

Kochert Kronicles

December, 1998

"Perhaps, this time has been ordained by God to show them how to deal with the ups and downs that life has to offer all of us."

1998...Teenage Rebellion Reigns

As much as it would please us to annotate all of the good things that happened this year...we have little to tell. Much to our dismay, 1998 will go down as a year of constant turmoil. Good riddance and thank goodness we get another shot at this game called life.

In all honesty, teenage rebellion reined supreme at the Kochert house.

Ashley apparently

bypassed the terrible twos and held off until the tortuous teens. Joseph, while not following exactly in his big sisters' footsteps, has begun to show signs of dissatisfaction with parental authority.

Going on and on with the disheartening details would only depress those with the cheerful holiday spirit. We can only hope that all of the lessons and wisdom that

have been imparted upon them will emerge again!

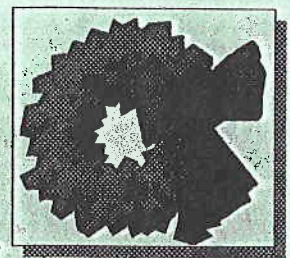
As parents, we both struggle and hurt for our children as they deal with this very difficult time of life. Either we have very short memories, or times they really are a'changin'.

The book Uncommon Sense for Parents of Teenagers suggests that when children reach adolescence, they fire their parents as managers and retain their services as a consultant.

In all seriousness, this is a perfect description of what our teenagers are attempting to do. In any event, we will continue to persevere. We know that

under their angry facades, there are two very wonderful and caring individuals. They have incredible lives ahead of them. Perhaps, this time has been ordained by God to show them how to deal with the ups and downs that life has to offer all of us.

We ask friends and family to say a prayer, not only for our teenagers, but for all teenagers as they make difficult choices in their everyday lives.



ADULTS. Steven is still working long hours as Supervisor at Callaway. We really enjoy the long periods of down time he has with his job. There is always something that needs to be done around the house.

Jamie will start her 3rd year working part-time with REDI. She seems to be enjoying more and more free time as the kids get older and more independent. She has even returned to her old hobby of cross stitching.

1998 - What Happened!

Teenage Rebellion Reigns

An Addition to the Family

Final Thoughts

An Addition to the Family

Family is very important to us. That said, Jamie's mother, Sandy, has come to stay with us for a little while. She was essentially forced into retirement this past summer and found the time to make the move to our guestroom.

As we have always lived so far from Indiana, our children have never really had as close a relationship with grandparents as we would have liked. This was a great opportunity for them. Sandy also felt that she had missed a good deal of their growing up and wanted to hang out for a while and see what kind of people they have turned into. 1998 probably wasn't the best year to observe, but nonetheless, she is here.

Other than her concession to smoke "outside," she is getting along quite well. We think she has even cut her smoking habit in half. She quickly found a part-time job working as a lunch room supervisor in a nearby elementary school. Other than her knee bothering her after a 2-1/2 hour shift on her feet, she loves it. She really enjoys being around all of the kids. The kids have already found her to be an easy mark for their fund raising activities.

Weather permitting, she took in a few of Joseph's football games. Her perceptions of ninth grade football are as follows: she still can't keep track of the ball; and thinks the football coach is crazy when he yells at Joe about his

beard. Don't you just love the game!

As for her involvement with Ashley...well, she has learned you have to get your licks in when you can.

Sandy takes every opportunity to talk with Ashley about what's she's up to, school and her grades, Wal-Mart, boys, and why she's so angry with her parents.

She has gone a great job of being an observer and not a participant where our parenting skills are concerned. In private however, she doesn't hesitate to offer her two cents worth. In the end though, her words of wisdom simply consist of, "I couldn't raise kids today."

Thanks Mom!

Final Thoughts

As we get older, we have noticed just how quickly time has flown by. Our children are young adults now. They will soon be on their own. We, the adults, will be left alone as it was in the beginning. It is a definite reminder of the circle of life.

The Kochert family, along with Sandy, wishes each and every one of you exactly what your heart desires! We hope that you think of us from time to time with affection as we do you. Take care of yourselves and express your love for others each and every day.

Love,

Joe
Ashley
Joseph
Jamie
Sandy

TEENAGERS ... Ashley is a junior in high school this year. We are grateful that grades have finally started to equal her potential. This spring she'll begin taking the ACT and/or SAT exams and thinking more seriously about her future. In addition, this summer she began working part-time as a cashier at Wal-Mart. The money she earns and the 1988 Honda Accord she bought seem to give her a true sense of independence.

Joseph is a freshman housed at the junior high school. His grades are hanging in there. Football came and went this fall. Joe's team finished the season as City Champs. Other than numerous discussions about the coaches' dislike of Joe's facial hair, he continued to improve. He looks forward to playing at high school next year where facial hair is not an issue. He has also taken enough interest in girls to remember their last names.