

Christmas 1991

From: The Ritchey Family of Swanton, Ohio

The Lord has been good to us this year. We would like to catch you up on all the news of the family and let you know how we are doing. Yes, we are still in Toledo!

Joe: As I sit thinking about what to write, I am thankful for the many blessings our family has received this past year. Things have not always gone as planned, and at times things have been down-right ugly, but we have survived, and we look forward to new goals we can strive for next. When Dar's dad spent the first six weeks of 1991 in the hospital (we were sure he would never come out alive) and my mom was already dealing with chemotherapy, we thought this would be a very sad year to look back on. But Dar's dad has made a fantastic recovery and my mom is doing very well, in fact I can't hardly think of any sickness to our family except for a good round of the flu these past few weeks.

My work at Heritage Remediation/Engineering, Inc. is going well. Among my project work I've been able to use business responsibilities to visit Derrick and Julie Harkins in New York City, Cary Yuan in Denver, Mark and Judy Stiller in St. Louis, Larry and Charlotte Crosley and many more in Kansas City.

My greatest thrill has been seeing our boys grow up to where we can all play games together. Football and baseball in the front yard seemed to take up most of my free time in the summer. That meant that most of the time Darlene had to mow the yard during the day while I was at work.

Most rewarding has been my commitment to play the guitar again. I've been leading singing for the Jr. and Sr. High at our church (Emmanual Baptist of Toledo) for the Sunday School opening.

Most pleasurable was taking the family on AmTrak from Toledo to Salt Lake City, UT to see my brother Steve and Carlynn over spring break. Between the train ride, visiting, skiing, and the sites, we had a fantastic week.

Darlene: I am rejoicing this year in the improvement that my dad has made with the cancer that was discovered early in the year. He is still in therapy, but is doing extremely well.

The work at church keeps us busy but what a reward it is. We are working with the Jr. Highers at church. They are a real challenge and keeps us on our toes. We are in the choir this year. What a thrill to do the Musical these last two week-ends and share the true meaning of Christmas with over eight thousand people. I have been attending the MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) program at church and was even given a chance to speak.

I have been learning how to use the computer this year, it is slow going. This letter is a result of that work. I also run the copy machine for the 4th grade teachers, which helps me to stay in touch with the people at school.

Jamie: I am in the 4th grade this year and just celebrated my 10th birthday. My interests this year includes football, baseball, and rocks. My favorite subjects in school are science and spelling, although I enjoy math too.

I enjoyed skiing in Utah for the first time and didn't fall down as many times as Mom. I also went to camp for the first time and really had a great time. This is my second year for piano lessons and I had my first recital in March. As you can see there were many first for me this year.

Timmy: I am in the second grade and will be 8 in March. My interest this year is reading. My favorite subject in school is spelling.

I had fun taking the train out to Utah to visit Uncle Steve and Aunt Carlynn. We went rock hunting, hiking, and we took a lesson in skiing. I also went to camp for the first time. I wasn't sure about going until I saw all the frogs, bugs, snakes, etc. that were there. It was great.

John: I spend my time playing. Spiderman and superman are my favorite toys. I like to putt puzzles together. I have fun playing football and baseball with my dad and going shopping with Mom. We go to Awana's at church on Wednesday to learn new verses and play games.

I will be going to school next year.

In Closing: In looking through our card list, we see there are many that we didn't get to see or hear from at all this past year. We pray that you have had a good year and that you can see hope to a better 1992.

Sincerely,

The Ritchey Family