

Hallmanack, November, 1994

Dear Family:

Last evening (Sunday) I had the local college grandchildren in for dinner. Since it was the Thanksgiving month I had Turkey and the fixings. I dragged out my silver and china, which I don't do very often as I am too lazy to wash them by hand, and I bought the pies and rolls. I am really getting lazy in my old age. The turkey was in the form of a turkey breast roast and I bought two because I was afraid that one wouldn't be enough, but got brave and cooked only one. It turned out to be just right--just a few pieces left which we will finish off at lunch today.

It's so much fun to have them. They are such beautiful people. We missed having Carli with us and Mark and Michael, who are in Logan. Maybe next time?

When I was visiting teaching at the Barretts last month, she mentioned that she had seen Tracy's name on some math test finals. I asked Tracy about it and he (and his sisters) came forth with the information. I called Betsy to be sure that I got it right--so here it is--(all you grandkids note--you may not think you have what it takes to do math--but maybe you haven't given yourself a chance. I realize that you may have a handicap with the genes you got from me--but your grandfather's genes are mathematically O.K.--and with electrical engineers, civil engineers, chemists, physicists, lab technician, (Doug is also the family's champion puzzle solver), and lawyer(adulterated chemist) for fathers, the genes are there, all right. Get them out and exercise them.)

Anyway, Tracy took, without cramming or tutoring or anything, the Putnam National Math test. I presume for college students. He took first in the State of Utah, and 49th in the whole U.S. (All applaud!) That's great Tracy. Besides which, he's a nice guy, which is even more important.

I needed some deadlines to get me writing my personal history, so I registered for Don Norton's English 222--Personal History Writing. I love the class--but it's very humbling. The last college class I took (about ten years ago) was from a history teacher and he red-slashed practically all the commas I put in, so I got out of the habit of putting commas in sentences. Don Norton is an English teacher and says put commas in wherever there is a natural pause, so my papers come back infused in red where I have failed to put in commas. He's a great editor. He's very complimentary to me, however. He says he likes to have a few oldies in his class because

they have had a little more experience in their lives than the average college student. I am working on my time line--which is a chronological personal history, and also little short (and sometimes long) personal history stories.

He strongly encourages the students to keep journals--best way to keep your personal history, but to include not just data, but also "feelings". I recommend you do as HE says and not as your Hall Grandparents have done. Neither of us is very good at keeping journals. I am trying to get Tracy to go to the class with me, but so far have drawn a blank.

Did I tell you last month, or did Liz? about the robbery of our rented storage unit? Emily and Greg lost about \$7,000. worth of school clothes and stuff which were stored in it. Mostly Emily's. What a pain.

I love you all. Look forward to our next Hall reunion which will be held Thanksgiving, 1995. Steven and Laura and Robert will be home from their missions, but Michael will probably be gone on his. With so many of our family members reaching the missionary and college age it will probably be hard to get everyone to these reunions, and of course, that is as it should be. First things first. Who do you think will be the first of the grandchildren to marry? They are reaching that age, too. Bets, anyone?

Grandmother Hall