

P.S. Thanks again for the good times at
the November reunion -

From the desk of 18 Dec 95

BARRY D. WOOD

Sorry this is so late!
I wanted to write a
neusy letter to go with
it, but the closest I
can come is to send along
a copy of the letter your
darling daughter wrote
to the Holsingers (our
friends who moved to
Ethiopia. (over)

Senator Bennett
taught a couple of
excellent HTP Group
lessons yesterday and
the week before -
the last one on Enid
Waldholtz. (Joe was
^{e.g.} Jewish masquerading
as Episcopalian. Took
her to " services, where
he knew the whole ritual -
a real con artist.)

Love - Barry

December 8, 1995

Dear Ellen and Don,

I should be cleaning the kitchen and putting up the tree, but I'm escaping reality and writing you. That's real enough, isn't it? Today was the firm Christmas luncheon for Barry's office. I had planned to have a box of chocolates dipped for each person there, but at the last minute I threw in the towel. I'm getting much better at not trying to do everything I used to do. I'll probably dip with the young women who are coming to our home Tuesday for their activity. Guess what we are doing? CRAFTS!

Yes, Brenda did tell me about your letter. I laughed and laughed. After the luncheon, I had a practice with Donna Oliphant and Brenda Christiansen for a number we are doing on the 24th at Church. We're doing the beautiful Christ Child, Christ Child. So, Brenda brought us up to date on all the happenings in Ethiopia. We've decided you need a Crafts Idea Care Package. Actually, it's really dangerous to tread that water. You've done more crafts than a lot of people I know. You could teach them all to make dolls. While I was in Utah I picked up one of those needlepoint photo album covers you tried to describe to me. I needn't have spent the money. Linda has evidently been making and selling them at her Motophoto shop. At least somebody has been making them. They don't have any brand name tags in them so somebody local is making them. I think it must be Linda as I remember seeing some of the same fabric in pillows in her home. So we know who has a pattern, don't we?

The funeral for Irene Ferber was wonderful. I've been kicking myself that I didn't record it for you. I did pick up a program for you, but like everything else around here it's anybody's guess where I put it. The Eulogy was given by Joyce Aegerter. John Y. Merrell gave the gospel address, and another was given by President Price of Mekong. But the highlight was really the talk given by Joyce. Irene was buried in West Virginia in the little town she grew up in as a child. It was interesting to hear about her early life. I didn't realize she wasn't born in Poland, but here. When she was little her mother took her and her brother back to her mother's home in Poland. Then, because funds were not sufficient, she returned to West Virginia several years later by herself and left the children to be raised by their grandmother. There were wonderful pictures of Irene in native Polish dress as a child and young woman. At some point (ten, eleven?) she and her brother travelled by themselves on a boat going to the United States and joined her mother and father and by this time several other children in West Virginia. The pictures of her at high school graduation were stunning. It's no wonder Bill went after her so vigorously. Joyce told wonderful stories about their courtship and early life here in Arlington. I've decided Joyce will need to live longer than I so she can speak at my funeral.

Well, we saw your girls for an hour or so on the Saturday

*My contribution: YOU ARE MISSED!!! But we admire your
COURAGE FOR TACKLING LIFE IN SO BRUISED A COUNTRY!
MAY MANY BLESSINGS FOLLOW AFTER YOU ALWAYS -
Words from Don would be welcome. Barry*

after Thanksgiving. I got to talk with Emily just long enough to get some idea of what she wants to do for her wedding. She showed me the pictures of the dresses she liked that she cut out of magazines. There's one she likes particularly and it is carried by some store in Alexandria. I promised her I would go out and take a good look at it, but I haven't gone there yet. The picture was of the bodice only, so she doesn't have any idea of either what the skirt or the price tag is like. I'll try to get to it next week. It was great to see them. I got the sense that Erin is having a much more difficult time of it in school this year. In addition, it wasn't nice of me to pull letters from you and Mindy out of the stack of mail waiting for us when they both told me that they hadn't gotten letters from you. I let them both read them. I should try to write Erin regularly. She seems a little adrift without you here to anchor her. I told her she's welcome to drop in here anytime at all or call if she wants to, but she's so busy that I don't think it likely that she'll come.

