

Dear Family: Hallmanack, Sept 4, 1992

According to my last letter (A copy of which is on my computer table--someone didn't take it home with them when they were here.) I said April Hallmanack, which means that there has been no Hallmanack since April--at least five months. Several of you have faithfully written and the accumulated letters are herein enclosed for what NEW information can be gleaned from them. Actually it must be longer than that because I said that the big news of the week was Zina's call to Belgium. (How long DO the foreign-speaking missionaries stay in the MTC?) Oh well, put it down to senility.

Sherlene and Dan: Letters enclosed will give you most of the news about them.. She is still trying to sell that house. Dan says they have interviewed several real estate agents with an eye to listing it. Does that mean she will move out to Utah? I think movers will store your furniture for you for a fee. (A BIG fee, probably.) Laura says she is going to go on a mission. She's a great gal. I had her in to help when I had the Schenectady reunion--and that girl is a self-starter. After the party I came downstairs thinking I would see tables still standing and a general after-party mess. She had folded them all up, cleared everything and even put the couch and rest of the furniture back where they belonged. By that time she was gone or she would probably been hugged to death. She's dishing out food at the cafeteria and Daniel is doing janitor at the MTC hoping to transfer to teaching.

Tracy and Betsy: Since there are no letters from them enclosed, anything (truth or fiction) would do, yes? Zina will leave the mission home on the 9th of this month for Belgium, so I should have given you her mission address, but couldn't reach anyone at their house who had that information. I called the mission home for her MTC address. Anthony was the source of Huntington Tracy's address.

At Zina's farewell, besides her talk which was excellent, one of the highlights was the music furnished, acappella, mind you, by a chorus composed of Tracy and Betsy's kids and some of their friends. Absolutely beautiful. Zounds those kids are talented. Mary is at the Y, and living at home. Tracy is back from his mission and living in an apartment with some other fellows. Robert has started college at UVCC and is living at home.. All of you have visited Utah this year and don't have to be told how much those Tracy Hall Jr kids have escalated in growth. We all need to hug Roland every chance we get because he's the nearest thing to a baby in the whole family.

I suppose you all knew that Tracy had seriously cut the palm of his right hand. It looks good now and after much painful therapy which I think he is still taking, he is getting back the use and flexibility of the hand. He still has some numbness which will probably be permanent. In my father's day, he would have probably had a stiff hand with not much use or flexibility for the rest of his life. While we complain of our doctors--we really have much to be thankful for in the progress of medicine. I guess we can still complain of the high cost, though.

Oh by the way, when Tracy and Betsy and family came to see Marty and Liz when they were here, Mary said: "I have an announcement to make--and extended her hand with a diamond on it." Pandemonium. She was just kidding. As usual, the one who bit the hardest was Grandmother Hall. She and Zina are so pretty and I am so proud of them. Mary is looking to a mission --if Mary can just discourage those young men for another year. Mary has a part-time job in the BYU library at the Reference desk. That will be good experience for her. Tracy is teaching French at the MTC.

David and Karen: The big news, of course, is Mark's mission. He is now in Florida and we all worried about him when ANDREW (not to be confused with Tracy's Andy) blew in. Karen says it completely missed him.

At his farewell he gave an excellent talk--he'll be a good missionary. He had for a musical number a duet by two of his friends. One of them used to live in our ward--forget the name right now--of course--but he started the duet solo. Nice voice. But when the other young man joined in the duet Tracy and I looked at each other in amazement. What a glorious voice. One of those God-given talents. David and Karen both gave good talks, too. They held a very nice open house for family and friends after the meeting.

David and Karen's stake and ward were divided. Karen is in a RS Presidency and fortunately, the whole presidency was divided into the new ward and the new Stake. I will no longer be able to look around at Stake Conference and see David and Karen and family.

Stephen will be 19 in December and is looking towards a mission (his own words) sometime around the first of the year. Until then he is working for David and saving? his money. The night of our get-together at Nancy's when Liz & Marty brought Emily to the Y he brought a pretty young girl to the party. I think they had a date for later that night and so I appreciate him coming and bringing her along. This is not an announcement.

