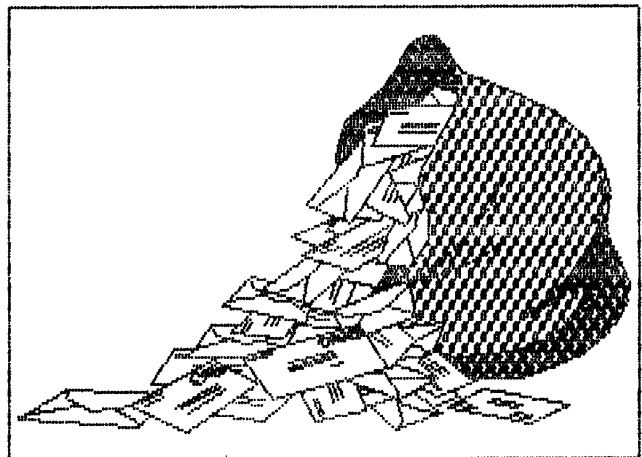


This most intimate and personal time of year has come upon us again! And that's the time we long to reach out with love and faith and again, just to keep in touch. Right now, we've been so quiet here, we need to send you a sign of life. We think of you all often, and a sign of life and a line or two from you would also be very precious to us.

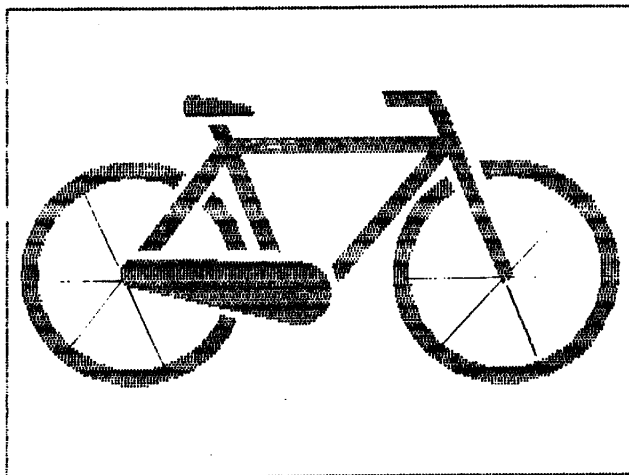
Now **Markie** just had his sixth birthday. He is into "Power Rangers". And when he becomes frightened he yells "Mastodon!!! "[Which is the name of his favorite Power Ranger]. He learned to ride his bike, and in his words, "Can do the side-saddle-trick." He likes to play with "G.I. Joes". He is our little talker and singer.

Joshua will be eight in January. He's in the second grade while Markie is in the First. Both are enjoying aikaido lessons and can do some fine rolls. Joshua is a very good athlete. He loves to fly airplanes, and enjoys biking and skateboarding. He likes to do projects with Mark. Both

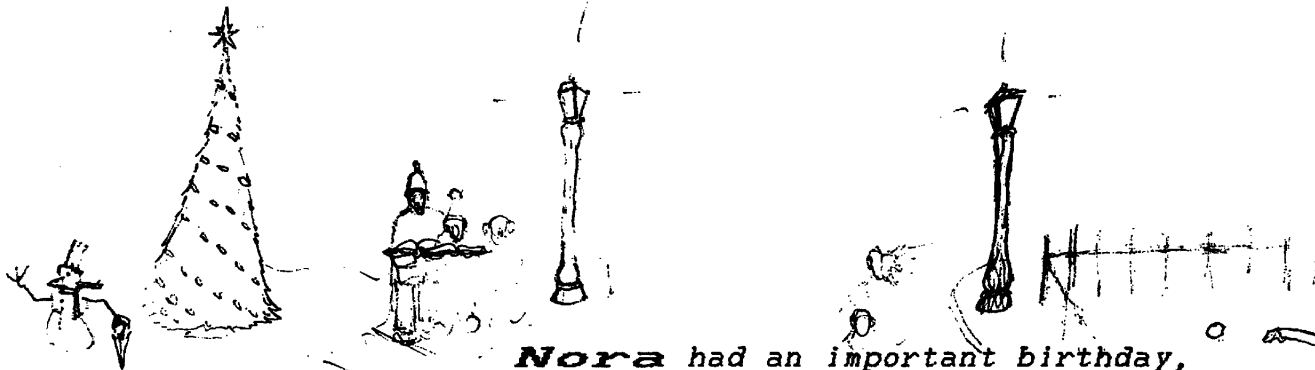


Joshua and Mark received first communion just this last Reformation Sunday. Joshua is also into playing chess on the computer.