I guess you know that Emily has chosen green and white for her colors. I spent the last two weeks since Thanksgiving scouring the stores for any Spring bulbs that were left. I finally hit the bonanza at Bill's Hardware. They had all their Fall bulbs at half price. I got as many late flowering ones as they had (about 400) and got them in the ground for Spring. They only had about fifty or so late flowering white tulips. I planted white lilies and bought some Calla lilies to plant in the Spring. In the store it looked like bags and bags of bulbs. It certainly felt like bags and bags of bulbs as I planted them. But, I could certainly have used about another five hundred. Magazines have these beautiful pictures of waves of tulip bulbs. I can't imagine the cost or effort that would go into planting like that. The help at Bill's suggested I put out mothballs in the plots of bulbs to keep the squirrels at bay. It seems to be working. I haven't seen a single squirrel for weeks.

John Mason will begin work on our kitchen in the basement in January. We ordered the cabinets today as Hechingers was having a 20% sale on their Merrilatt cabinets. So, by the time you come to stay in April or May your family can have the use of the entire basement for as long as you would like to stay. We will kick Warren upstairs and you can cook and sleep and shower and plan weddings to your heart's content. So hurry up and get those counselors trained so they can take over. I fully expect that you will get here in time to do all the planning and baking and extra yard work that will be needed. I really plan for you to stay for quite a while. Your whole family is welcome. Have as many stay as you can shoehorn into the basement. We currently have beds for four, but we can put mats and mattresses and sleeping bags all over as needed.

All this talk about weddings has made me realize that Zane's wedding is near at hand. So, I called Phyllis as I haven't been able to touch base with her since our trip. She is still having twice a week chemo. Once a week they give her a treatment through

her head and once a week she gets one through her spine. It's the spinal treatments she really hates. But you know Phyllis, she keeps plugging on. I hope they can bring her into remission again. I guess once you've been there you have at least the hope that you can get there again. She's having quite a time with Zane's soon to be mother-in-law. She's very determined to have her way on everything. I think Zane is going to have quite a time keeping some privacy in their marriage. She wants Zane to finish up his schooling at Georgetown. Of course it doesn't matter that there might be financial considerations in all of this. Ah well. I'm sure Phyllis will get through this somehow. I can't imagine anybody more opinionated than Phyllis. I think she's met her match and then some.

I think I mentioned the Summers baby. It turns out that she was born without hip sockets. They have decided to just keep her in a body brace for the time being and hope that she grows some hip sockets as she gets older. Failing that, they will have to fashion some for her at some later time.

Paul and Jill Burgeon had a little girl last week. I don't know what her name is. When I asked Warren he said it must be Paula.

Warren was just cast in Love, Death and the Prom as Tom. Tom is the team manager for the football team. He is the voice of optimism in the play. He will also be stage manager for the play. He is currently writing a play for a dramatic competition. He quit wrestling last night. It is such a huge time commitment. Besides, it already cost me a new pair of glasses as he rolled over on top of his during one practice. He recently turned in an application for Governor's school (science division). I hope they will consider him. He really didn't have anything to put down on the line of special awards and honors. He needs to start getting some recognition from some source besides his Mom and Dad. He continues to be the first to arrive for Seminary every morning. The class president (Jason Munck) typically arrives at half past. He is preceded by the class vice-president (Sierra) by about ten minutes when she decides to come. Chris Roche has turned into a pretty good teacher (says Warren), which is a high complement coming from him. He used to follow any comments about Chris with "She's not Sister Holsinger." She's won them over by showing that she really cares about them on a personal basis. She attends their plays and other school activities. Two nights ago she appeared on our doorstep with a present wrapped in a big bow. It was for Warren. He had just returned from Court where he had at last been issued his driver's licence. It was a beautiful 1996 Tolkien calendar. Now how did she know he liked Tolkien. I think she's made a real effort to get to know the kids. I like Chris. I need to get to know her better.

The hair dryer was to replace mine which you borrowed and blew out blowing up mattresses. You only owed me \$35. \$165 is on account. You will end up training half the world's R.S. Presidents, and they will all know how to not only do crafts, but TEACH and ORGANIZE and WORK HARD and REALLY SERVE OTHERS!

GOTTA GO!

MUCH LOVE!

Virginia

We're supposed to get our first real one 5 tonight.
Tomorrow Barry and I are supposed to be at a board mtg. for
a TV station in ~~Beth~~ Philadelphia where they are due to get 5-7"
I'd LOVE TO STAY HOME. HOPE IT SUBS CATS AND DOGS!