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Provo, Utah 84601  
Sept. 1, 1977

Dear Children:

Well we have been so busy this week since returning to Provo that we hardly know where to begin.

Nancy and Doug took good care of our house when we were gone, and moved in and out of the apartment on the farm when we returned. Doug decided that it was just too far to commute. They are back at their former apartment in the basement of Mechams, for those of you who are addressing mail or have cause to call them.

One of the apartments is occupied by a nice young couple who are building a home in Payson. Jim and Melinda Woolf may go in the other one.

Dad has decided to rent the upstairs of the apartment, too, and so I am busy finding draperies for that. We also have to arrange for landscaping the place. There was enough rain while we were gone that dad's new little trees on the farm and the berries escaped damage.

Our lawn is a minor disaster due to the bill bug. The bill bug is enough of a lawn nuisance in our neighborhood now that home remedies are beginning to be tried. One remedy is to spray your lawn with ~~xxxxxxx~~ detergent. I'm thinking of plowing and planting corn.

Our tomatoes have begun to come on. They are late, and it has now cooled off so that their ripening is slow enough that my plants do not keep me in tomatoes.

Our house which I thought would be so quiet I would go crazy is still hopping. Uncle Delbert's girls, Bonnie, Denise, and Elaine are living in the basement. I have brought the frig in from the storage wall outside and the girls are doing their own cooking, which takes the pressure off me completely. They are pleasant girls and sing together beautifully, which we will enjoy and which will ~~xxx~~ keep the music flowing in our home. I guess daddy will have to take up the piano when we are alone again.

If we need to, we have decided that when Daddy retires that we will put a door into the bedroom that Sherlene was in and make that a little sitting room and with a small frig and cupboard unit and have four girls in the other two bedrooms. From the accommodations I have seen for girls, it would bring 65 or 75 dollars from each girl and give us a little regular income, which, if we dropped our standard of living we could get along on if we had to (in addition to income which may come in from HTH Inc. Then we would replace the brown couch and the other couches in our basement with hideabeds for when company comes or just not rent in the summer so that there would be room for youse guys when you visit the home base. (We could always pitch the tent and dig latrines) (How does that grab you?)

I have registered for 8 hours of classes this semester. Geology and lab, Old testamont, English Genealogy, and Old Testamont. (Ludlow)

I will also be teaching the genealogy course for the sunday session of R.S.



But this will only be for four times.

When we got home we had 14 wedding invitations waiting for us, and have received four more since then. It would seem that if Zion is not growing, it is not because the young people are not getting married.

Sherlene, use some of that \$50. to pay that big phone bill which we ran up while we were there. Virginia, when your phone bills come let me know how much I owe you.

We had a wonderful vacation, ushering in Nathan and visiting Sherlene and Dan and Laura and Daniel. You have never seen a more delighted father (mother kind of likes him, too) in your life.

We let Charlotte do the grandmothering a couple of the days we were with Barry and Virginia and I spent the time in the National archives. We also spent a day at the Virginia State Library which has a very good Virginia Source library. Daddy spent all of his time at the archives--wouldn't even go to the temple because he felt so pressed to get what he could out of the archives.

Then when we were coming home, we couldn't find accommodations in Denver (will you believe that every motel that we ran into was full?) There was literally, no room at the inn. We drove on and looked for motels in nearby areas of soda spring and vale and decided to just drive all night. We arrived home Sat morning, and if we had known that was what we were going to do we could have spent a day or two more with Virginia. Mother and child are doing nicely, however, and she probably gets more rest with us not there.

After Catching up on mail (somewhat) and finding that the ward had managed very nicely without us, I decided to go to California after all. And was so glad I had. I got to see Marty and Liz's new house (Grand!) And visit with the grandchildren and children on the west coast. We stayed with Betsy and Tracy and I think that older children are more delightful, even, than babies. I guess we have the grandest grandchildren in the jungle. (paraphrased from Little Black Sambo)

Sherlene had a captive audience and so we (Daddy and I) spent much of our time recording our life history. When Daddy came home he told the ward he could now expect them to do their life histories, because he could now feel that he wasn't asking them to do anything he was not willing to do himself. Everyone agreed that the trip was good for him. He was in rare form Sunday night last, quipping about names (of stake representatives) etc. He is usually very business-like when he conducts a meeting, but he got started telling about his dedication of the family cemetery in Pickaway County, and almost got carried away. He said he realized he could go on for some time and chopped it short. The music for the evening was furnished by the Delbert Hall girls and afterwards several mothers said: "Our daughters don't need THAT kind of competetion. But the girls got really a lot of favorable comment on their singing. They sing without accompaniment and can just start without even using the piano (although they used the piano Sunday to get their key) to get their pitch. They have a very wide reperatoire (now THAT is misspelled, but I am too lazy to look it up) singing classics, soft rock, etc. So far there is only one young man knocking on the door, but I imagine that will change as the girls get into circulation.

Charlotte has moved into her apartment, but is still with us until next week.



My cousins's daughter (Heywood) Sherlene Adair's brother's girl, is also with us until she can find an apartment. Everything is full, but I'm sure she will eventually find something.

Delbert's girls want to go to our ward instead of a BYU branch. Tonight we are going to Ogden to go to the wedding of Bob Langford. (Heber's boy) They did move in with Dad, but he was so difficult to live with that they moved out again. So now we have the worry again of watching out for Dad.

Both Jim and Heber have sold their houses. Jim is going (talking about going) to England to live for six months and do genealogy. Heber is building another home out in the Layton area. When they move away the only one who is very close at all to Dad will be Ernie and that is not very close. We may have to put him in a rest home. And that will be quite a trick. Maybe when we remodel the house for students, I could get him to come and live with us if he had his own accomodations.

Virginia's baby is an alert, strong baby and is now gaining weight about a pound a week. Already weighs eleven pounds plus. Richard Alexander (the other NEW) is a pleasant, happy baby. He looks different than the rest of the children. He reminds me of my brother Jim when he was a baby. Of course all our children and grandchildren, especially grandchildren are brilliant. You should hear Zina read. she is just starting First grade and can read almost anything she picks up. She read me a story while I was there and she reads fluently, naturally, in whole thoughts, without a pause, and with expression. She is going to drive her first grade teacher crazy trying to keep her from being bored. Tracy little is a good reader, too, but excels in Math, and you have all witnessed that. I do not mean to pick out any one of the grandchildren for excellence over the others-- they all have their own unique capabilities, and all are progressing in their own growth. It is delightful to watch them grow, and I only wish they were closer, but then I don't see the ones who are close often enough. It has been fun to watch Carli and Michael go through the crawl-to-walk stage and see them develop. Steven and Michael are nearing the age when they will go to school and it will be fun to see them progress. Karen is vitally interested in her children's welfare and has had them in a pre-school nursery near them.

Well, I was only going to write one page, and must learn to limit my exhuberance to the allotted space. (you, too, Sherlene). Sherlene, you and Cindy Heywood should get together. She went to the Women's meetings in Hawaii where they live and she is as full of it and as excited about it as you are. Keep in there, but don't drown.

Love,

Muzzer

*Muzzer: I got your China. It seems all right. She made a big fuss of 'nothing being wrong with 2 of the pieces you turned back.  
now*