



# As the Belly Deflates

A Chronicle of Rhonda Corkern's ~~Pregnancy~~ 3/23/89

## A Message from Rhonda

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and is having a happy New Year so far. Okay, okay, that first sentence was left over from the original due date of this newsletter. Alright, alright, get off my back...I know the original ORIGINAL date for the newsletter was supposed to be when she was born! So we're a little overdue--do you have any idea how much taking care of Beth cuts into my day? Chill out!

Beth is now a year old and weighs just about 19 lbs now. She is changing so fast--it seems that she does something new every day. She's walking now and has been since she was about 10 1/2 months. To this date her vocabulary consists of bababa, mamama, dadada, geegeegee, and several other "words" that I'm unable to pronounce!! She likes to put objects into a container and shake them around and then pour them out. That's fun!! She has a little chair that she likes to climb into and out of and sit in and stand on and fall out of etc...

Words or phrases that she is familiar with are puffalump, telephone, bear, books, Daddy, Caddo, Mamaw, eye, bunny, bottle, nose, go outside. She locates particular objects when you ask for them. I never knew babies could learn so quickly!

She now is able to get down from the bed all by herself without falling off. Also, she tries to put her shoes on her feet, and my shoes, and Daddy's shoes, and Caddo's shoes.

Beth was a lot of fun at Christmas. She got all kinds of toys. She was a little too young to open them on her own, but Mom and Dad were willing to help her out.

To say the least, we're having fun raising our little bundle of joy!!!!



## "Pregnet"

March 22, 1988

I was working the night watch in Jackson, Mississippi. It's a small city, around 300,000 in the metropolitan area. My partner's name is Rhonda. My name is Corkern. Bruce Corkern.

**The story that you are about to read is real. Only the husband's role has been changed to make him look good.**

5:45 P.M.

At twilight we were in Florence, a small community just south of Jackson. Word on the street was that Saturn and Venus would be very easy to spot that night, and we were investigating. A gentleman

named Johnny Stevens was in the yard looking through a telescope.

"Can you see anything?"

"Yeah, I think I see both."

"You think??!...just the facts, please, sir."

"I see the < CENSORED > planets!!!"

My partner was getting her first taste of contractions. Braxton-Hicks contractions. Small imitation labor pains that serve as a warning. We considered ourselves forewarned.

Dinner that night was a small portion of lasagna. This proved to be a mistake.

## Beth's First Birthday

One of the highlight's of the springsocial season was held Easter Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Corkern, in honor of Beth Corkern's first birthday. The honorette wore a baby blue Easter dress designed and produced by Rhonda's Babeworks. The inside of the garment had the design firm's motto ("We don't sew buttons on for Daddy") stitched in invisible thread. This reporter saw at least four cameras present, to record the event in living color.



In defiance of the 30% chance of rain, the party was planned for outdoors. In fact, it did rain about 30% of the time, commencing with the cutting of the cake. The party immediately moved indoors and continued. Gallons and gallons of punch and ice cream were consumed, along with the obligatory cake. The birthday spanking took very little time, then Beth commenced to opening her presents, which were too numerous to mention here.

The family of the honorette was represented by the following:  
 Donnie "Party Animal" Corkern  
 Doug "Got any Coke?" Corkern  
 Mandi "Raggedy Andy" Corkern  
 Amy "Can I spend the night?" Corkern  
 Laura "Egg Demon" Corkern

Members of the jetset that dropped in:

**(Pregnet, continued)**

March 23, 1988

1:18 A.M.

My partner and I were in bed, snoozing. My partner awoke with pains intensifying. She baked sour dough bread.

3:30 A.M.

Contractions were now about 3 to 5 minutes apart, but still could be considered irregular.

"Is this labor?"

"I think it is, I don't really know. I've never had a baby before."

"Just the facts, please, ma'am."

"(\*&\$%^ %!!"

We captured the moment on videotape.

4:00 A.M.

Back to bed. We dozed intermittently, awakening to write down the time between contractions. The sour dough bread was rising.

4:30 A.M.

My partner called the doctor. The doctor requested the facts, then instructed us to report to the hospital. We complied.

10:00 A.M.

My partner's parental units were on the scene. Nothing much was happening so the paternal unit returned to his domicile to wait. My partner napped.

10:30 A.M.

Micki Reed, designated videotaper and an accomplice in the birthing process, was contacted by telephone at her place of employment, Humana Hospital in Fort Walton, Florida. She calmly drove to Jackson, obeying all posted speed limits.

12:00 noon

After all this time, things had not really progressed very much. After his examination, the doctor gave us a choice between going home to labor, or staying in the hospital. We chose to stay. The doctor gave my partner medicine to help her sleep, to combat the

exhaustion. This proved to be a mistake.

1:30 P.M.

The doctor's examination had induced labor. My partner was now fighting off the effects of the sleeping medicine along with the inconvenience of giving birth. Another problem was the fact that she hadn't eaten since 6:30 the night before, and even then she had only eaten a small serving of lasagna. My partner ordered a roast beef sandwich, to be delivered when she delivered.

3:30 P.M.

Things were cooking. By now my maternal unit and Micki were on the scene, along with my partner's parental units. My partner was heavily into labor, and requested pain medicine. The medical personnel complied. Dr. Odom, noted Jackson obstetrician, broke her water around this time. The epidural followed soon after. Rhonda remembered the bread rising and asked her maternal unit to cook the bread as soon as possible.

5:10 P.M.

Medical personnel requested that we report to the delivery room. We complied. Micki began filming in earnest, while Rhonda labored in earnest and I sweated in earnest.

5:23 P.M.

Beth Corkern arrived. She scored 9-10 on the APGAR test, about as good as it gets. We only had one girl name chosen, so we knew immediately that her name was Caroline Elizabeth. After a quick trip by the waiting room, we proceeded to the nursery. She weighed 6 pounds and 8 ounces, and was 20 inches long. Rhonda inquired as to the status of her roast beef sandwich.

9:30 P.M.

After nursing Beth, visiting with some folks, and napping, Rhonda finally ate her sandwich.

See sidebar, **Where are they now?**

**(Party, continued)**

Ashley "I know how to work this ride" Dudley  
Swingin' Brittany Cooper  
Ben-jammin' Orr  
Jennifer "Has the party started?" Cooper

Sending in regrets were:

Thomas "I'm too big for that" Dudley  
Oshkosh Josh Durham  
Lauren "Easter" Egger  
Steven "I don't eat eggs" Clark

After the rain cleared, the party resumed outdoors. Granddaddy Stevens had arranged to bring down a carousel from work, which all the kids enjoyed. An Easter egg hunt was held, with every kid bagging their limit. All the party critters enjoyed themselves immensely, except for Caddo, whom we discovered locked in the tool shed the next day. Truly, this was a fine event to kick off the spring social season.

**Where are they now?**

- Beth now lives in Florence, Mississippi. Formerly employed in a milking capacity with Corkern Dairies, she is now a fulltime kid.
- Micki returned to Fort Walton, where she lives and works.
- Dr. Odom continued his practice of obstetrics, saddened by the knowledge that he would never deliver a baby to compare to Beth.
- The sour dough bread rose too much and overflowed the pans. It was never baked.