

They said it would never happen

The Richards Family gets a dog

Provo, Utah – After 26 years of marriage, Mom and Dad Richards relented when three of the four Richards children on their own bought a dog. They named her Rookie.

Of course, right after buying the dog, two of the three children promptly moved out to college. So who takes care of the dog? Mostly Mom, of course.

"Many times I have threatened

to give away the dog," said Susan. "But, now that she is housebroken it's a lot better. And she is like part of the family now."

The name comes from both the card game "Rook" and the fact she is the family's first dog, so she is a "rookie."

Dad said, "She doesn't shed at all and has a great personality. It's been a few months. So far, it's working out well. We hope it continues."

"ROOKIE" THE DOG



Rookie, the dog, is a Schnorkie (half Schnauzer, half Yorkie) and the newest member of the Richards Family.

Personal Updates

JOHN JR. (AGE 24)

John is finishing up his degree in Information Systems at BYU. With solid Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) scores, he is getting lots of opportunities to go Fall 2010 to law school where he hopes to focus on intellectual property law. He lives with his brother in a condo south of BYU's campus. John is interning at a hot tech company called EnticeLabs (www.EnticeLabs.com).

TYLER (22)

Tyler, a sophomore at BYU, is finding his groove as he gets back into his studies, enjoys the BYU social scene, and spends time with his family. He especially likes his sister Erica being at BYU so he can eat her food. He hopes to get accepted into the entrepreneurship program at BYU.

ERICA (19)

Erica is a freshman at BYU, living on-campus in the dormitories called Helaman Halls. She loves her roommate and new friends she has made in the dorms. She also keeps in touch with her high school friends. Her parents aren't quite sure how she stays up so late and still manages school while also juggling a boyfriend. The first semester grades should be interesting.

ASHLEY (17)

Now a senior at Timpview High, Ashley has become a full-fledged entrepreneur starting Bello Accessories and selling them retail and holding sales parties. As the only one home, she helps her Mom with Rookie (see story above). She is about to start her final season on her girls basketball team with her Dad coaching. Bittersweet. She also will have her final season of lacrosse this coming Spring.

SUSAN (47)

Susan continues serving school, church, and community with her positions in the PTA at Timpview High, her positions in the LDS ward Relief Society presidency, and as a member of the board of trustees of Thanksgiving Point (local Utah attraction). Life doesn't seem to slow down for Susan as she serves her family and others. She keeps in frequent contact with her parents and brothers and their families.

JOHN SR. (47)

John continues to teach entrepreneurship at BYU. The two centers with which he was involved merged this past year. The changes have been challenging, but he focuses on the great young people attending BYU. John continues to consult and help startup companies. He is in his fifth year as a counselor in a LDS bishopric. His great joy is spending time with Susan and his children, and keeping in touch with extended family such as his mother in Seattle.

Journal Highlights

Check out the best of 2009

- JAN** Family whoops it up with Tyler by going to Vegas for BYU Bowl game, to see *Donny & Marie Show*, and to Guadalajara & Puerto Vallarta to see Tyler's missionary area and visit his friends he made while serving for 2 years.
- FEB** John and Susan go to Costa Rica for a BYU meeting.
- MAR** For the third year in a row, John and Susan go with friends to the MWC Basketball Tournament in Vegas. Erica and her parents attended the national cheerleading championships.
- APRIL** Pebble Beach golfing.
- MAY** Dad, John, and Tyler run the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon for 7 days (rapids and riverside camps). Erica graduates from high school.
- JUN** Family vacation in nearly vacant Cancun, Mexico.
- JUL** Family goes on Mediterranean Cruise, sees Europe.
- AUG** Rookie joins the family (see related story above). Erica starts freshman year at BYU (now ¾ of family attends BYU).
- SEP** Some family goes to Texas to see BYU defeat Oklahoma!
- NOV** Tyler turns 22. Good visit with Uncle Steve in Vegas. Dad creates the www.UtahStudent25.com.
- DEC** Tyler and Dad will go on a brief service mission to Mexico before Christmas. Probably a visit to Vegas for BYU Bowl Game. Time to celebrate Dad's Mom's (Doris) 80th birthday!

A large collage of 25 photographs showing various people, mostly young adults, in different settings. Many photos feature individuals wearing white t-shirts with a blue 'Y' logo, suggesting they are members of a team or organization. The photos include group shots, portraits, and action shots in various locations like a beach, a stadium, and a city.