

for Mom's letter - please pass on.

FEBRUARY 1979, WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. Several snowfalls brought Bartholomew family fun as well as invigorating exercise at the end of a shovel. We played backyard fox and geese. With the cold, Daniel and Laura had their first try at ice skating. They really picked up quite a bit.

We also picked up some fun children's books at the library, including some biographies of the Wright brothers, Roger Williams (very impressive man), George Westinghouse (super inventor), Dolly Madison, Dorothea Dix, and Brigham Young....Dad enjoys these quickly readable biographies as much as Daniel and Laura.

We enjoyed great family fun at a Saturday matinee with "Superman." Besides the sheer fun of it, there were interesting spiritual parallels (as with "Star Wars")--the Savior-Big Brother figure, super-mortal origin and powers....

We had our share of car problems during the month, along with a number of friends, including Tim and Betsy Ricks. Between our alternator and their starter problems, our battery charger was put to good use. The alternator seemed to behave itself after I cleaned all the connectors I could find under the hood. But then we packed the car and headed for a Washington's Birthday weekend in D.C. and Virginia. ^{we} piled in, and started the car--only to have the alternator come on and stay on. As it turned out, we would have been snowed in while there. So instead I spent the holiday priming our stairway. Sherlene then followed up the next ² weeks with a nice wallpapering job.

Sherlene and I attended our first choir practices (2) in several years. (Sunday afternoon is just 6 times too short. (We need 1 Sun. afternoon for family, 1 for genealogy, 1 for home teaching, 1 for reading and study, 1 for choir practice, and 1 for a nap.) Our choir director, Jeff Osborne, waves an effective, dynamic baton, missing not a beat or note. He moves right through the material, giving many mini music and singing lessons as he goes. Fun! Sherlene also began a new term of Tues. night singing lessons with the Continuing Education Program. (8:30 p.m.)

During one of the Sacrament services, Sherlene graduated her Teacher Development class. She did up handmade personalized certificates (there were none in stock in the ward), and gave a little commencement address--all very well done. She also has been keeping pace, long distance, with Mary Driggs (a seeming one-woman army against the IWY-IYC-government-health-welfare-social-service steam roller and the Eastern Liberal Establishment), helped some Jewish friends in family turmoil, taking their children for a weekend, and visited Sister Campbell in the hospital. She also made a tied baby quilt for our next-door neighbors.

I continued work with Bell Labs people in New Jersey, transferring computer programs to Long Lines and worked on some computer system planning. On the Church front, I put out a Public Communications newsletter (monthly ritual) and stake conference release and helped move the Zilenzigers (convert couple of the last year) from their apartment into a house. Their move was a lot of fun, with about half the ^{men in} ward there.

We ended the month with a visit to the King Tut exhibit at the Metropolitan Art Museum. We were very impressed--with the amount of gold, the artistry and craftsmanship and the way they ^{were} lavished on royalty, the pre-occupation with the otherworldly, and with some striking shadows of ancient truth and ritual.

One other highlight of the month was ROOTS II. It focused refreshingly on non-material values and the family as the basis. Alex Haley's family failures seemed to accent the message.

We had many moments of family enjoyment and spiritual refreshment during the month, many good services, discussions, and associations with the Church. Some touching stories of Pres. Lee included one personal experience where he presided at a family wedding and testified of angels and loved ones present (after he had stopped for a few moments and began to explain his tears.) A companion talk on Joseph Fielding Smith was similarly touching and focused on his "gentle strength" so evident during his prophet years.

We're grateful for you, each member of our family, and for the solid foundation and comfort and refreshing power of the gospel.

Love, Dan (Sherlene&Daniel&Laura)