

H.T.H. Sr. Hallmanack
October 16, 1984

Dear Family:

The mountains above us have been gorgeous this year, but our trip over alpine loop was disappointing a couple of weeks ago, as the heavy rains in the valley had been snows up there and everything looked brown and crushed. However, they seem to have recovered, as Monday we rode up Spanish Fork Canyon and it was very nice. For the first time we rode over the new road that goes past Thistle. There is a sad sight. Homes formerly lived in and loved, completely wrecked by the floods. The dam is still there but there is a by-pass drain for the river, and so it is just a big obstacle in the way of the valley between two mountains. I am sure that the engineers were right--that would be a very bad place to build a dam, as the soils on both mountains are loose, unconsolidated soils--very slippery looking. The dam might be used as a catch basin to contain flood waters and prevent flooding of the valleys, with the waters being released in a more controlled way, but everything looked unstable and slippery to us. The railroad and the road both had been relocated, but I think they are going to have more sliding over that road when the snows saturate that slipping soils.

I am glad in the fall that I am not canning for nine people anymore. My canning has been limited to those things I got from our own garden. The biggest problem is going to be the apples. I will have to make a lot of applesauce this year as the Roman Beauty apples are heavy this year. And since we had them sprayed professionally they are usable. However, with what we paid to have them sprayed, we could have bought a lot of apples. One of our little dwarf apples bore about a dozen apples and they were GOOD. Our Pears in front yielded about one half bushel which I canned, and the peach tree did about the same. We had quite a few apricots, which I canned also. We need to go shopping and buy to refreshen our year's supply. I think I would get awfully tired of the beans which make up most of our supply at this time.

The weather has been beautiful after a week of cold weather early in September, when we had to cover the tomatoes to keep them from freezing. The weather has been too cool for what was left and they don't have that summer freshness.

Virginia, I plan to come back in February when you have Jr. V. You were number five for us. I hope that your number five is as nice as ours was. I need to get on the phone and see how far in advance I need to make reservations to get the best prices. I will try to talk Daddy into coming, but I don't know if it will work.

I have been quite busy getting the Relief Society organized. Also, Yesterday, I flunked out of the leisure class. My maid got herself a steady job as a maid at the Exselsior Hotel, so I am back in the slave galley. I am really going to miss having someone else do my work once a week. It was great to have a clean house once a week. It forced me to pick up and put away for her--now who is going to force me to do it, and then get the kitchen and the house cleaned? I am still fighting, though, ^{as} I am looking for someone else to fill her shoes. The thing I liked about her, is she's been doing this for 17 years and I thought I could use her till I died. Can't count on a thing anymore!

Christmas is coming, and maybe it is time to start planning for it, as all of you should look forward soon enough to get it to the families FOR Christmas. Anyway, if what I have gathered from Virginia, Nancy, and Karen, your families this year should be:

P.S. I am hoping (?) to make a single bed quilt and a queen size quilt which will be raffled off. The Woods and Bartholomews names will be put in that raffle. Single for the children, and Queen for the couples. The large one hopefully, will be a "memory" quilt of pieces from dresses, etc, the kids wore when growing up, NO PROMISE.

Sherlene & DanWeights.

Let me know if I haven't figured correctly.

Tracy & Betsy..... Mechams

David and Karen.....Bartholomews

Note: I have done all this from the sure knowledge I have that Nancy had Liz last year. I know this because I kept nagging her to get the gift mailed. She did slippers and only had a couple more to make but didn't get it done before Christmas, so she never did get it done. She still feels guilty.

Elizabeth and Marty.H.T.H. Jr's

Virginia and Barry...David Hall's

Charlotte and Bryan..Neils

Nancy and Doug.....Woods

Brother David Beesley is in the hospital and not expected to live. He's a scrapper, however and from experience, I have seen that life is very tenacious, and most of us hang on to it for dear life. Even when we know better. He has been bedridden with Rheumatoid Arthritis for a year or more and has really gone down fast.

For those of you who are going to be coming to our Christmas Party this year. Be looking out for white elephants for your children which are still usable but which your own children may be tired of. If your white elephants are all worn out, keep an eye on the toys which appear between now and christmas at D.I's. I have made the following list which you can tell your children about. They will bring a wrapped toy, book, puzzle, or whatever for the following child.

The following will exchange gifts: Tracy Hunt. (70) cc Greg (72)
 Zina (71) Mary (72)
 Susanna (75) Emily Neil (74)
 Alex (77) Michael (76)
 Anthony (81) John (80)
 Roy (82) Hyrum (83)
 Barbara (83) Chelsie (82)

The Following will give gifts as below:

Stephen(73) to Robert (74)
 Robert (74) to Mark (75)
 Mark (75) to Stephen (73)
 Carli Anne (76) to Erin (77)
 Erin (77) to Sarah (78)
 Sarah (78) to Carli Anne (76)
 Lillie (78) to EmilyHall (79)
 Emily Hall (79) to Hannah (80)
 Hannah (80) to Lillie(79)

Hope I didn't leave anybody out. I have tried to work in age groups as near as possible and also boy to boy, girl to girl. If you can't find an inexpensive toy (not new) have the child make some candy or some homemade goody. DON'T SPEND A LOT OF MONEY. I would like to have each family prepare something for the program. I really enjoyed last year's. There are five families. Each family take fifteen to twenty minutes.

