

December 11, 2000

Laura,

We've got a blizzard here. Where Carol works, if they close the schools, she gets to stay home with pay. I just heard that Grand Ledge schools have closed for the afternoon. Here at our office, we've just ordered pizzas.

I'm sorry Dad is feeling so down. Maybe I can get down there and take him for a drive. Your trip to Florida sounded like fun. If I could find a cheap place to stay, it might be fun to go down there and just visit the nature areas. The problem with being near retirement is that you are conscious of the need to save every penny for retirement.

Amy and Tom are both coming home for Christmas. Amy will fly into Grand Rapids Thursday, Dec. 21 at 4:50. I'll pick her up and bring her back to Lansing, then she will go to her mother's Christmas Eve. We will come Christmas day. I don't know when Tom is coming. He will probably drive. We are having a Christmas celebration at our house for all of our kids on the Saturday before Christmas.

I had jambalaya at Jambalaya's Saturday night. It is a big restaurant on Round Lake, northeast of Lansing. They feature New Orleans style food and blues music. The jambalaya was too spicy for me. Carol had quail, but didn't eat it because she didn't think it was cooked enough - even after she sent it back once. She's a bit paranoid about food. The occasion was that we took Carol's brother and his wife to dinner as thanks for his having let her use his GM employee discount to buy her Grand Prix. She says that car is the best toy she's ever had.

We saw The Klumps last night on video. It is pretty nasty. A lot of farting and bulges in trousers. Also, a guy gets raped by a giant gerbil. But there are a few parts that are hilarious. There is a new Coen brothers comedy called "Oh Brother" with George Clooney coming. Could be great like "Raising Arizona" or disappointing like "The Hudsucker Proxy" and - now I can't remember the name - the one with Jeff Bridges.

Steve