Feb. 10

Dear Mary Ann & Rich,

SO WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH PITTSBURGH??????????????

It was such fun watching you last night and then calling. We thought you all came across very well, tho knowing Mary Ann, you probably had cold clammy hands the whole time. We really would be interested in knowing the details and some of the inside disasters that must have happened.

We are all just fine these days. The flu bug has been all around us but so far hasn't done us in to any great extent. Some of our friends have been laid really low by it, so we are hoping we can avoid the whole thing.

We are beginning to have really nice days weather-wise now - up to 70 during the day. Our week of winter weather came before Christmas this year. That's really all the really miserable freezing type weather we usually get. Chuck had the misfortune to have to be in Chicago last week and almost froze. He was downtown at the Bismarck and attended meetings day and evening. Was glad to come home to thaw out if nothing else.

The lull before the storm of tax season is upon me now. I worked my fingers off while Chuck was gone to get my 26 corporations under control. Each requires a set of books and 4 different tax returns and reports. This is quite a chunk in addition to my working for the CPA here in town.

Sounds like your Christmas includes wall to wall people. In my mellower moments I am already beginning to think about what it could be like when the girls all have families (and David too) and they "come home" all at once. Oy vay.

The second weekend in January Chuck and I were treated to a weekend in Las Vegas by his boss. It was the first time we had been there, the first time since May 1962 that we had been away from the kids for even one night. Sympathetic friends (it took three families to cover the brood) took the children from Friday morning to Sunday night and it was marvelous. We had the benefits of being with people who knew what to see and where to go and also how to pick up the big checks. We lost on the slot machines, of course, didn't do any serious gambling - that takes too much concentration - and altogether had a ball.

Things are looking more hopeful as far as Chuck's mother moving here. She finally has an offer on her house - after 3 years - and tho it is below what she wants, it makes more sense to accept less money than to drop dead in the house. Nothing is too definite yet but we are hoping. She is still planning on moving here and buying a small house nearby.

The kids are all doing the normal things. Linda is the most interesting with her band activities, dating, candystriping, etc, etc. In spite of all the extra activity, she has gotten straight As both grading periods. Carol and Patti aren't near as energetic, but schlep along at their own pace.

Better get some lunch now. The enclosed isn't as exciting as your pictures last night, but we can't all be stars!!!

Love to all from all -----

Love, Marilyn