

# Christmas '95

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in  
**Technicolor!**



## **New Family Member Arrives - Grandparents Beat Down the Doors**

Well, the year was quite active for us. The biggest event was the birth of our son, Nicholas Conrad on October 24.

Months of preparation went into his arrival. Trisch and I attended two sets of classes and toured the hospital in preparation for the big event. All the classes prepared us by describing the hours and hours of labor incurred in having a baby. There were numerous references to women who had labored for days and days with little chance to rest. Taking the advice to heart, we packed the truck full of music, snacks, cameras, pillows,

clothing, and a few things for the baby.

The fact is that Trisch comes from a long line of "Mario Andretti" laborers, and hers was no exception. Nicholas was born less

spent a night in the hospital and went home the next day.

Upon arriving home, we were greeted with a message on the answering machine from Ray's parents saying "We're on our way, hope you get this message. We'll be there in two hours." Half an hour later they pulled up and had lunch with Nicholas. A couple days after that, Trisch's parents drove out from St. Louis and stayed for an active week.



Ray had Barney outside rebuilding the side porch and Trisch had Dorothy in the basement in a mini sweat shop ironing the acres of quilting fabric Trisch has stockpiled for fear of a cotton shortage.

than three hours after we checked into the hospital.

Everything went amazingly well, and it was truly a phenomenal event. Following the birth, we

## **Home Projects Continue**

As usual, we continued our numerous projects around the house. The biggest project was remodeling the kitchen in January. After receiving all the pieces last December, we decided to wait until the new year to replace the lower cabinets, counter tops, and sink in the kitchen. In the process we converted the kitchen from an 'L' shape to a 'U' shape and increased the counter space by a whopping %600!! We also threw a dishwasher, disposal, on-demand hot water dispenser, and water filter into the fray.

Amazingly enough Trisch and I were able to do it all



in one Friday evening after work, all by ourselves... NOT!! We, of course, had the expert assistance of Trisch's dad.

We lured him here with a story about having to fix a leaky faucet. When he arrived we revealed our true plans, then locked and sealed the doors until the job was done.

The entire job took approximately 6 days and at one point there was nothing in the kitchen except the upper cabinets. The floor was even torn up and replaced.

Somehow we got it all put back together and now it's great.



**Above is a rare specimen - A quilt we actually got to keep!!**

## **Quilting Administration Takes Office - Vows to Keep A Few Quilts**

The big news on the quilting front this year is that Trisch became the president of her local Quilting Cabal, er, Guild.

There was much fanfare for this event, and for a week Trisch insisted on being

addressed as "Madame President" around the house. After that, things settled down, and she now runs the meetings with a gavel in one hand and Nicholas in the other.