



Paul, Becky,
Angela & Danny
Van House

Christmas
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1998
Times

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See more pictures including the Smoky Mountains in Autumn on the Internet: <http://members.aol.com/spotvh>



Has it been a year already? Maybe it's because we're getting old, but time sure seems to move faster these days!

O u r "baby," Danny, began High

School this year, while our "Big Girl," Angela, is getting ready for college. She's a senior and will graduate high school in May.

There are advantages to having both kids in the same school for the first time in seven years. Since both participate in most of the same school and church activities, Angela is the unofficial chauffeur! That will change next year, of course, since we couldn't talk her into attending a local college. At press time, she has her sights set on a career in music, and Texas Tech University in Lubbock tops her list. The 10-hour drive rules out the chance of frequent weekend visits.

Angela is first chair clarinet in the high school's "top" band, and has made "region" band two years in a row. This year, she performed well enough at tryouts to be selected for the "area" band, which also allows her to try out for the "all-state" band. She also performs frequently at church.

Danny still specializes in percussion and is second chair in the high school's "second" band. This was his first year of performing on the football field. It's a lot of work, especially during after-school training in the heat of August. He started marching season playing cymbals but played snare drum for the last game. During concert season, he'll



get to play most of the percussion instruments. Both kids are part of our church's Youth Handbell Choir and Youth Choir.

Becky continues to work at West Houston Medical center and recently accepted a promotion to full-time Post Partum nurse. She's still a Girl Scout Leader but will retire from Girl Scouting in Spring.

Paul is still a computer & systems programmer and writes Radio/TV software part-time.

We hadn't planned on a vacation this year, but old habits die hard. Our main goal was to visit Dayton for Becky's family reunion, but we took a side-trip through Chicago, Milwaukee, Duluth, and Mackinac Island before arriving in Dayton.

We had a nice visit with Paul's brother David while in Duluth. David and his wife live on 40-acres outside the city. It's a beautiful area, but judging from the size of their tractor-driven snow blower, we're glad we didn't visit in the Winter!

We saw lots of family while in Ohio. We visited Paul's parents for a couple of days, then stayed with Becky's brother Tony who also helped repair a wheel on our camper. The family reunion was great. We hadn't seen many of those attending since our wedding. In fact, Paul had *never* met some of them!

On the way home, we spent a night with Becky's sister Sandy. She and her husband just moved into a 2-story log cabin outside of Lexington, Kentucky. It's beautiful!

As usual, we visited a few baseball stadiums on our trip including Wrigley Field in Chicago and County Stadium in Milwaukee. We were on hand to watch the Astros win the Central Division and saw their only win in the playoffs! We also attended Minor League games in Duluth and Lubbock.

Right after we got home, Paul and Angela flew to Lubbock to tour Texas Tech. Angela has also toured Trinity University in San Antonio, Baylor University in Waco, and the University of North Texas in Denton.

Our friend Lisa Powell from Marion, Ohio paid us a visit in Spring. We had fun getting reacquainted. Paul's brother Robert and family also visited. ***We're always happy to have company, so ya'll come on down!***

In October, Paul and Becky celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary with a trip to the Smoky Mountains. The fall colors were spectacular, especially after enduring years of ho-hum autumns in Texas!

That's about it for this year. As always, we wish you and yours the best.