If the Woods,&the Bartholomews, decide to fly in let us know. We are very pleased that Liz and Marty are planning to come. Hope that materializes.

How about the Bartholomews and the Woods making a tape to add to our program. If you will I will make a tape of the program to send to you. Deal?

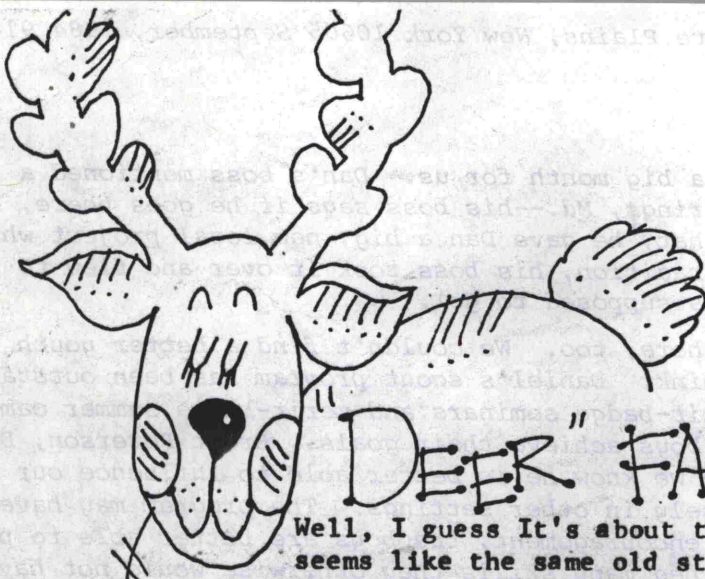
We will set the date for the party as soon as we know when Marty and Liz are arriving so they can come. Liz, let us know as soon as possible so we can set the date as early as possible so people can save the day.

Most of the children will be learning something christmasy in School, so that may give you an opportunity to get a tape. Let us have it preferably by 20th Dec.

Love,

Mother

THE mechams
1041 W. 600 S.
OREM, UT. 84058

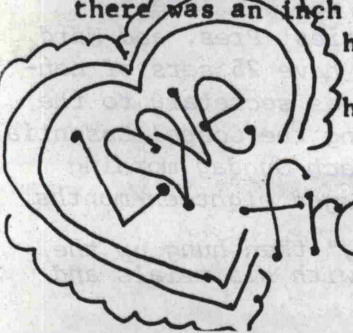
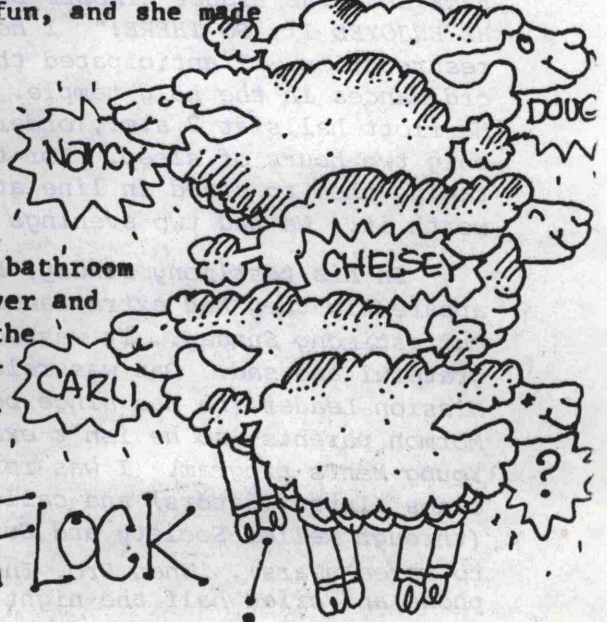


"DEER" FAMILY,

Well, I guess It's about time I wrote a family letter, Huh! It just seems like the same old stuff though. Lets see....I've decided to take on a new exercise program. Doug gets dragged along most of the time like it or not. We have free memberships at 3 private health clubs now. Spa Fitness Center, New Life Athletic Club, and Nautalis.. (spelling?) We like Nautalis the best, because The equipment is fantastic! Nautalis equipment is like the "Cadillac" of weight lifting equipment. You can get a super workout in 30 minutes, 3 times a week. We go on Mon. Wed. & Fri. On the other days, we jog around the New technical college in Orem. It's about a 2½ mile jog. It seems to have already helped my Asthma (by increasing my lung capacity & endurance levels) Although at first I had alot of problems with the running triggering asthma. I just took my inhaler along with me just in case.. Did you know that exercise is MORE important than dieting to lose weight? Thats because by lowering your body percentage of fat, and by increas lean muscle tissue, your body is able to burn more calories and operate more efficiently? Muscle burns 90% of the falories taken in, and fat only burns 10%. (Brown fat burns slightly more calories.) So The Idea is to lower body fat, and gain lean muscle tissue! Also, dieting triggers your body to actually try to store more fat than it normally would. Science (and common ~~xxxxxx~~ sense) tells you that your average person will not change his eating habits over the remainder of his lifetime...so the best idea is for everyone to continue his regu'ar eating routine. but add exercise at least 3 times weekly for at least 30 minutes at his or her target heart rate (aerobic exercrise) and you'd be surprised at the results! More energy, s'leep better at night, 'lowered appatite, better muscle tone lowered heart rate, & b'ood pressure, Better health!!! End of lecture.

