



Paul, Becky,
Angela & Danny
Van House

**Christmas
#17
Christmas
1997
Times**

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Hello again, and greetings from warm and sunny Texas.

As usual, it's been a busy year, with more than the usual amount of traveling. When 1997 was "rung in", we were in Florida. We camped at Yogi Bear's

Jellystone park in Orlando while visiting Disney World, Epcot Center and Universal Studios. Then we headed east to tour the Kennedy space center. We didn't see a rocket launch, but the shuttle Atlantis was on the pad, ready to go! We visited Becky's Aunt Lillian and Uncle Frank Bowser in Fort Lauderdale before touring the Everglades and camping and snorkeling on Key Largo.

In February, we enjoyed a short visit from Paul's parents when they stopped in during a cross-country jaunt.

With March came the start of another busy spring. Danny ran track for the middle school, which involved daily after-school practices. Angela, meanwhile, played softball again. Her season stretched through early July and wrapped up at the state tournament in Nacogdoches (Texas).

April brought Angela's 16th birthday, and her claim to Paul's car. We were a bit worried, of course, but she's proven to be a good driver with no mishaps yet.



Danny turned 13 in May, and has so far been a pretty even-tempered teenager. He followed the family tradition of hatching chickens but, unfortunately, both turned out to be roosters, so we had to take them to a farm as soon as they started crowing!

On the last day of May we hit the road again.

First stop: Shreveport, Louisiana to see Paul's niece Sharon Van House graduate high school. Then we headed North to visit Paul's Aunt Genevieve and Uncle Bernard in



Aberdeen, South Dakota. Then it was several thousand miles of driving, camping and sightseeing: The Badlands, Mt. Rushmore, Devil's Tower, Custer National Battlefield, Yellowstone National Park, Grand Tetons National Park, Dinosaur National Monument, a Colorado Rockies baseball game in Denver, Pikes Peak, and the U.S. Olympic training center in Colorado Springs. A quick visit with Paul's Aunt Lorene and Uncle Wendell Van House in Oklahoma City wrapped up that marathon.

School was soon underway again, with marching band keeping Angela busy most nights. Danny continues playing the drums, but luckily most of the noisy practicing is done at school, not at home!

The big event in September was the Astros winning the Central division pennant. Paul, Angela and Danny were there for the celebration. Becky had to work!

During Thanksgiving week we hit the road again. This time to Dayton, Ohio to visit with our families. It was a time to say goodbye to Paul's sister Linda who's moving with her family to Hong Kong for a couple of years.

Other than that, we managed to keep busy grinding away at our jobs, housework and our other mundane tasks.

We hope you had a good year, and offer our wishes for a wonderful holiday season, and a great 1998.



See our Newsletter and more pictures in color on the internet:
<http://members.aol.com/txvanhouse/xmas.html>