

January 10, 1991

Dear Family:

My computer files tell me that I haven't written since August. Sorry about that. I hope we've at least talked on the phone a couple of times since then.

We had a busy and fulfilling December. My Los Altones Choir (hate that name!) held three performances on Dec. 7th, 8th and 10th. We had been preparing since the first of September. The concerts went very well and were well attended. I really learned a lot by conducting this choir. I blew it in choosing the flute player and organist, who both gave me real headaches and never really "got" the music. Fortunately the other accompanist was excellent. The production committee was excellent and took care of most of the details for me, so I could concentrate mostly on the music, which was beautiful! I'm sending Mom and Dad a tape of the concert. I'm getting quite a file of choir music, for both adults and children. If any of you have a need for some music, give me a call.

I'm taking a class at Foothill Jr. College to learn how to use my Microsoft "Works" program, and a class on songwriting, also. I'm hoping to get some incentive to do a little composing. I haven't had much time up to this point to compose, but now I should be able to find some time. I'm a little afraid of it, I think. What if I'm bad, and don't know it? At least the class will give me some feedback.

Marty spent five days in Europe and a few in Colorado. He made a real effort to be home for our anniversary on the 13th, but got delayed in Stuttgart because of snowy weather. He's had a trip on our anniversary almost every year! He's in Colorado today and will be home Friday evening. HP had all their employees take vacation for a week at Christmas, so Marty was home while his parents visited Dec. 19th-27th. Some of us caught this awful respiratory virus, with cough and sinus infections that hang on forever. I'm still trying to get over it, and felt awful for several days, beginning the day of our Ward Choir Christmas program, which was my duty, also. So after Christmas, I crashed for a few days and took it easy. Marty, fortunately, stayed well, so he entertained his parents and made them breakfast while I stayed in bed late.

Marty hurt his thumb playing basketball two weeks ago. At first we were afraid it was broken, but he thinks now it was just bruised. Greg, Marty and John played a lot of basketball during the holidays.

Greg was home from B.Y.U. for two and a half weeks, which was a real delight for us. We hated to see him go back to school. He's picked up some bad habits at the dorm--like throwing his clothes all over the floor instead of putting them away, and two weeks was not enough time for me to re-train him. Oh, well. Greg called us the day he got back to say that he received his grades for Fall Semester and they were very good. He was really pleased that his hard work was well rewarded. He's putting off a decision about which career he'd like until after his mission. He turns 19 on July 1, and should leave for his mission soon after that.

I threw a big surprise party for Emily's 16th birthday. She knew she was having a surprise party--I asked her to make out the guest list, but she didn't know when it was going to be. December is a terrible month to have a birthday! Because of my concerts and Marty being out of town, we finally settled on December 1st as the date, then discovered that there was a big basketball tournament at the school that night. Emily had to be there to cheer, and most of the basketball team was invited to the party, so I had to do some fast calling to have people come after the game was over. The party finally started around 9:30.