



January 1, 1995

**G**reetings everyone! We hope you've been enjoying this holiday season. Right before Christmas last year, the flu hit, and Sharon didn't get the cards out before she collapsed, but vaguely remembers the family dragging the 14' Christmas tree into the house.

With two teenagers in the house, we are hardly at a loss for something to do. Two years ago Terry joined the Casa Grande High School Choir, where he sings bass and is section leader. He also belongs to a 20-member choreographed jazz choir, La Choralista, which involves four hours a week of after-school rehearsal, besides the 1-2 hours of the school day. Jocelyn joined choir as a freshman and this year is singing two hours every morning! What a great way to wake up! She is also the director's assistant, so she gets to be around for a lot of "La Chor's" activities, also, and helps out with the recently established choir at the junior high. We're very happy about their involvement with choir, as it keeps them busy with several major performances during the year, and the group takes top awards at music festivals, too. The director started with nine students six years ago and now has about 175. Besides, hearing their tenor soloist last year sing "Music of the Night" from Phantom of the Opera made Sharon melt! After winter vacation the choir will be getting ready for their spring round of performances and La Choralista will be singing in Disneyland.

Besides choir, Jocelyn, now 15, is enjoying her biology and honors English classes. She has also continued with Girl Scouts, although it's hard to squeeze that in lately. She and another girl completed a Silver Award project in September and she continues to be a counselor at our local day camp each summer. Jocelyn went to Hawaii with the choir in the spring and fell in love with it. Later she and her dad went white water rafting with Terry's scout troop--what an adventure! She continues to like languages and is currently studying German at school. She doesn't have any career plans yet but it seems like travel is in her future. She has dreamed of going to Alaska and is brushing up on her Portuguese, hoping to return to Brazil. Spending times with friends of course, is a favorite pastime. Two outings this vacation have been a one-day trip to the snow, and rollerblading in an airplane hangar at our local airport!?! Amanda went too.

Terry, 17, amazed us at age 10 by announcing he was going to be a genetic engineer. Well, he continues to pursue his studies in biology. He's very fortunate in that at Casa Grande High School the Biology III class is a genetics lab, sponsored by grant money from a local education foundation and under the mentorship of a graduate student from Berkeley. Terry's having a GREAT time. Last year he was recognized for having "Exceptional Rat Washing Ability", but this year is learning how to prepare growth media and actually mutate bacteria. Next step, Jurassic Park....His class recently gave a talk for a high school science symposium at the Lawrence Hall of Science in Berkeley. It was very interesting to hear the presentations of young men and women from all over the state who are following careers in science.

Last year, Terry was one of two juniors who were members of the school's academic decathlon team. His school usually wins the regional competition, but last year the team was really excited as they finished fourth at the state level, moving up from tenth place. The team studies for this event beginning in August; we're waiting to see what happens at this year's competition in February.

When there's time, he tries to do some hiking or backpacking with friends or play music (bass guitar). He spends a lot of his time, however, with Jaime, his girlfriend of over a year. She graduated last June, and attends our local community college, where Terry will be starting classes next fall. Other pastimes are completing senior year, making extensive use of the computer and role-playing games. Oh, and of course driving! Unfortunately, we only have one car for three - soon to be four - drivers, so he doesn't have use of the car as much as he would like. Besides, cruising in a Dodge Caravan just... doesn't... have...the right image. Terry is also still in Boy Scouts, traveling with his troop to Utah and Oregon for summer camp and white water rafting in the Sierra Nevada. He's eligible for the Eagle Award and has a few more months to complete it.

Amanda, now 11, has cut out quite a schedule for herself. In sixth grade this year, our baby (ah-hem) will be leaving elementary school! She is doing well in school, loves gymnastics and softball, plays trumpet in the school band, sings in the school chorus, and is in a local youth chorus. We lost count of all the performances the kids have had in the last few weeks - it amounts to 15 or so - but we all agreed, enough already! We're a little burned out! When she got her braces on her teeth in fifth grade, she was quite distressed to learn that she could no longer play the trumpet. She switched to trombone, which she really liked, and could reach the lowest positions by extending the slide with her foot! She has grown since then, and also switched back to trumpet.

Amanda is still active in Girl Scouts. Last year our troop went backpacking twice and cross country skiing. Amanda missed the ski trip because she had mononucleosis, but we had taken her and a friend a month earlier. She loved it! We call her "Crash and Burn Morgan". She also went to Girl Scout camp this past summer. She had waited a long time to do this and was very excited, but unfortunately there was a salmonella outbreak and she was one sick girl. There were so many campers sick that they had their own unit and theme song: "We feel sick, oh we feel so sick, blah!" She enjoys playing with her friends, reading, art, and spending time with Ralph, her really sweet, furry, white hamster.

Thinking back, we don't know how we made it through last year. Tim was working many hours of overtime and still drilling once a month with the Navy reserves. Terry had mononucleosis and various side effects, Amanda had mono and salmonella, Jocelyn was sick for awhile, there were a few cases of strep thrown in; the kids each missed several weeks of school! We're thankful everyone is better and we're looking forward to a healthier year this year.

Tim is pretty active with Terry's Boy Scout troop, planning rock climbing and other activities. Last summer he traveled to Oregon for the troop's summer camp. With the Navy he was ordered to serve a few 2-week stints in Pearl Harbor. Tough duty! And yes, he's still with Bechtel. His travels are closer to home, mostly Pocatello, Idaho, or Seattle. It is nice to have him around more, but, boy, do we miss those frequent flyer tickets! Tim, Terry, and some friends did take some time this May to try an ascent of Mt. Shasta (14,161 ft.). While conditions were somewhat less than ideal (70mph winds), Terry was the only one to make the summit. Darn kids!

Sharon is in school again. Continuing in the life sciences, she is currently earning a medical assisting certificate to find a job - fast! She is also still Hands On Science coordinator for this area, a Girl Scout troop leader, and resident activities coordinator/teen counselor/chauffeur (Terry really helps out with this sometimes)/psychologist. In the past couple of years she has actually been able to get to the snow for x-country skiing 4-5 times, one time on a Tuesday with a friend, and back in time for dinner. (Darn) One highlight last year was going to the state PTA convention. (Really!) Hey, three days staying in a nice hotel, eating in fabulous restaurants and meeting people who know how to party? Don't knock it! And besides, there was a keynote address by our illustrious governor, Pete Wilson. (Ha.) Otherwise, Sharon likes to hike, bike, camp, garden or go to the beach when she has time, or travel anywhere when there is the money. (Seldom.) All of that musical exposure from the kids has made Sharon yearn to take up her clarinet again, (since she can't sing) and as soon as there is time she plans to join a community band or wind ensemble.

Being sick last year at Christmas made us appreciate even more the holiday greetings and letters we received from everyone. Times are tough and we don't really know how or when we will be able to see all of you again, but just to know you are out there and to hear about your families is heartwarming. Happy New Year!

Sharon  
Tim

The Morgans  
Amanda ☺ Terry

Jocelyn

P.S.: We're going electronic! Any of you connected to Internet e-mail access systems can reach us at our America Online address:

BlkCloud@aol.com for Tim, Shron7@aol.com for Sharon, and Terry's is Kalaketo@aol.com

Send to Amanda or Jocelyn via BlkCloud. So send us some e-mail and we'll see you in cyberspace!