

December, 2000

Holiday Greetings to All. We hope this finds you well and enjoying the Season. We are both well, critters are doing amazingly well for a change, and we all are still in love with country living in Texas.

Another busy year, though rather ordinary. Given last years' "year of the crash," ordinary is good!



Linda is progressing well in her career, coordinating implementation of an automated central collection and disbursement system. This has been years in the planning, is now contracted to Lockheed for implementation, and Linda is spending horrendous hours riding herd. Unfortunately, that means her side business is now on hold.

Chad is still the network administrator for the Travis County Tax Office. It keeps him busy but is infinitely more manageable, especially as systems are well established and stable -- far from the bleeding edge of technology.



It has been a great year for the animals, with only routine crises. Same three dogs, three cats, two horses, two goldfish, and holding. Our two major concerns, Tejas (dog) with cancer and Bingo (Paint quarter horse) with arthritic knee, have "maintained" for the entire year and we are hopeful for many more months if not years of mutual enjoyment. That's great news since prognoses a year ago were quite grim. We continue to enjoy the deer, racoons, quail, road runners, armadillos, possums, and varieties of birds that frequent the area. And they continue to enjoy eating the plants, though a new electric fence keeps them out of the garden! And I only zapped myself once.

A wild year of weather. Record summer heat, severe drought, record rains, and ice storms. It has been hard on the grass and even the big oaks have suffered some. But nature prevails and the land remains as lovely as ever. And the well held out quite nicely, praise be. Chad is starting to clear some of the acres overgrown with cedar, and got some new toys in the process: power pruner and commercial chipper.

Rather than travel, this year we had several visitors, family and friends from as far back as high school. We never tire of showing off Austin, the central Texas Hill Country, and our home. Chad did manage a weekend trip to Las Vegas (Linda stayed behind -- to work) for a biannual sibling reunion. Las Vegas has changed greatly in the 15 years since the last visit; Chad spent the entire weekend as a tourist. In addition to family, he also was able to visit two old friends he hadn't seen in years. On Linda's side, all the family now resides within 75 miles so we are able to visit often, tho not often enough.

Not sure what's up in 2001. Hopefully more free time for Linda and perhaps some travel. Definitely a March trip to Denver for nephew wedding. Maybe a high speed microwave Internet connection (phone lines out here are terrible). Hoping for a banner wildflower season (April) and maybe more good friends and family to enjoy it with us. Why not join us? We'd love to have ya'll over!

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