

Christmas 1997

It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone. The Wenning family is now reliving this past year's memories. God has been good to us, and we hope that things have gone well for you as well.

Teresa is six years old. Now that she's old enough to follow in Rebecca's footsteps, she's doing just that. Teresa began tap dancing this year, and has continued with her swimming at the YMCA where she has advanced to flying fish division. Teresa learned to ride her bike this past spring. Like Rebecca, she's spending a part of each summer taking a College for Youth course. Teresa has excelled in the arts. In September she won her division in a coloring contest and won tickets to see the play *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, plus back stage passes to visit with the crew. She also won a winter coat, a \$25 gift certificate, and free food at McDonald's. Teresa is in first grade home schooling, but has moved on to second grade math. She loves to do puzzles, bike ride, roller blade, ice skate, and read.

Twelve-year-old Rebecca is now in her second year of 4-H. Earlier this spring she put out two bee hives, and over the course of the summer became a knowledgeable and experienced beekeeper. She's enthralled with beekeeping, and regularly attends both state and local beekeeping gatherings. In August she was the youngest participant in a beekeepers' workshop held at the University of Illinois, and in October placed second in two costume contests dressed as a beekeeper. Rebecca has kept up her interest in violin, and is one of the youngest members ever to be invited to join the Youth Symphony. Rebecca continues to home school, and is now technically in seventh grade. She is currently completing high school trigonometry, and is taking a high school course in Spanish. Rebecca was elated to be one of the youngest children ever to earn the Astronomical League's provisional Messier Certificate for observing 70 deep space objects with her telescope. Rebecca is also performing well as an advanced Junior Zookeeper. She volunteers with her mom at the Humane Society caring for dogs and cats. At last year's Christmas Midnight Mass Rebecca played the role of the Blessed Mother; Teresa looks forward to doing so this year.

Carolyn, along with Carl and 13 others, was presented the Péré Marquette Award for service to the Catholic Diocese of Peoria during an October Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral. Bishop John J. Myers presented the awards while James Cardinal Hickey of Washington, DC, presided. Carolyn continues home schooling, and working for various charitable organizations. In June she and Rebecca "worked" the Children's Miracle Network Telethon for Children's Hospital of Illinois where our little Sara was cared for so long back in 1989. In August Carolyn and Rebecca won the mother-daughter look alike contest at the county fair.

Carl continues to work diligently on his doctorate, and the end of the tunnel is now in sight. He expects to complete his degree by the end of 1999. His dissertation topic deals with the assessment of scientific literacy. Carl became president of the Illinois section of the American Association of Physics Teachers in October. He was saddened by the death of his Godfather Dick Wenning in November.

The whole family was delighted to be able to travel to Lake Geneva, WI, for a June weekend with Carolyn's mother for an all-expenses-paid junket which Rita won during a raffle. Everyone was most happy to have Carolyn's sister Pam and her son Gary visit from Washington state during June. The family also had a great time on an August vacation around the state of Michigan. A new bundle of joy (a cat named Phyllis) joined the family in November. She's quite a companion for our number one cat, Catarina. The cats enjoy stampeding through the house and watching our hamster, Honey, roll around in her ball.

So, that about wraps up another year at the Wenning household. We wish you a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.