

*December 1993*

*Dear Friends:*

*Greetings from Austin, and best wishes for a wonderful holiday & 1994!*

*After over a year of country living, we've traded in city hobbies for farm equipment; spontaneity for planning ahead (the nearest Haagen-Daaz is 10 miles away!), and nightlife for wildlife, watching the deer, birds, and rabbits. Then there are those other night sounds from the woods that we don't check into too closely, after a friend commented that our secluded setting looks like the perfect locale for a "Freddie Kruger Goes to the Country" movie.*

*As usual, animals figure prominently in our activities. Chad has made several improvements for the horses, including running electricity to the barn and the new riding ring, and installing automatic waterers in the barn. Tennessee Walker, Striker, is in training now and wishes we hadn't bothered with the exercise ring. Our Paint, Bingo, unfortunately must have major surgery soon for degenerative arthritis. Linda tried to enter him as a dependent on her health insurance plan, but was rejected when she listed the primary care physician for "Bingo Swedberg" as a vet in Elgin Texas.*

*The dog population increased to two when we adopted a cute "little" puppy as company for our Rhodesian Ridgeback, Solomon. The little puppy, Tejas, weighed 66 pounds by the age of six months, and is still growing. As our vet says, all our animals appear to have had a "prosperous" year.*

*And the cats are up to a count of four with the addition of T.K., a lovable and irritating small Tonkinese who reminds us all of Nit.*

*Chad continues to learn from and enjoy the new challenges of his job as Management Analyst at the Tax Office, and Linda becomes periodically manic-depressive over hers at the Attorney General's Office, a direct result of anticipating the stress of the upcoming election year. Neither of us would mind a big win at the State Lottery. (Question: Why is it usually a truck driver who makes the big Lottery win? are we in the wrong profession?) With all the work around the ranchita, we've had little time for trips. We did travel in July with Chad's siblings and families to Grand Marais, a beautiful bay in Minnesota on Lake Superior just below the Canadian border, and in November, with good friends from Tucson, to Puerto Rico. P.R. was lovely and different, with an almost European feel to the country and picturesque pastel buildings in Old San Juan. Great beaches, too.*

*Warning for those who haven't seen us lately! Linda suffered a midlife crisis and converted herself into a redhead; she also has glasses now, though she only needs them for reading (and avoiding walls). Chad says he's not getting older, just better.*

*Will close now from the land of bluebonnets and wildflowers, hill country and lakes (and Ross Perot--but then who's perfect?), with wishes that you come to see us and enjoy our peaceful haven. That is, except when the dogs are chasing the horses who are snorting at the cats who are spitting at them from the fence. Come sit on the porch with us and watch the world go by. And have a wonderful holiday...*

*Love, from Linda and Chad and the Creatures*