

A BIRTHDAY STORY FOR ASA
(and ZEPHYR)

July 26, 2007

Happy Birthday
Asa!

We still remember
the very nice
vacation you and
your brother Zephyr
made to Costa Rica
earlier this year. Do
you remember that
vacation?



Anyway, a few weeks ago your Granma Sandy and your Granpa Harry came to Colorado for a vacation. We were hoping you and Zephyr and your Mom could join us but that didn't work out. However, we've been thinking of you and had several adventures that might interest you.



We are staying at the Vail Racquet

Club in a nice condo. Right in front of us is a bridge that crosses a stream we can hear in our room. Can you see the bridge in the picture?

The first day I was sitting beside the stream thinking when a big fish jumped out of the



water and by mistake landed on the grass in front of me.



“Help! Help!” he yelled, “If someone doesn’t throw me back in the water, I’ll die.”

“I’ll do it.” I said and threw him back into the stream.

Once he caught his breath, he stuck his head out of the water and said, “I owe you big. What can I do for you?”

“Well,” I said, “if my grandsons Asa and Zephyr come to Vail some summer, would you show them a nice swimming hole and make sure that they don’t drown?”

“No problem!” he responded, “Count on me and my family, but they have to identify themselves. What are their names again?”

“Asa and Zephyr! It’s easy to remember: Asa begins with the first letter of the alphabet and Zephyr with the very last.”

The next day I went to play golf at the Vail Golf course where this picture was taken. I was about to tee off when a crocodile stuck his head out of the pond right behind me and said, “That was a terrible shot. What’s wrong with your golf game?”



“Well, you scared me”, I said, “What would you have done if my two grandsons were with me? They love to play golf, just like me.”

“Oh, he responded “I’m very hungry, but I wouldn’t try to bite them. Instead I would give them a ride on my back across this pond in exchange for a hamburger from the Golf Shop.”

“Well, unfortunately they aren’t with me this time, but I’ll tell them to look you up on their next trip to Vail. A hamburger in exchange for a crocodile ride sounds like a good deal!”

The very next day Sandy and I went into the Vail Village which as you can see from the



pictures is full of beautiful flowers and great restaurants. It was a hot day, and when we went

by the fountain in the picture, there was a golden Labrador that was jumping up and down in the water while his owner watched. I just wasn’t quick enough to get his picture.

But then, when I was taking the picture of the ski patrolman statue, much to my surprise I heard him say, “Did you get my best features?”



“I didn’t know you could talk”, I said.

“Oh, all of us statues can talk, and we often get sort of lonely just standing here, but when someone pays attention to us and listens, we can be very helpful.”

“Could I ask a big favor?” I said, “I have two grandsons who are learning to ski. If they come to Vail, can you show them around?”

“I may not be able to do it personally,” he answered, “But all the ski patrols are my buddies. I’ll introduce them and they’ll show them all the best trails and teach them how to ski like professionals.”

“Thanks so much!” I said, “What’s your name so I can tell them?”

“Peter the Polite Patrolman,” he answered. “Tell them to just come up and introduce themselves... Asa and Zephyr you say. Because we’re so permanent, statues have very long-lasting memories.”



Just down the road, I came across a statue of Einstein who looked a bit bored. “I’ll teach your grandsons some physics if they are interested. So many of the people who come by really aren’t interested in intellectual things, but I bet your grandsons are very smart!”

Bruno the bear was busy eating a fish and when I asked him if he had any advice for you he said, “You know I am old and grumpy! My suggestion is that when Asa & Zephyr come, they not waste my time but get to know my nephews,



Albert and Hans. They love to horse around, and they love to take people on hikes.”



Bambi the deer was very shy but when I told her about the two of you, she said, “Oh, they sound like such nice boys. Maybe I’ll get my uncle Stag to give them a ride up into the mountains.”



The big horse that was training his young son to plow wasn’t that friendly, and the cowboy falling off his horse was also busy. But both of them said they’d give you a horseback ride when you visited them.

Probably the most interesting adventure was when I came to the fountains where the hot children were playing in the water. Up above them (look at the picture carefully and you'll see them) were some statues that guard the fountains. I said hello to them, asked if I could take their pictures, and if they had names. They



told me told me their names were Susie, Jimmy and Throckmorton. They said, "Oh you're Asa and Zephyr's grandfather, good to meet you!"

"How did you know that?" I asked.

"Oh, we statues have internal cell phones and Bruno the bear and his nephews and Bambi and Peter the Polite Patrolman have told us all about you. We can't wait to see Asa and Zephyr! Oh! And by the way wish Asa a HAPPY BIRTHDAY from all of us."



So from your Granma Sandy and your Granpa Harry and from all the animals and statues waiting for you visit in Vail, Colorado

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!