Family News

Merry Christmas!

December 15th, 1998

Hope 1998 has been a great year for you. This is the 9th edition of our Family Newsletter (Christmas Card). This is also the first year of posting this newsletter to our web site. Many of you now have access to the internet. With our mailing list approaching 50 names we can reduce our costs to print and mail the newsletter by emailing our web address to those with internet access. If you have internet access and haven't told us, please email us and let us know. The web address is: http://members.tripos.com/~tomgip/index.htm

Its time to get a cup of coffee (or what ever beverage you prefer) and let me catch you up on the latest from 1998.



Last January the electric company I work with started a new company. I became the first employee. We are now up to 17 employees and growing strong. I have my dream job and I am loving it! I spend my entire day writing computer software. I am leasing an office in town where I have no interruptions and I'm in heaven. The only down side is I had to give up the bike. The new company makes me drive a Ford Explorer to work. I like the truck well enough, but miss the quiet time of riding my bike to work. When I get home from work each night the first thing I do is get on my bike and ride a mile around the neighborhood. Still its just not the same. Kathy's job changed this year as well. Walmart abandoned the zone managers they created in 97 and went back to department managers. Now Kathy manages paint and hardware instead of the three departments she used to have. She is very happy with the change. We've had a couple of brushes with hurricanes this year (Earl and Georges), but both only proved to be minor disruptions in our lives.

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This past April I took up golf. I haven't played since taking it in college 20 years ago. Both TJ and Perry were playing and I figured it would be a good thing for us to do together for years to come. I am really enjoying it! Guess you could say I've gotten hooked on it. The first photo is my great swing and the second is TJ's.

TJ: TJ turns 21 this month. He transfered out of the Walmart here in DeFuniak and is now working in Crestview 30 miles west of here. He works all night and when we play golf he is able to use that as an excuse if I beat him <g>. He still has his truck and is going the the local community college. He likes Maria Carrey, wrestling, playing video games, and the Internet.



Perry: Perry turned 18 this year and began working at Walmart changing tires and oil in the automotive department this past May. He saved his money all summer and this past August bought his first truck. He bought a 76 Ford Ranger XLS. This is his last year of high school (whew!). He enjoys hunting, country music, and NASCAR. He has a wonderful sense of humor and we are very proud of him.



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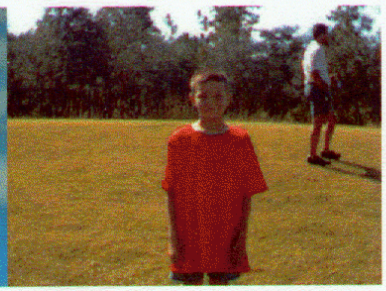
Justinn: Justinn is 15 and began her first year in high school. She still refuses to wear a dress. She still sports a baseball cap turned backwards, and has added earphones to her permanent wardrobe. She is bigger than Mom and looking forward to taking drivers ed next semester and getting her license. She drives my golf cart for me now and then. You will find her outside playing basketball at least once each day. And she averages about two hours a day on the Internet!

Marc Thomas: Marc is now 12. Its hard to think of him as the baby of the family. He always has a smile for everyone except when Justinn has been picking on him. He likes driving the golf carts too, and has hit a few golf balls himself. He's in the seventh grade this year and loves Nick at Nite.




With half the family working at Walmart (guess where Justinn wants to work <g>) we are seldom together at the same time. Its even tough for Kathy and I to arrange time off together. While our family has changed a great deal over the year and we may not always be together at the same time, we are still a family. I am very thankful for our family. About a week ago I managed to get all of us together and took this family photo. As you can see we are definetly feeding the kids well.



Blast from the past: Can you guess who's birthday it is?

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The Gipsons

1963 Juniper Lake Road

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Favorite Thought: "Patience, patience, patience is what the sea teaches. Patience and faith. One should lie empty, open, choiceless as a beach -- waiting for a gift from the sea." Anne Morrow Lindbergh

From Our World to Your World: I still have the old email address (tomgip@dfsi.net) from last year, but do not check that email everyday. Instead I am using (tomgip@yahoo.com) and check it daily. I use the yahoo email because I can check it from any computer, anywhere.

Guess that wraps it up for this year. Thanks for allowing us into your home and we'd like to wish you a **Merry Christmas!**

If you are on line you can go to additional pages that were omitted from the printed newsletter.

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