

Dear Family,

October 10, 1993

Since we saw Laura off at the MTC, there has been another cousin farewell on each side of the family: Mary's on July 19 and Janet's on July 26, both filled with inspiring messages and music, followed by wonderful gatherings of family and friends.

We also received good inspiration from Stake Conference and General Conference. And I, more still, at my Aunt Betty's funeral in Fayette. Each of her children spoke, including Indian foster son, Wilbert Willie (there with his whole family). Betty's children are grateful she is now at rest and with her sweetheart. She lived and taught them REAL work, REAL love, faith, and helping others and also to laugh and love life. They never heard her speak badly of any one. A rare tribute!

After Janet's farewell & openbuffet on the 26th, Sherlene & I picked up Barry in SLC, and were then joined by Betsy & Tracy & several of their [distinguished] family, in admiring the fall colors up Provo's South Fork. Many others had the same idea. We heard that many people were caught in REAL traffic and delays that evening around the Alpine Loop.

Barry suggested a topic to Sherlene for her magazine writing class which she is still working on. She had already been writing long and hard (50+ pages) for her personal history writing class. Barry helped Sherlene with contacts and materials related to a major Utah court case: a suit by a small Utah mining company (Gold Standard) against giant Texaco for withholding its contractual share of profits and royalties. The jury awarded Gold Standard \$400M or so, including punitive damages. The judge set aside the verdict. Appeals continue...

Sherlene has spent two full days interviewing involved parties in SLC and has written much at nighttime to move ahead with this article. At the same time, she's doing very well in her dancing and singing classes.

Laura has been doing well at the MTC; apparently there were some adjustments for Laura, with the full and active but less ert (more inert) schedule, packed with classes & group & personal study. She recently sent delightful pictures of herself, including some with her companion & one with Mary.

Daniel likes doing his own artwork, along with videos and dating, in either order; we understand he studies some too; he dropped his art class & piano lessons because he wants to do art his way & not have it become something he HAS TO do, or do in someone elses style; he's still training as a volunteer at the new art museum, preparing for big opening, with the Etruscan exhibit from the Vatican. Yesterday (Sat) he helped there with lighting and also worked at MTC as a volunteer "investigator" for several hours.

I'm working busily implementing the pre-existing text compression scheme in the Windows version of WordCruncher, and figuring out how to work with Dead Sea Scrolls texts in concordance format, to bring them into WordCruncher.

I'm feeling much better now as time passes since my surgery. I've planted a few more things around the house (12 small-needle mugho pine shrubs, 20 mums) and am back to some semi-regular basketball & tennis workouts.

We are enjoying being together in a home here, even unpacking a few boxes occasionally & gradually getting more settled.

Love, Dan and family

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2005 N. 900 E
Provo, UT 84604-1793

} She loves mail! :)

October 13, 1993 - Here is the letter we got today from Laura, who is at the Mission Training Center:

10L "Hola Familia, ?(upside down) Como estan uds? As you can see, after a month (almost) in the MTC, I am now fluent in Spanish. They want to send me to Ecuador right now as a senior companion--to help the natives learn their language just a little better...I keep on declining the offer because w/out me, my district would be lost and basically nothing. Yes, I know...I am too giving, too kind. Too humble! It's hard to be as awesome as I am and still be humble, but somehow I am managing O.K.

"Time seems to be flying by all of a sudden...I can't believe I've already been here a month. It's funny because we are now finished learning Spanish (what a joke!), and we are just starting on the discussions! To think that what I learned in 4 years in high school has been taught and crammed into one month here--it is amazing.

"I met this great girl this week. She is also from NY and NJ. Her name is Susan Blattberg or Hermana Blattberg. She's from Manhattan & Toms River--her father is Jewish--her parents are divorced--her sister is inactive, and she has been inactive until fairly recently! She's going Spanish-speaking San Diego. Anyway, she reminds me a lot of people I knew in the East. Her companion went home, so my comp and I have been going everywhere w/her. It's been fun.

"I'm enjoying my district--they're a lot of fun. We do a lot of laughing during the day...you have to when you are in one classroom for about 10 1/2 hrs each day w/ all the same people.

"Kids, I am really cold in here a lot--Feel free to send me a neutral sweater or a jacket that'll warm me up so I don't die! It would be such a pity for me to die. I should've kept that jacket you sent--I swear Mom--it said dry clean only--I didn't see any tag that said 'Machine Wash.' Who knows! [Today I sent her another raincoat and two sweaters--we don't want her to die--by the way, Betsy and Karen, do you know there's this mail station by Ernst in Orem called Mail Right, which takes any size box to the MTC--carefully delivered by car the same day--for only \$2? The last time I was in there, Kathryn Bartholomew was in there, mailing a package for Janet!] Back to Laura: "I am realizing now, though, that I do probably need a long raincoat that can fully repel tons of rain & has a hood & I'll need pull-on boots that are capable of handling mud--but I'll worry about these things later.

"I'm sad because Bobothy is leaving today at 8:15 a.m.--that's in about 25 minutes! Can you believe I am writing this in the 7'8? Hello, over-achiever, nice to meet you! [For those of you who don't know, Bob is the non-Mormon she befriended as a freshman, who has since joined the Church and is now at the MTC going to Argentina--she went to San Diego to participate in his mission farewell--they are just very dear friends--nothing romantic--but it has been fun for her to see him often there at the MTC.]

"Have you guys watched 'On the Way Home'--a church video--here in the MTC you can buy all the church videos for about \$3 each. Pretty good. A lot of the videos are really cheezy, but they are fairly good!

"Well, parents & Dan, my little doll of a brother...things here are going well...I'm happy--getting more excited to go to Ecuador, realizing that I'm going to be quite the clueless American who can't speak un palebra de espanol [or something like that].

"Yesterday we tried to teach part of the 1st discussion in Spanish...muy funny! It's going to be tough to learn Spanish, understand the people & teach the gospel--that's why I hope I feel a lot of love for those I am w/ because that's about all the communication there will be! Hopefully they'll sense caring...

"Compliments of an elder in my district--Elder Winward: 'I gave my cat a bath the other day. You're not supposed to give cats baths because they don't like water, but the cat was really dirty. So, I said 'What the heck.' I had fun. The cat had fun. The fur would stick to my tongue, but other than that, it was fine.' Ha-ha.

"Well, please keep up the letters. I live for your letters--they mean so much to me! Packages are a wonderful thing here! No, of course that's not a hint! I love the color yellow (lemon bars) and could use a flashlight along w/money for the