

From a telephone conversation with Virginia: November 14, 1993

We had 42 people over to dinner last night. It was the MIA cultural night. Since I don't have any furniture in my back two rooms they always use my house for intimate dinner settings. They went to the Bolshoi Orchestra at the Kennedy Center and they did the Tchaikovsky Italian opus and the Symphony #9. Then they had an Italian dinner with 6 courses. We have a recent convert who managed a restaurant and she made all the pasta, home made. She loves kids and let Roland come over and turn the crank. He was covered with flour. They made (sp)?tortellini, squares of pasta that have cheeses, ricotta with parsley, parmesan, etc. and then they roll them up. And then she made very tiny noodles for a chicken soup. They made antipasto for the first course with Italian cheese and sausages. Then a chicken soup followed by Rosemary Lemon chicken with a cold vegetable dish with fresh green beans, carrots, broccoli stems, garbanzo beans, steamed lightly and served with a vinaigrette. Then they had a salad with was peeled fresh tomatoes, purple onions rinsed four times and they were really sweet, cucumbers and sweet yellow peppers. (after the chicken they had a sorbet as a pallet cleanser and then the tortellini with a wonderful red sauce made with butter, celery and tomato.) Then they had the salad described above and then they had a chocolate, raspberry, hazelnut torte. Italian bread was served with everything. They had two cases of sparkling cider. This was all served on nice china. We had to wash a lot of dishes in between courses so we would have enough bowls etc. It was really fun, the kids were dressed up and there were candles etc. We got the leftovers!!

We put crown molding up the front room. The neighbor helped me and said I could pay him next year. We put some temporary molding around the fire place. In addition it was homemaking meeting this week. I have a new counselor who is always on the ball. Also there was a stake Relief Society homemaking night called "Simply Christmas" Each ward had to do a table on spiritual highlights and one with Festive type things and a Christmas tree. Then each ward had to do a demonstration. The stake Relief Society Pres. asked me to do candy and asked me specifically to show dipped chocolates. I had to do several batches during the week for people to sample and then we did two batches that night. Another women in the ward did caramels and truffles. So this is what I have been doing this week.

Barry, bless his heart, (we had a warm spell that brought the leaves down suddenly) has been shredding leaves non stop for the last two days. Last year Roland stuck his finger down the shredder and scraped the top of the finger off. We make the kids wear gloves and boots now!! Barry will be out in Utah the Sat after Thanksgiving. He'll be there about three days. And then he goes down to Arizona to see his grandmother who is not very well. Roland has every lifesaver from a pack in his mouth.

Nathan got his first job. He's working at Bird's Unlimited. It's a nature shop that specializes in seeds etc. He works about 15 hours a week. Jonathan works babysitting 3 days a week. The mother is there but likes an older child to be there while she makes dinner etc. He makes \$4 an hour. Warren is learning the bass guitar. Rose Ellen and Sarah had a duet recital and they did well. And Christian is doing well in school, his teacher adores him. He took a dollar to his teacher and gave it to her. She tried to refuse but he said it's my allowance and I want you to have it to spend.

Roland loved Halloween. Tuesday night a lawyer friend wanted to take us to dinner. I had chocolate spread all over the house. So I dropped what I was doing and picked him up and we went and had Chinese. All the kids were home and I gave Sarah, who is generally a wonderful babysitter, specific instructions about Roland. He's only been potty trained a couple of months so I told her to make sure he gets what he needs. I was gone one and one half hours and had Barry drop me off before he took the fellow back to the hotel. As I walked up the stairs I could hear Roland crying. Five children were in the room across the hall from the bathroom where he was but no one went to his rescue. Sarah had put him in the tub because he had wiped himself and made a mess. The water in the tub was ice cold. Roland had emptied three rolls of toilet paper into the toilet and the kids not knowing what to do just left it there and left him in the tub in the freezing water!!

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH TRACY AND BETSY:

Mary will leave for Japan a week from tomorrow. Alex is in a play at school called "Little Mary Sunshine". He has the part of Fleetfoot who is a blind Indian guy. Zina has an 19 year old companion that is a really good worker. We as a family are going to California for Thanksgiving to visit Betsy's brother John. He has some paid roles in Opera Pacific and he also teaches voice lessons. John (Huntington) had an opportunity to sing for Placid O'Domingo and he received nice compliments from him. H.T. is teaching at the MTC and he just sent a district off to Florida. This group will teach Haitians in Florida. I'm (Betsy talking now) taking voice lessons from a Mrs. Mitton and H.T. is taking also. For a couple of semester H.T. was in A capella at the Y. He was also in Vocal Point which is a small A capella choir of 9 young men. The kids have been inventing a language. They've completed a lexicon and a grammar for it. They speak it to each other and then we can't understand a word they are saying. They call it Dolisha. (Lili now:) I'm living thanks to my parents. Back to Betsy: Robert writes glowing letters about how much he loves his mission. SPENCER: CHRISTMAS IS COMING, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANT.