

May 6, 1986

Dear Family:

Here is some "catch-up" on happenings since we moved into our new home.

Moving went pretty smoothly, the Elder's Quorum helping us. Marty figured he was "owed" for all the times he helped others move. We had everything boxed up and ready to move out, so the men were busy for only five or six hours (in two shifts.) I caught a bad case of flu that week and was not much help at all. I was so feverish and dizzy that I mostly lay on the floor and pointed to where furniture should be placed. We moved all our bedroom furniture into the two back bedrooms (Our master bedroom is 25' x 16') as those two rooms are carpeted and the paint was not yet dry in the other rooms from the floor refinishing. A week later we were able to move all the furniture to the right locations.

We very quickly discovered that both furnaces were not working, although Mr. Riches had both inspected and one repaired before he put the home up for sale. We decided to replace the one furnace that was 28 years old (The other is four years old) and had the other fixed. Mr. Riches reimbursed us for the fix-it job and some plumbing problems we had also. (A flood of water backed up in the first bathroom. Fortunately we found it before it caused any damage).

The first week was pretty disappointing with all the problems we encountered, but things are running smoothly now and we're settling in nicely.

We're slowly getting accustomed to the new ward.(Los Altos II). I was asked almost immediately to be the new Ward Choir Director. The ward has not had a choir for almost a year. The Bishop told his music counselor not to worry as he felt someone would move in in the Spring to help them out musically. So I felt very welcome. Marty is having a harder time. The families are a little older in this ward and the Elders are few. He has been called to be one of the Elder's Quorum teachers and will be the Physical Activities Specialist on the Activities Committee. (He won't be getting much physical activity himself for a while as he just severely injured his ankle playing basketball (what else) and is in a cast for at least three weeks. He's been home with his foot elevated for the past four days. His ankle is not broken but is severely strained.)

Greg is one of four deacons, but there is a good scout troop and he should be able to finish his Eagle before the year is finished. Emily finds herself in a group of 13

Merri Miss girls, all very friendly, and has been elected the new class President. Erin is in a class of four, and John, for or five. The Primary is large, which is nice.

We're in the Los Altos Stake (Betsy and Tracy's old Stake) which has a wonderful reputation. We recently attended a production of "The Music Man" which was done as well as any musical I had seen. Peter Giles was a fine River City Mayor. The Stake President is a member of our ward, (Don Hull), and his wife, Annette, is Emily's Primary Teacher.

Our ward is on the "laid back" side. Marty says we were inspired to move into this ward to give it some new blood. He is constantly annoyed when he comes to Priesthood on time and the meeting starts at fifteen minutes past, the Bishop being the first to walk in at 9:15. Fifteen past seems to be the time all meetings start. The kids are annoyed that I insist they sit in their places when it is time to start Primary, because they are the only ones in the room. Marty once said during Fast and Testimony Meeting that he would give the Bishop \$5.00 for the Ware Budget Fund for every minute we were late for Sacrament Meeting. He invited all the the congregation who were so inclined to join him in his resolution. (That was in the Cupertino Ward, and we never had to pay.)

I spend between two and three hours in the car driving kids to and from their Cupertino Schools. For once, I can hardly wait for Summer! We have checked out the schools here and it looks like Emily and Greg are going to have wonderful schools. Erin and John will go next door to a Private School that is very good. Erin will have some catching up to do, as the public schools are behind this private school in academic progress, but she is bright and will catch up quickly.

All but two of my music students elected to continue taking lessons with me, despite the extra 15 -20 minute drive, which makes me happy.

My school chorus program comes up on the 15th of May and a month after that we're singing in a district-wide choral festival for which we have to learn three new numbers, so I'm spending more time at the school these days. Marty was to have been in Europe this week and next, but his ankle injury the night before he was to leave pre-empted that meeting. Glad I was, anyway, to have him stay home from all the mess over there (nuclear and terrorist)!

I've been so busy lately and feeling slightly overwhelmed that the other day I "bagged it" and spent the day reading a book our Relief Society Book Group is studying this month. It was so beautiful I wanted to recommend it

to you. It's Precious Bane by Mary Webb. The publication I read was by Penguin Books. It is an unusual love story that takes place in Shropshire County, England, way "back when" and is written with the peculiar country talk those folk had. There were some phrases I never did translate, but it sure did give a feel for the times. Betsy has probably read this one. Anyway, it felt so good to do something for my mind for a change. Maybe I should look into getting book tapes for all the driving I do. I could probably "read" several books a week!

Sorry I've gone on so long. Maybe if I wrote more often I wouldn't get so wordy. We love you all and would love to get together as a big family again.

Liz