School starts soon. AAAAAARRRRRRRRGH! I havn't done a thing to get prepared. Geess I'll dust off the sewing machine today. Carli Anne has been selling candy on weekends all summer long. Besides making a little extra money (about \$6.00 per week) She has (YAHOO) finaly learned how to count money. She still has a bit of a problem counting back change...but so did I when I was 15, and working my first job at Jewel Magid in the mall. What I would do was go to Bobco's & buy 10\$ worth of candy. Twizzlers, Jo'ly-ranchers, Smarties, Tootsie rolls, etc. She would sell them for 5¢ each. When she had earned \$10. She paid me back. Whatever else she made was hers to keep. It was alot of fun, and she made alot of friends doing it. (See enclosed picture)

The cat had kittens again. Lets see, what else is new? The dryer went Ka-puet, the toilet seat broke & chelsey fell in feet first. The power went out for 2 hours last night, Chelsey got into my desk & smeared permanent ink all over her new pink dress and the walls, and carli's garfield sleeping bag. What a mess! ahh, ~~thuxdayx~~ kids. OH! isn't 2 a wonderful age. Chelsey was playing in the bathroom sink and clogged it with toilet paper etc. It flooded over and there was an inch of water on the floor, and going down the heater vent, and down into the basement. She was fortunate that I was feeling humerous that day. Well, thats all the excitement this time.



from the whole Flock

Hi, All!

It's October already! September was a big month for us. Dan's boss mentioned a possible transfer (Dan requested Silver Springs, Md.--his boss says if he goes there, it will be within three months). But after that, he gave Dan a big, new local project which Dan got a great start on. Then, true to tradition, his boss took it over and flew to Houston to show it off (-originally Dan was supposed to go).

However, we have much reason to stay here, too. We couldn't find a better youth program anywhere in the Church, I don't think. Daniel's scout program has been outstanding. The leaders put in the time, providing merit-badge seminars and merit-badge summer camps. They really go the extra mile to help the boys achieve their goals. Brent Peterson, Daniel's scout leader is also our home teacher, and we know he is better able to influence our family because Daniel has worked with him so closely in other settings. The program may have its flaws, but I do feel with the merit-badge encouragement, the boys are better able to plan and achieve. We can't deny they have learned many skills they otherwise would not have and which are important.

Laura turned twelve this month. Next year she will turn 13 on Friday the 13th--we are going to have a crazy party! I was very sentimental about our daughter becoming an official young woman. It seems like just yesterday that I was teaching Beehive girls and helping write that manual for them which, fortunately, is no longer used (they did use it for a decade, though). Was it possible that my baby girl is already a Beehive? Laura thought she was ready to be a Beehive girl two years ago. Did those "baby" songs in Primary seem to d-r-a-g on for her!

We have the best youth leaders--not only are they absolutely gorgeous women, but they are bright, creative, fun, steady, and filled with the Spirit. Susan Wilcox, our YW Pres., just moved two blocks from us, so we have a ready-made ride to the youth activities. Daniel loves to play basketball with her husband, Mark. They, in turn, have ready-made, anxious babysitters who can walk to their home. Both our kids are making a fortune babysitting. Members come 20 min rides to pick them up. Its nice to hit ~~them~~^{oil} up for money for a change.

They welcomed Laura into the YW program in grand style--complete with an assigned big sister, the royal carpet, life-story introductions, certificates, kits, and even a red rose. The entire presidency came to our home and introduced us to the goal-setting program. My only complaint is Laura needed it two years ago.

And talk about fun! Already Laura has been to a big estate in Purchase for a youth hay-ride and cookout. She had a final Primary Daddy-Daughter Hawaian feast at Cathy Hughes' home (her primary teacher also lives nearby). Last weekend they took all the youth to the Washington Temple, so Laura did her first baptisms for the dead. For both kids the most significant part of the entire trip was riding with the bishopric there and back and "THE BISHOP HIMSELF LET THEM LISTEN TO ROCK MUSIC ALL THE CAR RIDE, AND EVEN HE ENJOYED IT, SO THERE!" I hope those dear leaders get their ears restored in the resurrection. I anticipated their reports of spiritual awakenings while doing the sacred ordinances in the holy temple. What I got were hoots about the joys of running through Marriott halls at 2 a.m., ordering sundaes through the room service, and getting by with only two hours of sleep. For this I spend two days shopping, helping pack, and two evenings taking them to stand in line at the Church for bishopric and stake interviews. But it was worth it. We had two evenings of classical music at home.

