

2-7-85
Thursday

Dear Family,

On January first I began working on one of the children's promised Christmas presents. I had purchased all of the necessary materials before hand. I took down one wood panel adjacent to the stairs and cut a door into it. It has hinges, door handles and a latch. Under the stairs has officially been dubbed "THE HUT". The following Saturday I put in a light with a wall switch. I had an electrical engineer from work help me on this to make sure the wiring and such was correct and safe. The kids are thrilled. It is probably their best Christmas present. Eventually I plan to cut another door from under the stairs on the other side. This way the secret passage will go from their bedroom, into the hut and out into the family room. The girls would really like that.

I spent a lot of time working on our 1984 income tax return. It looks like we will get about \$2500 back from the State and Fed combined. We are seriously considering opening up an IRA for the 1984 tax year with the return. We will probably do it.

In January our whole family came down with that miserable flu. All three of the kids came down with it on a Tuesday, actually Monday during the night. I made it through work on Wednesday but crashed that evening. Charlotte caught it Thursday morning bad. I missed work two days. Charlotte and I tried to "take turns" being sick, but I was worse off. Poor Charlotte. Fortunately, the children were for the most part over it by Friday. Charlotte was able to rest all day Sunday. Having the whole family sick at once does have its advantages. We were able to get rid of it instead of passing it around. I developed a horrible cough though. I had lots of blood in my phlegm. I went to the doctor. He said that my lungs were clear but didn't take any chances. I was given a prescription for pneumonia. It was very expensive.

Sarah was in a play last week end. It was "Cinderella". Sarah was a pumpkin along with 19 other kids her age. They did a little dance and sang a song entitled "Pumpkin Pie". It was cute. They put in a lot of practice time. The show was put on by the Missula Children's Theater and sponsored by the cultural council Charlotte is on. Well done. Love, Bryan, Charlotte & Kids