



CHRISTMAS '96

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SO, HOW DO YOU CUT A HOLE IN A STONE HOUSE?

As is customary, we open this year's letter with an update on the construction projects in and around the house. In August, Trisch's dad returned to finish rebuilding the side porch. While he was here, we intended to hire a contractor to rough in an opening from the dining room to the deck so that we could install a sliding glass door that had been aging in the basement for the last 3 years (most people like to age fine wines in their basements, we Prices like to age construction material). When the job estimate came in much higher than expected, we had to re-evaluate the project.

So, Howard and Ray sat around the kitchen table and began reviewing their options. Trisch stood by and kept the whiskey flowing until low and behold they came up with a plan to do the work themselves! So, early the next morning Ray went down to the local rental place and rented a saw that was still warm from being used on the latest thriller "Nightmare on Elmstreet: Three Heads and Only Two Bodies". When I came home, Howard "The Saw" went to town and proceeded to cut a hole in the side of the house. Since the stone walls were too thick for



"The Saw", when he was done, Ray "The Hammer" stepped in and proceeded to pummel the wall into submission.

By the time Trisch returned from work, there was a hole just big enough for the door, and the house was still standing. The picture above shows the results of the job.

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NICHOLAS: YEAR 1 IN REVIEW

Well, as you can see from the picture, our son Nicholas has been growing quite a bit this past year. Where he was a little red blob in last year's picture, he is now able to pull ornaments off the tree and dive off chairs. This last skill he discovered shortly after the flash went off.

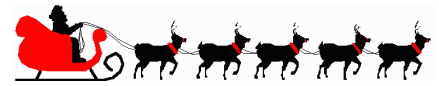
Nicholas and the dogs get along fabulously, with Kyoto typically standing next to him to give him a

thorough tongue bath. Tokka is also quite fond of Nicholas and lets him pat her and crawl all around her. Meanwhile, both dogs have learned the benefits of being inside, near the highchair, when Nicholas is there.

Nicholas' first birthday party was a gala event with all the grandparents, two aunts, an uncle, an aunt-in-training (the uncle's fiancée), and two cousins here (ALL IN OUR HOUSE) to

celebrate. Nicholas was somewhat interested in the birthday cake (produced by the same crack team of cooks that made the Leaning Tower of Pisa cake for our wedding), but was more than ready to tear into the presents.

Halloween was another big event with Nicholas dressed up as a Lion. While he didn't actually go trick-or-treating, he did make the rounds to a small set of local friends and greeted the trick-or-treaters at the door.



PRICE BOYS HELP OUT WITH MOM'S SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY - MOM VOWS TO KILL THEM

In June, the Price clan and a number of close friends gathered in the bustling metropolis of Timberville (sister city to the Broadway metro center) to throw a surprise party for Ray's Mother's 56th birthday. The whole thing had been carefully coordinated by Ray's Uncle Thom (Evelyn's Brother-in-Law).

The day (June 30th) was filled with surprise guests such

as, friends and family from New Jersey, Evelyn's sister flying in from California, and friends and family from all over Virginia. The event culminated in the gift of a new car from Uncle Thom. Now before any of you readers get the bright idea of Fed-Ex'ing adoption papers to Uncle Thom for yourselves or your children, be

forewarned that you have to be a very special person and endure 30+ years of the Price family before you earn that badge.

Everyone pitched in coordinating, setting up, and breaking down. Uncle Thom coordinated everything long distance from New Jersey; Trisch made the cake; Ray and Steve were in charge of

decorations; and George delivered Evelyn at the appointed time. Many other people too numerous to mention pitched in and their help was greatly appreciated. Given that the whole plan began in January, it was amazing that she never knew what was up.

The event was a resounding success and we all owe a deep sense of gratitude and thanks to Uncle Thom for being such a wonderful guy.

