

Barry and Virginia Wood, 4510 N. 35th St., Arl., Va. 22207 (703)
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Dear Halls All, (and those related by marriage to the same,)

I just got off the phone with Mom and Dad who brought to my mind the Hallmanack. Having tackled WordPerfect on my Apple IIGS earlier in the week, I think I can do this without too much aggravation. However, to avoid ruining a perfectly good Sunday, if you think I am going to try to figure out the Spellcheck feature and other wonders of this program you can guess again. It took me one whole afternoon just to figure out how to copy my original disk to back-up disks. In the end, the instructions were pretty good. However, companies need to hire imbeciles like me to really know how to write a good instruction manual. I could give them quite a few tips about their manual just from one very long afternoon of wading through things!

David, I've never thanked you for the disk you sent at Christmas. I am assuming that it's a compilation of all your genealogy that you've programmed with the family dates. It obviously doesn't run on my Apple IIGS, and Barry hasn't tried it on his IBM Compatibles at the office. However, I think the last disk you sent had to be formatted to some other kind of disk to run or something or other. Boy do I feel like I'm trying to speak a language that I don't know or what. It's very intimidating when you have to ask your thirteen year old how to use the calculator function on my computer. I am SO glad the schools require computer classes these days. I can teach the children where some of the letters are, but now they have software that does an even better job of that and plays games besides! Barry would like to have at home what he has at the office, but it'll be a year or two before we can think about nice little extras like that. Actually, I vote for a decent piano before we get another computer.

Well, our little rental house needs new tenants. We have had three girls in the house for about five years now. Only one of the girls has been there the entire time. She has been a wonderful tenant. However, the latest batch of roomies have been a couple of complainers and they have finally decided to move out because I won't buy them a new washer when ~~we~~ just spent almost \$150 fixing the old one. Rather than take a little mold remover to the very recent wallpaper I hung in the bathroom, they chose to tear it down and then had the audacity to ask me to come and repaper or repaint or hire someone to do it. I took them over three rolls of wallpaper, which they should have paid for, and as far as I know it's still sitting in the front room waiting to be hung. I don't have it in me to force the issue. Guess I'll go hang wallpaper this week.

We have had a month of one bug after another. Two varieties of flu were followed by two extreme cases of asthma which were followed by very persistent sinus colds, and two cases of chicken pox, maybe. Rose-Ellen had one pox under her nose and one pox over her eyebrow. I asked several "experienced" mothers about it and both confirmed a maybe case. About four days later, Christian popped out with eight spots on his bottom that looked more like what I was expecting. Still, eight pox? Neither of them had fevers. Both were sometimes grumpy--so what else is new? All of their poxes itched. They all looked like zits. Rose-Ellen's came and went in about three days.

We paid for the repairs
- BW