In his testimony Sunday, Bishop Garff said Daniel should get a medal for endurance--apparently they had extra names and so he baptized Daniel 60 times in a row! I also bore my testimony Sunday. It was so hard to say goodbye to our missionary calls. I felt grateful and sad. Dan was released at Stk. Conf. last week as Seventies' Pres. and Ward Mission Leader (he has since been called to the Boy Scout Council [we have 25 sets of non-Mormon parents--so he isn't exactly out of fellowshiping] and, also, as secretary to the Young Men's program). I was released from my umptieth round of teaching the Gospel Essentials class (Investigators) and called to be Nursery leader for two hours each Sunday morning (through Relief Society and Sunday School), working with 24 children aged eighteen-months to three years). When Bro. Inouye called me to this job, I said "Yes," then hung up the phone and cried half the night. I felt the Lord was going a bit far with his trials and

tribulations. I was ashamed tht I felt that way about the job--but I couldn't deny I hardly felt ready to be nursery leader, neither in terms of aptitude nor attitude. But when I finally felt like speaking to the Lord, I did get a confirmation that it was inspired, and they weren't just giving the job to the only woman in the ward who wasn't already overwhelmed with little children at home. Brother Inouye gave me an unbelievably beautiful blessing when he set me apart--told me my mission in life was just beginning, and this church job would be a key to the future and many other beautiful things--not the least of which was that, through my faithfulness, I would feel the Spirit of the Lord in my own home and enjoy peace there (by the way I hope you all read that article by Pat. Holland on Peace in the ENSIGN--three keys to family peace--I'm working on myself in all these spheres).

So, I can hardly believe how much I now love this job. I am reading books about reaching and learning with pre-schoolers. It takes me hours and hours to prepare for that nursery period. Daniel and Laura love helping--we have that room so decorated, it looks like a circus. They key is to be a step ahead of the children all the way. Lots of short, very organized activities. You quit before they think they're through. Don't give them a chance to get bored. Lots of variety. Give them things to do and responsibility. Kneel down to their level--lots of eye contact, hugs, kisses, positive feedback. Lots of sticky, icky, messy things like dough-clay, glue, and macaroni necklaces. And pictures of Jesus all around the room, so they associate all this fun with Him. But all the preparation in the world wouldn't do it. This job truly takes listening to the Spirit. With that many kids, I am not experienced enough to know how to handle each little crisis--and there are a lot of them. It has been the most humbling, gratifying experience, to feel the Spirit in the room and know the Lord is teaching them through me. I have never had such help with any class I have ever taught--probably because I never thought I needed it more. Jesus does love the children and He is there--and I guess the most soul-restoring thing is to see how they love Him and how they respond to His love. At this age they can and do change. They are so impressionable. I have already seen miracles in behavior-modification. You walk out of there and feel like you've really accomplished something (with a lot of help). Incredibly when I need help, it comes. Just then just the right parnt walks in or someone walks in and takes over. The Lord takes care of his little ones. Now the bishopric has called two sweet Spanish sisters to help me. They don't speak English very well, but do they speak the language of love and testimony. I have asked them to greet and dismiss the children in Spanish and they are teaching them a simple song in Spanish.

In all my Church experience, I've only been in the Primary once before--and that was only for eight weeks before I was called to another job. I had felt the Lord didn't think I was very good with children--especially since He didn't bless us with any more of our own. It was such a relief to know that I can do it. The hard part is going home and sometimes feeling sad (especially when the kids are in school) that we don't have little ones at home. But it exhausts me so much (I come home and collapse after those two hours Sunday), it is also a bit of reality therapy. There is no question the Lord knows what He is doing. I'm older than I thought.

Getting back to Laura's birthday--she wanted one last doll--one of those Cabbage-patch types, so she could join the neighborhood rage. We couldn't find one we could stand to pay for and finally settled for an imitation model Gordon Groom sold at his stand. We arranged it with him while Laura was in Utah ahead of us. He had sold all of them but one which he brought home for someone special. Laura had been such a friend to him and his guide-dog, he was tickled she got it. When I saw this doll, I liked her immediately. Laura had wanted a doll like one of her friends--with honey-colored hair. This one had black hair, but her features reminded me of a Jewish friend I once had. I somehow felt Laura would see beyond the damaged box and smudged clothes and skin and that this doll, which was chosen last, would be first in her heart.

When Laura was little, she read how someone put a bag-baby on the steps of a church and was upset that it wasn't put on our porch. So it was a joke to put this Cabbage-patch kid in a Hickory Farms shopping bag and hide it behind bushes near our front porch. We taped Susan's crying baby and put the recorder under the doll in the bag. I was inside helping Laura and her friends roll out pizzas when Cathy Hughes rang the doorbell. Laura

answered the door, heard the cries, and found her bag baby in short-order. Inside the bag she also found some "real" adoption papers (which took me half a day to prepare) and a sloppy, sentimental note from her mother saying how much I love my daughter and how proud I am of her. The adoption note also told her the doll's name was Rachel. She could rename the doll anything she wanted; but she should always remember this baby was "born" Jewish to parents who loved her very, very much. In the letter, I also referred her to Isaiah ("nursing mothers") and the Book of Mormon and reminded her of her own royal heritage in Israel. I was holding my breath hoping Laura would "take" to this doll--she had begged over and over for a real one with light hair.

