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Provo, Utah 84601  
Oct 7, 1980

Dear Family:

PLEASE, EVERYONE, DON'T KEEP THE HALLMANACK OVER A WEEK. I KNOW THAT GETTING AROUND TO WRITING CAN BE A HASSLE, BUT IF YOU CAN'T WRITE DURING THAT WEEK, SEND IT ON AND SEND YOUR OWN LETTER AS A "CHASER".

A lot has happened since the Hallmanack circulated. We had our Aspen Grove Trip, Mom and Dad have gone to the Uintas with the young people of our ward (Yeaah!) (Mom made it!) we attended the Tracy reunion in Idaho, and Dad has had his retina problem.

For the record, this happened Sat. Aug 23. Sunday Aug 24 he had his retina repair by Merrill Oaks. Everything seemed to be going well, although he had to be down on his back flat during that week. Merrill saw him Thurs. and Sat. and told him he could go to church that next day. He decided to play it safe. Monday he went on a brief errand to the Post Office (getting gas on the way) and on his way experienced a frightening hemorrhage, which completely blacked out his previously improving sight. Dr. Oaks sent him to Dr. Goodart in S.L. (they do nothing but retina problems) He put him in Holy cross hospital, where the nurses held his hand and called him "sweetie" (they were very kind to him) and here he was severely limited as to movement, and elevated to a 45° angle, where the eye drained sufficiently to the bottom of the eye so that the Dr. could see into the eye. He felt that the original repair was still intact, but could not figure out where the hemorrhage had originated. They kept him another day and released him, but sent him home to stay in bed except for brief excursions to the bath and table and around the block to keep blood complications from happening. This brought him up to about a month in bed, and when we took him back at the end of the two weeks, the Dr. told him to take on normal activity as he felt able. The problem is that he has been very weak and sick. Now, almost two months later (while the Hallmanack has been hostage at Sherlene's) he has had three days of feeling quite well and we are crossing our fingers that he is finally returning to somewhat normal strength, although the eye bothers his vision. He keeps it covered because it causes him less disorientation that way. Today we are supposed to be able to buy a patch for him which should make him as Maucho as Moshe Dian. He'll have to watch out for the girls.

I personally think we should go down to San Diego for the winter and work on his book, but that is extremely wishful thinking. For one thing he owes Mega one month of half time, which he will probably make up by working full time when he gets enough energy.

I have not made any money from my investment as yet. I am still waiting for them to double my money. I noticed that Pres. Benson advised people not to speculate. This venture is definitely speculative, but I have not mortgaged my home to go into it, and some of the people in our ward are investing in this same venture in (to my way of thinking) a dangerous extent. They are putting all their eggs in *in to* one basket. It worries me. If this first investment of \$10,000. is actually doubled within a year, I will reinvest it and any any profits. Some of the units have actually sold at extremely good profits. The investment group buy apartments in Dallas, and then resell them.



(2)

There are many unfinished projects hanging over our heads. The solar unit in Payson--and the unfinished garages. We need to rent at least one of the units out there so that it will not be unoccupied.

I am taking a class in D & C. About time. I am amazed at the relatively short time in which the Lord revealed his church to Joseph Smith in all its fullness. Within five years the major portion of the gospel was revealed to Joseph Smith. The Lord said that he would work great things with weak people, and he certainly did. In spite of all that the adversary could do, the Book of Mormon was published, the Aaronic Priesthood and the Melchizedek Priesthood was restored, giving men the authority to act in the name of and for God, and to seal on earth and in Heaven, and the Church was organized. It was a miracle in itself that the church survived the intense persecution heaped upon it in those early years. Satan really turned his full wrath upon it. But the Lord had promised that the church would survive and prosper and it did--in spite of everything. I should have taken this class at least 40 years ago. Anyway, as said before, it's about time.

It's interesting that as the years go by my testimony of the truthfulness of the Gospel grows stronger. Someone said that if the Church weren't true, the missionaries would have ruined it years ago. When you think of those young, relatively inexperienced men/going out and preaching and converting people to the gospel and women you've got to know that the Lord said what he meant by achieving great things through the weak things of the world.

