

*Liz's Hallmanack*

September 2, 1991

Dear Family:

We need a vacation--like nobody's business!! Wait--I think we just had one. We did get away, but what weather! It rained Tuesday through Friday. We had a really nice condominium on the beach in Gearhart, Oregon (up near the Oregon-Washington border) and had a beautiful view, but couldn't see very far for the rain and fog. We played games and watched t.v., shopped in Seaside, and played in the arcade there. We rented a bicycle surrey (with a fringe, of course,) that seated five and pedaled around Seaside in the light rain. Charlotte and her kids came over one day. She brought a picnic lunch for us to take to a seaside park, but the weather was too rotten, so we ate indoors. We visited Marty's 80 year old Uncle Harold Hundere in Seaside and took a picture of the little house Marty's grandmother lived in with her three children after her husband was killed by a falling tree. His uncle is really an old character, who combs the beach for money and clothing, and still goes fishing on the ocean. He made his living as a logger. He lives alone in a dirty old house with a mangy dog and cat. Finally, on Thursday we abandoned the condo and headed down the coast. We stayed overnight in a town called Newport, stopping along the way to see this and that. The Oregon coast is really beautiful, even in the rain. We stopped at a park along the way and Marty and Emily got out of the car to get nearly blown away. They could lean into the wind and be held up by it's force. The next day we stopped at the Oregon Dunes State Park where Marty, Emily, Erin and John rented dune buggies--one each--and went riding on the dunes for an hour. I stayed behind to wait. Erin didn't much like it, but John was pretty aggressive on the dunes, and Emily followed right behind. Then we headed for home and ended up here at 10:30. Marty lost his glasses on the dunes (dropped them out of his pocket) so I got to drive as soon as it became dark. I didn't much like driving on the busy freeways through the city at night--especially without a rear view mirror. (Marty fixed it just before we left, but the first time Emily adjusted it, the darn thing fell right off again.) Anyway, it was good to get away from home for a while.

John was anxious to get home because his soccer team hosted a tournament Saturday and Sunday. It was a good thing we got home in time (the original plan was for him to miss it,) because one boy broke his leg in the first game, and two other boys were previously injured. John's team won the tournament, but not before going into overtime in the championship game. We finally got a winning goal. John made a terrific play where he headed a ball that was kicked straight at our goal. John was standing right near the goal post and really jumped high to meet the ball. It must have bounced clear across to the sideline. Unfortunately, John did have to play today (Sunday), but we did make it to Sacrament meeting in between the two games.

Greg is doing so well in the MTC. He is really loving it, even though he says that if you look at his schedule there shouldn't be anything to love. The

toughest part for him, besides the food, is getting up early. The Spanish training is going well and he really likes his companion, even if his companion doesn't like to play basketball.

I'm listening to Emily practice as I write this. She's working on some pretty tough pieces. She's planning a Senior Recital for Spring of '92. We're going to rent a hall nearby and she'll do a solo recital and invite all her friends to come. Emily had a sad summer this year. One good friend was killed in an automobile accident in the mountains and her other good friends have all gone away to college. I expect she will have a whole gaggle of new friends in no time at all, though.

We're back in school this week. Can hardly believe the summer is over. It's been so busy that it hasn't seemed like much of a break at all.

My "Los Altos" choir starts up again this week, too. We're giving concerts Dec. 6th and 7th. I'm having a children's choir as the added attraction this year, and they will combine with the adult choir on some pieces. Should be nice. I'm going to try to convince the old guard to change the choir name this year.

Plans are set for the party on the 21st. If you have any ideas for family activities on Friday and Saturday, let David know. He's agreed to be in charge. Nancy and Doug are hosting a barbecue at their home Friday evening.

Hope all is well with y'all. See you soon.

Love,

