

Feb 7, 1980
1711 N Lambert Ln
Provo, Utah 84601

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Hope you don't mind this group letter. I thought you might all want to know dad's status. You probably all know that Dad has been living with me since about Dec 14. I went up to clean, shop, etc. that day and I had Ernie make an appointment with the Dr. so I could have him checked as it had been a while since he had had a physical. It happened that that day he was sick, seemingly with intestinal flu, and so I decided to take him to Provo for Christmas then instead of waiting for a week. (it is usually hard for him to stay more than a day or so, so I was waiting for the Fri or Sat before Christmas to bring him down.) The dr. said he was all plugged up with constipation and to give him an enema--that the diarrhea was due to the body trying to unplug him, but that he had no obstructions that he could indicate. His blood pressure was low, and he only weighed 130. He was so shaky that day that I was afraid he would faint when taking him from the car to the Dr's office, and he had almost fainted at home after I had given him a bath. I guess I got him at the psychologically right time for him to realize he needed to be living with someone.

After I had had him a week, I knew he was ready to stay with me. He never once wanted to know when he was going home or how his house was getting along in Ogden. I then called Ernie and told him I thought I could keep Dad--in fact that it was necessary that I do so because of his condition. That week Ernie and Heber helped us load Dad's bed, a chair, mother's picture, and a few books and other personal things and his clothes, and I moved him down and put him downstairs directly below our room. I can hear when he gets up in the night, so it works all right, but it was worried about it at first. All our bedrooms upstairs have been converted to studies. One (the smallest) for me and the other is lined with bookshelves for Tracy's study, so I had no other choice. I was relieved to now know that I would hear him as well as I can. We have remodeled the downstairs so we could rent to students. I almost rented it this fall, and I am glad I didn't now. The room he is in we were going to make a sitting room, and we removed a 3x6 window and put in a long window and a door in that space.

In the summer he may use the outside door, but so far he hasn't. I worried at first as I thought, he might walk out and start walking home. I could have fixed him up with a sitting room and a kind of little apartment, but I think he needs the human contact.

He was so shaky at first that I seriously considered getting him a cane for christmas, but didn't/ He doesn't need it now, he has become much stronger. His ~~mind~~ mind wanders sometimes so that he thinks he is at home--and maybe that is why is is willing to stay. I know that sometimes he thinks I am Mother, but most often he knows that I am Ida-Rose. The first time I realized he thought I was mother It shook me a little, because he asked me where I was going to sleep and I said upstairs, and he said

"Oh, no, you're not--you're going to sleep right here with me." However, when I got through to him that I was Ida= Rose he was O.K.

I have had his toenails clipped--his eyes examined--a new hearing aid (which we haven't got adjusted yet). He has 20/30 vision in one eye without glasses--how about that? he needs glasses to read, but seems to do allright without them. He does have some beginning cataracts on his eye^s but the Dr. says that they are progressing so slowly that he will probably die without needing them removed. His eye redness is due to a slump in his lid which could be fixed surgically but that does not hurt him --just doesn't look good. I have cleared it up with drops ~~now~~ so that he does not have the infection and matter that he used to have. I hate to subject ~~him~~ him to the trauma of surgery if I can avoid it, although Dr. Oaks (who is a personal friend as well as physician said it was not a difficult operation and used only a local. Nevertheless--Dad Hall when he was living with us insisted on having his teeth fitted again (and they did some suregery on his gums which they called "minor" but which trauma really caused him to go down hill. I have an appointment to check his ear aid next tuesday. I don't think it is fitted properly so that he is getting the help he needs and this will test it out.

Ernie
Ernie and I each put \$25 towards a new suit for him for christmas and he paid the balance. It cost \$90 something and is a two pants polyester which works well for dad because I can wash the pants in the washer.

When he came he had^a urine accidents^s but that is the only one he has had. He is still having a little trouble hitting the toilet and not soiling himself when he has a b.m., but it gets better all the time. At first when he had a B.M. he would do it in his pants and I had to clean chairs and floors, but now he often does not even soil himself when he has a b.m. and always goes to the bathroom for himself.

