

Thanksgiving, November 25, 1999

Dear Family,

Happy Thanksgiving everyone, and happy birthday Laura and Cindy.

We will be having dinner with Carol's family at her sister's house in Holt.

The sun is shining here and the river is full of white butts. The geese are dunking their heads down to feed off the bottom of the river, turning white triangular butts up in the air.

We quit feeding birds a couple years ago. We used to hang the feeders on the rail of the balcony off the kitchen, but the seeds fell down on the deck and on the lava rock ground cover around the deck, making a real mess. So we quit, but I miss them, and one of these days I'm going to get rid of the lava rock and start feeding birds again.

Carol's youngest daughter Dawn is here, but she will be leaving soon to have dinner at her father's house. She is Carol's favorite and she loves to have her around. She graduated from college last summer and is living in Grand Rapids. Carol made us blueberry pancakes for breakfast.

Carol is still working at her new state job. She has been there almost 2 months! It has been rough, because she has been in training. She is either watching other people work or doing nothing. but she likes the people she is working with and she likes the fact that it only takes 10 minutes to get to work and there is parking next to the building. She is only a couple blocks from where I work.

I had another letter published in the Lansing State Journal. This is what I wrote:

The Enemies of Democracy are at it again. Republican legislators have proposed an amendment to the state constitution to require a "super majority" - as many as two-thirds of lawmakers - for passage of any tax increase. That is the same as saying it will take only one-third of them to stop an increase in state spending.

I don't really want to pay more taxes, but I do believe in democracy and I can't imagine what the word means if not majority rule.

If the amendment is passed, the people of this state will have turned over control of their lives to a small minority of fat rich white guys.

In the published version, they took out the "fat".

The last news I got on Dad/Pete/Grandpa is that he is doing well and may be coming home today or tomorrow. He is talking and walking (with a walker) and getting stronger. Doctors thought there may be a problem with his throat, but when they took a good look, they found nothing that would require surgery. Carol and I were there with Mom and Deb on Sunday. On Monday, Deb spent most of the day with him, shampooing his hair, trimming his sideburns and eyebrows, and cutting his meat for him. She found out how little attention patients get from the nurses. Deb flew back to Tennessee on Tuesday.

On Sunday, we took Mom to the Gateway store in Portage and made her buy a computer so she can send and receive e-mail. Dad was excited at the thought of being able to check on his investments over the Internet. It comes with Microsoft Word and a bunch of other software.

Steve