

# Coastie Writes Home

Coastie

June 22, 2000

Dear Dad,

It has been several weeks since I started on my big journey from you. My first stop was in Saint Louis, Missouri with my Foster Dad Barry, and Foster Dad Smitty and before I left for Arkansas they told me I was getting another Foster Dad and his name is David Roundy.

Daddy Barry bought me a really nice Pace house on wheels. On May 19, they loaded me in on the wood floor and



Coastie's New Pace House  
(Photo by Clara Meyer)

Daddy Smitty took me to Kimberling City where I met a lot of nice people that are my Aunts and Uncles. I think they are a part of that same group you belong to called the Coast Guard Auxiliary. I found out really quick that I was going home with Uncle Ed and Uncle Larry, but they could not take me. Uncle Ed was pulling a really big nice house on wheels and it has carpet and Uncle Larry had a really big boat, named "Class Act" that was hooked to his truck. Uncle Allan hooked up his

little yellow truck to my house on wheels and brought me to Arkansas.

It was really hard to say good-bye to Daddy Smitty and I was really sad until the next day when Uncle Larry and Uncle Ed came after me. They took me to a place they called the Station and sometimes they called it the Wheelhouse. There was another boat there, its name is "Little Tow" and I liked it right away. I would not get lonesome being with Little Tow but there was not enough room for both of us. Uncle Ed took me to another great big building with a boat called "Twenty Winks". I do not know how it got the name of Wink, it doesn't even have eyes. I like it here OK. My Uncle John C comes by to check on me almost every day. I have two Uncle John's, one is C and the other is R.

On Saturday morning May 27, I was supposed to go to a Vessel Safety Check Ramp Day at Fort Smith Park but it was raining.



Coastie and his friend, Matt Metcalf from Channel 40/29 (Photo by Clara Meyer)

By Monday the rain left and the

(Continued on page 4)

# Coastie Writes Home

Coastie

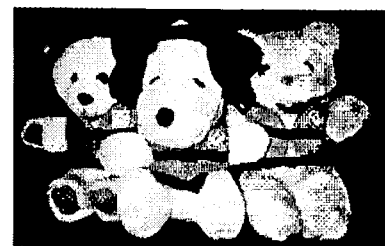
(Continued from page 1)



John Ruestow explaining Vessel Safety Check to reporters  
(Photo by Clara Meyer)

VSC Ramp day was on again, Uncle Ed and Aunt Clara took me. Uncle John R and Uncle Raymond were greeting every boat that came close and checked all the safety stuff they have. Aunt Rhonda had two TV stations there and I really enjoyed myself. I was the center of attention. All the girls, TV people and about 18 kids talked, hugged and kissed on me for hours.

My Aunts and Uncles do a lot of things together and always cook, so they are trying to gather stuff to build a super grill. Uncle Mike had a thing that rolls and had a big black leather 3" pad, I think I heard someone call it a gurney from a hospital. Well anyway Uncle Ed and Uncle Larry have installed this big soft leather pad in my house. Its very comfey, I like it a lot.



Coastie's friends by Rhonda  
Yow (Photo by Clara Meyer)

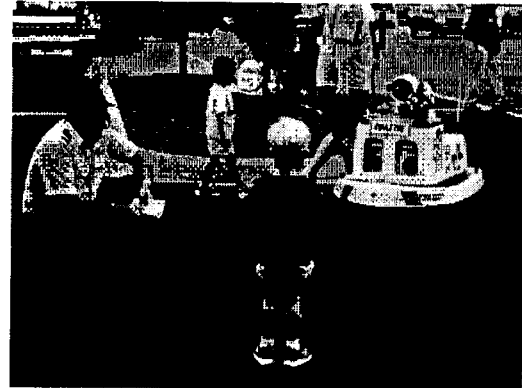
Aunt Clara thought the rough concrete would be too rough on my bottom so she went to see a very special carpet man. He gave me a large soft piece of carpet, its almost too soft. Aunt

