

August Hallmanack, '89

Dear Children:

We had a little rain this week, and the nights are getting a little cooler, but the days remain very hot.

Dad is working hard to put up another shade-greenhouse on the farm. Also watering, weeding, cultivating keeps him going.

Our garden is producing nicely. The green beans are essentially over, the carrots are a nice size and the tomatoes are yummy. I haven't had too many tomatoes yet, but they are stacking up so I am contemplating making some of Aunt Joyce's lovely chili sauce.

Dad is bringing home cucumbers galore now, and I have put up 8 pints of bread and butter pickles. Karen, Betsy, Nancy--do you want any cucumbers to eat or can. Come and get them.

Nancy has moved into the farm house. The finish line on her home is rapidly approaching and no buyers on the line. She and Doug have about resigned themselves to having the bank repossess. I hate to see all they have accumulated go down the drain. It will be hard.

I just tried to call Tracy's line to see if Tracy has heard anything about his mission call. As Zina said in her letter, he was preparing his papers. I guess we would have heard if he had his call. Although one never knows--I remember when Tracy got his those many years ago--he ran into his room and locked the door. He said he just wanted to have it to "himself" for awhile. Life in large families can be trying, I guess.

I was going to put in some cukes for sweet pickles, but realized I would not have time to finish the long process before we leave to visit Charlotte.

We had been trying to make a firm decision on when to visit Charlotte, and then Tracy Sr. heard there was a big Nurseryman's trade show in Portland on the 24-5-6th of August which helped him to decide on a date. We are looking forward to seeing the Weight family again.

You can tell that Bryan is busy. It was Bryan who usually wrote our "Weight" Hallmanack and we haven't been hearing from them recently. Last time I called Charlotte she said he was really busy and that's good news for a new businessman.

David's "Netline" held a last stockholder's meeting this last month and gave us the good(?) news that the company is folding. They are going to sell off the company's technology.

If they had left David in as President it may have succeeded. David says that the chief stockholder, Ray Noorda, was pulling in his horns all over the place. I just consider this our "fish bait" investment. Does anyone remember the extensive concrete ditches which my father built up by the brick "chicken coop" in Ogden? He was going to go into the "fish bait" business like his brother. It never panned out.

Right now I am trying to figure how to take this as a loss on our income tax.

The concensus of opinion at the meetin was that in order to do that we have to "sell" to someone. The former President of Netline (Not David) suggested that we might get one of the former stockholders to buy our stock for 50 to 100 dollars.

I think I'll hang on to it. It might turn out like my Father's "Big Piney" investment. Dad invested in a gas well called "Big Piney". They found gas all right, but they just capped it off and let the stockholders stew. Many years later, the company was bought by another Gas company and dad at least realized his original investment back.

Take your Father's advice (I never have) and leave any extra money you have in CDs. For instance, I bought some Novell stock a week ago at 29.5 and it's now down to 24.5. To make money in the stock market you have to have a lot of smarts, daring, and dedication. I don't seem to have any of those qualities. I did make some on the Smith stock, but not that much more than I would have if I had left the money in CD's at 10%. The funny thing is that right now you get a higher interest rate for short term CDs than you do for long term CDs. The only thing that is certain about material possessions is that you can't take it with you. I guess the question we all should ask when we think about material possessions is "what does this have to do with my salvation?" Nothing. And at my age I should be worrying more about that than interest on Bonds, CD's etc. I rationalize that I'm just trying to keep from being a burden on my kids in my old (and probably decrepit) age.

Love

Muzzer (and Ida-Rose for those who don't call me Muzzer., namely Wendell and Merrill.

We will leave on the 23rd for Oregon to see Charlotte. We plan to get back home about the 29th. Delta has a good deal on airplane tickets --I am thinking of Christmas. Dad hasn't committed to going back East for Christmas, but we're working on it. Delta's deal is designed to end just about the time we would be leaving to go East. Mission calls are not easy to orchestrate. Sherlene thinks we could come for Christmas and stay long enough to be at Daniel's farewell early in January.

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