

May 6, 1992

Dear Family:

I don't know what it is about baking cookies--some kind of subliminal message or something--but every time I bake cookies I think of home, and remember that I need to write. Let's see if I can remember to take them out of the oven in time.

Things are going along dandy here. We had a very quick spring--seem to be into summer weather already. We did have some good rains this year--almost up to normal, but since our reservoirs in the mountains are still down a bit, are still considered to be in a "drought" situation. The wild flowers have been absolutely gorgeous this year because of the rain, and living things in general seem to be rejuvenated.

John just turned twelve this month and Marty ordained him to the Aronic Priesthood. We had the 15 boys in the two sixth-grade classes over last week for a birthday party. Emily came up with some crazy games, and we had a barbecue and watched videos. Last birthday party for a long while!! John played a nerd in his sixth-grade play (type casting?) and kept us all in stitches with his nerdiness. We videotaped the play so we could embarrass him someday in front of his fiance.

Emily is madly preparing for her solo piano recital which is going to be held on Sunday, May 17th. We have rented the recital hall at the Foothill Community College, which is nearby, and have sent out invitations to all her friends and people in the ward. She's been skipping Seminary for the last month so she could have more time to practice, and it's been really enjoyable to wake to her playing. (My number one gripe with early morning Seminary is that it keeps the students from the best practice hours of the day! I'm considering having Erin practice her violin instead of going to Seminary.) The progress she has made in the last two months is exciting to see! Emily was recently in a Bay Area Humanitarian and Piano Performance Competition where she came in second place and won one-hundred dollars. She just passed her "National Piano Guild High School Diploma" audition, where she had to play for one hour for a judge--all from memory, except the sight-reading and transposing sections. We have submitted her picture and a short article about the recital in the local newspaper. We'll see next week if they actually print it. (Sorry if I seem overly proud.)

Finally found a new violin teacher for Erin, who is really nice as well as an excellent musician(the teacher, I mean). Now we're in the market for a new violin. Erin did some playing on a better violin that her teacher owns, and was amazed at the difference in sound, as well as ease in playing! Erin is almost 5'8" now. (That doesn't have anything to do with her violin playing--just thought you might want to update her growth in your memories.)

I've joined a singing group in the Menlo Park Stake, and am really having fun

singing in a chorus again. There are only 18 of us, but we make a big noise! We're performing on the evening of Mother's Day, and again at the end of May at an "Ensign Street Concert." The Palo Alto II Ward sponsors some really nice concerts once a month in their chapel. They draw in excellent musicians (many non-LDS) to perform there, and we're singing on the same program as an LDS organist from Santa Barbara. (The building has a pipe organ.)

Greg is now in Bryan, Texas. He has a companion from Podunk, Utah, with whom he gets along just fine. They teach often, but some of the most believing people have the toughest problems to overcome--like couples not being married, and not wanting to get married, because the woman would lose her welfare benefits. Alcoholism is a big problem among the Spanish people there, also. The branch has real difficulties with members getting along, and the people are not friendly and welcoming to the investigators. Greg seems to keep his spirits up, though, and loves the Spanish food he gets at member's homes. His address is:

*He is an M.A. now.*

**3130 E. Villa Maria #804**  
**Bryan, TX 77803**

*Call me  
New address as of Sep 4, 1992  
16333 Hafew Rd.; Houston, Texas  
77090*

We get to hear from him by phone on Mother's Day next week--if he can find us home.

Emily caused a little fender-bender on the Freeway last week which shook her up. We were grateful that it was as small as it was, as a friend of Emily's had called to tell us that she had passed Emily by on the Freeway where she was involved in an accident, but didn't know any details, except that she looked o.k. Pretty upsetting news! Emily was trying to change lanes in bumper-to-bumper traffic, and she turned to look in her "blind spot." When she turned back, the cars ahead had stopped suddenly, and there was no time for her to stop. Emily's Suburban (the MAV--Mormon Assault Vehicle) sustained no damage, but the car she hit had damage to the fender and trunk. We're holding our breath to see what this does to our insurance premiums! The officer at the scene didn't ticket Emily--a lucky break for her! I think he could see that it was one of those accidents that could easily happen to anyone, and Emily really was not being negligent.

I've decided not to work at Pinewood next year, so this is my last month. My 4th, 5th, and 6th Grade classes are giving a singing concert next week. I have a zillion projects to do once I have all this free time after school is out--like compiling the kid's photo albums and scrap books, and painting and wallpapering some rooms. Can hardly wait to quit work so I can start working!

Well, hope you're all healthy and well. Let's hear from some of you that we rarely hear from--like David and Tracy, and it's time for another great letter from Virginia. Brag about your kids some. We love to hear about what you're all doing.

Love,