

Woods Tribe Tribune 1996

On time this year?

A little less excitement this year was enjoyed by all. It looks like our letter might even make it out on time too!

Visitors

The year started off with a pleasant visit from Aunt Nancy and Uncle Bob from Virginia. They spent a relaxing week with the Woods tribe.

The Tate's from Austin came by for a weekend visit. We had fun at the Houston Museum of Natural Science (seeing the latest IMAX film on Zion) and at the Sandcastle Building competition in Galveston. The children enjoyed playing with their cousin Eric.

Sandra Mitchell visited from the Great Northwest in June for our Birthday Bashes. The girls really liked her new hair cut.

Tremendous Travels

As we mentioned in last years news letter, our year started off with a cruise to the Bahamas with Grandma Colleen, Alex really enjoyed swimming with the dolphins from the movie Flipper. After returning home, Dad's Swepea died, and was reincarnated as the "Mellow Yellow" (another VW van).

Figuring that lightning (and Hurricanes) never strikes twice in the same place, the Woods Tribe returned to Pensacola this summer. This was an extremely relaxing trip! We swam in the emerald waters with dolphins, played on the gypsum white beaches, visited the Naval Aviation Museum, made one side trip down to Panama City, and ate "Pompano" at Mom's insistence. Now everybody loves it but we can never find it! Mellow Yellow's maiden trip was a big success!

Taking advantage of the cheap air fares, the Woods Tribe invaded St. Louis to visit Mike and Pam Stuff. We visited Grant's Farm and saw the Clydesdales, and a wide variety of other interesting animals. One particularly interesting Turkey decided Alex was her Mom and followed her around all day!! The children enjoyed hiking

in a forrest in Illinois, and visiting a French Fort. Everyone, especially Mom, enjoyed a visit to Hannibal Missouri, the historic home of Mark Twain. We went to the hysterical, uh I mean historical museum on Samuel Clemens, and visited the infamous Cave where "Injun Joe" met his demise in "The Adventures of Huckleberry Fin."

Mom and Dad spent their 11th Anniversary at a Condo in Galveston, this was also a relaxing break from our hectic Schedule.

San Antonio Appendix

This summer Mom and the Children were supposed to have a nice relaxing week in San Antonio attending the Sea World summer camp. They visited the Magic Time Machine, a restaurant where all of the waiters dress in costume, our waiter was a Pirate, which was a big hit with Bryce. The tribe also got to go out with Lisa Newell one evening, their waiter was the Phantom of the Opera!

Our young Marine biologists were off to a flying start at camp. However one morning after dropping the children off, Mom got a frantic call from the staff at the camp. Alex had gotten sick, after checking in at the local emergency room, the pediatric surgeon determined that Alessandra needed to have her appendix removed. During a very quick (and nervous) flight by Dad from Houston to San Antonio, Alex was in surgery. She pulled through like a trooper. Her parents may never be the same though. In a comedy of errors, the Taxi driver dropped Dad off at the wrong Hospital, he got a ride with a security guard to the right place!

The other two finished the week at camp, while Alex was held down, I mean recovering with Mom.

Children's Chenanigan's

We have found as the children have grown older and wiser, it is getting easier to get around, and there is less worry of them hurting themselves at every turn. Only one week away from Bryce's 6th birthday, we realize Alessandra (now 8) is halfway to a Driver's Liscence. In fact this year at her new School she received her "Computer

Liscence"! Natasha is never at a loss of words when it come to telling somebody else what to do, she is still a sweet little girl, but definitely favors being the leader of any activity. Bryce is still all Pirate, I mean boy. His favorite movie this year was Muppet Treasure Island, while Alessandra liked Cut-throat island, hopefully there will be no Mutinies in the household this year!

We suspect these next few years will be very enjoyable, until we hit the "Terrible teens", I hear this is similar to the "Terrible Twos". All of the children did well in School, both girls got "all A's and 1 B", while Bryce received a lot of E's and some S's, no that is not Egg-headed and Sleepy, but rather Excellent and Superior.

All three children enjoyed playing on their Soccer teams in the Spring. In the fall Natasha decided to try something different, Tennis, so she and Dad made weekly visits to the High School for their lessons. Natasha already hits with topspin, and enjoys running Dad around. Bryce is turning into a real power house on the Soccer field, and the faces he makes after scoring a goal have had both sides falling over with laughter. Alex is a major force in the midfield in her age group too!

Alessandra won *First Place* in the 3rd grade Fire Prevention Poster contest! She was awarded her certificate at a special meeting of the City Council by the Friendswood Mayor. Her parents have no idea where she got her artistic capabilities, it must skip generations.

The girls have continued with their piano lessons, while Bryce has taken up Gymnastics. Who says we can't do a song and dance?

Until death do they part

Grandma Polly Kyburz, in San Diego California, passed away late this year. While we were saddened by this we know that she is much happier to be with Grandpa Bryce, than she had been for the past 10 years on her own. Donald fondly remembers his last visit to her in early 1995, when he got to take her out to a small restaurant and they got to share some fried green tomatoes. The "30 something years" have not been a big hit with us in terms of losing relatives that were close to us.

Donald made a solo trip to California to visit with his Mom and sister Kerala following the Funeral. They took some time to visit Donald's Grandpa Don; who is doing very well.

Renaissance Revival

In October, back in Texas, the Woods Tribe visited the renaissance festival this year in costume! Robin Hood (Bryce), a Gypsy (Alex), a Fairy (Tasha) invaded the northern Houston festival. The children's favorite part was the juggling clowns, but they also enjoyed the Falcon show, and putting together a bead bracelet with one of the local fairies. This is the second largest Renaissance festival in the U.S., complete with Jousting!

First Communion

In May Alessandra had her first "Holy Communion", Grand-paw "Handsome" Wagner came down for this milestone. While he was in town he painted our house as well! Natasha is studying for her first reconciliation this month, and her first communion next May. Time flies!

Thats all folks

At least thats all we can remember of this past year. We hope the new year treats you fantastically, and you have a great Holiday.