

Favorite Memories

falling and I went over to the window holding new-born Marie and saw my five wonderful sons below, smiling up at me. They were so pleased we had a girl in the family and they wanted me to know exactly how they felt!

THE COWSILLS

I may be prejudiced, but I think I've got the most wonderful family in the world! We live, laugh and love together, and we've got faith and belief that things will always work out. In fact, this is one of my lessons my children taught me, and something I'll always remember!

Long before we became "The Cowsills" as a recording group, we didn't have very much money and there were times when I used to wonder if we would pull through! Especially one winter, when there wasn't any heat, because we didn't pay our bill and the gas company turned off the gas!

There was a raging storm going on outside, the snow was piling up and we were inside, wrapped in coats and blankets, freezing! I didn't think we'd ever make it through the week and I was practically in tears!

That's when my children gathered around me and told me that everything would work out. "It's in God's hands you know, Mom," Barry told me. "He'll never let us down as long as we've got faith," John added!

They were right, of course. We managed somehow with His care, but I'll never forget the comfort, love and strength my children brought me in a crisis!

KURT RUSSELL

I think that what I remember most of all, is the Christmas when Kurt was just 6 years old. He tried to bring me and his Dad breakfast in bed, but he spilled it on the way up and sat there crying!

His sobbing woke me up because suddenly I just opened my eyes—maybe it was a mother's instinct. It wasn't even 6 o'clock yet and outside the rain was falling gently against the window pane.

I heard him crying and got out of bed, walking softly so as not to wake his Dad. There at the bottom of the steps he sat among spilled orange juice and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches!

Through his tears he tried to explain that he wanted us to have breakfast in bed and he was so sorry because now I was up and breakfast wasn't ready! I took him in my arms and told him it was the thought that counts, and that this was the best Christmas gift he could ever give me—even if it was spilled!

pulls the skiers up to the top of the hills.

Jeremy kept trying to hold on and he kept falling down. I knew he was frightened of the rope tow, but each time he fell down he'd just get up and grab the rope again and try going up once more. He stayed at that rope tow for an entire day until he could go up without even batting an eyelash!

If Jeremy ever showed perseverance, patience, and courage, he certainly did on that day! I've never seen him so determined to conquer something. I was really proud of him!



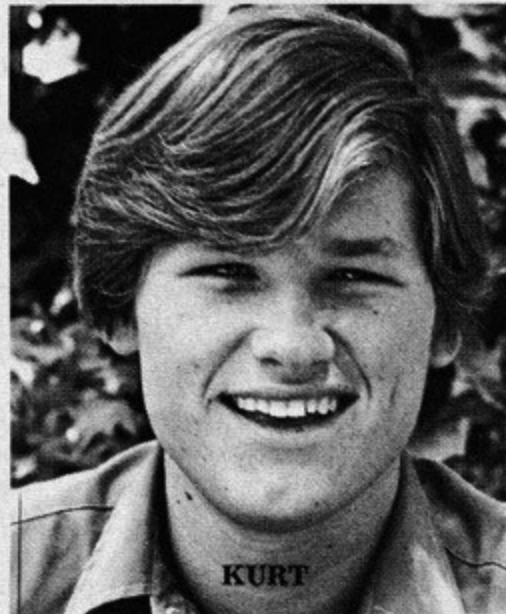
BRANDON CRUZ

So many things come to mind when I think of all that Brandon has done over the last few years, that it's hard to pick out something I liked the best!

Brandon has always been creative and he likes to surprise me with things he makes. There was a time at school the children were working on clay projects so Brandon chose to make a beautiful cake for me. He painted it yellow, which is one of my favorite colors.

I didn't know about his surprise until we were at the dinner table. As it was nearing time for dessert Brandon brought it in and said, "Mom, this is a special cake because all the real cakes you bake for us get eaten and we forget about them. But this one can last forever."

And you know something? He's right! I've had this cake for two years now and it's just as beautiful as the day I got it. And I intend to keep it that way . . . forever!



JEREMY GELBWAKS

Last winter, when Jeremy was about 8-8½ years old, our entire family went on a snow-skiing trip.

All of us really enjoy skiing, but we had never really had the chance to do as much as we wanted! Last winter was the first time we had gone for a definite length of time just for the sole purpose of skiing. We wanted to devote a lot of time and energy on mastering the small and big ski slopes.

Soon after we arrived on the ski slopes, we discovered that Jeremy was somewhat afraid of the rope tow that

