

Tuesday, May 22, 1990 180 N Maple, Basking Ridge, NJ 201-766-9771

Dear Daniel, (and Grandparents--I just read Dan's letter and decided it will do for our Hallmanack--sorry we missed last month!)

We were so glad to hear from you! First on the phone, and then by mail. It seems like your letters come in spurts, two or more at a time, with two or more weeks in between. But then with variations in mail service, plus the illness and hospital stay, we can understand. We're sorry you had to go through the dysentery misery, but are very glad for the good medical care and hope at least this type of illness is behind you now. Does one become immune or can it still happen anytime? We are very happy with the spirit you share and news of the work and people there!

Spring is such an active time! Mom & I just visited the DC temple Friday and greatly enjoyed doing sealings (with David & Karen who had just come East on business), attending Lee & Kim Stryker's marriage, and going through the new endowment session (first time for me). It was wonderful--the temple, the marriage, & the visit with David & Karen! There is no fundamental change in the endowment, but a simplification and updating in many small and positive ways. Mom stayed on to do family history research and just returned last night.

On Saturday a few of the Elders' Quorum and youth (incl. Laura) attacked the Pankuch painting (eaves and trim) and yard. It was a job, and sorely needed! This is a 75-year-old man with bad knees, caring for his wife, with Alzheimers & Parkinsons diseases and for his 7-year-old grandson, a bright little bundle of energy.

The Stryker reception Sat. evening was GREAT! It included the recpt. line, a buffet, and program (singing by Jim Disanza, Dolly Cox, & Susie & Margie, poem by Bro. Cox, our patriarch, and a few words from Lee's dad). Laura & I enjoyed! All three of us attended the Ferderber reception two weeks before at the Somerset Hills Hotel. It featured a program too, as well as some family slides and dancing.

Mom has been up to GENEALOGY, as well as a birthday & mother's day. She opted to go birthday shopping together to the mall & eat there rather than go out for a full dinner. On Mothers' Day, I served her breakfast in bed & then dinner after Church (after a fashion). Also, abt two weeks ago, Mom & I completed CPR and first aid training at the McGraths.

Laura's recent shennannigans include Bible study with her school friends up to 3 times a week in addition to Seminary, riding down to Red Bank with friends to see her Engl. teacher sing & play at a coffee house, shopping with mom in Pennsylvania, and registering for BYU summer term. We just got her plane tickets for June 22. Laura continues to get good & quite consistent results in her school work. It's hard to imagine her going so soon.

With Uncle Calvin having surgery this week, I followed through with my own appointment for a phys. exam. I'm OK, except for some follow-up on hearing & sight work. I went to the ear-nose-throat

Dr. who did my sinus surgery a couple of years ago, & he said my sinuses are in GOOD shape. He did find a bit of scar tissue blocking the right Eustachian and some residue or scab on the right eardrum, which he'll take care of this Thursday.

At Church, I'm working to get our Elders' Quorum organized into committees and visit the less active members I've not yet met. I just finished a long-term personal scripture project (and treat)-reading Paul's NT letters side-by-side with Richard L. Andersen's Understanding Paul. My conclusion: Paul's teachings and testimony are richly and fully consistent with the teachings of the restored Church and none other. I'm so grateful for Paul's writings! I'm also grateful for Brother Anderson's research, writing, and spirit. (He's Rosie Hamblin's dad.)

I also finished And the Walls Came Tumbling Down, Ralph Abernathy's first-hand account of his & M.L.King's involvement in the civil rights movement. I find it a fascinating mix of good and bad, true and false, real accomplishment and dire side-effects. Blacks obtained voting rights, employment opportunities, and admission to public facilities, but also experienced a loss of culture and values, of spiritual and family life (along with the rest of America) during this period. They moved substantially from black church solidarity (& priestcraft) to political solidarity (& patronage & corruption). America opened up, but became more secular, politicized, and polarized.

In the yard, the new curbs & sidewalks are almost complete. I'm working in more tree planting and some gardening when I can. I bought a riding mower through a newspaper ad and used it once. Farmer Joe helped me get it home in his pickup. It will be a big help with the yard upkeep (& back). I also bought a wheelbarrow. With an inflated tire, it is much easier to haul things around the yard. I'm fairly well along with putting down limestone & fertilizer. We've also had car work to take care of--a new exhaust system for the Nissan and new clutch for the Honda. I'm also still working on catching up with taxes.

At work, I took a course on computer networking that was very good. I'm getting my own workstation (computer & programs) like the one we're selling to the FAA! I'm looking forward to it!. Ed Gould (my salesman) & I will be moving into an office near the World Trade Center after all, prob. about mid-June. We had our customer roadshow at the FAA office at JFK May 8-10, with equipment and people from Wash. D.C. giving presentations and demos. It went well. There is much interest in our equipment and software, but lots of work to do to fit it in with what the FAA already has (Novell Netware, the co. Bruce Law markets for in Provo, UT, and WordPerfect, from Orem UT).

We are just so blessed with opportunities for work, service, learning & growth, that we truly do not have room to receive all the blessings. We pray that your joy may be great in your labors and the people there, and that you may be blessed in every way. Much love, Dad (P.S. Much from Mom, too--I had a marvelous genealogical experience at Frederick, MD, thanks to Barry's suggestion and the famous Wood hospitality. Will write more.)

*Mom, Dad - I found some Halls and Simmons, as well as
Stalups in Fredrickstown (Frederick Co. records) MD - BEAUTIFUL drive
on I 80 through PA - 4 hr. drive home, not bad.*