

Feb 20, 1991  
Hallmanack

Dear Family:

It has been a dreary month. Dirty snow everywhere and even when the snow melted with moderating weather, there was no cleansing rain to clean things up. However we did get four inches of snow during this last week, which promptly melted, cleaning things up somewhat, especially our inverted air.

Sherlene's father, Cal Bartholomew died in Germany while they were on a mission. It was very fast--they had reported at the Family History place for the day and he had hardly got his coat off before he collapsed. He died almost instantly. The funeral was yesterday. Dan gave an account of his life, and he did a beautiful job. Cal's wife and daughter sang. Their accompanist got ill the day before so Cal's dau played and sang at the same time. Shades of Liz. They had nice voices which blended beautifully.

When Sherlene was here last summer she went with them to choose a burial place and how providential that was. At least this problem was solved ahead of time. (go, thou, Mom and Dad Hall and do likewise.) My problem is getting Tracy to go do anything about this--I think he thinks he is immortal. (Just kidding.)

I have enclosed Wendell's "Never Ending News" ( Certainly not as sophisticated a title as "Hallmanack"). The complaining about having to "interpret" his letter to his children was about last month's letter. He sent us a copy and I'm with THEM. I couldn't understand parts of it, either. It's that Wendell Hall subtle humor. When my kids don't understand what I'm talking about, Wendell, I tell them they lived with me for 20-25 years each of them, and they should know what I'm thinking by instinct. We love your letters, Wendell. They never fail to give us a good laugh. Keep sending them.

I guess I told you David and Karen gave us a new IBM compatible outfit for Christmas with a nifty lazer printer. Unfortunately I haven't done much on it yet, and so I am doing this on the Mac. Besides, I think Sherlene is using the one upstairs.

Sherlene and Dan are here for the funeral. While Dan is here he will be looking for a job in this area. That would be nice, wouldn't it? Mary? Barry? Bryan? Only I don't intend to have a funeral to get you here for that purpose.

Both Dad and I have had bad colds. Not as bad as when we were at Virginia's and Sherlene's last year, but bad enough to miss two Sundays at Church. I have been out occasionally, but tonight when we all go to dinner for my (Yuck, 70th) birthday, will be the first time that Tracy has ventured out of the house for at least two weeks. He had to cancel an appointment to have a cataract taken off. I have a hunch he really didn't feel too badly about that, but we both felt that coughing like we have been doing wouldn't be good for his eye operation.

I also sent a very welcome letter from Sarah and John. In case you have the same wonderings I had when I read Sarah's letter, their son John is 14 years old. Nathan--if he can play the piano for Priesthood--can you? You probably don't have to. Necessity is the mother of much. Sarah is getting a Master's in Humanities and did her course work here at UVCC where John was teaching before they moved. I doubt if they are unhappy about getting out of the Utah Valley Smog. It was good to hear from them.

I am also sending you a sure sign of senility. Second childhood. When I was in my first childhood I wanted to be a writer. In my second childhood some remnants of that are

returning. Enclosed is something that occurred to me one morning as I lay awake waiting to get up nerve (energy?) enough to rise and get going.

If David keeps it up he will soon have the whole family working for him. Nancy is learning all about computing networking so she can sell something he puts out. She needs to write us a letter and tell us all about it. Nancy is busy turning the sunroom into an office she can work out of in her home when she has learned all about selling whatever. David could write a letter and clarify this too. Nancy is proving what I always knew about here--she is smart. I am amazed at what she has learned. I wish I could learn about computers that fast.

Thank you for all your birthday letters, cards, and gifts. Betsy had some of the enclosed pictures of Tracy which they have received duplicated on a color copier at the Y for my birthday. Almost as good as the original. The black ones enclosed aren't quite that good, but you will get the idea. Tonight I am going off my low-fat (under 10%) diet and load up at the Birthday dinner. I will probably gain back half of the 10 pounds I have lost. I won't tell you how much I weighed to start with. Too much.

Here is an interesting extract from a letter I got from Gary and Joan Browning who are currently mission presidents in Poland. It is from his area that the church is sending missionaries into Russia.

"For your information, now in Moscow eight missionaries are serving, ten in Leningrad, six, including four Estonian-speaking and two Russian speaking, in Tallinn, and four in Vyborg. With our office couple we have our thirty missionaries. The branch in Moscow is growing well; they certainly have a lot of investigators of all ages. We divided the Leningrad Branch. Now we have two branches with over seventy members in each. The missionaries have visited most of the less active members and urged them to return to Church. The Tallinn branch is maintaining itself after one of the anchors left for a mission to Utah SLC and another began alternate service rather than join the Soviet army. The Russian branch in Tallinn is doing very well--two months ago six came to sacrament meeting; last Sunday, forty. Vyborg with its exceptionally fine leaders continues to set the pace with a steady stream of converts and excellent retention record.

As a direct result of contributions made through fast offerings, on February 18 a truck from Frankfurt will leave with food for delivery to our four Soviet cities. Each member will receive nearly fifty pounds of flour, rice, macaroni, dry milk, dried fruit, cereal, cooking oil, and vitamins. There will be an equal number of packages for non-members in each city. The branch presidents are working with city officials to determine who should receive assistance. It is not that people cannot get food in the USSR, but the unpredictability and waiting in long lines is very frustrating and tiring."

What an exciting service they must be having over there. Love Mom Hall