

The Taylors' Holiday Letter

December ~~26~~ 11, 2002

Dear Family and Friends,

Yes, this is last year's letter modified, in case you didn't notice. Old stuff is crossed out and red. As you can see, ~~'tis the day after the season~~ I'm getting this letter out earlier than last year! Woohoo! There's my first documented accomplishment. I apologize, ~~but after watching a George Carlin skit, I started thinking nobody enjoys hearing about others' perfect kids and families in the holiday letter (and rather scoff at it), so I was intimidated into not sending one. Then I realized we're not perfect~~ for the fact that I'm recycling last year's letter, but I hear we're in rough times both politically and economically, so I'm trying to do my duty and recycle where possible ~~anyway!~~ Some may say I'm lazy, but I look at it as making good use of resources during busy times – there may be some good material in here! It's also part of my endless quest to find the inner humor that I'm sure I must have somewhere. It is hereditary, isn't it?

~~The other reason this is late and our biggest news this year is that we gave birth to~~ Our daughter, Ashlin, turned one year old on October 26th ~~(Yes, that was two months ago, but I'm still using it as an excuse!).~~ The poor baby got ~~four~~ two shots this morning to celebrate. She's becoming quite the 'walker' and loves grinning at Daddy! ~~I've been busy checking out the latest nursingwear fashions. That's an industry that really needs a savvy designer.~~ (I can't believe I said that last year) I've really enjoyed my time ~~off~~ back at work, but can't say I've accomplished much (baby brain, you know). I'm definitely more organized when I'm at work, despite having the latest technology on my home ~~PC~~ iMac.



Tyler is so grown up these days! He knows exactly what he wants and when he wants it. So far he still plans on being a plane pilot when he grows up and had the opportunity to try out the captain's seat on a trip to California (see pic). ~~We trekked up to Pennsylvania to see his favorite steam engine, Thomas the Tank Engine for his birthday with his best pal. Thankfully, it was a rainy day, so not very crowded. Naturally, we came home with more than we left with, mainly the latest Thomas wear fashions (better than nursingwear, (ugh) believe me).~~ He just had his fifth birthday and like every year before, insists that he's a big boy now! This time, he seems to be absolutely correct. He is getting himself ready every morning and we've begun training him for child labor around the house (he still thinks it's fun... muhahaha!).

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We ~~also added two new babies to our family this year, lost Thelma and~~ but still have Louise, ~~They are littermates from a lab mother and rottweiler father. One looks like a brown lab, the other the one who looks like a rott. Thelma, on the other hand, seems to have 'man' issues (haha! Aptly named, I guess) and is a bit hyper. We still love them. Maybe next year we can put our yard back together and replant the trees they ate.~~ Rest in peace, Thelma. We've also added a cat, KC (I believe it stands for "Kitty Cat").

Let's see, what else can I drone on about? Let the torture continue...

Kent and I seem to have discovered a hobby we can both participate in together – car and house collecting. ~~We've run out of avenues in that area, so if anyone has other couple hobby ideas, we're open to suggestions!~~ We collected our (probably) last and final house and moved in at the end of August. Now the remodeling and decorating has begun. We're having fun turning the 50's décor into 90's décor – 1890's that is. So far we have only managed to do half the kitchen and repaint one room from a dull yellow to a vibrant red.



~~So we wrap up this year at least in the same house we started it in.~~ We wrap up this year in the last house we'll ever live in! That's news too, right? Next year will probably be less exciting than this, so maybe THEN we'll give your eyes a rest! Promises, promises ☺