

3292 Orchard Ave.
Ogden, Utah 84403
April 25, 1982

Dear Ida Rose Tracy -

Yes - We are receiving your letters - While I am sitting with my foot propped up - I will write. It is propped up because last Sunday as I tried to put some books on the end-table - I stubbed my toe on the chair & now have two breaks about one ^{half} inch long each in my toe - It would be much easier to heal if it had broken across instead of lengthwise - Any pressure even on my foot or heel moved the pieces of bone up & down. I cannot sit for very long - too much has to be done here - so it has been set twice this week. We knew it was broken by the crazy angle it was pointing.



One of the attendants at Emergency said "Oh, they never set toes" - I said - "they will - the ones" & they did after 3 X - Ray last

Sunday & 3 again, Thursday. Helen came & stayed with dad after my brother-in-law came first so Jim could take me to the hospital.

~~At~~ Breaks Anyway last spring I had a hernia operation - the spring before that Brent Surgery & each spring it is something. The doctor said it will take at least a month to heal. It bleeds every time I move it.

Dad does not read anything unless it is at least one inch high print. He reads a few

selves in that time -

It is difficult to take care of your dad at times because he gets so onery. In the few ^{of} years we took care of my father he never got onery once - ever as his whole body was eaten away with cancer. In the nineteen months we took care of Jay he never got onery once either - in spite of the horrible pain he was in.

Jim & I have been sworn at & cursed & threatened with a club; Dad has doublet up his fists in my face & told me he would knock me across the room - Jim too.

It goes on every few days. He accuses us of smoking in here & having all kinds of people here & helping ourselves to his food when we have no right to.

We never know if it is time for another big storm.

Sometimes he uses the great outdoors to have a B. M. & then wips it all over his clothes - his shoes, his belt, his hands & face & hair & then swears at Jim & says what he does is his own business & he will go in & change when he is d - good & ready to.

Jim has to practically carry him in the house & bath him & the washer runs everyday. The dryer will not work - the wiring is inadequate.

He gets up from three to eight times a night to go to the toilet & part of the time it goes all on the floor. We know Dad is senile & the Lord will not hold him accountable for that but all of his children will be accountable for

titles of books or articles. A letter means nothing to him except to carry it in from the mailbox if he doesn't get sidetracked. He probably would enjoy some picture postcards.

It sounds like a tough mission but they all are if one does it right. Nothing is worth doing if it comes too easy.

In February Dad had a slight stroke & walks slower now & has a more difficult time remembering.

He does turn the stove on high & walks away - He does turn the hot water tap on & walks out of the bathroom. He opens the refrigerator & leaves the door open. If I have the oven on - cooking - he turns it off 6 or 7 times while I try to bake bread or cook a roast etc.

Sometimes he forgets he is home & asked when we are going home. Jim has to help him get undressed & dressed. Jim lifts him into the tub & out & shaves him & bathes him etc.

We have never left him alone for the six months we have taken care of him. Either Jim or I or both of us are here with him or he is ^(over) with us. Jim & I have not been anywhere by our two

how they honor & take care of him.

We cannot stop him from pulling weeds but we try to get him in before he gets too worn out.

When he sees my sore foot - he asks if it is getting better - I answer him 20, 30, or 40 times a day. He smiles when I say yes - I hope it is.

He eats three excellent meals a day & snacks in between.

Playing checkers is now beyond him so I spend many hours helping him pass the time - looking at picture books etc. Jim is great with him - always patient & loving.

Sig is doing a terrific job at mailing out all those letters - above & beyond the call of duty.

Irma & Irving have stopped in several times & I let her read them as she does not receive them.

Daylight savings time went in to effect this A.M. so dad rose at 6:30 to stay instead of his usual 5:30 A.M. It has that advantage anyway.

Last week Utah had a terrific cold spell - it was 22° in Ogden & ruined most of the fruit.

The economy is still sinking lower - 1000 more men laid off in Utah Saturday. Newbury is at the bottom of the list as far as the economy rates - it has always been half dead & now it is much worse.

(over)

I hope this letter finds you both well & doing great.

While dad was sick - Jim & I took turns going to church or staying with dad. Last Sunday we decided we could all three go again but now for awhile it will be just Jim & dad. I hate having to sit around. Life is too short for that.

Jim & I both work in the Ogden Genealogical ^{Library} ~~not go yesterday~~ - Jim - Saturday mornings & I wait until he gets home & then I go & work until it closes. They called us with the understanding that one of us must always be with dad. It is the best equipped Library in the Church - Genealogy wise that is - except for Salt Lake. We are not too busy right now but it should pick up again. After running the one in Oregon - this is an easy ~~job~~ calling. I hope it picks up.

We do wish ^{you} lots of success there.

Mellie Jim.