

Dear Family,

March 6, 1995

We've enjoyed some milder Spring weather here. The blossoms might well be fooled into coming out early.

Speaking of spring: On Presidents' Day our garage door wouldn't work. Daniel had heard a loud boom the night before--a broken spring. Lowry Doors replaced both \$pring\$. Oil your garage door springs, I am told, & they'll last longer.

Sherlene's really enjoys her teaching, now that she is over the startup challenges and jitters. Mid-terms are over! *Oops - Sherlene's American Usage midterm is next Monday.*

Daniel continues his concentration on Arabic and Hebrew while working to finish his English major. He is checking out intensive Arabic programs in Jerusalem and Cairo and hoping we can come up with the necessary \$.

Laura, finding no other block classes she can take, has dropped the horseback riding course and found a full-time job for the next two months in a handicapped care facility in Orem. Laura gave an excellent talk about her mission. Thank you for coming! Sorry we and our house weren't in better shape to have you all over after to eat & visit.

After a month of hurting and limping on a sore left foot, I learned from the Dr. that my transverse ligament is relaxing w. age, wear, & tear. Without the normal side to side arch, the middle of the foot takes more of the beating. New basketball shoes and insoles are helping some. "After 40," said one, "it's patch, patch, patch."

At work, we finally got the Danish text "4bit" compression working, so I'm onto some other things now. In particular, the Dead Sea Scroll formatting is getting more attention again. The Dead Sea Scrolls project manager, Steve Booras, is doing good things with photos of the scrolls, which we'll be displayable side by side with the transcribed texts. FARMS has an April Jerusalem symposium to which it has invited key people there & from elsewhere. Wish I could go along for the ride.

There is finally a working editor on the Dead Sea Scrolls project (Terry Szink) who knows Hebrew. He has confirmed some of my concerns about the consistency and completeness of the initial batch of texts we have from Jerusalem. He should be a great help in whipping what we have into decent shape and influencing what we get in the future. Terry is also working on his Ph.D dissertation (UCLA), for which he is computerizing Eblite (Mesopotamian) texts from cuneiform tablets using WordCruncher.

We had a another great Teacher Development Meeting in February. Sister Hovick, whom I asked to teach the teachers, used 2 long parallel boards with ropes. "Volunteers" stood with one foot on each board & held a rope taut with each hand. They were then simply TOLD to move themselves and the boards forward abt 10 feet. They did fairly well with a good leader, but much, much better when she coached them in leaning in rhythm from side to side and alternately lifting the boards., as they moved forward.

What a difference with a "teacher" showing the way.! And many good lessons to go with it about learning and learning experiences. After thinking recently how teacher influence depends on integrity, caring, and wisdom, I also saw the importance of creativity, energy, humor, and preparation.

We also had a wonderful ward adult valentines dinner with decorations, food, and good people.

Sherlene & I tried some Indian food two weeks ago--apparently not Sherlene's thing. She started feeling ill, so we missed the 2nd half of the Chekhov play, "Three Sisters". What we saw was interesting, but not riveting--an ensemble of people and conversations in a Czarist Russia sitting room--yet maybe not that much different from today. People pursuing their random and often conflicting (and not so meaningful) conversations, pleasures, and fancies.

Karen told us an interesting story abt the calling of their new Stake President. The visiting General Authority interviewed everyone on Saturday, then as the hour got late, had to ask who else might be around. No one. Oh, wait, a new move-in of several months, just a Teacher's Quorum advisor. He was not home--but was playing basketball w. the young men right at the Church. He was interviewed immediately and called the next day. Sort of like Samuel's search among Jesse's sons for Israel's new king. This "he" was Brad Farnsworth, our new BYU administrative VP.

Last Sunday night our Nissan's brakes locked up--the hand brake and indicator light had been acting a bit funny. Having it checked earlier would have saved the inconvenience, towing, and much of the repair bill. David very graciously helped me move the Nissan to a safe place and drove me and Daniel home. I had tried calling Doug for advice, but he was out.

I took David Palmer, an Illinois friend, to a FARMS noon hour presentation. Due to brain tumors he's retired from a Chem. Eng. career and years of Church Public Communications leadership in the Chicago area. He has also studied, traveled, and written much about Book of Mormon archeology in Mexico & Central America. He's very interested in seeing Mayan hieroglyphs made available in electronic format by BYU, FARMS w. WordCruncher.

My cousin Sharon Mellor Larsen of Ephraim called, asking me for materials on General Joseph Bartholomew for her son Rhett's history paper.. Back from an Irish mission and now at Snow College, he is interested in history. General Joseph was at Tippecanoe and Fallen Timbers and played a real pioneer role in settling Indiana. Sharon's husband has been Brigham for some years in the Manti Pageant, and the rest of the family has participated too.

We've decided to try renting our home again after our current renters move to Boston, in order to avoid a choice of high taxes or the pains of buying and building a larger house during the next two years. We also need to have it painted and to catch up on a couple years worth of pruning (shrubs grow faster there).

I walked Don Lunceford Saturday (he's paralyzed on the left by a stroke), & he showed me his 1940's picture on the cover of Parade Magazine--just center left of the flag on Iwo Jima. He showed me his own photos of Iwo Jima and other Islands as he remembered deadly fighting and loss of closest buddies 50 years ago. My visits and walks with him are genuinely uplifting.

We are so grateful for the strong and gentle spirit of President Hunter. Just following Pres. Hunter's passing, we had Stake Conference with strong repetition and re-enforcement of Pres. Benson's messages (and related apostolic blessing) to study, live, and share from the Book of Mormon.

Love, Dan & Family