

April 3, 1988

Dear Children:

We have just finished listening to a wonderful session of General Conference. We were pleased to see our friend, George R. Hill III give a talk. His emotion when he gave expression to his love and appreciation of Melba made me wonder if she has been ill. I hope not.

It must be frustrating to be a mission president among a people who need so much and have so little, and then to think how rich and over-run with blessings both material and spiritual we are here in America. He is right, of course, the answer must be with the people themselves. Even in poverty, if they pay their tithing they will be blessed. "Sacrifice comes before the blessing."

Maybe I was just sensitive to the message, but there seemed to run through the afternoon conference a general appreciation of women. Christ's concern for his mother when on the cross--the plea of Elder Kuikuchi?(Mis-spelled) for the brethren to treat their wives as daughter's of God--The love of the Hawaiian saint for his wife who contracted leprosy, and had to go to the place where lepers are sent, and whose love was so great he could not bear to be parted from her and so went with her. He died of Leprosy contracted there. The talk given by the retiring Primary President. She will be an Excellent mission president's wife.

We missed the conference Saturday. I was getting out the Tulip Cottage pay roll and Tracy was supervising David and his boys who were helping him get the tree planter working to plant dad's trees. An extra special blessing for their help. It was a good day to work. I imagine the boys had lots of things they would rather have done on their Easter Vacation than plant trees.

It took them most of the day to get the bugs out of themselves or the planter, but now that they know how to do it, it will probably rain tomorrow.

Tracy is doing well after his surgery. He even has slightly improved vision already. I said SLIGHTLY. He has to avoid lifting, bending, bumping, etc. But the Dr. said he could get back to normal activities gradually and he could SUPERVISE the planting. It's as hard for Dad to supervise as it was for my Father to supervise. I remember one day when we were building our home. Dad and maybe my brothers--I don't remember who was with him, but Dad Langford was 70 at the time, and he was down in the trench shoveling it out instead of getting the younger men to do it. He was helping Jim lay concrete

when he was that age. I guess men just don't like to admit they ever wear out. And Dad Langford didn't wear out physically--he just got worn out in the head. Even at an advanced age he had good blood pressure.

We are going to drive. Yes, I know, you think we are out of our tree, and we might think so by the time we get back too. Nancy will go with us and so we will have three drivers. Dad bought a sleeper that goes in the bed of the truck and so DJ will be able to play in the back and the kids can move around and not be so confined. We will probably take the Southern route there and come back the Northern route, visiting Niagara falls, and also some of the church sites, if we can work them in.

We will stay in Motels on the way, and not try to sleep in the camper. & probably eat our meals out, although we can buy fruit and cheese and junk food along the way. We had better get some games for the kids to play--and a good stock of chloroform. Just kidding! We will finally have two double windows between us and the kids in the back--just like I always said I wanted when we were traveling with you kids.

No, it is not my idea. It was your father's so he deserves what he gets.

I'm really getting excited about the reunion. The kids are older and really getting interested. We've got some neat grandchildren and it will be interesting to watch the social interchange between the older grandchildren. If they come!

I think your idea is good, Virginia, to have the familys stash their belongings in one room--then they won't (hopefully) be strung all over the house. Also For each of us to have one day to plan the meals, except breakfast. Is there some way we can stop that many kids from munching constantly, and confining their eating to meals? It would sure simplify things.

I will let you younger people worry about that. I am going to try to be the sweet old grandmother. (Ha!)

See you in July!

Love, Mom