

May 27, 1977

Dear Children: (How's that for covering the waterfront.)

I have taken Tracy Jr's suggestion, and I will zerox all the letters which come to me and then pass them on and then you can all go on collecting your own as they come back. Just one idea: Onion skin does not zerox very well.

Use the type of paper I am using now. Type on both sides if you desire. Limit yourself if you can to three pages at the most. This will keep the postage within reason. By the time you get two or three pages from each of us that amounts to 6 pages (if two) and that means that the postage each trip will be (including the envelope) 39 cents or three 13 cent stamps. (I am too used to the 1 being a 1 and with this ball the 1 is up at the top before the 2.)

If you write or print use a black pen if you have one or a dark blue pen. Then it will zerox. This plain paper will allow Nancy to be as creative as she likes as she usually likes to do some art work. If she wants to use other paper, O.K. And if you all want to use other paper, O.K. You can use toilet paper if you want to--just so you write. But if you use somewhat similar paper in size and shape it will be easier to bind at the end of the year.

DATE YOUR LETTER AND NUMBER THE PAGES NEIL 1, NEIL 2, as Eliz and Ginger did in their last letter. This will help Muzzer to keep them straight.

After I have zeroxed the letters, I will put a big paper clip onto the group of letters and at the end of the year I will have them bound together with a cardboard binding that is available for a nominal amount at the BYU.

You know, I would give my eye teeth to have Julie Nielson read those letters. She is sure that my authoritarian methods of raising children completely destroyed your creativity. I'll put your (collective) creativity up against any of her kids any day. Kids are pretty tough --they have to be to go through what you kids did and survive. But I can't see any signs of breaking your spirits. (sometimes, I wished I HAD).

I want you to all know--OH YES YOU MUST KNOW (I AM SO MODEST) that your old muzzer didn't do so badly in her school work. I came out with 2 A's and 2 A-es (how do you plural a plural letter?) 10 credit hours total--the most I have ever taken. I enjoyed it. Jon Green's humanity course was the toughest because his tests are the kind you have to know the exact answer--none of this guess work or multiple choice stuff--his class was one of the A-eses? (still struggling) Maybe I should take a course in spelling and vocabulary building next semester.

I was going to take geology this semester but Daddy talked me into not taking anything so we could take off if he wanted to. We haven't taken off. However, I have done a thing or two.

We planted a garden in the garden area in the back and in the area between the drive and the roses in front. I put in the trees I told you about and they are doing well. The asparagus which I planted so early I was afraid froze, but it is all up now and while it is pretty spindly, it will live and in a year or two we will enjoy our own fresh asparagus. Barry, the primrose and the rhubarb are doing nicely. We have had such cool weather that nothing is going terribly well except the peas. We had such warm weather in April that I didn't plant any lettuce, because I thought the heat would bolt it, but I have been regretting it ever since as it would have done beautifully in this cool weather--the same with spinach.

I, too, like the rest of you are very thankful for the moisture which we have enjoyed this month. It has been an incredible month for May here, I can tell you.

We have had three inches of rain this month and Ogden has had 6, if you can believe it. We have only had about three or four really sunny days the whole month, but at the same time we have not had any flooding. The greedy, thirsty, ground just soaked it up, as if it couldn't get enough. It has been good for our farmhouse, for the footings and ditches which were dug for pipelines, etc, have now had a good soaking and have sunken, hopefully, so that we will not have holes in our lawn which we are not going to put in.

Since I have started on the farm house I might as well finish. It is coming along nicely, but slowly. We should have been in it in April and it is still not finished. They are now doing the painting. In between rains, Daddy has finished connecting the house plumbing with the well so that the plumber can now connect with the well. We have put no garden in at the farm this year, as Daddy wants to put about three inches of sand all over our garden area to loosen our adobe soil which while adobe is nevertheless very fertile. Barry, if you and Virginia want to come and start a law practice in Utah, we will let you live for a year or two in the farm house and drown your children in the irrigation ditches. We are hoping that Nancy and Doug will go into one of the apartments and save a down payment on a house, but Doug thinks its too far from civilization. That's what we like about it.

I have been on a diet the last month and have lost 14 pounds so far. I need to lose at least 11 more. Everyone practically that I talk to ~~are~~ on this diet. It is a protein drink-diet called Slender Now. (25 bucks for a two week stint) you could do the same with self control. And it wouldn't cost you anything. (No self control).

