

post marked
9 July 1984

Dear Family:

I really enjoyed Sherlene's letter last week. Thanks, Sherlene and Dan. I seem to have had a really hard time sitting down to write this week. This is the third time I've sat down at the typewriter. The other two times I was interrupted even before a word was typed. We're not doing much this summer, but it sure seems like I can't get much done.

The kids are practicing more piano this summer and it sure helps. Emily is moving along very quickly now and Erin is picking musical ideas up quickly now. Emily sits down and plays and sings for herself, reminding me so much of myself when I was a girl. Greg doesn't much like the piano, but plays because I say he can't have tennis lessons unless he continues with the piano. He is taking private tennis lessons and is very enthusiastic about it. His teacher says that Greg seems to have a natural talent for the sport and likes Greg's good attitude. I've been taking tennis with a friend and the teacher hadn't taught me yet about putting top spin on the ball, and he taught Greg that technique the first lesson. The teacher explained that he teaches advanced techniques as the students are ready. That was an insult! Anyway, Greg doesn't get any athletic prowess from me.

We're concerned about our children's handwriting, so for practice this summer the kids are copying a paragraph from the encyclopedia every day. Emily is doing fine, Greg is not so good, but getting legible anyway. I figure it will increase their vocabulary at the same time. They seem really excited about our summer "home" school. They get up at 6:30 and start to practice, do their math paper and handwriting and by 8:30 or 9:00 are ready to start playing with friends.

Swimming lessons begin next week.

Greg is at scout camp all week, spent three days at Blazer camp last week, and is going on a 50-mile hike in August with Marty and others from the ward. Scouting has been pretty expensive this year!

The week of August 19th we will be gone to Southern California to see Disneyland and spend a few days at the beach. We were planning to go the 1st of August, but discovered our plans were in the middle of the L.A. Olympics. Marty didn't want to spend our vacation with 700,000 other visitors, so we changed our plans.

I'm taking a break from teaching music lessons (15 students) in August and in September plan to teach during the school day. The parents will have to get their kids excused from school to come to the lesson each week. I have some friends who have done it this way with great success. It will leave my afternoons free to ferry my own kids around to their lessons and soccer practices, etc.

Marty spent a week in New Jersey, is going to Monterey next week, Washington for two days the next week, Germany in September. He spent the weekend in Dallas visiting his brother and parents on the way home from New Jersey. He is enjoying his job these days and seems to be handling the stress better than before. He has started playing tennis again, also.

The kids orthodontia work is on hold, waiting for teeth to come in. Emily's bite is straight now, but her teeth are widely spaced because of the work she had done to correct the bite.

Hope you're all having a good summer. We love you.

Liz