

THE YEARLY PRESS

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It's 2003 Already???

I've heard that the older one gets the faster time flies. I also heard an interesting mathematical explanation about that, but I can't remember it right now. :)

All is well with Jim and me and our family. The picture at the right was taken Christmas Eve.

Not too much has changed this year. Jim's company (Pactiv) decided to "right size" his office so he moved from a very large one to a rather small one. We had to get rid of a lot of stuff and more can be done. It was a real family endeavor with the boys (and Jim) supplying the brawn and me supplying the elbow grease. Jim continues to look just like he always has except he has a few more gray hairs.

I finally took the doctor's advice and lost 30 pounds and committed to an exercise regimen. I was able to get off my blood pressure meds, but even all that hard work did nothing for the cholesterol. I still freelance as a consultant and enjoy not having to work everyday!

We continue to enjoy our mountain home and spend as much time as possible there. We plan to have another "Big Chill" with the college chums (you know who you are) sometime next October. Plan on it!



The Riggsbees 2002

Patti, Jon, Katie, Lynn, Adam, Lessie, Jim, Shanna

We also ride the motorcycle when we can and when the weather is good. We did take one fall leaf trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway that turned into a wet, cold, sodden affair! We rode to eat and the food was good, so it wasn't a complete bummer!

We hope that all of you are well and happy. We'd love to hear from you so pick up the phone or sit down at the keyboard.

To those that we have talked to or seen this year: **It was wonderful!** As we age we learn the value of friends and how much they mean to us. We have been able to see some of you for the first time in many

years. That was too good for words!

Love to all of you!

and

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

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

Jon and Patti

Jon and Patti are preparing for the arrival of an assistant to Katie. We expect the new baby sometime in late April or early May. They have elected to forego prior knowledge of the baby's gender so I guess we'll all be surprised. We're sort of hoping for a boy, but I don't think anyone will be disappointed with another girl. Katie is so cute. She is doing all those little 2 year old things...beginning to talk well, becoming independent, asking questions, etc. She calls us "Papa" and "MiMi" and whenever she says those words our hearts just about pop. She is fun and

funny and if you don't have grandchildren you should do so as soon as possible.

Jon and Patti have bought a new house and they moved into it the first of February. It is in the same neighborhood as their old house and it's close! We like that so we're not too far from the babies!

Snowbunny



Adam and Shanna

Adam and Shanna made some big changes in their lives this year. Adam left Tyson and they moved from North Wilkesboro to Chapel Hill where he has entered a doctoral program in environmental science at UNC. (Yes, this is the same child who barely graduated high school.) Shanna made a big change in her teaching. She is employed by a charter school in Chatham County and she teaches fifth

grade. The adjustment from older to younger kids has been hard, but she is a little trooper. She hopes to be able to teach in her field next year (as an English teacher in a high school) and also wants to begin graduate school soon.

They have 3 dogs and 1 cat for us to grandparent, but I think grandchildren are a ways off.

MOMS

Both our mothers are doing well. My mother has mostly recovered from her illness last year and we are certainly glad. She and I took a two week road trip to Texas in early October and had a wonderful time. We took our time getting there, stopping at tourist attractions along the southern route; spent some time with my sister, Mary; spent some time with some Dallas relatives; and came home the northern route through Arkansas and Tennessee. We went to Grace-land in Memphis and can testify that Elvis has left the

building...very poorly decorated. It was kind of interesting, though. I had forgotten how good looking he was.

Jim's mother continues to live in an assisted living facility near us. She turned 91 in November and has slowed down considerably, though her health remains generally good. She has made a couple of trips to Chapel Hill this year and a trip to the mountains with us. She visits us often and we see her at her place frequently.