

Dear Family:

February 15, 1994

Charlotte and I took the week of Christmas off from work. We drove to Utah. Charlotte's sister Nancy and family were very kind to let us stay with them the whole week. The kids got reacquainted with cousins and grandparents while the Charlotte and I had a joyful time visiting with parents, brothers and sisters. The week went by too quickly. We were fortunate to have favorable traveling weather and good roads.

In early January we took the family up to the snow. It was very windy and cold. The kids got on a toboggan and held up a big saucer type sled for a sail. The wind would pull them along even on relatively flat snow. We had fun, but didn't stay too long.

Two weeks later the whole family went skiing on Mount Hood. It was Charlotte, Hannah and the boy's very first time ever. Sarah had gone with a friend her first time the weekend before. I hadn't been skiing for over 15 years. It came back quickly for me. We all started out on a group lesson except Sarah. She brought a friend and they said, "See ya." The boys and Hannah did very well. Charlotte kept working at it, but was, shall we say, timid. The next time we go skiing Charlotte will get a private lesson. The weather was perfect. It was warm, clear and no wind. From Mt. Hood you could see for at least 100 miles. Everyone had a great time. The kids suggested that we go skiing every weekend. This wonderful sport is not within our every weekend budget. Maybe next Christmas we will go to Utah for two weeks and ski.

Sarah was in a lot of abdominal pain last Saturday night. In the wee hours of Sunday morning she demanded that we call for an ambulance. We drove her to the hospital emergency room at 3:30 a.m. She had an appendectomy later that morning. The stomach ache was terrific, but fortunately her appendix was not about to rupture. Sarah might come home today, but will come home at least by tomorrow- Wednesday. Sarah has had several friends come to the hospital for a visit which she enjoyed. Assuming there are no complications, Sarah will be back to school next Monday.

We bought the kids a basketball hoop for Christmas. I mounted the backboard on the garage wall (not on the roof) shortly after we got back from Utah. It is getting good use and has been a neighborhood draw. Hyrum and Hannah are both playing basketball this season. Hyrum's 5th grade team is quite good. They have only lost one game out of four. Hannah's Jr. High team has only had two games so far. They won their first game, but Hannah missed the second one. She was sick. Hannah enjoys basketball, but is having a hard time getting up for 6:30 a.m. practices two to three times a week. They alternate gym practice schedules with the boys, the 8th graders and games. Good training for early morning seminary in a couple of years don't you think.

Charlotte has been sewing again. Her latest project is a new coat for Sarah. Charlotte finds sewing relaxing and good mental therapy. Some people like to read, Charlotte likes to sew.

Love: Bryan, Charlotte, Sarah, Hannah, Hyrum & Willis

Feb 13, 1994

It's another month, and another Hallmanack due and I will have to fax this one too, because I forgot. I hope that Tracy and Betsy submitted one this month as it's been an exciting time with Zina coming home. She looks just beautiful! And gave a wonderful talk at her welcome home.

After her sacrament meeting talk (the music by her friends and family was beautiful as usual too. an expected plus in home comings for Tracy's family) we stayed (along with Emily and Greg and Sherlene and Dan) and listened to Tracy give his Sunday School lesson. He missed his calling--he's an excellent teacher, and should probably been a college professor.

I've been having the college age grandkids over on fast Sunday and maybe (just maybe) that is why my feeble mind doesn't scream "Hallmanack". No excuse for Tracy, though. Lucky Charlotte, she has a husband who writes for her.

Sherlene just called and chewed me out for not telling her about Virginia's surgery. So, I hope Virginia submitted a Hallmanack this month. She had a (she thought) little facial cancer which refused to respond to standard treatment and they decided to remove it surgically. She expected it to be nothing, but it turned into quite a project. They ended up going from the edge of her eye, across the face to the hairline and then down into her cheek, if I remember correctly. She asked them what would have happened if she hadn't come in to get it done. "You could have lost your eye." Like any normal woman she was worried if her husband wouldn't love her any more. He reassured her. What they do in such a situation, is remove what they think they need to, submit samples for lab work, then keep going if lab work indicates further work. She must have thought they were taking off her whole face. She's got guts, that Lady. She and Barry were due to do a duet the following Sunday (I think she went in on a Friday), and she went ahead with it. How can you retire from public when you want to for a while when you are the Relief Society President? She had the stitches taken out the next Monday. They like to take them out as soon as they can so the stitches don't scar as much. Sarah reports that she looks a lot better now. She may have to have some reconstructive surgery.

I guess I will have a permanent "fatter than the other" leg. I still cannot walk more than three laps around the track at the Y, but I have found that water-walking is much easier on both the leg and the knees, so have been doing that at the Y pool 6 am to 8 am mornings. Dad (four weeks from his catarach surgery) is now back to doing two miles.

I don't know if I reported his catarach surgery last month. He had a terrible black eye which is finally gone after 4 weeks, and had to wear a patch over his eye each night to keep me (I guess) from poking his eye out with my finger or elbow. Just kidding.

I read an article about aging yesterday. The way to keep young is to exercise, eat a lot of fruits and vegetables, stay away from fats and sweets (my downfall) and exercise. Also keep your minds active. Read, think, and find a good hobby or activity to keep you moving when you retire. That's about the essence of it.

I have been avoiding doing any genealogy because of the sitting. But must get back to it. I'll just have to set myself an alarm so I get up and walk around often enough.

Love, Grandmother Hall