was all there was to it. Dale said, let's try again and as dad coached me to bend his knee, and Dale's strong encouragement and lifting from the back of dad's belt and everyone else assisting and encouraging, mission critical was accomplished!

About 8 hours and 2 stops later, we landed in Poncha Springs! As dad's needs were understood, Bob took the lead and was alert and



attentive and was all of the host with the most! What an extravagant gesture and gift! The picture is actually of the jet ride to the Tetons and the other was a request from Hillary for a picture of Dad when he saw the Tetons for the first time in years.

You went far and above anyone's expectations! So many thanks, love and hugs to, Bob, Kathy, Marieta, Bob and Danny for making this an EPIC cousin reunion!!!!



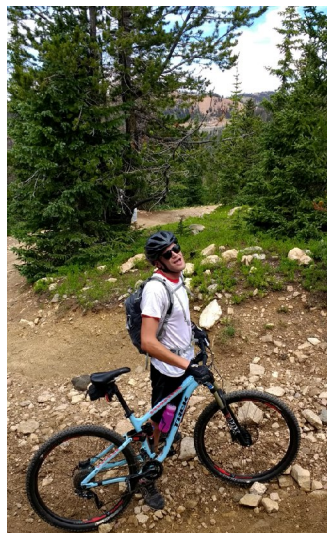
## Near-Casualty on Monarch Crest Trail by Dee C. Washington

What started as your run-of-the-mill 30-mile mountain bike ride quickly went downhill. Quite literally.

Though Jeff "Bulldog" Grover, "Defender" Joel Bundy, and "Jammin'" Jake had originally enlisted Danny "Bronco" Nicolls as their trail guide, Bobby "Trail Runner" Nicolls pulled rank and bragged that he would show his cousins how it was done. After a slow start and some bickering with his smarter and better looking sister, the ride finally got underway. It wasn't long before

disaster struck however.

In what was originally thought to be a bear attack, there was much screaming and cursing on the trail ahead. When "Jammin'" Jake arrived on the scene, he found his fearless guide halfway down the mountain. Though the tumble was blamed on a rabid golden gopher,



all the other riders knew the real story - they had chosen the wrong guide. Marieta "Not So Happy Feet" Nicolls was so scared she had "Big Bus" Bob Nicolls pick her up halfway through the ride.

In the end, all the riders made it home safely... though the young(er) bucks were put to shame when near-retired "Jammin'" Jake

put them all to shame on the last big hill back to the house. Better start training now for summer 2019, kids!



**"heavily favored  
"Tornado" Tyler Mack  
in the 2017 Mutton  
Bustin' world  
championship"**

## Disappointment at the Mutton Bustin' Championships by Dee C. Washington

The Nicolls clan left Chaffee County Fairgrounds disappointed as an old elbow injury came back to haunt the heavily favored "Tornado" Tyler Mack in the 2017 Mutton Bustin' world championship. Manager Jessica "Mother Mutton" Mack was overheard saying: "Gosh darnit, that boy was born to ride sheep. Guess we'll



have to pin our hopes on Sam in 2019." Fortunately, due to his forced withdrawal, Tyler was not one of the seven children severely injured in the competition.

In related news, mutton bustin' fans were temporarily elated as rumors circulated that the Colorado cowboy tradition might be introduced as halftime en-

tertainment during the 2017 Turkey Bowl. However, when reached for comment, Esq. Cheri "Lawyer Up" Lewis quickly put the speculation to rest with this statement: "The Nicolls Football League (NFL) does not condone organized child abuse. Regardless of our lax child labor law enforcement over the years, this is a (two-)step too far... unless of course it somehow gives the Silver Bucks an advantage. Let me get back to you on this. Go Silver Bucks!"