

2001

Volume 11

The Manick Family Year in Review

LATE EDITION
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December 2001



Well, here I go again trying to make our year sound worth reading about: I'll skip the first half of the year because it was pretty boring, even to our standards. Adam became a 5 year old in July and started Kindergarten shortly thereafter. Several of his neighborhood friends are in his class and he's already made some new accomplices. For Thanksgiving, the teacher gave each of the kids a Native American name, such as *Running Deer*, etc. Our child was named *Bull Charger*. How appropriate. His new passion is learning the parts of the human body and now requests lessons in anatomy in place of his bedtime stories. Affectionately likened to a "bull in a china shop," he has an abundance of enthusiasm, intelligence, mass, charm, humor and inquisitiveness. He's also very sweet, sensitive and extremely polite (my influence, no doubt). We've decided to keep him. ♦ Our summer was spent mostly relaxing by the pool, where Adam learned to swim like a fish— or at least somewhat like a dog. We cut short our annual camping trip to King's Canyon because of a yellowjacket infestation, and within minutes of returning home I discovered a surprise: a huge yellowjacket nest in our attic. There were so many of the little beasts that we could hear them downstairs. ♦ The terrorist attacks of 9/11 was a national tragedy not seen since Pearl Harbor. My job at the airport was affected by the attacks, as our revenue, budgets and projects were slashed drastically. Not to mention that we are considered the most likely west coast target for terrorism. It's a huge relief in knowing the airport is now secured by National Guardsmen with unloaded M-16s. ♦ Steve's big break: On the last night of September I broke my foot by tripping over the dog I never wanted in the first place. I was cursed to spend the next 6 weeks in a cast while the dog paraded about with obvious satisfaction. This abruptly ended my daily 3 mile lunch walks and all house projects, and I'm just starting to walk without an accent. I'm still devoting much of my personal time to my websites *manick.com* and *thewinetaster.com* and I recently bought a new domain that I may use as a commercial site: *wines.usa*. Darlene is doing well and her eating disorder practice is really weighing in. I'm looking forward to the time that I can stay home all day eating bon-bons and watching soaps. She's once again on a crusade to find a new house, although Mr. Manick was never consulted. ♦ My brother Jeff was married to Tracie in January. Four months later she gave birth to their son, Ryan, and they moved back to L.A. from Oakland. In February we celebrated my parents 50th wedding anniversary by hosting a waterfront surprise party in their honor. They seem to be keeping quite busy for retired folk. ♦ I ended the year on a stressful, but positive note: on December 26th I passed a professional certification exam for which I've spent the past four months diligently studying. I'm now a *PMP* (Project Manager Professional), which is not to be confused with a guy with a pink Cadillac and leopard skin hat. At the end of January we'll be back in Yosemite— hopefully it will be Adam's first snow experience. ♦ I'll close by saying that we, as Americans, have experienced some emotional pain over the past year. We are reminded that there is a price for our freedom. We must each accept our responsibility to fight for what is right and to make our world, and our environment, safe for our children. Please accept our wishes for a happy, healthy and safe new year.

HAPPY NEW YEAR
Steve, Darlene & Adam 