

July 9, 1987
Thursday

Dear Family:

Willis finally got tubes put into his ears at the end of May. We hope that the ear infections will cease. The operation is a simple procedure actually. It was done on an out patient basis. He did have to be put under anesthesia. The doctors would have a difficult time putting tubes in a little kid's ears otherwise. He was in surgery for about 15-20 minutes. We think that he has improved in his hearing already. With all of those ear infections, he is behind in his speech development. He seems to be able to understand things quite well.

We were going to have the Brennens stay with us over Memorial weekend, but it was best that they didn't come. Marilyn is my first cousin. They live in Oregon. Sarah came down with the flu on Thursday the day before they were suppose to come. Hyrum came down with it the next morning. The kids were so very sick. The kids came out of it on Saturday evening. We were all able to go to church on Sunday. Willis was the first to come down with it earlier in the week. Hannah came down with it about a week after Sarah. Fortunately, Charlotte and I missed it. We were able to change plans and had a lovely holiday out on the lake with several friends from the ward. We played woffle softball and the grown ups (?) had the most outrageous marshmellow fight. The food was delicious.

My work is coming along fine. I find the inspection of homes very interesting. I find the work challenging with new things to see every day. It is impossible to get stuck in a rut because every home is different. I also like getting outside. We do some design calculations, but mostly we inspect for compliance with code requirements.

All homes have some problems, but some have lots. We make more than a structural inspection. It includes plumbing, electrical, drainage, interior, exterior, chimneys, windows, doors, garage and more. To give you an example, think of all the things wrong and slight annoyances in your house. We find them in advance of the buyer's purchase. There have been several times when a complete new roof cover was desperately needed or there was a lot of water in the crawl space. Finding major problems like this can make a buyer decide to walk away from a prospective home purchase. Sometimes the purchase price gets renegotiated. Most people think the inspection service is very worth while insurance of a major investment like a home.

I am getting faster on the report writer program my boss and I are developing. My evenings are still spent downstairs in the office at home. Charlotte doesn't get as much help with the kids in the evenings anymore. An average report takes an hour and a half to write. I am getting the time down as common problems get added to the report writer program. The average report is eight pages of single spaced text. The reports and inspections are very detailed. I expect the time on the reports to get down to about one hour each, maybe a little less. There are days when I only have one inspection; like today for example. We are kind of at the mercy of the phone. No calls. No work. Winter is the slow season. We do not plan on buying a house until we see what the slow season is like.