

March 4, 1987

Dear Family:

Sorry I haven't written for so long. The months go by too quickly!

We're doing just fine down here. Things are actually a little too busy and I keep trying to scale back our activities with little success.

Besides working four afternoons at Pinewood School (which is quite rewarding) and teaching private lessons three days after school, I'm playing the piano for a Stake sponsored group called the "Los Altos" which will be performing two nights in May (and then is DONE!) and for a performing group called Performing Groups for Youth to which our kids belong. These groups take six hours of my time on Saturdays. Fortunately they will be through by the second week in May and I am not going to do the same next year. The kids are getting good experiences at singing and dancing in a high-standard performing group, but we miss our Saturdays being free for other activities. My piano skills are surely improving, though.

Marty complains about my being gone on Saturday, but I tell him he better not complain, because he's gone half the month for Hewlett-Packard. He does try to be home weekends unless he is gone to Europe or the Orient. He was gone part or all of each week last month and in March will be gone almost three weeks, including ten days in Europe. At the end of April he'll be in Hong Kong. Don't ask him if he likes it.

My heart started going pitti-pitti-pat instead of just pitti-pat which alarmed me so I went to see the cardiologist I saw when I was pregnant with John and was having palpitations. Since John, I have had palpitations here and there which were harmless and didn't alarm me, but these were so frequent that I was scared. The doctor gave me a treadmill stress test, strapped me up to a 24 hour monitor and when those tests showed my heart was healthy, despite the extra beats, also took an Echocardiogram. I haven't heard about that test yet. Since the doctor hasn't called I assume it showed everything was fine. Either that or else he's afraid to tell me the awful truth. He convinced me that I am o.k., not to worry about the palpitations and told me to take a vacation and give away some of my stress. So Marty and I took last weekend to go to Monterey and Carmel. We treated ourselves to the Monterey Plaza Hotel and ate in beautiful restaurants. We took in an afternoon movie and shopped for art in Carmel. We came home art empty, though. Our tastes are too expensive for our

pocketbook. We had a pleasant weekend and I intend to drag Marty away more often. Friends watched the kids for us.

The movie we saw was "Hoosiers" which is an excellent family show. We loved it and are taking the kids to see it this weekend.

Greg has played basketball for Pinewood's J.V. team this year. (One of the benefits of going to a small school.) He hasn't grown much which pains him terribly, but we expect him to take off any time now. Pinewood's Varsity team has had a very exciting year and is now in the California Central Coast Finals. Greg gets to suit-up and sit on the bench with them, which is an honor, I guess.

Emily and Greg both are on the first semester honor roll, which is especially notable since they've had to catch up quite a bit in English to keep up with kids who've been at Pinewood for years. Only seven kids in Emily's class made the honor roll. I thought when I asked Emily to take a break from gymnastics this term that she would lose interest, but she's been practicing on her own every day, stretching and chinning and doing the splits. She's going to be too tall to do much with it, but she enjoys it so much I must declare I was wrong and will re-enroll her.

Erin is beginning to make sweet tones on the violin. She practices alone in her room, so I was surprised last week when she played for us and really sounded quite good! Her teacher comes down from the city once a week to give her a lesson in our home. Lucky me! (She also had three or four other students in the area she teaches on the same day.)

John's doing fine. He has a neat personality and the kids at school really like him. He impressed the people he stayed with over the weekend with his polite manners and quiet nature. They thought he was ready for college. John is quiet when he's away from home.

Virginia, your new home is beautiful! Hope you're feeling well. Charlotte, it was nice talking to you on the phone. Thanks for the call. Betsy and Tracy, it was good to see you. Ned Hollis just made a wall unit for Greg's room and installed it yesterday. He said he never had such a hangover as the day after the New Years Eve at your house. (from laughing, that is. He explained that he's a convert and has had the other kind, also.)

Doug, Marty just bought himself and Greg some skis. We'll be winter vacationing in Utah a little more, I think. He took Greg and Emily skiing last Saturday. The drive up and back is eight hours so it's a long day, but they had a great time. Nancy, I enjoyed your letter last month.

Sherlene, congratulations on your new salary. I know a lot of teachers at Pinewood who would be very envious!

David, we're cheering for you. That's all we can afford.

We love you all,

Liz and Marty