I had to practically undress him and put him to bed when he first came down. I also had to put his teeth in the water for him and find it the next day. I often said that I would know he needed to move in with me the day I found his bed unmade when I went to Ogden to see him--and the day I went it was unmade. He didn't make it at first, but is now making it. He makes mine if he finds it unmade, too, as he confuses the upstairs with the downstairs. HE IS NO LONGER shaky like he was. He goes to bed with the light, so will probably stay up later in the summer. He now gets himself up, dresses himself, gets his own teeth, makes his bed and shaves himself, usually.

I still supervise him when he takes a shower, but he is doing much better. He thought he could get out of our tub but found he couldn't (tracy helped him out) so he has resigned himself to taking a shower.

Since I have to give him showers when he soils himself, we got one of those shower heads which are on a tube and comes down to go wherever you want it to go.

Today he is out visiting his sister Ella, who lives in Orem.

He got all of your christmas presents. Thanks. His appetite is really good now. He would only eat very lightly when he first came, but now he keeps up with us, although a little slower. I am sure he has gained weight, but I keep forgetting to put him on the scale.

He is doing better with keeping his hearing aid on, but he takes it off whenever I am not around. I can tell he has it off because he puts it in his shirt pocket and it whistles. I won't get him a hearing aid for his other ear, if he does not adjust to this one.

If you want to know what to give him for gifts, I will tell you. He could use a pair of slippers. His shoe size is: (forgot==he isn't here and he only has that one pair of shoes so I can't look at it.

The sweater he got for christmas was nice and he wears it now that I am here to tell him to put it on. I always have a sweater on him, as that keeps him warm, add now I have him so that he puts on a pair of those white stockings at night and that keeps him warm. Until I hit on that I could not keep enough covers on him at night. He has several sweaters, however, and so do not send him anymore for ~~xxxx~~ awhile. As soon as the church comes out with their two peice garment, I will get him some of those and then that would be a good gift for him, as they will be easier for him to handle.

He could use a pair of cotton pajamas (button down the front) for summer. He could even use a couple of pairs of those. and by next fall he will need a couple pairs of flannel ones. *He likes to read. Books with lots of pictures or legit westerns like the ones you sent. Gold, are best*
He has quite a sweet tooth, and candy is always a good choice for him. For my sake get candy that does not have chocolate, as he can really make a mess with that. He likes hard candies and jelly drops are good. The hard candies should be like the christmas hard tack. Really hard ones are hard for him to handle and he ~~put~~ puts one in his mouth and then takes it out and I find it all over the house. Right now I get the christmas hard tack that has a filling in it--they are easily chewed but not messy around the house. For Christmas, Chocolates (and for other special occasions) are all right. If he only has one box or so he doesn't do so badly. *2/21/87*

Jim, we are still enjoying your cheeses and ~~xxxx~~ jellies. He will need three or four ties a year as he wears them all the time and he gets food on him so that after they are washed a time or two they are ready for the garbage.

He had trouble orienting himself when he first got here. He would turn into any bedroom if he got up at night, but now he gets back into the right room. He is always turning off lights and so that is good for us. There is only one light ^{switch} he hasn't found, I put it on at first in the bathroom because he couldn't turn it off. The switch is by the bathroom mirror and he just doesn't seem to find it. I wanted a light on when he got up so he wouldn't ~~be~~ bang himself around. ~~Now~~ the only trouble with that is that he would turn the fan on looking for the switch and that fan is so noisy I would have to go down in the middle of the night to turn it off. We seldom turn it on now. I have put ~~xx~~ in small night lights and that gives him enough light to find the light switches if he gets up and he doesn't get lost any more.

I suppose all of you know of the tragedy that happened to Mike's wife when their last child was born. Mike has quit his job and he is taking care of his wife. Right now he is living on welfare, but they are waiting for a settlement from the hospital and hopefully their financial situation will improve soon. They are living in Dad's place, and painting and fixing up, and that is nice as we don't have to worry about light bills and gas bills and vandalism. Heber says his wife is doing a little better now that Mike is able to be with her and they have the children themselves and are a family by themselves again.

Come and see us. Dad is 91 and the chances are he won't be with us that much longer. I would have said he wouldn't last the year out when I brought him down--but now I wouldn't be surprised if he hits a hundred.

Love,

Ida Rose

O.S. Heber & Alvera gave him 2 polyester pants & with those 2 the two from his old suit he is well fixed. About next Christmas he could use a couple more - Thanks Heb.

He would love to get mail from you. A letter is almost as good as a visit as he can re-read it & have re-visits.