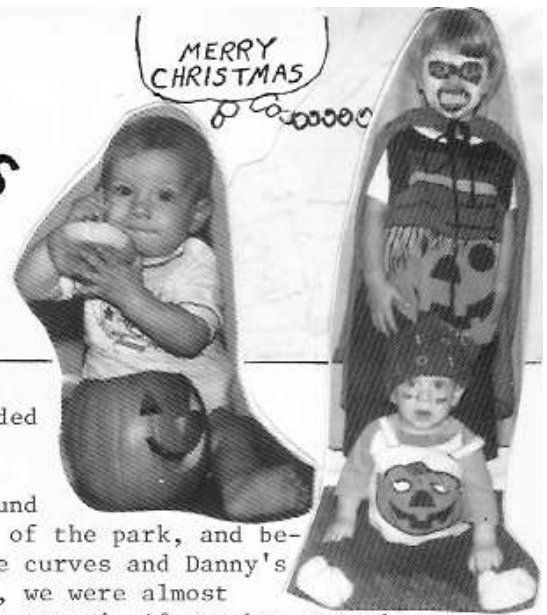


CHRISTMAS TIMES

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Paul, Becky, Angela & Danny
VAN HOUSE



Hi! Try to read between the pictures! 1984 was a very happy year for our family, with the highlight coming on May 6th when Daniel Paul was born. He weighed in at 9 lbs, 14 oz., and was 20½" long. Paul's parents had arrived a couple of weeks before Becky's due date in April and ended up staying much longer than they had planned! Later that month, Paul traveled 100 miles into Mexico to view the annular eclipse of the sun. It was a spectacular sight! The birds thought it was dusk and actually flew to the ground and slept for several minutes each side of total annularity.

The highlight of the summer months was our vacation to Ohio. We spent a lot of time getting re-aquainted with our families and enjoyed visiting with Becky's brother and his wife and child since we hadn't seen them since we moved south in 1981! Becky's sister took a break from the army and visited, too! We also took a long trip through Marion to visit friends. We had planned to eat at "our" restaurant in Columbus, but when we got there it was closed for vacation! We ended up eating at McDonalds. Angela liked it anyway!

Danny didn't enjoy the trip as much as everyone else. In fact, he hated it! After more than a couple of hours in his car-seat, he would let us know very loudly that he wanted out!

After leaving Ohio, we spent one rainy night camping in the Smoky Mountains. We walked through Gatlinburg, and were going to drive through the park to view the scenery, but it had rained so much there that the road was



washed out! Paul decided to take a "scenic" route around the edge of the park, and between the curves and Danny's crying, we were almost driven crazy! After what seemed like days, we arrived at Paul's Brother's house in Greenville, South Carolina. We spent a couple of days recovering and enjoyed a visit with his family. We saw their almost new son Patrick for the first time. After that it was a two day drive to home.

After our camping experience with tent, we decided we didn't want to go through that again and purchased a tent camper. We've taken trips to San Antonio, Glen-Rose (Where we saw dinosaur statues and real dinosaur footprints) and Rusk (where we rode an antique steam engine pulled train), and toured a "dinosaur infested woods." Angela Really held tight when "real" dinosaur sounds were heard, but she settled down.

We're looking forward to our first visit from Robert and Jean (Van House) and their family this Christmas, as well as our annual visit with Paul's Uncle Bernard and Aunt Genevieve who winter in south Texas.

Danny's settled down a lot and has re-signed himself to the fact that we drive a lot. Angela has had little trouble adjusting to being the center of attention but she really loves Danny!

Angela is enrolled in a "tumbling" class and she loves it. She's getting pretty good, too.

Life goes on and we're all happy and thankful for our health.

Good wishes to you in the New Year and we hope it brings you luck and happiness!

