

THE YEARLY PRESS

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IT WAS QUITE A YEAR!

2004 was quite a year, one of supreme joy and supreme sadness, and our emotions have been on a roller coaster ride.

First the good news: Jon and Patti presented us with a new grandchild. Jonathan Blair Riggsbee, Jr. was born on October 11, 2004. He was born a bit prematurely and was small (5 lbs), but otherwise healthy and he has now caught up. He looks like his dad did when he was little, but is, however, much better natured! :):) Sisters Katelyn (4) and Lauren (21 months) continue to be wonderful and are continuous joys to us.



The Charlotte Riggsbees 2004

Front: Jonathan, Katie, Tulah, and Jon

Rear: Lynn, Patti, Lessie, Jim

Jim's niece, Frances was married on December 4, 2004 to Neal Loftin. They live in Louisburg, NC. The wedding was great fun and we are happy for the new couple.

We have continued working on our mountain house and, though the work is slow, it is taking shape. We are halting construction for a while as we need to sell some property which we have had on the market before we can afford to finish it! Isn't that just the cat's pajamas? Actually, we are okay with that as the construction has created a real mess and now we have some time to

catch up with the clean up.

Our mothers are well and happy and other than the usual aggravations of older age, they are perking right along.

On a sadder note, my sister's husband drowned on August 20, 2004. Rob was involved in the rescue of a swimmer in trouble and while he was successful in saving the swimmer he was unable to return to shore himself. In addition to my sister, he left ten-year old twins. The experience has been very difficult for all of us. Rob has been nominated for the Carnegie Medal, an award given to those who selflessly attempt to help or rescue someone in which "no full measure of

responsibility exists between the rescuer and the rescued." Mary and the children are coming back to North Carolina this summer and will be with us for a time while they begin a new chapter in their lives.

We think of all of you often and love hearing from you!

Love to all of you!

Lynn and Jim Riggsbee
3308 Champaign St.
Charlotte, NC 28210
704-554-8765
E-mail
jbrlnr@bellsouth.net

Jon and Patti

Jon and Patti surprised us with the early birth of Jonathan, Jr. on October 11, 2004. He is a beautiful child, just like the girls, and offers the extra benefit of being sweet natured as well.

Lauren, who still goes by the name of "Tulah" is 21 months old and is becoming quite sophisticated with her growth. She is extremely good natured and is a pleasure to be around. She thinks she is as grown up as Katie and demands the same attention.

Katie is four years old now and is getting quite grown up. She is very bright and has a large repertoire of skills now. She has begun pre-school and has demonstrated an aptitude for scholastic excellence. She also has a very active creative streak and playing with her is a real experience!

Jon has changed jobs this year. He is still involved in the same sort of business, but doesn't travel as

much and the move was a financial boon to the growing family.

Patti spends her time rearing three children. I, personally, don't know how she keeps sane, but she is patient and attentive and, by all measures that we can see, is very successful.



Adam and Shanna

Adam and Shanna are still in Chapel Hill, living in Jim's home place. They are doing some remodeling work on the bath and they are in a little mess as we speak. I can empathize.

Adam continues to work toward the completion of his doctorate and expects to finish in May 2006. He opined one day that he thought the purpose of doctoral study was to make it more and more difficult as time went on just to see how much stamina the candidate had! He is always busy and we don't see them as much as we would like.

Shanna is also a student, working on her Masters

degree. She expects to complete requirements for it in August and will then be seeking gainful employment as a school counselor. They have provided us with two granddogs and a grandcat.

