

February 22, 1986

Dear Family:

At last I take Apple in hand to write you a letter. Sorry it's been so long.

Our biggest news, as most of you have probably heard is that we have bought a new home. We had been looking on and off since before the holidays for a bigger home. Greg is anxious to have a room of his own and I wanted enough room to be able to invite some friends over without feeling so crowded.

We have some good friends, Pat and Dennis Riches, who had moved from our ward in Cupertino to Los Altos where they are renting a home while building a new home in Los Altos Hills. I was with Pat one day when she said she had dreamed that we had bought "Kathy's house" and that she was so jealous ^(in the dream) of how happy we were there and of my decorating in the home. Kathy is Pat's sister-in-law who had lived in this home up to a year ago, when she sold it to her Dad and the Pinewood School which the Riches family own and run. Well, Dennis, who is a part-time real estate broker, showed us the house, and we bought it! Dennis is taking no commission so we are getting the home for quite a bit less than if we had to pay a commission. There was another offer on the house that was actually a little higher than our offer, but Mr. Riches wanted us to have the house and sold it to us.

The home is 3,000 sq. ft. on one level (a rambler!) and sits on about 1/3 acre. It is surrounded on three sides by the Pinewood School, where we're considering sending Erin and John to school. I may go to work there, also, which would at least pay for one child's tuition. (Doug and Nancy, you were visiting your friend's the Gardners in this home last year when you were in California. They were renting it from the Riches.)

Marty and I worked really hard to get our home painted and fixed up, removing some of our furniture to make it seem roomier. We put it on sale on Tuesday and sold it on a Thursday. We had five offers on the house on Thursday evening so we were able to choose the best offer that seemed the most likely to go through to sale. Four of the five offers were from chinese families, who seem to have targeted Cupertino as the place to live. Yeong and Hayley Ho bought our home. They have two little girls, who I'm sure are anxious to move into Emily and Erin's rooms!

Anyway, I've left out a lot of interesting details to make this as short as possible, but all of the transactions have gone so smoothly, we feel really blessed. We are going to spend \$2500.00 on termite work on our current home, and have to have the roof repaired to the tune of \$350.00, but overall we think we did fine, since this home is 22 years old.

We close on our new home next week, around February 12, and after having some hardwood floors refinished, will be moving in by the 22nd of February.

We're excited about moving into a new ward and having new experiences--(the kids will change schools, as well) but sad also. It's so hard to leave the Cupertino Ward after 12 years.

The new home has five bedrooms, a large laundry room, master bedroom that is 25' x 15', three and a half bathrooms, family room, living room, kitchen and dining room. The kids are fighting over one bedroom that is two feet larger than the others, but we have assigned it to Emily as her furniture fits into it well.

The house is 28 years old with a four year-old addition. When they added on, they also refinished the kitchen with new countertops and a bay window, redid the floors with ceramic tile and added new appliances, including a microwave oven. The roof is 4 years old and there is a large garden shed in the back yard. Marty's favorite feature is a sprinkler system on timers. I like the large jacuzzi bathtub in the master bathroom. (There's also a separate shower stall.) The kids like the big back yard which Marty has promised will soon boast a trampoline. He forgot to ask me first, but I think I'm outvoted.

The kids won't be changing schools until next year. We have decided to keep them in the Cupertino schools until the end of the year. I felt that I couldn't drop the music program at our school also, as we're scheduled for some Spring Concerts.

Marty has been asked to speak next week in Sacrament Meeting, and I will be singing. This ward is so big and has so many missionaries coming and going that the only time one has an opportunity to speak is when they first move in and when they move out.

This morning in Sacrament Meeting a women's ensemble performed an arrangement I have written to "O My Father." It was a neat experience for me to have my own work performed and it motivates me to write more. Marty is very encouraging and wants me to have it published. I think that I can write music pretty well, but I'm not as confident

about my lyrics and that seems to be my main stumbling block. Why don't all you writers out there send me some lyrics.

The kids are doing well. Marty is travelling about a week a month, a few days here and there and occasionally a trip to Japan or Europe. Today he's in Denver. I had to get his power of attorney and sign the papers to sell our home myself. I've done all the footwork and paperwork to get our loan and Marty's done most of the worrying.

It was wonderful to see David and Karen. Karen and I had a good time spending her money at Nordstrom's. Too bad our weather went bad for their vacation.

Come visit us in our new used house. The address is:

431 Bellevue Court
Los Altos, CA 94022

Love,

Liz

(over)