

Each year, as we assemble our Christmas greetings, we fondly think about each and everyone who receives our message. We wish we had the time to greet everyone personally. Our second wish is that 1996 was as good as you wanted it to be, and that 1997 is even better for you! Also, Best Wishes for a heartfelt Merry Christmas at this most blessed time of the year.



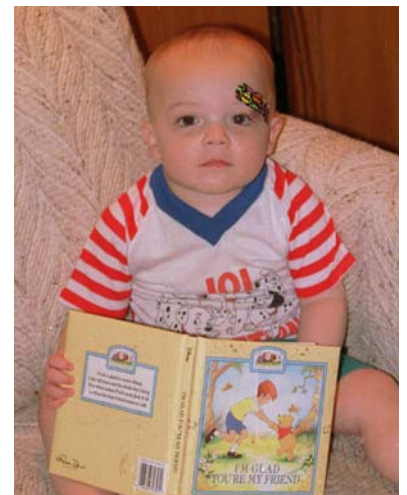
Our year has been fairly steady in that we have found somewhat of a routine in raising two adventurous boys. We are certainly beginning to understand the phrase "Boys will be Boys!" Here you see Robert "riding" Michael who actually appears to be enjoying it!



We were able to host Mary Beth's brother, John, twice this year. In February, he entered a large amount of Mary Beth's family tree into our computer. We got to visit some cousins, including Mary Wolff in Newport Beach. Uncle John is holding Robert (who is holding Barney and Baby Bop). Mary Beth is holding Michael.



May brought Mary Beth bravely hosting the play group at our little plastic pool. Robert really liked the pool, and Michael also had some fun in it. Michael caused us a great scare when his eyebrow met a speaker in the living room and required stitches. He is shown wearing the latest in Batman adhesive bandages!



On the long weekends in May, June, and September, we took the boys to Cambria. On the Labor Day weekend, our baby-sitter, Joanne, and her husband Jim joined us giving Mary Beth and Richard a completely free day to drive up the coast to Ventana Inn for lunch. The boys don't sleep well away from home, so we are working on new strategies to solve this problem. One of the reasons that we enjoy the Cambria area is the abundance of natural beauty. The seals really do come right up on the beach!





dress when they stroll on the pier at Santa Monica.

Trains have played an important part in our lives this year. The boys are fascinated with them. Between books, TV shows, and videos, Robert is very interested now in "puffing." Part of this came from John's trip in July. He traveled from Toronto to Los Angeles and back via train. He enjoyed his rail trip so much last summer, he repeated it with different routes this year! John has been the doting uncle, and the boys really love him. We are happy to be leaving in a couple of weeks to visit him and Mary Beth's mom in Aurora, Ontario for Christmas. The boys do like the snow! In contrast, this is how the boys



Robert has become a great helper this year. Sometimes his desire to help gets in the way, but he is always there trying to be of assistance. He helps feed Michael and also helps Richard with the recycle bin. He actually rolls the full aluminum can recycle bin down our driveway!



The first holiday that Robert really recognized was Halloween, and his preschool did it up well. Robert dressed up as a pumpkin, and Michael carried a plastic one to the party. For Robert's birthday, we took him to Travel Town where he got to see many full-size antique steam engines. It was not clear what he thought of them, but the size of these old iron horses did scare him a bit.



For both boys' birthdays we thought it was time for them to have a train set, and since they like Thomas The Tank Engine and other train videos, what better train set to get them. (Left to right are Michael, Thomas, James, and Robert.)

Richard finished KTTV's new studio this year, and has been doing a project for Microsoft and has just begun an interesting project for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City. Mary Beth managed to take her Continuing Education Courses to maintain her Real Estate Broker's license while keeping her BUSY schedule with the boys!

Merry Christmas to All, with all our love.

*Richard, Mary Beth, Robert, and Michael*