

Tracy Jr. p.1

November 4, 1980
Election Day
6:35 a.m.

Dear Family:

I hope some of you were able to observe that beautiful conjunction of the crescent moon with Venus, Saturn, and Jupiter which occurred this morning (they were all within ten degrees of each other, with the moon passing through the group of planets during the night, but the group rising above the horizon about 4:00, thus is lowest, then Saturn above Venus, and Jupiter above and to the right of Saturn.) Undoubtedly the astrologers are portending its impact on the election: I say its a favorable sign for Reagan. What excites me is that out there Voyager, after passing Jupiter last year, is nearing Saturn and already sending back better images of the planet than we have ever before observed.

Elizabeth turned two October 25, and we had a delightful time on her birthday. She is a riot--the real clown of the family, and she basks in the laughter and attention of her adoring audience. It will be good for her to have a new baby brother soon. (Us boys are rooting for a boy to even the score again). Also in October I went over the hill and turned 35--so why does it still feel like an uphill battle?

Would you believe that in my old age I have become a football fan? Two years ago I started participating in our Quorum basketball program, mostly, I suppose, because it was a chance to become involved with a man I have taught whose only participation in the church is basketball. Two of our best players are members of the BYU first string football team (one, a member, the other, whose mother owns the condominium where they live, a baptist--but both of them real gentlemen and outstanding athletes), and I started watching the games from personal interest, and got hooked. (Glenn Redd, captain of our defense team, is the member, Bill Davis, one of the wide receivers, is the other). So I waste a couple of three hours every Saturday listening to the game, and have even been known to stay up till ~~the~~ 1:00 a.m. watching the ~~the~~ rebroadcast. (Incidentally, the basketball program, because of the poor sportsmanship and extreme competitiveness of some of our members, turned out to be more of a negative factor than a positive factor to my friend--I'm going to try and discourage our quorum's participation this year).

So am I!
(B)

Betsy is teaching the gospel doctrine class in our ward this year-- she says the only reason she accepted was that they would call a woman, but I think they called the right one. I think her real strength has been her constant determination to apply the teachings to our lives-- changing the focus, which seems to have been pretty strong in our ward, away from a forum for the display of learning and opinion.

I'm still teaching the Elders Quorum and loving it. I've survived two changes in the Quorum Presidency, and the Stake President told me this last time that they valued my teaching and ~~the~~ ~~the~~ wished they could be in ex quorum, which really made me feel good. ~~the~~ ~~the~~ our new Q.P., is letting me teach the brethren the Hebrew alphabet in conjunction with our study of the Old Testament this year--one letter each week, and though some of the brethren think it's crazy, others

Elizabeth is also starting to teach a kid - what do you think she calls does? ... ooh! (with a long oo)