

Fall 2008 Newsletter  
"Dix to You"

It's finished! With a last stroke of a finger on the keyboard, "Out of Hollywood" is a finished manuscript. That means I have done all I can to polish the Dix Story. It also means we have some new challenges. First we have over a thousand family and professional pictures to sort through. We are going to do it in increments of ten years. Our Dix Family pictures and our home in Beverly Hills, California, recently purchased by Tom Cruise for his family and the Dix Ranch in the Malibu Mountains where we spent some of our early years.

Mary Ellen and I have researched the publishing world, talked to many friends who have used established, publishing companies and all have told us, "Do it yourself. Self-publish." We should have the Dix Book, "Out of Hollywood," completed by the end of this year.



Some of you know I have just returned from the Hollywood Collectors and Celebrity Show in Chicago. It was good to see friends again from other shows and meet new fans. The "Forbidden Planet" row next to Mickey Rooney consisted of me signing pictures and posters from the movie as 'Crewman Gray', Richard Anderson who was our 'First Officer' and then 'The Commander', Leslie Neilson. It was a good reunion for us and the many fans that stopped by. A good time was had by all and the show was a big success! Those of you that have just signed up for the 'Dix to You' Newsletter in Chicago, welcome!

Anyone who has recently traveled on an airline knows how the security has tightened and the rules keep changing. I try to stay informed of what not to pack in any carry-on luggage or wear on my person that will set off the bells and whistles as people dress and undress, take shoes off and on and get examined by the security personnel. I went directly from the show at the Marriott O'Hare Hotel to the airport having packed my suitcase and left it with the Bellman in the Hotel Lobby so when the show finished, I headed directly for the airport to catch my plane back to Los Angeles. Anticipating the security check, I was prepared with my shoes in the x-ray bin along with my carry-on bag and jacket.

What I had failed to notice were the metal clips on my suspenders. All the beepers and buzzers went off as I passed through security. The long line of people behind me had to stop. I was asked to go back through and again everything lit up. The security-gal pointed to my suspenders. I immediately recognized the problem, unclipped my suspenders and put them in a bowel to pass through the x-ray machine, stepped through the security door and my pants almost fell off!

I asked the security-gal to help me clip the back part of my suspenders back on my pants. She backed away shaking her head, "NO". Gathering my stuff and trying to get out of the way, I moved to a near-by chair, put my shoes and coat back on and proceeded to thread my tie through the belt loops on my pants. It served as a belt and kept my pants up for the balance of my trip home. I couldn't help think of my Dad's advice, "Son, don't ever loose your sense of humor!"

Some of you know Mary Ellen and I celebrate our anniversary every year exchanging our vows with all our children present. Earlier this year we managed to have the renewal of our vows in the stern of a cruise ship returning from a week-long cruise to Mexico.

The setting was picture perfect looking through floor to ceiling windows at the wake of the ship and the Pacific Ocean as far as the eye could see. We visited Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta and returning to the Port of Los Angeles. It was a wonderful trip and left us with lasting memories of all of us together as a family.



2009 is just around the corner. We have several shows to possibly attend where we hope to see you again. If all goes well, we'll have the Dix Book, "Out of Hollywood" available.

As Ever,

Bob