

December 6, 1977

Dear ALL,

Greetings from a still very dry California. The weather, which we now talk about, is going into a record third year of drought. We were on a voluntary 25% water cutback this year but if there is no rain this year we will be on a mandatory 50% cutback.

The most notable event this year is that our kids are getting big. Joe notes that he can barely give them all a horse ride at the same time.

Joey, who is now proudly 3-1/2 (big is very important to him) loves to run around with no shoes, no shirt and his little pot tummy hanging over his pants. He is rather quiet, but has a good sense of humor and loves to dig, build and fix. Joey & Judy cut some apron strings this fall when he started Montessori Nursery School which luckily is right through the gate behind our house.

Amy, 8-1/2, still has boys coming by to play as if she were just one of the kids on the block (she still likes to build things and take things apart). Amy said she didn't want to make a Christmas List as she didn't want to give Santa any choices and not give her what she wanted--that is a TV. Just a little background--our 12 year old black & white TV was stolen out of our home this summer. We find life beautiful without it. We now have books and games all over the house and we do more things together. The kids are devouring books daily and enjoying it.

Mary, 10-1/2, loves to be where the action is. When the phone rings she assumes it's for her. Just the right clothes and bows are very important. She loves reading novels and mysteries. The month of November alone she read over 5000 pages. That is quite a feat considering it has to be sandwiched in between ballet, soccer, swimming, Girl Scouts and slumber parties.

Becky, 11-1/2, loves everything and remembers everything (except occasionally her spelling). She is a goalie in soccer and is really quite good--she hardly cries when she misses a goal. All our girls are in soccer this year and we love it. Joe is an assistant coach and Judy considers Saturday morning the best day of the week. Joe & Judy are thinking of being co-coaches next year. Soccer is so good for kids--especially girls.

Judy's big event this year is a tiny bit of FREEDOM. With Joey in nursery school 3 mornings a week she can do something on her own. She is finishing up a course at our local Junior College and enjoyed the challenge of having something to do outside of the house. Her cousin Stephanie Travers made some extremely beautiful stained glass windows for our front entrance--even Joe is inspired by the windows. Judy helped choose the glass and we both agonized over putting the windows in.

Joe still loves his Land in the country. The drought has been hard on the orchard but we have lots of firewood. He put in a drip irrigation system and can easily water about 150 trees, and some berries and grapes. The two Joes love to head South and spend the day working and fixing/planting and harvesting. Both our apricot and walnut crops were really good this year as we had all we could use or give away.

Joe's folks are planning on spending part of the winter (maybe 6 weeks) in California. We are all excited as they haven't been here for 3 years.

The Tembrocks

Joe, Judy, Becky, Mary, Amy & Joey