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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY 1998!

1997 has been a busy year in the Eckles' household with children growing and jobs changing.

Jennifer is now a junior in high school and occupied with college algebra, econ and theater classes. She continues to be an active swimmer and this fall completed her life saving certification and anticipates working as a life guard this summer. In May she turned sweet sixteen, took driver's ed and got her driver's license (Heaven help us all!). She has been a tremendous help getting her younger sister around but her parents are still having trouble seeing their little girl behind the wheel! Last fall and winter she was involved in the marching band and color guard which took third place in the state 5A competition. In April we combined a trip to Phoenix where they participated in the national color guard competition with a trip to Tucson to visit Sandy's folks. Next on her agenda is college selection for 1999.

Laura, our nine year old, is an active third grader whose "social schedule" of birthday parties and sleep overs keeps us hopping. She has developed a real love for gymnastics and can actually walk along the top of that narrow beam! Going anywhere with her is an adventure as even a walk to her room usually involves at least one cartwheel and roundoff. She is learning her multiplication tables in school, has just completed a French class and continues to participate in the summer swim league.

This summer Milo's former employer finished their phase out of the data processing department in Denver and he began working for Baer Consulting, a systems programming consulting firm in Denver. Their clients include companies like Plus System (a banking ATM system ) and Kaiser (a healthcare HMO) so he is now working at several different locations. His commute is now much less and he spends one day a week working on the computer at home which is wonderful!

Our veterinary practice continues to grow with Sandy as one of the veterinarians , the girls as periodic kennel help and Milo holding it all together. We are hoping to spend several days skiing at Keystone in February and a week in Hawaii in April as part of continuing education seminars for Sandy (what a coincidence they're in such great locations!).

In September we were able to spend a long weekend in Iowa at the Allen cousins family reunion with Milo's family and had a great time visiting and playing at the lake. We are looking forward in a few weeks to a very special visit from Ray and Jen Shorter and their 16 year old son Dan from Australia. They are college friends from Ames and will spend a few weeks skiing in Colorado and catching up on old times.

We hope the season finds you all healthy and full of hope for the new year to come. Life is good in Colorado (despite five feet of snow already this winter) - come and visit us sometime!

Milo, Sandy, Jennifer and Laura

