

Dearest Friends,

November 24th 1998

I really don't know where to start: this has been such a full year! It's hard to believe that we have been in San Diego over a year now. It's flown by so quickly. I have really enjoyed living in Southern California again. Of course the holiday season always makes me home sick for the East Coast and Virginia. It's those itchy feet I guess.:->

It's been quite year. School has been...well school. I'm now entering the "home-stretch" of my senior year. Bridget and I a due to graduate next June or July so this next semester is going to be busy. Add yearbook making, commencement party planning and formal dressmaking and it adds up to be an ultra crazy time time. I'm looking forward to it though. I'm still thinking and praying about "life after high school". I don't know what The Lord has in store for me and (I have to admit) it makes me a little nervous sometimes but I know I can trust Him with my future. We'll just have to wait and see I guess.

The highlight my year has to be my 5-week trip to Australia. Yes, you read it right! I spent 5 weeks with a dear friend and her family in Canberra AU. It was incredible. It was my first international trip and also my first solo trip. It was It was wonderful to see more of the world and see another culture. Australia is a beautiful and very fun country.

I spent most of my time in Canberra. (For those of you who failed in geography, that is the capital of the country.) For a capital city it is pretty small and rural but it is definitely one of the loveliest cities I've ever seen. I was able to see their Parliament house (like our Capital building), their National Library, National mint, Government House (the residence of the Queen's representative). I also went to Sydney for the weekend. That was fun too. Sydney is lovely also; a lot like San Francisco in its flavor. My favorite thing there was the Royal Botanical Gardens. It's basically a huge park right n the bay. It has great landscaping, flowers, ponds and of course great views of the harbor and Opera House. It was the trip of a lifetime and I'm so glad I was able to go. (It was a real boast to my post card collection! ☺)

Currently, between Christmas shopping and job searching, Bridget and I are planning our spring formal. Some of our (girlfriends are going with us to LA in June to see '*Riverdance*'. We are going to make a night of it. We're going to see the show, then go out to a nice restaurant for a late dinner then spend the night in LA (slumber party of course). All dressed to the hilt (we're talking a formal here! ☺) and of course no guys allowed! It should be tons of fun and a weekend to remember.

We are also beginning to plan our commencement party. We won't have an actual graduation ceremony with diploma and all that but we are having a reception/celebration. It looks like both sets of Grandparents will be coming so we are super excited about that. That will make it extra special. Because we home school, its more than just Bridget and I getting diplomas, it's the end of a life-style. It's not just the end of high school; it will be the closing of the White House Academy. I'm glad our family will be able to be a part of that.

I should end this so you can get your card before New Years! I hope you have a Very Merry Christmas and a very wonderful New Year!!