

## Christmas 1998

Another year has come and gone, and we are delighted to be able to say that all is well at the Wenning household in Normal, IL. As Carl is fond of saying to Carolyn, Remember, these are the best of times! We thank God for all His wondrous blessings, and pray that He blesses each and everyone one of you with Christmas joy now and throughout the coming year. Here's a bit of year in review for those we haven't been able to keep up to date....

Teresa, now 7 "and a half" years old, is as rambunctious as ever. She never seems to run out of energy, and it's all that mom and dad can do to keep up with her. Teresa is involved in Brownies, beekeeping, violin, and athletics of all sorts. She tends to spend a lot of time doing tumbling exercises in the front room which can be argued are part of her gymnastics class. She runs around constantly, and was part of a track club activity this past summer; she won a trophy for her commitment and efforts at the end of the summer. She attends Kid's Power Club each Saturday at Illinois Wesleyan University. This year makes Teresa's third year of home schooling (K-2 thus far), but she has excelled in math and is now doing third grade math. As part of her home schooling she takes music classes of one form or another. She took a keyboarding class over the summer, and began violin in September. Her first violin audition will be next week; she's been practicing with Rebecca and the two can now play some beautiful duets. Like her big sister before her, Teresa now has her own bee hive from which she managed to get about 30 pounds of honey this summer -- quite good for a first-year bee colony in a new hive. She spent many a Saturday morning with dad at the local Farmer's Market selling honey. She has also sold honey and lemonade at our several garage sales.

Rebecca, now 13 years old, keeps more than busy herself; one might say that she tends to be an overachiever. Among her many interests and activities you will find beekeeping, Girl Scouts, 4-H, Junior Zookeepers, and music. She now maintains two beehives from which she extracted over 400 pounds of honey this past summer, close to a state record for one-queen bee colonies! In April she was selected to represent the state of Illinois in a 4-H beekeeping contest at the national level. In February she co-taught a beekeeping course along with her dad; 43 people were present representing 23 households from across the state. In November she presented an hour-long talk at the Bloomington library -- 92 members of the general public were present. She, as one of Illinois' youngest and most impressive beekeepers, was also the subject of three feature stories in newspaper in Bloomington (2) and in Peoria. Rebecca has been selling her honey, and has made some \$600 which she has set aside to pay for her 17-day trip to Mexico next summer. She'll be traveling to the Girl Scout World Center at Cuernavaca, just south of Mexico City. Because of her links with the Girl Scouts, Rebecca started her own troop this year, and now serves as president of that group. She is continuing in her second year of private lessons in Spanish in preparation for the trip to Mexico in 1999. During November Rebecca was confirmed by Bishop Myers. Rebecca continues on in the Youth Symphony as a violinist.

With all these activities and goings on around the Wenning household, there is little time for mom and dad to do much more than catch their breaths! Carolyn thinks that she's a taxi driver and personal secretary; Carl works two jobs just to pay the bills (though it must be admitted that Rebecca has already amassed enough to cover her trip

expenses to Mexico through several garage sales, honey sales, and saving)! This summer Carolyn arranged for the house to be resided, and to have a new front porch, front doorway, and two windows installed. She continues to volunteer for Birthright at the county fair and to work the Children's Miracle Network Telethon on TV. She also assists with Teresa's Brownie Troop. Carl continues to teach at both Illinois State and Illinois Wesleyan Universities. He completed his doctoral course work in May, and passed his comprehensive examinations in July. He is now formally a doctoral candidate, and is in the last stages of his doctoral work.

So, that about wraps it up for another year. We hope that you and yours have had an equally blessed year, and pray that the Christ child will smile on each of you. Merry Christmas!