

Jan 29, 1979

Dear Children:

First of all, Thank you for your Christmas Presents. We enjoyed all of them. (except I threw away in the wrappings, Liz and Marty's family picture.) Liz if you will get me another, I will pay for it.

I have enclosed for all of you a copy of our drawing for Next christmas's exchanges of gifts. This will relieve the burden financially-- and that will be good. It will also give you a chance to keep your eyes out during the year for bargains that will meet the dollar value but save you money initially. Those of you who live in the Utah Valley area can open your gifts at the family christmas party which will be held just before Christmas, and those of you who are away from home may wish to let the children (and yourselves) open the presents from their cousins on the night we have our family christmas party. We will shoot for the family christmas party to be on Dec 23, the Saturday before Christmas. Christmas is on a Tuesday, and Monday is too busy a day for the family's to have it interrupted by a party from grandmother. Any of you who would like to come home for Christmas-- great. Grandmother will try to get the grandchildren's gifts to them before the date of our Christmas party and they can open their present from Grandmother and Grandfather, too, if they want.

I originally had Dad and ~~our~~^{my} name on the christmas list, but I remembered that when we discussed this at camp you children expressed that you would want to remember your parents at Christmastime. (Besides, how else can I get those family pictures?) O.K.? If you do not agree with this, we can put it back as it was originally with Mom and Dad getting David's and Karen's and Liz and Marty getting Mom and Dad's. *(give your opinion in the Hallmanack)*

So that none of the cousins will be disappointed, try to mail the presents in plenty of time to get there on time. Those of you who mail long distances may want to keep weight in mind when choosing gifts.

As you can see, the children are growing up fast. In ten years Daniel and Hunting Tracy will be old enough to go on missions. It doesn't seem possible.

I suppose you all know that Nancy went in (and out) of business during the holidays. She had originally thought they could get along on Doug's salary while waiting for the business to pay a salary, but they found that their expenses were too great to allow her to do this. The concensus of opinion was that she might as well get out before she got in even deeper. David also was of the opinion that Payson would never yield her enough, and that she could not afford a "hobby" business. Anyone want to go into a hobby business? I have a good location in Payson I will rent cheap. Actually, I haven't finished the Kitchen and bath and porch, and will do this before trying to rent or sell it. Hope I can get out of it what I have put into it. We think we can. The last day Nancy was in business (Jan 17) a real estate man came in and was interested in leasing it. He was applying for a franchise and said he would contact me if he got it, but wanted me to have it ready in a month, and I doubt if I could do it. *(I would rather sell it)*

Karen's baby is due any minute. Hope all goes well.

Love, (Mother) *Mather*