

December 2, 1980

Dear all of you,

I'll have you know I sat down THE DAY (within a few hours) I received your letters and wrote you a typically short four-page "note" from us... but then my dear mate demonstrated his love for my side of the family by absconding with the letters so he could read them at noon at work. By the time we got them back home, he wouldn't let me send it off because he wanted to share it with the kids (the letters) as part of his bedtime story to them (nice), and, besides, he couldn't find my letter which I had given him to read.

At any rate, the week is over, and he still can't find the letter I wrote--so I am mailing on the Hallmanack, according to ORDERS, and we might get a chaser going sometime.

In the meantime, we have a little feeler out once more towards adoption. Heard over T.V. last night an appeal to take in children orphaned in the recent earthquake in Italy. They said this was only a request for "residence," and not an opportunity for adoption. However, we talked about it and voted unanimously to answer the request. We wrote a letter, suggesting that we have an extra bunk in Daniel's room and a bassinette and all the trimmings for a baby, should one be available. Also said we were also interested in a chance for permanent adoption. We'll see what happens on that. We would appreciate your faith and prayers in this regard. We have had so many disappointments along these lines. Every time you turn on the news it sounds like the whole world is looking for a good home. But when you offer to help, you find your willingness gets strangled somewhere in all the red tape. I hope this one pans out.

I have to get this mailed and get out of here. I've ordered some cases of food at a warehouse sale for our storage and I have to get that picked up before teacher-conferences at the school.

So long,

Sherlene

Sherlene

P.S. Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!

Fig, your pictures are so cute.
sending around a lousy but typical
shot of our two putting on a "Bonnie and
Marie" rendition.

You heard about those three women who voted "no" on sustaining the prophet at General Conference? Well one of them is a member of our ward! (we're famous). She has created quite a stir around here. Last week she went to Priesthood meeting--Elders Quorum and even had the nerve to participate in the discussion. Our Bishop is trying to keep things cool, but this woman is working her way up to a confrontation. She keeps insisting that she supports the prophet, she just doesn't support the Church's stand on the ERA. Her name is Cherry Dalton. She has succeeded in getting much publicity for herself and is loving every minute of it. She is a single woman--divorced after a short, unhappy marriage, and thinks any woman who "enslaves" herself by having a family is crazy. She created a small incident at the temple by refusing to veil her face, and shaking her head in disgust during certain parts of the ceremony. Last week she bore her testimony (having first invited a reporter to visit) and said she has prayed about her activities and has received "warm feelings" that her cause is the right one. She said she wants to see certain covenants that women make changed, that they were discriminatory, and that in searching the scriptures she has found no place where Christ said women should have to make covenants through other people to the Lord.

Cherry sees herself as a martyr for other women has has told the women in our ward that some day we would be grateful to her for her sacrifices on our behalf. Marty told me of a scripture in the Old Testament, (I couldn't find it right now) that says people will revere the old prophets but revile the new. That seems to fit this case. (By the way, she is a close friend of Sonia Johnson.)

Marty took a trip to the Washington D.C. area two weeks ago and was able to spend an evening with Barry and Virginia. He says it's cold back there! We've had a very warm autumn. The weather is just beginning to get cold enough for sweaters.

Our ward is working hard to go around the world in physical fitness. For every half hour of physical activity a person receives a point good for two miles. If we go 25,000 miles in a year we're going to have a big party and all pig out! I'm getting up at 5:30 three days a week to race-walk with some friends. I'm not too good at it yet--it gives me a stitch in my side, but I hope I can stay with it. I've lost my pregnancy weight finally--as a matter of fact I weight less now than when I got pregnant. My kids are wearing me thin.

Nancy, I wish I were there to take your exercise class. I bet you're really good at aerobic dancing.

Laura's baptism sounded like a wonderful event. Unfortunately, the people planning Greg's baptism slipped up quite a bit, and we were a little disappointed (not Greg). I intend to check into the planning when Emily is baptized. I also enjoyed Sherlene's ideas for taking an oral history, and plan to use some of them in interviewing Marty's parents. We know very little about their early lives.

I hope your holidays will be happy for all of you. Wish we could share them with you!

Love,
R. M. M.