Elizabeth and Marty: There are letters which tell better than I could. Marty and the whole family came to bring Emily to the Y after returning from chaperoning (both Liz and Marty) an entertaining tour to Venezuela (spelling?) One at the Y and one on a mission--effectively ( temporarily at least) cutting the family in half. In Numbers but not in Cost.

It was not easy for the parents. It was good to see Marty and Erin and John and Emily as Liz had come by herself when Nancy and Doug went through the temple. I am so glad we took that group picture at our 50th wedding anniversary. It will be harder and harder to get us all together again at one time and before you know it some of those return missionaries will be getting married. Only I hope in this generation the young bridegrooms wait around for their brides to finish their educations, too. It's the best insurance a girl can have. And girls, look to having some way to earn a living when you graduate from college--education IS worthy for itself alone, but it is also important for a young woman to prepare to earn a living for her family if it is necessary.

Virginia and Barry: It was wonderful to have Virginia and family here for about ten days. Those kids are surely getting big and handsome. I know sometimes it's hard, but enjoy them--it won't be long before they all leave home. Both Nathan and Fletcher had their birthdays while they were here. Virginia is very patient with her family. She didn't pick that up from her Mother. The kids enjoyed the BYU swimming pool. We enjoyed the kids. Thanks again, Warren, and Jonathan (Or was it Jonathan and Nathan?) and Barry for digging up that area for Sherlene and Dan's Day Lilies. I could never have done it by myself. We love having Barry here--he's a compulsive weeder. Just before they came we had paid \$100. for our lot to be weeded by a needy family in our ward, but Barry managed to find plenty of weeds to pull nevertheless. We ALWAYS have quack grass, to pull. One generation always expects the next generation to improve on the original. We think all of our children have done just that. Our grandkids are all GREAT. Virginia is still Relief Society President in her ward.

Charlotte and Bryan: Thanks Charlotte for flying down to Nancy and Doug's big day. she stayed with David and Karen, and then after she went home, Hannah and Sarah flew in to stay with David and Karen's girls. They went home looking somewhat like lobsters with sunburn, but had a wonderful time. The letters from Bryan tell the rest. Charlotte is still Primary President in her ward and stopped at the distribution center while here to get some needed items for her Primary.

Nancy and Doug: The happy news of all, of course, is that on August 7th Nancy and Doug took out their endowments, and were sealed to each other and their children that same day. It was a wonderful day. Their present ward has just taken them to their hearts and arms. When Nancy took her material and pattern to a girl in her ward who does sewing for other people, she said she would not charge Nancy for making her temple dress. She never charges for that service. Isn't that neat? What a nice way to render service. She also took up the hem on Doug's temple white pants.

There were many friends and family there during the endowment session, and even more at the sealing. Her Bishop made it to that and although Karen and Betsy were unable to come to the sealing, David and Tracy were there, making all her brothers and sisters there for the sealing. Nancy has since asked me if I had talked to the sealer, because he said he heard she was an artist, and told her to "do it"--Just "do it!" Unless she finds someone who gave the sealer the word about her artistic ability, it was pure inspiration.

Nancy looked beautiful, and they both seemed happy. It's always the most touching when they bring the children in to be sealed, and this time, of course, it was very touching to all of us. What can I say, except---It was GREAT. After, Dad hosted lunch at the Chuck-a-Rama, and one of her neighbors (what a ward!) held an open house for ward members that evening in honor of Doug and Nancy. Last weekend Nancy and Doug went to a temple night given them by their neighbors. A night in Salt Lake with a ride in the horse drawn carriages around the temple block. Nancy forgot to take a Sunday Dress so they didn't get to the temple that night, but both of them have been back to the temple since the day they were sealed. They'll probably end up getting their friends who have been to the temple but haven't returned very often, re-temple activated.

The best part, of course, is that now Doug has the Melchizedek Priesthood and their home can enjoy the power that goes with that Priesthood to bless the family.

It's been a busy year so far but a happy one. Except for Dad's health. He's still trying to find a high blood pressure medicine that doesn't make him sick.

Hope I do better at getting out the Hallmanack in the future. Do you really read it? What I mean, I guess is--If I quit doing the Hallmanack would anybody miss it? I'm considering it.

Love Ya all

Grandmuzzer Hall