Debbie, I think she is somebody important in this group, I have heard some of them call her THE REAR, has made some business cards with my picture and local address and phone numbers. Daddy Smitty sent me about a thousand trading cards with my 800 phone number. Aunt Debbie has also given

me a Snoopy Dog and Aunt Clara gave me two teddy bears. Uncle Ed gave me a yellow rubber duckie. Now, Dad you know that nothing is more important to me than boating safety, so I knew I could not take Snoopy and my teddy bears out to teach kids about boating safety without life jackets. I should not have worried at

all. I have to tell you about my Aunt Rhonda. This lady can make anything with a sewing machine and a hot glue gun. Snoopy and my teddies have Coast Guard approved life jackets and Tilley hats. My Aunt Clara takes pictures of everything, maybe she will send you a picture later.

I have gone several places and talked to lots of kids here in Arkansas and last Tuesday I went to Oklahoma. On June 10 Uncle Ed, Uncle Larry, Aunt Clara and Aunt Mina took me to Fayetteville to Lowe's Children's Safety Fair. Lots of the people and some of the kids had seen me on TV last Monday, I had done a 7 second promo and 12 second spot and then for a minute or so in the story about Boating Safety. There was some good fire guys and some not so good fire guys at Lowe's. The not so good was so jealous of me, being a TV star so quick



Larry Alber and Coastie visit with fan at Lowe's in Fayetteville (Photo by Clara Meyer)

Clara Meyer, Robert Drews, Flotilla 56, and Coastie visit with guests at Lowe's in Fayetteville (Photo by Clara Meyer)



Clara Meyer, Robert Drews, Flotilla 56,  
and Coastie visit with guests at Lowe's in  
Fayetteville (Photo by Clara Meyer)

(Continued on page 5)

# Coastie Writes Home

Coastie

(Continued from page 4)

and all the kids liked me best, they threatened to make fire wood of me with a big ax. The EMS radio messed me up for a little while but they finally left and Uncle Ed pulled my RC antenna out farther and then I was fine. I met another Uncle Bob, he is really nice and his daughter works for the University; she wants me to come to something she is trying to get organized. She will send Aunt Clara more information in a week or so. There was another lady that made a special trip out to see me at Lowe's. Uncle Bob called her Lois Bouton, The Coast Guard Lady, she was really nice and gave me 5 dollars for my Birthday.



BM1 Bill Fuller, Sallisaw Shore Side Detachment, and Coastie at Muldrow Library  
(Photo by Clara Meyer)

Fort Smith has a Old Fort River Festival ever year and I was going this year but Uncle Ed will not let me go out in the rain, so I had



Coastie and Friends at Muldrow Library  
(Photo by Clara Meyer)

to stay home.

BM1 Bill Fuller from the Sallisaw Shore Side De-



Ed Meyer, Coastie's Alter Ego, at the Muldrow Library  
(Photo by Clara Meyer)

achment was asked to teach a group of 30 kids something about water safety Tuesday, June 20, at the Muldrow Library. He found out I was this close and just got excited beyond words that I would come over and help him. He wants to work with me and all my Aunts and Uncles to teach water safety everywhere he can. He might even join the Auxiliary.

The ladies at the Library had three newspapers, The Sequoyah County Times, The Muldrow Times Star, and the Eastern Oklahoma Southwest Times, there taking pictures of me. If my Aunt Clara can get copies of the articles they publish, I am sure she will let me send you a copy, if you want a copy.

I am going to the Central Mall Safety Fair this coming Saturday with Uncle Ed and Uncle Larry.



Larry Alber and Coastie talk to visitors at Central Mall (Photo by Clara Meyer)

I have been invited to Division 15 meeting at Lake Hamilton, on July 22, and Division 16 Meeting on July 17 in Oklahoma City, and Division 16 OPEX, Sept 16 at Fort Gipson, Oklahoma. I have also been asked to the First Baptist Bible School Carnival in Van Buren on Aug. 4. They expect about 900 to 1000 people to attend. That sounds like a bunch of people to me.

Dad, I do miss you but I am being taken really good care of here and think I have a good family to be a part of.

Love, Your Son Coastie 09

Love, Your Son Coastie 09