

December, 1997

Dear Friends,

Happy holidays from the Swedbergs and wishes for a great 1998.



The Austin Swedbergs, humans and animals, are settled in as Christmas approaches with unusually cold weather. Winter around Austin typically lasts from February 2-4, but cold has arrived early this year--Minnesota friends, be kind and don't laugh, *por favor*.

We're doing fine. In spite of regular consumption of Tex-Mex food, we can still get into our trucks without too much groaning. We've welcomed several visits from friends and family that provided a perfect excuse to get out into the hill country and wander around the hills and rivers to the west. We plan these trips around food mostly, with stops for peach pie in Blanco, German sausage in Fredericksburg, apple fritters in Medina, and Tums at the nearest 7-11.

The animal population remains stable in number, the only change being the trade of our Arabian mare, Prescience, for an officially-retired U.S. Army 1st Cavalry horse named Jet, a big, 16+ hands high bay Thoroughbred. Prescience is now on an Arab horse farm, enjoying communal life with her classy companions. Jet is more suited to ranch life, and has been trained by the Army to remain calm in all sorts of chaotic situations, which will serve him well here with us. The only problem so far is that he and quarter horse paint Bingo, like teenagers everywhere, are always quarreling and fighting with each other. Our horse vet is thus having a prosperous year, and has recently, coincidentally?, moved his business to a new, larger clinic.

Work goes well. Chad's been promoted and continues to specialize in network computers and tax administration...beware the Tax Man Cometh. I've leapt from the frying pan into another warm place in the Attorney General's office, now working on the team developing the new, controversial, and politically-charged statewide computer system. I'm also a dealer in antiques and collectibles on the side, selling in shops around Austin while I continue to work on more permanent plans for Life A.B. (After Bureaucracy).

All in all, life at the ranch is good. We're lucky to have super friends and neighbors and our little piece of the hill country to come home to at the end of the day. And Chad's pleased that this year has brought no net growth in the animal population.

We wish you a happy holiday with peace and prosperity in 1998. With cheers, neighs, barks, and purrs from Trails End,

Linda, Chad and the Creatures: Horses Bingo and Jet; Dogs Solomon, Tejas, and Taco; and Cats Jameela, Teesom, and T.K.

Linda
✓ [Signature]