

Weather: extended periods of darkness expected toward evening with light predicted in early morning hours

Witte Times

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"All the news from DeWitt we print"

FROM THE MOUTHS OF BABES DEPT.

Allison answers age old question

Allison has been having a fabulous second year. She is constantly impressing her parents with her feisty spirit and her rapidly expanding vocabulary.

Most recently she began saying "Because." The use of the "B" word is significant as it marks the birth of the concept of "excuse." Coming from Allie, though, it just sounds very grown up. It also serves as a good beginning answer to her constant question, "Why?"

Another game she likes to play now is telling a secret. It is great fun to whisper in someone's ear a treasure like "A doggie!"

Allison wants Santa to bring her a rocking horse. She has the sweetest smile in the world and has mom and dad wrapped around her little fingers.



Big brother thinks she is a pretty

good playmate, too. We hope Santa gets her what she wants.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT IS SO QUITE INTERESTING

Trucks still a big hit with Jake

Our boy Jacob has led a consistent life so far. He is still fascinated with trucks and heavy equipment. When he recently visited the Michigan Off-Road Center with mom to order an accessory for Grandpa's pick-up, Jake got to get up in the "Mongoose," a monster truck. He was thrilled. Naturally, mom got a photo.

Jake wants Santa to bring him the Tonka Mighty Diesel Cement Mixer. Put a good word in for him if you have the chance.

Jake is at an age where the he is developing a broader awareness of the world around him. Lately he has been asking about poor people; it's a challenge to explain poverty to a three year old.

One of Jake's favorite games is called "Try to Find Me." Allison plays, too. When mom or dad comes home, the kids hide somewhere in the house and then yell, "Try to find me!!!" Our job is to then stomp around and try very hard *not* to find them for a while, and then find them. Then they scream at the top of their lungs.

"Try to Find Me" may not be the best game to play after a long day at the office, but it usually ends with a big hug, and that's not so bad.



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GLOBAL EVENTS

Joy begins work on new construction projects

The biggest news in the Witte family for 1994 is that steady progress is being made on a new addition to the family. Little Beowulf (the ultrasound says it's a boy) is expected April 21, 1995, although the smart money says he will be early.



When Joy isn't busy sleeping, eating, walking and breathing for two, and taking care of the rest of us, she is kept quite busy at the Worker's Compensation Appellate Commission, to which Governor Engler appointed her to another four year term last fall.

Joy is finishing another big project even as your roving reporter writes this shameless rag. With help from both our dads, she has been building a set of massive cherry bookcases for our dining room. Even with the baby on the way she is quite industrious.

We had a bit of a scare earlier in Joy's pregnancy when she was diagnosed as having a condition called "placenta previa" which I am told has nothing at all to do with having

a Toyota minivan in one's abdomen. The more recent ultrasounds, however, show the condition to be much improved and things seem to have returned to normal, such as it is.

Joy's father is completing an interim senior pastorate in Holland and will be assuming a similar position shortly.

Her brother Kevin is planning a fabulous house in Houston, which is a good sign that we should all buy Compaq stock. Or should have long ago.

NOT DIRECTLY IMPLICATED IN WHITEWATER SCANDAL

Norm out of control -- as usual

When not otherwise occupied at the city desk for the *Witte Times*, I have found a surprising number of ways to distract myself (and often several other persons around me).

In 1995 I will be serving as



President of the R.E. Olds Museum. The Museum has accordingly increased its insurance

limits.

Nineteen ninety-five will also mark the beginning of my career as a solo practitioner. I am still debating about getting the magnetic business cards for throwing against passing ambulances. Probably not a good idea.



In a major test of Joy's good nature, I have contracted with several parties to have our lawn demolished. I initially thought that they were going to build a five car garage, but now I think they just don't like grass. Construction has halted until spring.

My sister Cate married a Gentleman named Richard Sword last summer. Richard is a welcome addition to the family.

Rich is still overworked at Lever Brothers. All efforts to emancipate him have thus far proven fruitless. He recently purchased a Porsche 911. The car is currently in intensive care, but prospects for a full recovery look good.

My folks continue to enjoy their retirement in their wood-working wonderland in Harrison.

And that's the news from our little corner of DeWitt.

**Merry
Christmas!**