

335 E. Cedarwood Dr.
Orem, Utah 84057
October 14, 1977

Dear family,

It's been just about a year since we moved here from New Jersey. Our savings should last for about another year and by then we still hope that David will be bringing in some money.

David is presently working on the details for the design of his rock drill. His pump which will be an accessory to the drill is already in the testing stage. Actually he is right on schedule with his work. David spends about 48 hours a week down at "the shed". He not only does his own design work but also all of his own machining. David is neither extremely skilled or well equipped as a machinist and so he has learned out of necessity to design simpler machines. David has also spent quite a bit of time these past few months working on Mega and DBT problems. As you have probably heard, he is no longer directly involved with the boards of either now. I won't go into the details of the politics and shenanigans there; anything I could tell you would come second hand and terribly biased. In addition to the heated discussions and touchy tempers at Mega these past few months David has also had to deal with the problems of the architectural committee of our condominiums. David is chairman. He and five other men can give or withhold permission for residents to change anything on the outside of their unit. For example if someone wants to add a chimney, a swamp cooler, a lamp post, or an awning they must receive permission from this committee. Unfortunately several older couples moved in here thinking that they were free to do anything they wanted just as if they owned a private home. David is wonderful at handling conflict. He doesn't seem to take things personally and seldom seeks revenge when other attack him.

Mark will turn five next month. He goes to a preschool two mornings a week which he thoroughly enjoys. He is learning all kinds of things I have forgotten to teach him such as the pledge of allegiance, how to do little dances, and he is even learning Spanish. Sherlene, Mark still remembers the fun times he had at your place when David and I went to New Hampshire and keeps asking when we can go to New York and see Daniel and Laura.

Stephen still looks like Mark's twin; they wear the same size everything. He also goes to school two mornings a week but attends a different class. Stephen still seems to resemble David in his interests and talents. Stephen is terribly curious like David and also likes to work with his hands. Stephen can put together puzzles that other children his age would give up on. His favorite game is the one where you spread out the Old Maid card on the table face down and then take turns turning over matches. Would you believe that Stephen can beat me? That is either saving very little for my memory or quite a lot for his.

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Michael is still the loveable good natured baby he has always been. He's 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ years old now and I'm still referring to him as my baby. Actually I hate to see him grow up, he's such a cute baby. His only word so far is "Daddy". I think he has learned like his brothers that the best way to get David's attention is to verbally address him. No such method is necessary to get Mother's attention. A cry, a grunt, or a pull on my apron gets the same results.

Sherlene I wanted to thank you for the "book" of information you sent on your experiences at the Women's conference. I attended the Utah conference and also feel a need to get involved in political issues. I was impressed with several of the women I heard at the workshops - not because they always represented by point of view or set of values but because they were so well versed in the issues. I hope to join the League of Women Voters in Provo. I understand that the League studies national, state, and local issues and takes a stand on some of those issues. For instance they have come out in favor of the ERA amendment. . . Of course I don't expect to use the League as a soapbox for my views but I hope that through membership I can find ways of studying political issues in sufficient depth to be able to form intelligent opinions.

There's really not much to tell about myself. I'm still in the Relief Society presidency and learning how to handle conflict myself. I wish I could separate myself from the conflict like David does and not take things personally - that's my challenge. I have also done my first canning this year. You may wonder how I could go through five years of marriage without doing any canning - I've used plenty of excuses but this year I ran out. I got free fruits and vegetables from both sets of parents and even some free jars from Mom Hall.

Karen & family