

WOOD Hallmanack, July 28, 1995 4510 N. 35th St., Arl., VA. 22207

Dear Family,

This month I decided it was time to tackle the non-working things in this household. Some things (like the air conditioner) had absolutely to get fixed. Other things have been lying around here unfixed or unfinished for so long that I've gotten used to not having the use of them. I started buying used typewriters at garage sales years ago as we had neither a working typewriter or computer for quite a while. I'd see one at an estate or garage sale offered for twenty or so dollars and then after plugging it in and determining that it at least worked after one fashion or another I'd take it home. Once home I would figure out fairly quickly just why it was being sold. I finally called in a repair person who came to my home, knew what he was talking about, offered to buy two of the IBM mostly working Selectrics from me for parts and totally recondition my legal-size Correcting IBM Selectric that I bought new after college. He told me it was the best machine IBM ever built and to hold on to it.

I finally got the Hewlett Packard DeskJet 500 repaired that Barry rescued from the trash at the office. It just stopped working one day and rather than see if it could be fixed they bought him a new one. I took this one in and \$65 dollars and a new power cord later, brought it home. It will be so nice to have a good printer.

The Xerox 1035 copier that we got at auction hasn't really worked properly since we bought it several years ago. I called a "cut rate" (non-Xerox) repair service and they will be here on Monday to sort it out.

Now the air conditioner story. Yesterday I hosted a bridal shower for the daughter of my friend Linda Wardle. Pam Knudson had originally planned to host it, but when Linda gave her a list with fifty-five people on it, she called me asking if we could have it at my home. We've decided to call our unfurnished living room the meeting room as so many meetings are held there. So we have a keeping room (our large kitchen/dining/family room area) and a meeting room. Barry was recently at the Wood family reunion in Moorhead, Iowa. We have had quite a terrible heat wave and I told him on the phone that the air conditioner just wasn't handling the heat. Even when running it all night it was still eighty plus degrees on the main level. I just thought that because our nights were still about ninety outside, that it just couldn't handle all the heat and humidity.

When Barry returned on Monday, he wondered if there wasn't something wrong with it. By Thursday he was certain of it, so early Thursday morning I called the service center that had tuned it up last month. Well, there was a solid inch of ice on the coils outside and on the inside coils as well. Guess what the remedy was? He turned the heat on. After half an hour and still no

relief, he was ready to give up and return later in the week to look at it. I explained that a large group was coming to the house and please, please, please would he just stay on. What he finally figured out was that the electrostatic air filter we had installed to weed out more pollutants and dust for our asthmatics was doing too good a job and restricting air flow. This was further complicated by the fact that we put doors on the furnace room (louvered, however) when we renovated the basement and the flow of air was further reduced. He stayed another hour to be sure it was working but it was worth it so as to have a cool house for the shower. It took a while for us to recover from the heat having pumped up the thermostat to about 95 degrees, but it was mostly cool by the time people started arriving at 7:30. We ended up squeezing 45 people into our front room. There are some advantages? to having no furniture. I went out today and bought a cheap filter that lets lots of air pass through and have left the doors open wide to the furnace room just to be sure that the ice buildup doesn't return.

I made another doll dressed in a dress like Sher's own wedding dress for the shower. The doll has a quilt made from the scraps of the various dresses sewn for the wedding party, with a place for everyone at the shower to sign. After the last one had to be hand sewn because the entire bodice was beaded I vowed to never do another. This one cost me almost \$40 as it was of a beautiful raw silk. She bought it in Provo, so I was not able to get extra fabric from her mother. It may be in the future that if I do any more dolls it will be at the bride's expense. It may be in the future that I just won't do any more bride's dolls.

I am definitely motivated by external rather than internal forces. I finally covered the chair seats of the dining set we bought over a year ago. I cleaned out some drawers and got a little filing done, though there are still stacks of boxes in this "new" study we built for the kids in the basement. The main floor and the basement of the house look pretty good. My sewing room can't even be walked into. I should be up there working on it, but I'm dying to see if I managed to get the printer installed properly. Ordinarily, I'd have just called up the Smith boy, but he's gone to Las Vegas on a mission. So I'm on solo pilot now.

Christian just finished a week of basketball camp. It was very hot and sweaty, though most of it was indoors. After two days he wanted to quit, but he toughed it out (probably because he could buy snow cones every day.) He says he did have fun and learned a lot. Christian's eighth birthday is on the first. He'll be baptized a week from tomorrow.

Earlier in this horribly hot week, the three oldest boys helped a member friend with his Eagle Scout project. He had selected four homes of handicapped people to landscape followed by a barbecue for each of the homes. The kids were at various homes outside all day in this terrible humidity. At one point Ellen Holsinger (mother of the potential Eagle scout) went to make an

ice-water pit stop at one of the homes. There were only four kids at this particular home. Ellen said it had the most work needing done, but somehow Rachael Oliphant, Warren Wood, Jason Munck and Nick Racz ended up there by themselves. She said Rachael leaned on her shovel, sighed, and said, "Why is it that there's always an Oliphant at every work-related event?" Which Warren amended by saying, "And a Wood." Ellen thought that a very telling and very important concept for a teenager to recognize about themselves and their families. I'm glad that Warren realizes that at every available service project there's at least one (and usually more) Wood present. She said that every time one or another lagged or dragged Warren whipped them back into line. I don't think I'd have made it through the day. The weather has been positively dreadful.

Yesterday Brother VanOrman offered to take Jonathan and his son John to the High Adventure Stake kayaking event. It's at a camp just about thirty minutes from our home. To get there you have to travel a very short section of the Beltway by the American Legion Bridge to get to the other side of the Potomac River. There's a terrible spot where about two lanes merge into four more. The woman in front of Jan's car stopped suddenly and though he stood on his brakes, he couldn't stop and rear-ended her at a high speed. Jan suffered an injury to his wrist, but the boys appear to be unhurt. Jonathan loves to camp and hike (even in the heat) and begged me to find him another ride. As I had the shower I pulled Barry out of work sooner than usual and he took him to the church where he caught a ride with the other Ward. I wonder why Jonathan gets in these accidents. I'm starting to think he's supposed to be learning these lessons about safe biking and safe driving for a reason. Believe me, out there on the freeway in the heat for two hours waiting for the police was not a lot of fun. Virginia has just lowered the age for a learner's permit to fifteen. You still have to wait to get your licence at sixteen, but the State thinks the kids will have more parental instruction behind the wheel. I think the automotive repair industry has been lobbying the Governor. It is very scary to think that Jonathan can be behind the wheel of a car in just nine more months.

Warren passed his driving test and after he attends his courtroom lecture will be legally able to drive. I am not ready for this. We've been lucky (BLESSED!) that Nathan has proved to be a good driver. In two years he has not had a single ticket or traffic accident. As Warren is now criticizing my driving I hope he proves to be a better driver than his Mom or Dad.

Nathan and I will be in Provo on the 25th of August for a brief stay before he heads up to Ricks. I guess this is another leap for the Wood family into the uncharted academic waters. I thought it would be great to see them grow up and out, but I will really miss Nathan.

We'll see some of you soon. All our love,

Gerger