I hope to be down to 145 by the time I go on vacation-- (it adds up to 170)

There have been some interesting things happening at Mega but I will let David tell you all about that. He is doing a good job of representing us in this area. He has now been officially elected to the board of DBT. And DBT and Mega are separate corporations but are now regular corporations instead of the old limited partnership and general partnership, sub chapter S. The old way we had to pay the taxes and now the corporation will pay its own taxes. This way we may never get any dividends, but the company won't break us by taxes we have to pay on dividends which might not be paid ever. If David doesn't do anything else in Mega and DBT we all owe him a great big vote of thanks for getting it changed to a regular corporation.

Daddy is "press" thinking again, and he is starting construction on a big~~g~~ press. Right now he is having some models made, and if he thinks they are good enough ideas he will construct a big press on purely speculative basis. Anybody got some money they want to get rid of?

the one I had  
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About a month ago Doug and Nancy decided they wanted to redo the piano so they could use it until I put it in the farmhouse. They moved the piano down to their apartment and Nancy took the whole thing apart and began to take the finish off it. Then they had to move it out ~~and~~ so the carpet layers could lay their new carpet, and so I had Doug move it out to the farmhouse so I could make the mess out there before they got it finished. I now have it finished and its a beautiful thing. You are all going to want it. Forget it. Then I saw someone who had used an old singer sewing machine for a flower stand and remembered Grandmother Hall's old machine. It had been badly damaged by rain, but

Tracy said he would pay up to \$250 to have it restored for sentimental reasons. I did some calling around and a young red headed man came and did the job for \$78.00 he took the old paint off and put a new peice of veneer on the top. He saved the old veneer on the rest of it, and while it is a little beaten up--those beats were put in there by the small hands of five little Hall boys, and have sentimental value. You are all going to want it, too! Forget it! I am going to put it out in front of my East window on the farm with a boston Fern on it. so there.

Remember that I broke my finger and had it in a splint when I was back East last year? Well, it came out of the splint crooked and I have never been able to straighten it. I am going to have surgery on it next Thursday and the doc (Dr. Green in Salt Lake (referred by Dr. Kezerian) (He does nothing but hand surgery) is going to cut the ligaments, put in a pin and cast it. Then in two weeks he will take it out of the cast and I have to go to work to limber it up. Hope it works. I don't like it bent crooked and I don't want it straight-stiff. Hard to please.

Oh, Dan and Sherlene--The Iris you sent to Dad did not survive. I put it in a good place, but it did not live. Usually nurseries will back up their stock, and if you want to write them, fine. But I didn't want you to come to see us and ask where the Iris is and have me say that it didn't live and I didn't tell you.

Thank you all for your Mother's presents and cards and kind words and telephone calls and I felt like a very cherished mother, I can tell you. Best of all, I feel like that more than on just mother's day--bless your hearts.

Daddy has become the custodian of our supply room. He goes out often and comes home with Year-supply goodies. He has rearranged our room so that everything edible is on the cold north side (now why didn't I think of that?) and all the empty bottles and soaps and oils and etc are on the south where it is warmer. We are in very good shape now but he keeps adding things here and there. That extra 500 lbs we ordered of wheat did not materialize so we don't have the extra I had hoped to have.

Our schedule for this summer if any of you want to know is as follows roughly :

Daddy: July 11th to the 15th: Paddy goes with Priests on hike into Tetons. If he survives this he will have one week to rest up.

July 24th: goes to Boulder Colorado for a high pressure conference where he will give a talk. We will go with him.

July 28th to August 7th: wandering around the country looking for genealogy and stuff and ending up at Sherlene's

About August 7th: About when Ginger's baby puts in appearance, we will go down to Ginger and Barry's and stay until they can't stand us any more or until 15th or 16th when we will drive home.

Week of August 21st we will drive down to the San Fran. area where dad will give a talk and we will see Tracy and family and Liz and family and come home by that Sunday.

Next week Dad, Charlotte and I will all go back to the Y. Charlotte and I to learn and Dad to teach.

By the way, Dad got a 12 % raise in salary. He will stay with the Y probably at least through next year.

