

Sorry we didn't get Christmas cards out this year. In view of how 1998 has gone overall, we have been somewhat less than enthusiastic about chronicling the year. There have been a number of bumps in the road, but on a daily basis, life is pretty good to us.

Maggie is now in kindergarten at St. Paul the Apostle school and is having a grand time. We are thrilled with her teacher, her school, and her progress, and are thoroughly enjoying her new ability to read. She (aka "Dancing Deer") and Mike (aka "Elusive Snipe") joined Indian Princesses, a sort of pre-girl scouts organization affiliated with the YMCA which is oriented towards fathers and daughters spending time together. They belong to the Passamaquoddy tribe (all of 12 strong!), the name for which was chosen mainly because nobody had ever heard of the tribe before and it is hard to spell. In October they went on their very first camp-out (at Camp Grady Spruce, a bit west of Fort Worth), which was quite a success. (We had our doubts at first since Maggie is not exactly Xena Warrior Princess when it comes to the outdoors.) She is also in tap and ballet and seems to like that. She is a very thoughtful and considerate little girl, and has made lots of new friends this year.

Dave has had an exceptional year. You may remember he was a bit behind on his speech and social skills, but has been putting in overtime on catching up! This time last year we were working hard to get him to talk. Now we can't get him to shut up. Dave is now showing the world what a happy and easy-going guy he really is, and it has been an absolute delight to watch. His love for trains still borders upon the obsessive, but he has been expanding his interests to cars, planes, playing pretend, and plotting to get Dad to let him play with the table saw. Another wonderful thing about Dave's year is that he has gotten much better control of his asthma, and that has made a tremendous difference on all our lives.

With the kids getting older and staying healthier Mike and I have enjoyed getting out a bit more together, and remembering to get out on our own now and then, too. Mike's practice has had its ups and downs, but he is optimistic for 1999. Jane's still at Interstate Batteries ... 9 years now. The company is growing nicely. Lots of speeches and video scripts written and produced this year, so it's been productive, and the Internet-related work stays fresh and interesting.

Anyway, enjoyed a nice Christmas in Wisconsin and continued Christmas here in Dallas with Mike's family. We're very blessed with our many friends and hope to catch up with more of you in 1999. Much love,
The Koeneckes

We do not want to dwell on the "bumps in the road" mentioned earlier so we we'll keep this quick. Early in the year, Mike's mom was hospitalized and pretty sick with breathing problems, but has been doing fine now. We think it was in February that our brother-in-law Cary had a terrible accident in his F-18 over the Persian Gulf, but fortunately was able to eject in time. In March, Mike's great aunt and uncle's home in St. Peter, Minnesota was hit by a tornado (they moved in with Dick and Mary Ann and just now were able to go back home to their "new and improved" house). In April Mike's Dad had a quadruple bypass, really as a preventive to heart troubles, and has recovered nicely. While he was in the hospital, we almost lost Jane's mother to Acute Myeloid Leukemia. Although she still struggles with it, we are glad for the "extra" time we have had with her. As you can imagine, that has meant trips to Wisconsin in April. July, September and for Christmas. It's been nice to see everyone more often, but no wonder we feel like we're in a time warp.