

# ◆ The Bodwell Gazette ◆

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## *Merry Christmas from the Valley of the Moon*



Otter at Butte Lake



Pat and Julie's counter top



Piper helps pick a tree

Late Summer and into Fall our fruit trees and garden produced prodigiously. We were very busy freezing, drying and canning. Beans, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, apricots, pears, plums, grapes, peaches, pomegranates, walnuts and lastly kiwis— all took time and energy to preserve for the long winter. This sounds like the old farm days, doesn't it?

Traveling was somewhat limited this year. Two family, weekend trips and one longer trip. A trip to Bodega Bay with Kevin's family including his inlaws was rather cool, windy and foggy but fun. Another trip to Richardson's Grove in the Redwoods was warmer and relaxing. Our longer camping trip was designed around our canoe. We first went to Butte Lake in Lassen NP which involved getting off the paved roads on a seven mile gravel one into the campground. The weather was perfect except for a brief shower one day. We canoed on the days when the wind was not a problem. We saw some river otters and many birds that are not found in Sonoma. Next we moved up to the Lava Beds and canoed in the Tule Lake Wildlife Refuge. On this trip the weather was mild so we hiked a trail that we ordinarily wouldn't attempt and explored a part of the park that was new to us. On the final leg of the trip we went over to Medford for a visit with Linda's sisters. It was a brief visit but we got a lot of things into it. They all

had little things that needed attention. Linda brought her little portable sewing machine along and made alterations for Tory, and Grant had a list of little chores that were attended to at three houses. A busy but happy visit. We managed to fit in a trip to the Mountain Barbeque that is run by, Billie's grand daughter, Mary Schartz. The food is great there. After a good night's rest we headed home stopping at Bill and Kathy's restaurant in Dunnigan for dinner before completing the trip.

Charlie had a very ambitious pumpkin project this year. He planted over three hundred plants at his friend Keith's ranch and nurtured them lovingly all Summer and into Fall. Because of the hot weather and the water shortage, the results were not as much as he wanted. He decided not to market the crop himself this time and chose to donate the crop to the Hanna Boys Center pumpkin patch. The donation included many varieties of pumpkins and gourds. The Center really appreciated the gesture because their usual source had the same problem with their crop and combining the two made a successful sale before Halloween.

Pat has finished his kitchen project. The concrete counter top is in and is beautiful. Pat and Julie had selected some wonderful tile for the back splash and had it installed and finished. The next stage of his home improvement project will be the bathroom. Some of the new fixtures are already on

site and waiting for the dust to start flying. Oldest grandson, Phillip, has started kindergarten! Wow, where has the time gone? Piper is in preschool and has already performed in her first Holiday event. Nicholas and Jonathan attend preschool and are growing like little weeds. Lots of energy here when all four get together.

### In Memorium

Dorothy Purrier Bodwell  
A sixty-one year resident of Martinez, Dorothy passed away December 8, 2007. She was born June 24th 1922 in Macrorie, Saskatchewan, Canada, the daughter of Lee and Gertrude Purrier, and grew up in Ulen, Minnesota graduating from Hawley High School. She married Fred Bodwell, her high school sweetheart, November 1, 1941.

Dorothy's great love of education was born when she went back to school and graduated from Diablo Valley College in 1970 with an A.A. Degree and then John F. Kennedy University in 1985 with a B.A. Degree.

As a member of the Ina Coolbrith Poetry Circle, fulfilling her love of writing, Dorothy wrote and published two collections of poetry.

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