Her reaction was sheer exuberance. "Hey, everybody," she called. "Look at this! My doll is Jewish!" Jessica Wiesz was delighted. For the next half hour Jessica shared Jewish names and symbols with the predominantly Christian group. Finally Laura officially recorded her kid's name as "Rachel Rebecca." Since this was a neighborhood party (Laura has adopted all the little kids in the neighborhood and has no qualms about inviting them, along with her friends her age), the girls all ran home and brought back their patch-dolls--what a sight! From then on it was Laura's show. She plans all the games for her parties, anyway--all she wants from me is lots of food and permission for a "sleepover": Laura kept pointing out that her doll was unique. She does adore that doll. Talk about a Jewish princess. I can't open the door to Laura's room for the mess--but the doll corner is spotless--one haven of order and serenity. I got her a pattern to sew her own doll-clothes, and Becky has had a new dress every day.

I have been working hard at home to catch up on all the piles and undone projects. It frustrates me to work so hard all the time and go so slowly. But I did get through every closet and drawer this past month and threw away tons of stuff. What junk collectors we all are. I joined the neighborhood civic association sale to raise scholarship money and anything I didn't sell got stuffed in the Salvation Army box on the way home. Now I still have tons of genealogy filing. It just goes on and on and on. Speaking of genealogy, next week Grant Radmall, our branch librarian (LDS) in New Canaan is speaking to the Westchester Co. Genealogy Society on "Computerized Genealogy." I suggested him as a speaker last year, and it pleased me that they invited him again. They also asked me to be the speaker in December and talk about the resources of the Salt Lake library. In addition, the New England Study Group is coming to our home October 25 for an information exchange along with ghosts and cider. The last time I went to that study group, I came home with three new generations on the Gerard Spencer line. The next day we plan to take off for D.C. and our Stk. temple trip and hope it is a good week to also visit Virginia and Barry.

The kids are very happy about school this year. Ursuline seems to be a very good school. God moves in mysterious ways. The only other family in White Plains carpooling to Ursuline is the Teglassy family. It turns out, Tom Teglassy is a Mormon who hopes his family, through us, will come into activity. He does not ever come out (says he has too little time with his family--he travels in his job) and does not want to antagonize his wife--but claims he is as convinced as the day he was baptized that it is true. So they take Laura to school (about 20 min. ride to New Rochelle) mornings, and I bring their two daughters back in the afternoon. We like their family and hope to be good friends. Laura's religion teacher has been lovely. Laura questioned something in class and told them how Mormons take the sacrament. With that, her teacher devoted the rest of the class to the Mormons and told Laura's classmates what a wonderful religion Laura had and how she admired the LDS people she had known. She invited Laura to give a report on her religion later in the year and encouraged her to put "Mormon" answers to test questions, any time she wants. She even invited Laura to bring her information about the Church. Of course, we wouldn't consider....

We went to the White Plains Middle School open house last night and met all of Daniel's teachers. What a pleasant experience. I thought each teacher was absolutely splendid. I was equally pleased with the quality parents I met in those same classrooms. If I had known how much things have changed, Laura might not be going to Ursuline right now (we thought it might still be a dittle rough for her). We can all take heart about the public schools in America. They can change, after all. All it takes is quality private schools nearby and a tax-base like we've generated in White Plains of about half-a-billion dollars. Our kids even have microwave ovens in their gourmet-cooking class. We love you and miss you. Thanks for your letters, prayers, concern, and example. Two pages next time. Maybe.

Love,

Shelene

exam for the mission, they found he has cancer. So please include him in your prayers--we held a family fast.

Neil letter

Dear Family:

Greetings. I just borrowed the "Jane Fonda Workout" video tape from a friend to see if it was the workout for me (I gained a few extra pounds over the summer), and decided after only five minutes, that it definitely wasn't the tape for me! She has one of those pipe cleaner bodies, that can bend and twist any direction, and just watching her made me so depressed, I decided I don't want to see that every day. What I need is to see some fatties like me, panting and struggling like I struggle--that would be encouraging. This summer, Emily has been working to do the "pancake" and she finally can do it--sit on the floor, legs stretched out to the side, body pressed flat to the floor. She has definitely not inherited my short tendons and ligaments.

The girls developed Olympic "fever" this summer and now are taking gymnastics. Mean Mama made they choose between that and Soccer, since they are already taking ballet and piano. Emily particularly has enjoyed gymnastics and spends almost as much time on her hands as on her feet. She thinks we should buy a bigger house and build in a gym. Marty thinks we should buy a bigger house and build in a basketball court. Greg thinks it should be a tennis court, and I am lobbying for a music room. We're a great bunch of dreamers!

I had to drop a few piano students this year to accommodate new chauffeuring duties for the kids, but I still teach a couple of days a week and am working with the Cupertino Jr. Players once a week to teach the music. They're doing "Charlotte's Web" this fall.

