

*mail in New Hallmarck*  
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October 2, 1986

Dear Family:

Things are really "back in the swing" here. I enjoyed the casual programming of this summer. It seems our every hour is scheduled for some activity, and it seems to get worse as the kids get older. Yesterday Erin could not go to her ballet lesson because her shoes were broken and I had not replaced them, and Emily skipped her gymnastics lesson, so I actually had an hour after school to sit and talk to my kids and watch John kick a soccer ball around the back yard. It was quite a luxury!

I am now teaching at Pinewood School four afternoons a week (I have Friday off), and teach at home after school three afternoons. I'm enjoying the teaching, but sure wish I could hire a cook! We're having lots of soup and sandwiches for dinner.

The kids have been faithfully getting up at 5:45 a.m. Greg goes off to early-morning Seminary at 6:00 and Emily and Erin practice the piano and violin until 7:15. They each have their own alarm clock so I don't have to be the bad guy who wakes them up. I have to admit it is much more difficult to listen to a child learn the violin than the piano! When Erin plays her violin, even her rat curls up in a ball under a cloth and hides her head! But the tones are getting better each day.

This month everyone but Marty and Greg have been to the dentist (no cavities), Emily and Erin have been to see the ophthalmologist (no change in eyeglass prescription), and Marty has been to New Jersey (actually less exciting than the dentist or eye doctor.)

John is playing soccer this year. He's quite an athlete, dribbling down the field full speed, getting knocked down, but bouncing right up without even an "ouch!" The only time he paused upon falling, was when he fell into a mud puddle and was half covered with mud. That, he didn't like! His team is called the "Cougars" because we told the coach before the season began that we had a "Cougar" banner. Then we couldn't find the banner and I had to make another.

That's what September was like for us. We've had good health. Hope the same for you.

Love, Liz