

Dear Halls,

May 21, 1992

I'm back from a great week in NJ! Sherlene & I enjoyed celebrating her birthday & mothers' day!

We also met with our Weichert Agency real estate friends, touring comparable houses and discussing whether we should list. They suggested we sell it ourselves, with LOW price being the key factor.

Our gardening progressed with the rototilling of our 5000 sq. ft. of garden areas & the forming of raised flats or terraces with ditches between (our yard slopes moderately downward to the rear). Sherlene got a good start preparing & planting the flats. Stephen Lehnardt is a great help with gardening, mowing, etc.! A church friend from NY, just older than Daniel & Laura, he's interning from BYU in PR at the main AT&T location just half a mile from us.

I also put in more than half-time effort programming for my BYU job. I have finally found the right PC Notebook after trying out several! The power & features are adequate for MS windows programming & testing (486/33, 4MB of RAM, 120MB hard disk with its capacity doubled by Stacker compression software), and the price beats everything else around!

Sherlene, besides maintaining & marketing the house, has found family records treasures in Basking Ridge's Presbyterian Church, which was the only outpost of the Newark Church back in Revolutionary times & before. She is copying these & has arranged for the Church to microfilm them.

Daniel flew to Utah in late April. He & Laura are both attending the BYU Spring Term. He loves his intensive writing course. He just started custodial work at the Missionary Training Center & actually enjoys it because of the spirit there. Laura arranged for him to be in the same apartment complex, one entrance away. Daniel is teaching Sunday School in their student ward and is pursuing his current interest in the area of coed relations. It's fun to see Daniel & Laura together & enjoying each other!

Laura loves one of her two social work classes, but she's been frustrated in her job hunt. She continues volunteer activity; she & a male student volunteer have a weekly outing with a fatherless boy. Laura continues as a family home evening "mother" in their ward. She is also attending, out of personal interest, a several-week evening seminar at Utah Valley Community College on neuro-linguistic programming.

Since returning from NJ, I have joined in some gardening here too. My mother had 14 yards of sandy soil mix delivered. Family and Church friends helped move & spread it. Mom, a nephew, I, & probably Daniel will share the garden.

My programming currently involves a lot of clean-up editing, with incorporation of text compression to follow. I now have a family and personal history assignment in the High Priests' group & am a counselor in the Sunday School presidency. I recently read a GREAT little book mom & dad Bartholomew had around the house: *Return from Tomorrow*, by George Ritchie--a book I hope to share with you. Must Reading!

Life is great here (as it was in IL, NY, & NJ) if we can just get our family together. Love to each of you! Dan

P.S.: Daniel's phone/addr: ~~(801) 374-7947; 448E 600N; Provo, UT 84606~~

*He is living with merrille on stadium ave. one of 9 students. no phone yet. Show & address on Kattam of ~~the~~ Dan's July 14 letter*

Zina or Mark, since the missionaries are often there, but missed them. Which reminds me of another sphere of excitement around Doug and Nancy's temple sealing.

It meant much to me that the rest of us could do the ceremonies on behalf of some of the nearly 200 deceased relatives whose names were in the "Family File." Our son Daniel brought his roommate, Chris, a girlfriend, Lisa, and her roommate, and met me at the temple at 7 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 5, to perform all the baptisms, which were accomplished in less than two hours. It was a tender experience when the temple workers asked Daniel to perform some of the baptisms, and I was baptized and confirmed by my own son on behalf of about thirty of these deceased ancestors and relatives for whom I had personally searched.

The next day, other temple patrons did all the initiatory ordinances, so the names were waiting for us this Friday morning, barely in time for Nancy's ceremony. Temple workers assured me that those remaining names would be taken through the temple this very day, by others attending the temple. I am confident that many of these spirits were rejoicing in the temple this morning with us.

Needless to say, I feel immeasurably grateful that we are now all sealed together as a family. I pray we can all keep our covenants so these sealings will endure, no matter what. I hope we as a family can be more close and loving, so Nancy and Doug will feel blessed for making this great effort and commitment.

I also feel deeply grateful to each member of our family for being worthy to join together in the temple this day. I have never felt more close to all members of our family. Truly this is what Elijah returned to the earth to restore in terms of turning the hearts of the children to our fathers and the hearts of our fathers, to their children. If this spirit can bring peace to a family as headstrong and diverse as ours, then we can have much hope for this entire world, as well.

Well, we're getting ready to land in St. Louis, where I'll change planes for Newark Airport. 'Probably about time I got my feet back on the ground. And what better place than the land where the New Jerusalem will soon be established. Here Adam shall return, calling forth the 140,000 who have been sealed and their patriarchs for a great feast (which for sure means the Relief Society will be invited). It seems appropriate that today, of all days, I am completing a circle, since our ancestors were driven by mobs from this place, where they tried to build a temple to the Lord, so they could experience these sealing blessings in their families. God bless their memory and bless us to keep them in memory!

Most gratefully, Sherlene Hall Bartholomew

*Sherlene B.*