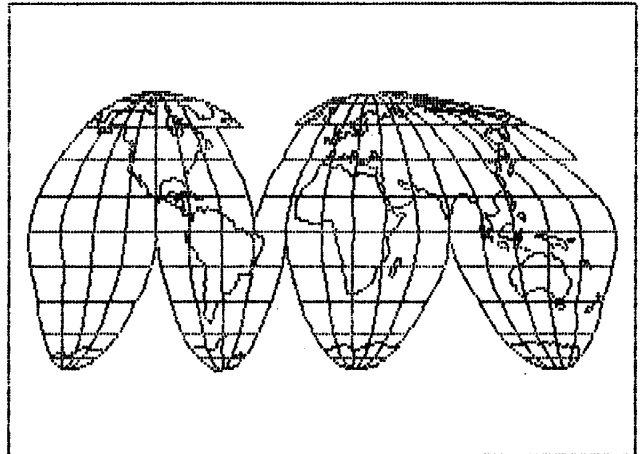
Ashley eats, drinks and sleeps his electric guitar and is getting very good at it. On the acoustic guitar, he has already won one talent show with his own composition. He has a band and practices with them a lot. He is getting taller than me! He just had his 14th birthday on October 24th. He has lots of friends in the Albany High



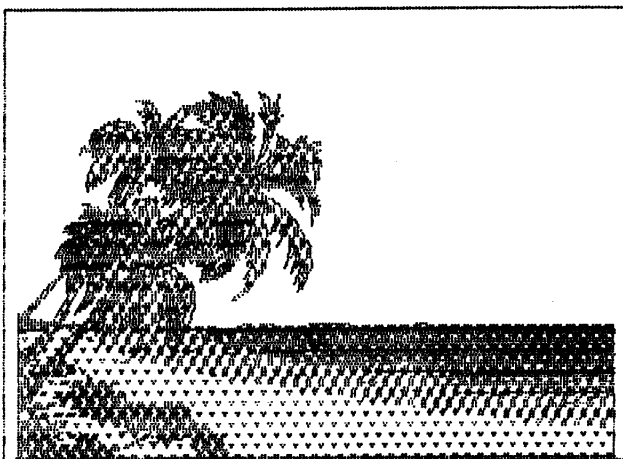
School where he is a freshmen. Ashley is also going to join his school's soccer team. The boys love to rough-house. Too bad they rough-house in our living room, but we cant send them out, because we don't have much of a backyard.



Nora had an important birthday, the **BIG 40!** And I just had my 50th. She is working in the mission district of San Francisco, as a psychiatric social worker. Slowly she is trying to get all her credentials from the state of California - which is frustrating because her credentials from New York are not recognized. She is now the bread-winner for our family, giving me the chance to study. Nora loves to travel. But with a family of five, it would mean quite a penny!



It's different studying again. Studying and doing homework again with a **half a century** behind me is a step backward for sure - but in terms of knowledge, it will



enable a giant step forward afterward. I have not been preaching, and that feels like a real loss. After battling sermons together every week for over twenty years, believe it or not, I miss it. But it was fun being the teaching assistant for Prof. Timothy Lull for the incoming seminarians. The semester was hard. There's only a paper left and then the first comprehensive in early church history: Jan. 21. Ahhhggg.

That's just a smidgeon about each of us. We thought we might invite you to visit with us in sunny California. We wish you a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **BLESSED NEW YEAR.**

KREYS