The family sports a few new appliances. Greg had braces put on just before school started, Erin's glasses are updated every six months, and Emily is getting new glasses next week. She complained of not seeing the board after she began school this year, and sure enough, is near-signed with slight astigmatism. I've been wearing glasses all summer because of trouble with my contacts and Marty has new glasses. I'll be trying to work into my contacts again starting tomorrow.

Our visit to Disneyland and San Diego in August was wonderful. Marty enjoyed Disneyland so much, he's talking of going back in February when the kids have their "winter" break. Marty's parents will be flying out to see us then, and Marty thinks they should see Disneyland (whether they want to or not!). Then if our plans turn out, Marty and I will go by ourselves to Hawaii for a much-needed break and his parents will stay on to watch the kids for us.

It was nice to have Dan and Sherlene and their kids with us at Disneyland. Greg and Daniel took off to do all the "thriller" rides while we kept the small kids with us and everyone was happy. Then we went on to San Diego the next day and spent a few days at the beach, there.

Marty left yesterday for a one-week trip to Germany. He seems to be doing well in his work and enjoys it (from a wife's point of view). He works longer hours that he did before and often works at home in the evening. I'm afraid I was a bit spoiled in years past when he came home at 5:00 regularly for an early dinner. Now we eat at 6:30. Marty has found time this fall to coach Greg's soccer team, the "Goalbusters."

Greg is adjusting nicely into the seventh grade. A "friend" who drove him crazy with teasing and pestering last year has fortunately moved and Greg seems happier. His electives are computers and Spanish III (he took a year of Spanish in the sixth grade, also). His first computer program was called "Todd-buster". (Todd was the name of this so-called friend who drove him crazy.) The graphics were very cleverly done and when we viewed it on back-to-school night, his teacher praised his work. I guess that was Greg's way of getting Todd out of his system. (Hi-tech revenge!)

After much battling with Greg over practicing the piano, I finally told him he could quit, but to my surprise, Marty overruled me and insisted he continue. I insisted that Marty monitor the practicing: I've heard more and more stories of a need for missionaries to know piano, so we want to keep our kids playing until they can play the hymns well. Emily is doing very well and Erin is beginning.

(over)

page two - Neil

John is in pre-school this year five days a week to prepare him for the high stress of kindergarten next year. Just imagine if he were to start kindergarten not already beginning to read! Horror! I've heard of mothers flashing cards every fifteen minutes at their babies to stimulate their little brains to new heights of intellect. No time for play for today's little ones. Actually, John loves his pre-school, but I wonder sometimes at how we push our little children, always monitoring their progress against other kids.

Emily just came in to tell me that the workout I was watching was the beginner tape and I should come see the advanced workout! Fat chance! (No pun intended.) My friends and I are walking three times a week at 5:30 a.m. The walking is easy, the early morning hour is tough.

John is also taking gymnastics and the first day his teachers watched in amazement as he chinned himself twice. He has amazing arm strength, especially for a child as heavy as he is. He's not overweight--just firmly built.

We're toying with the idea of going home during the Christmas holidays so the kids can play in the snow. If anyone would like to get away from the snow, they can come use our house while we're gone. We'll let you know later if we're definitely coming. John is very confused about this snow thing--not understanding why we don't have snow and Grandma does. He was convinced that we were going to have snow on Christmas last year. It's tough explaining things to a four year old.

Well, better go now. Hope all is well with your families.

Love,

634 N. 550 E.
Orem, Ut.
Oct 8, 1984
Tracy Jr.

Dear Family,

It was good to have Sherlene, Dan, Daniel, & Laura visit in August. I spent an afternoon with just Daniel & Laura and the kids up Provo Canyon and had a wonderful time. After fooling around at the Theater in the Pines at Aspen Grove, we went down to Vivian Park and waded in the stream, which since this spring's floods has been running right through the picnic and play area. We pretended that the jungle-jim was a ship, and the more daring went down the slide into the stream. When they hit bottom, Daniel & Laura would just lie there and let the freezing-cold stream completely run over them. A phrase handed down from our maternal progenitors comes to mind: "No sense, no feeling."

I suppose everyone knows that the Smith board of directors has approved the terms of the proposed sale of Mega, subject to "due diligence" in the contract negotiations. There will be \$3 million (minus an escrow of about \$150 thousand for potential audit discrepancies) paid to the shareholders at closing (target: Oct 26). The remaining \$8 million in payments will be tied to certain performance milestones, most of which are in David's drilling products area. We think we can readily achieve these over the course of the next 3 years, and they are flexible and subject to substitution. (Smith does intend to pay it all unless we are totally a fraud or become completely negligent. The general idea is that we don't take our money and skip to the Bahamas.) Part of the sale price (7.5% ?) will go into a trust fund for non-stockholder employees, to be distributed in proportion to total wages to date, adjusted for inflation. Thus they'll receive a well-earned bonus at the time of sale and will have the same incentives for future performance as we stockholders.

The negotiations seem to be proceeding rather smoothly, with the last major hurdle being an agreement between our French partners and Smith, for which purpose Duane Horton is now visiting France with Smith Tool president Don Thomas.

