

November 7, 1993

Dear Family:

I can't believe that another fast day has come and gone--I just realized that it was time for me to write my monthly Hallmanack. Having Sherlene taking two writing classes is turning into a boondock for us because she sometimes uses our experiences for her writing and thus it kills two birds with one stone--her paper and an interlude from our personal history.

Her latest assignment is to interview someone on points of their personal history and spend a certain amount of time transcribing the recording. We started with and didn't even get through some of our remembrances of our mission. Zimbabwe was a unique place and we had some unique experiences there. One we didn't mention, Sherlene, was the time our car was back ended by a drunk driver. Everyone had said "Never get into a car accident with a native--you'll be the bad guy no matter what." It didn't turn out that way--everyone (and it did attract a big crowd) was on our side.

We had two auto accidents while on our mission. The second was down in Capetown, and it was nothing short of a miracle that we walked away alive from that one.

One of the best things I could wish for our children and our grandchildren is that they will have as good a marriage as ours has been. Children are supposed to bring a couple closer together, and of course they do--but they also can divide them. Differences of opinion as to how to raise, discipline, etc can cause friction, but also watching those cute, darling children grow up and mature is also interesting and binding. But the best years of life are still to come in a marriage when the children grow up and move away. Especially when you have grown children who call up for a chat often, or who drop in to see you if they're in the area. Then is the time you can go on vacations you couldn't afford when all the kids were draining the budget. Time for missions together, trips together, and activities together.

One thing I would advise you whose kids are getting to the moving away stage. Develop interests, all of you, so that you are not dependent on your spouse for your every breath. If either spouse feels neglected because the other has interests that interfere with "togetherness" there could be some conflict.

Tracy, we missed you Sunday. Put on your calendar "Dinner with Grandparents" on the first Sunday of December. Sometimes to remember an appointment, I have to put a note on the front door so I will see it when I go out.

With Christmas and Thanksgiving coming up, it will be a difficult time for missionaries. In the US, people are too busy to listen to the gospel near Thanksgiving, although it is a good time to get an invitation to dinner, and everywhere during the Christmas season is a difficult missionary teaching time. A missionary can get discouraged and lonely during these months. Let's all make it a point to send letters/and or cards to our missionaries the next two months. Of course they wouldn't like to get packages!

By the way Zina, Robert, Mary, Laura, and Mark--we want to hear from you, too. You need to send a letter to the Hallmanack every month so that WE can hear what YOU are doing. This should not be a one way street--writing letters begets getting them.

Grandfather Hall has spent the month of October gathering nuts in May (or October). He has found that there is a market for tree seeds, and has sent over 200 lbs (not including the ones he planted on the farm) of Quercus Robur 'Fastigiata', or columnar Oak to various nurseries. He got Three dollars a pound plus shipping. Of course he spent a lot of time gathering them, and packaging them, but that wasn't so bad as the students on the Y campus would come by and ask him what he was doing? He got quite creative with his answers sometimes. He says he figures he only spent about 10 hours collecting them which paid him about \$70. an hour. He says he picked up approximately 14,000 acorns. Living with your Grandfather has never been dull. One of the sources ask him if he could furnish 2000 pounds of maple seed? Do you know how many seeds there are in 2000 pounds of maple seed? He wasn't interested. You'd need a mechanical seed picker for something like that. Now Acorns--that is different. There are approximately 70 acorns per pound.

My knee is pretty well healed from the surgery I had on it. I still know I have a bone in there, but the Dr. says he has known people to have beneficial recovery up to six months. So maybe I will get some more healing. Even if I don't, I can't complain--Dr. Jackson did a good job.

Grandfather has another idea for a press and is busy at his drafting table. I am trying to get him to finish the ones he has already started. He seldom finishes one before he has a "better" idea.

I am still trying to get the Turnbaugh research ready to send to a genealogist to see if they can make the hop across the ocean and extend the lines. It's taking quite a bit of time. I thought maybe we could go pick up Zina, take Tracy Sr., and do some work on our own, but the time of year she is being released is not the time that one would want to be visiting the cold churches in Germany. Besides, the cost of the tickets for us all and the board and room would buy a lot of hours of professional research. (Not as much fun, though.)

This is probably long enough, and I am scrambling for ideas, so I will close with a
LOVE YA,

GRANDMOTHER HALL