We are hoping that Doug and Nancy will come and live in our house while we are gone and keep the weeds down and the orchids watered. Speaking of Orchids--about one third of them survived. Daddy let me buy some new ones in California and they are doing very well.

Grandfather Langford is slipping, but his stubbornness hasn't moved an iota. He still will not come and live with me. I hadn't been to see him for a long time as Dad was ill and my school work kept my nose to the grindstone. But I and Dad went up about two weeks ago and I did some cleaning and some washing, and Daddy took him out to get some groceries. Heber dropped in to see how he was getting along and I found out that he and the other boys try to go in each day to check on him, but Heber said he came in one day and Dad told him he

me, Charlotte, Dad & I

and flowers

~~me~~

4.

was in so much pain that he could hardly stand it. He showed Heber his legs. They were all swollen and puffy. Heber went right to the phone and called the Dr. and

the doctor had him come right up. He thought it might be heart failure, but it turned out to be some kind of allergy. (that old Langford skin). He gave him some salve, but Heber was really worried about him--he doesn't remember whether he has put on the salve or not, and wasn't getting cleared up. I looked at his legs and about died. Heber said they were vastly improved. I pled, threatened, and everything, but he said "I won't come--you'll have to drag me, and I'll just turn around and come home. I am going to die right here in my own home." Tracy and Heber finally pulled me off they were afraid he would do something drastic if I didn't desist.

He kept repeating in a vague way: "The key is here. The Key is here" I asked him what he meant--and he just repeated "the Key is here--and then said something in Spanish." I rubbed his feet with salve and left. I went back a week later and his feet looked much, much improved. Heber said he is not eating right--and that he leaves his empty dishes out (which he NEVER did) until they get rotten. Sometimes he puts a tv dinner in the oven and forgets about it, until Heber comes and takes it out (crawling) out of the oven, and sometimes he puts it in the oven turns on the oven and then forgets it and it burns to a crisp and he never even notices it. I feel that if we could once get him down here that he would eventually adjust and even might enjoy it, and I could see that he bathed and ate right and changed his clothes. Poor old man-- he would like to die but we just can't tell the Lord what to do in that respect. I remember Dad Hall being burned up when he would wake up still alive in the morning. *The senior citizen program brings in a hot meal at noon every day but Sat & Sunday.*

Barry, Dad says thanks for sending the patents. Also he says to tell you he got the 375. set of patent books. I told him to write a little himself but he declined.

The opinions on the name of this round-robin affair:

Hallmanack: Virginia, Betsy, Liz, Muzzer

Hallocaust: Virginia, Barry, Muzzer

Hallways: David, Dad

Left to vote: Nancy, Doug and Sherlene and Dan Also let's hear from Karen; When it is down to two we will take another vote on the next round,. Anyone who does not vote will just have to forfeit their rights. O.K.? I will go along with anything you kids say.

Liz, Thanks for the brag book photos. And Thanks, Sherlene for those pictures of Dan and Laura.

Well, Sherlene, that won't be the last time those kids will wear you out with worry and then buoy you up with pride. It's a good thing we have the Ups or the downs would surely get us. Wait until they are teen agers. I can see plenty of individuality in all the grandkids. But they're all surely a bunch of cuties. Tracy and Betsy: Yes the Rhythm method surely does work--especially if you want a big family. I'm with the Jewish Lady. You can have all you want. I'm all for it. And you two are doing a good job with those kids, too, as all of you are. Liz--cut out apologizing for your letters--I love your letters--it's just like sitting down and having a talk with you, and that's good. And Sherlene, we tease the life out of you, but I love your letters--keep them coming.

We will go up tomorrow to decorate the graves. We decorate about 20 of them. Halls Langfords, Chlarsons, Tracy's. We will take Dad with us to decorate them, and then take him over to Joyce's for a picnic lunch. Hope it is good weather. It ghas been today.

EVERYONE SAVE YOUR MONEY SO WE CAN GO TO THE ALUMNAE CAMP NEXT YEAR. O.K.?

Nancy has now graduated from High School. They gave her that stinking 1/4 unit which was missing for redecorating her apartment. It is very cleverly decorated. I'm trying to get them to go and decorate one of the partments in the farmhouse.

Next time you come we will have a new living room carpet. Love Muzzer