Smith is extremely sensitive to patent infringement issues after being burned by Hughes Tool in a suit over a patent on the use of a twenty-five cent o-ring in a roller-cone journal bearing seal --which Smith used in good faith only after a lower court ruled that the patent was invalid. That ruling was overturned (many years and many millions of dollars in sales later) by a higher court, and the matter is now back in the lower court for assessment of damages. So an important part of the negotiations is a legal audit of our patent position. In late August they sent their top internal and external legal and technical talent here to look for any such problems.

I can say I was quite proud of our preparation. Over the last 5 years we had thoroughly searched the relevant world patent literature and had on hand copies of more than 500 U.S. and international patents in the field, all indexed on our computer database and evaluated for potential infringement. After they saw our preparation and heard our evaluation of the two patents they were concerned with (one of them, known to us as the G.E. "Compax" patent really has limited us but has been a blessing in disguise in forcing us to develop an improved product), their stance changed from critical to cooperative. I presented them with two patents which they had never seen, but which had happened to turn up in our searches and were of vital importance to Smith. One of them was G.E.'s patented solution to a tungsten carbide problem which one of the visitors was himself assigned to solve!

Smith knows that most of the future value of the company to them comes from David's ideas and developments, so they've promised David direct access to the people in Smith he needs to work with to get his job done and have approved an adequate budget for him. But on paper he will be a vice-president answering to Duane, who insists on remaining as president. It chafes me to operate under circumstances where things are officially organized contrary to the way things actually get done, but isn't that usually the way things are?

I have asked to be relieved of any administrative responsibilities and to report directly to David as "staff scientist" within his group, so that I can focus on the technical issues needed to achieve our financial incentives. David is being criticized for the "lack of qualification" of the individuals he's named as his project leaders, all of whom have done great things with the freedom and responsibility he has given them. (None has an engineering degree: Monte Russel & Bruce Campbell each have a 4-year degree in manufacturing technology, Chris Lauredsen, the genius craftsman who last week fabricated the essential elements of David' diamond journal bearing, has only a high school diploma, and even his "staff scientist", yours truly, is a grad-school dropout). David has been concerned that efforts will be made to place more experienced or "better-credentialed" people over them, thereby not only hurting their opportunities for growth, but getting in the way of getting the job done. Fortunately, Dad has agreed to rejoin Mega half-time, serving the drilling group as "senior scientist" and lending us some respectability.

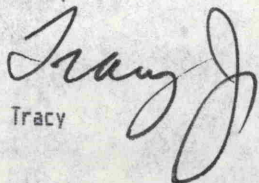
I recently called David Hunt to be my second counsellor in the Elders' quorum to replace Alan Manley, who's been called as Teachers' quorum advisor. He's been teaching primary for several years and I had never had the chance to get to know him well, but as I sought inspiration in my choice, I was particularly impressed with his example as a gentle and considerate husband and father. Not until I had set him apart did I remember he had been a friend of Barry's. He sends his greeting.

This is the year of "the grass is greener in the schoolyard". All the kids but Alex are going to school, and he feels deprived. (We still make them stay home for 1st and 2nd grade.) It happens that the outstanding 3rd grade teacher who taught Tracy, Zina, and Mary and has been transferred to our new school, and Susanna has her. Robert's 5th grade teacher "is really fun and likes us to have lots of recesses", which is good for Robert. He's going to be taking a "break dancing" class

with his buddies in the neighborhood; that's the "in" thing to do during recess. Mary is going half-day to 7th grade, taking Art, Chorus, and French, and Tracy & Zina are going every other day to 9th grade at the high school, taking French, Chorus, Drama, and Seminary together. I have to credit Betsy for pursuing these half-schedules and Zina's grade-skip through the barriers erected by the beaurocracy against innovation, non-conformity, etc.

Zina says part of the reason she is enjoying school so much is because she had those years off, and because she knows it is her choice and she could quit if she wanted to. Tracy was originally wanting a full schedule of math, science, etc., but he decided he was learning that stuff best at home and really only wanted the things he couldn't get there. I don't know how long this partial "re-integration" will continue, but It seems so far to be pretty succesful. T & Z's seminary teacher remarked to us how unusual it is for siblings to have the friendship that they so have. I just hope all of our kids will develop that kind of friendship with each other.

Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Tracy J'.

Tracy

DEAR FAMILY,

OCTOBER 7, 1984

OUR FAMILY HAS NOT SUBMITTED A HALL FAMILY LETTER FOR THE PAST TWO MONTHS SO SOME OF THE FOLLOWING WILL BE OLD NEWS HEARD THROUGH THE GRAPE VINE BUT NOT PRVIOUSLY PUT IN PRINT. I AM TYPING THIS ON DAD HALL'S MACINTOSH. WE CAME UP FROM DELTA TO ENJOY THE WEEKEND AND CONFERENCE ON TV. SOME OF YOU MAY REMEMBER THAT CHARLOTTE AND I DO NOT HAVE A TV. MOM HALL HAS FED US WELL AS USUAL. WE WERE ALSO FED SPIRITUALLY FROM THE MESSAGES OF CONFERENCE.

