

**We did it!** 1993 has been the year we have hoped and prayed for since at least 1988! On a day in November at 7:15 P.M., Robert Ogilvie Hess came into our lives. He weighed eight pounds six ounces and was twenty-one inches long. This is the culmination of five years of struggle, heartbreak, and false starts.

As we told you last year, we began visiting Dr. Marrs in Santa Monica and told you about our two attempts. At the end of 1992, we tried a third time and that also failed. However, on March 3rd, we had success, and shortly after, the ultrasound showed a single, healthy fetal heartbeat. In a month, we “graduated” from Dr. Marrs, and Mary Beth had a trouble-free and relatively easy pregnancy. The delivery on was relatively easy and our miracle baby was here, grasping Richard’s finger five minutes after birth.

This letter is being prepared a couple of weeks after Robert’s birth and we are already seeing the joy that he is bringing to our lives. We are both amazed at how much we are learning and what fun we are having. Of course there are the usual minor troubles, but he is such a cute little person and such a wonderful addition. We are really glad that we persevered and ended up with this happy result!

Robert is for Richard’s mother’s father, Robert G. McCann, and Ogilvie was Mary Beth’s father’s middle name.

Mary Beth’s mother, Margaret, arrived on November 20th to help us and is doing a wonderful job. She will be staying with us through Christmas.

This has been the year of the baby! We understand that Bill and Ellen Miller of New Rochelle and Ed and Debbie Fritz of Burbank have had second children this year. We had four other children at National TeleConsultants this year: John and Mary Aalto had a son, Peter and Vicki Adamiak had a daughter, Diane and Bill Colangelo had a daughter (their second child), and Don and Becky Phillips had a second daughter.

Most of the rest of the year has been work for Richard and our few moments of relaxation have been tempered by pregnancy. For the President’s Day weekend in February, we went to Harris Ranch near Coalinga, CA. This was a fairly relaxing weekend of playing Scrabble and chess with Richard trying to catch up on his sleep.

For Memorial Day, and the Fourth of July we went to Cambria and again relaxed. Over the Fourth, we drove up and back down the coast to visit Point Lobos near Carmel.

Our major vacation trip this year was a ten day drive in mid-September exploring the north coast of California. This was an area we had yet to explore, so it was new to both of us. The trip was planned to be easy on Mary Beth, then in her 20th week of pregnancy. We drove up the coast highway to the Oregon border, and returned through the central valley. We saw some wildlife,

but less than we would have liked. The best photo opportunities were of Roosevelt Elk along the north coast, and of Tule Elk in the central valley.

We spent a day browsing in shops in Mendocino, but otherwise enjoyed taking in the scenery and the clean air. The coast redwoods are spectacular, and we walked some easy trails through redwood forests.

This trip was another one that our old but faithful ‘79 Jeep Wagoneer completed with us. We added an Igloo thermoelectric cooler that plugs into the cigarette lighter which eliminated the need to look for motels with fridges for cold drinks and snacks or to fuss with the mess of ice. The device also has an adapter that permits it to run off household current and we are currently using it upstairs for those midnight baby feedings. We only wish it were quieter!

We are hoping as soon as Robert is old enough to return to exploring California.

At the end of October, Mary Beth’s cousin, Dr. Lynn McIntyre and her friend Dr. Jim Wright from Halifax, Nova Scotia, visited us for a couple of days as part of their tour of California. One day, Lynn, Jim, and Richard took off for a three-hundred-plus mile tour of the Mojave Desert. A good time was had by all.

Richard’s work has been very hectic this year with many projects with tight time frames. National TeleConsultants designed and helped install a sophisticated briefing center for Microsoft’s Chicago Loop sales office. This necessitated Richard’s spending over three weeks in Chicago during July and August. The design phase of this and other projects for Microsoft had Richard out of town almost two days every week for the first three months of the year. Since most of these trips were in Seattle, this really built up our reserve of Alaska Airlines Mileage Points which we are saving for our next trip to Alaska!

During the summer, National TeleConsultants reorganized, eliminating the position of Director of Engineering and developing the concept of project teams where each team is led by a Project Director or Senior Project Director. Richard’s title became Senior Project Director, with a staff of four people, and the remainder of the engineering department (another four people) were assigned to John Aalto, our second Senior Project Director. With an increased marketing effort, National TeleConsultants is turning away substantial amounts of work, and we are looking to increase the number of project teams to better be able to handle more projects at the same time. Unfortunately, Richard’s staff of four included two openings. One was immediately filled by Terry Priesont who has been in the industry for a long time. As we are writing this over Thanksgiving, Terry is supervising a major rewiring project at Post Perfect, the premiere post production facility in New York City. Richard’s team will finally become complete the first of the year with the addition of National TeleConsultants’ first female engineer, a recent college graduate. Richard is excited

about the team and its capabilities and has been undertaking a lot of duress projects—we sometimes think of the Marine Corps motto, “The difficult we do immediately, the impossible takes a little longer.” National TeleConsultants has been able to weather the downturn in the economy without laying off anyone or reducing anyone’s salary. As the economy begins to turn around, we are poised for what we believe will be substantial growth. With this growth should come more flexibility within the corporation to reduce the amount of duress work that each individual will need to undertake.

Mary Beth worked at Glendale Presbyterian Church until Robert decided to come into our lives. She is currently on maternity leave and is considering different options of returning to work, perhaps part-time, and perhaps via telecommuting. Glendale Presbyterian Church had a surprise shower for Mary Beth, but we fear that the surprise was on them, as the shower was November 9th! Some friends of ours from St. Mark’s and St. Luke’s gave her another shower on November 7th—talk about cutting it close!

In other family news, Richard’s parents, Jay and Dick, moved to a retirement community in Lancaster, PA this fall. They are both well, but they decided they should think about the future now. Mary Beth’s mother and brother, Margaret and John, will be in California with us again this year for Christmas.

As to other activities, Richard has not been as active in photography as in the past, due to work and pregnancy, but he is still participating in CompuServe’s Photography Forum. He had an article published in the April issue of *Outdoor Photographer* about batteries for field photographic applications. Two of Richard’s images were finalists in the PhotoForum summer contest. Those of you who have access to CompuServe can find them in the PhotoForum’s libraries as EAGLEH.GIF and HERONH.GIF. The eagle was photographed in Haines, Alaska in late November of 1990, and the Heron was photographed in Eco Pond of Everglades National Park in Florida in July of 1990.

Richard has also spent a fair part of the year “doing *Windows!*” Our new Gateway 486DX-2 66MHz computer arrived in January, and Richard has spent a large amount of time learning the operating system, *Access*, *Excel*, *Powerpoint*, and *Word for Windows*. Richard has also been exploring Aldus *PhotoStyler* to manipulate images. This is very powerful and very interesting. Mary Beth has been using our old computer for *Word Perfect* and *Lotus 123*. This new family of software makes large and complex jobs much easier, and permits us to do things we could never really do before.

In closing, we would like to wish you and yours a peaceful and joyous Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

*Mary Beth, Richard, and Robert  
Christmas, 1993*