IN THE MIDDLE OF AUGUST THE ELDERS QUORUM PRESIDENT IN OUR WARD GOT A JOB AS DIRECTOR OF PRINTING, ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHER DUTIES, AT THE BYU CAMPUS IN HAWAII. THIS NECESSITATED A CHANGE IN THE PRESIDENCY. BEING FIRST COUNCILOR AT THE TIME PUT ME IN AS A FIRST POSSIBILITY FOR BEING PRESIDENT. ACCORDINGLY, I WAS INTERVIEWED AND CALLED. I TOLD THE STAKE PRESIDENT THAT I DID NOT EXPECT TO BE IN DELTA VERY LONG AND WAS EXPECTING TO BE TRANSFERED SOON. I SUGGESTED THAT MAYBE I WOULD SERVE BETTER AS A COUNCILOR AGAIN. I WAS EXPECTING MY JOB IN DELTA TO BE OVER IN THE NEXT MONTH OR TWO. THE PRESIDENT STATED THAT EVEN FOR THAT SHORT OF TIME I COULD BE USEFUL. HERE I AM AS ELDERS QUORUM PRESIDENT.

ON SEPTEMBER 17TH I WAS CALLED INTO THE OFFICE AT WORK. I WAS INFORMED BY THE LEAD CIVIL THAT THE JOB WAS WINDING DOWN AND THAT MY SEVICES WOULD NO LONGER BE NEEDED AS OF OCTOBER FIRST. I WAS ALSO INFORMED THAT WITHIN BECHTEL THERE WERE NO IMEDEATE OPENINGS. FURTHER, I WAS TOLD THAT THE MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT AT THE JOB SITE DID HAVE NEED OF ONE INDIVIDUAL WITH MY EXPERIENCE IN PIPE SUPPORTS. I WAS OFFERED A JOB, BUT WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE MY CAREER. I TOOK IT. YOU COULD SAY THAT I AM MANTAINING EMPLOYMENT. BY THE WAY MY EXPERIENCE WITH PIPE AND PIPE SUPPORTS CAME DURING OUR STAY IN SPRINGVILLE, ARIZONA. WHILE WE WERE THERE, I HAD ALL THE SUPPORTS FOR THE WHOLE JOB. WE COULD BE STAYING IN DELTA FOR ANOTHER YEAR AND A HALF MAXIMUM.

CHARLOTTE HERE NOW. WE'RE HAVING ALOT OF FUN WITH THIS EQUIPMENT. I WROTE THE CULTURAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER ON THE COMPUTER. IT PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN FASTER TO DO IT ON A TYPEWRITER BUT IT WAS MUCH MORE INTERESTING TO DO IT ON THIS FANCY MACHINE.

BRYAN AND I HAD THE FLU THIS PAST WEEK AND HYRUM HAD AN EAR INFECTION THAT TOOK TWO DIFFERENT ANTIBIOTIC TREATMENTS BEFORE IT HEALED. THE GIRLS HAVE BEEN WELL. SARAH HAD HER SCHOOL PICTURE TAKEN LAST MONTH. SHE CURLS HER OWN HAIR AND LIKES TO LOOK AT HERSELF IN THE MIRROR. I'M GLAD SHE CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF (I REMEMBER BAWLING WHEN I WAS 12 BECAUSE MOM MADE ME PUT UP MY OWN HAIR) BUT I'M NOT TOO EXCITED ABOUT THIS PREADOLESCENT PRIMMING. MAYBE SHE'LL GET ENOUGH OF IT NOW AND WON'T DO IT LATER.

HANNAH ENJOYS COLORING AND PAINTING. SHE STAYS AT AN ART PROJECT MUCH LONGER THAN I EXPECT OF HER AGE. HYRUM LIKES TO BE INCLUDED IN HIS OLDER SISTERS' PLAY AND WANTS TO DO EVERYTHING THEY DO--INCLUDING WALKING DOWN STAIRS. HE TOOK A BAD TUMBLE DOWN THE STAIRS LAST WEEK TRYING TO WALK DOWN FORWARDS. I FOUND BLACK WIDOWS IN OUR BASEMENT WINDOW WELLS. WE SPRAYED LAST YEAR FOR THEM AND HOPED THAT WAS THE END BUT IT WASN'T. OUR NEIGHBORS HAVE THE SAME PROBLEM WITH THEM. WE ALSO HAVE FROGS IN OUR WINDOW WELLS. AREN'T FROGS SUPPOSE TO EAT SPIDERS? I'M NOT A REAL FAN OF SPIDERS, BUGS, ECT. THE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN CLIMBING IN THE WINDOW WELLS TO PLAY WITH THE FROGS. SINCE THE DISCOVERY OF THE WIDOWS, THAT ACTIVITY WILL HAVE TO BE STOPPED.

BRYAN PURCHASED A NEW RIFLE AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE HUNT. HE IS TAKING A WEEK OFF WORK TO HUNT. HE ALSO PLANS TO PAINT THE HOUSE AND TAKE ME TO SALT LAKE FOR TWO DAYS DURING THAT WEEK. WE'LL LET YOU KNOW HOW IT TURNS OUT.

LOVE, BRYAN, CHARLOTTE & KIDS