I was greatly moved to see our son baptizing his daughter (Tracy and Mary). And to see how all of you are bringing up your children in righteousness and teaching them the gospel. This is a wicked world that those children have to grow up in. Crime and wickedness of all kinds are so rampant and prevalent. They are going to need all the help they can get to withstand these evils. There is not one of our children that are not better prepared, gospel-wise (Yes, even you, Nancy) than I was when I married. I had not read the book of Mormon--the only things I knew was what I had learned in S.S. and church which I attended somewhat regularly. Somehow, however, I came out with a testimony that the Gospel was true--but I would not have borne testimony to that at the time--and that weak testimony, plus a good husband who kept me going the right way got me started on the right path, I suppose. But I had had no seminary and as I look back on it, my own generation was not nearly as well versed in the gospel as your own generation is. The Lord really is saving his more choice spirits to come to earth in these last days. He will need them to combat the intensified onslaughts of Satan. In re-reading the above paragraph, I realize I should have said that I had a Mother who was active in the church, that it was lived in our home, although Dad was inactive most of the time that I was growing up. Mom saw that we got to church, remaining active herself, even when Dad was not. I think it was pride that kept Dad from being active in the church. He started rationalizing that he could not pay his tithing, and since he was not paying his tithing, he did not feel good about going to church. He was active in the church when I was little. I can remember when I was about six being so proud because my dad had said the closing prayer. Children are wonderful, aren't they? They think their parents are the greatest--they don't need to have money, or fame or anything else the world thinks is great--they even love a parent who mistreats them.



I remember how nice it was to have Nancy around when the rest of you were teen-agers. At least one (No--two--Charlotte was still young enough most of those years to think we were great) child thought I was the greatest. That is something to comfort you, Virginia, when those two mischievous boys are driving you up the wall. Soak up some of that adoration to last you for about 20 yrs.

We have had incredible weather out here. We even had good weather for conference. The hot days and cool nights are good for my cymbidian orchids which I still have outside in the flower beds. I am now treating them with systemics to get them ready to return to the greenhouse when the inevitable cold hits. Still in spite of all I do, I don't get the glorious long spikes that are produced by the cymbidian growers in California.

We are grateful that all of you are in your own homes. It is getting so difficult for young people to buy homes now, what with inflation and high interest rates. And we're glad that we're not sending missionaries out now. Some families are sending Three to four hundred dollars a month to their missionaries--some in the same places where we just had to send one hundred dollars. I wonder where they will call us, when we get ready to go. Dad's eye should be cleared up by next July when he ends his stint as Bishop. Maybe it will cost us a bomb to go. Oh, well, we will just let our children support us. (Just kidding!)

Better go see if Dad Langford is up. He goes to bed and gets up with the light--just like the chickens. He is doing very well, however, hasn't had any bowel accidents for a long time--and seems happy and content most of the time to be with us. He is very easy to live with, bless his heart.

We love you all and take great pride and comfort in your accomplishments. And as for our grandchildren--it is completely incredible to me how they can all be so good looking and intelligent. It's really unfair to all other grandparents for us to have all the smartest grandchildren.

I guess you all remember that we decided (didn't we?) at camp that--how did it go-- we would all send christmas gifts to the one in the family just ~~older~~ <sup>younger</sup> than us. The oldest, Sherlene, would send to Nancy the youngest. The next year, we would send to the next ~~oldest~~ <sup>youngest</sup> up the line, until we had gone through the whole family, chronologically. That is probably as clear as mud. I will let you kids clear it up. Also, if I remember it correctly, they were to be "family" type gifts that the whole family could enjoy--no individual gifts to the children. Is that right? Grandmother and Grandfather is excluded. While we can afford it we would like to send individual gifts to the grandchildren and children.

With Virginia adding to the "expectants" the next year should round out the grandchildren to an even two dozen. It will be interesting to see if the male-to-female ratio remains the same.

We have been deeply touched by your love and concern while Dad has been ill. There is nothing in the world more precious than this mantle of familial love which wraps around us at all times. Which reminds me of what I owe those who came before me, and who made it possible for me to have the blessings of the

Thomas  
Sherlene  
Tracy  
David  
Liz  
Charlotte  
Virginia  
Charlotte  
Nancy

Robert  
Sherlene  
David  
Tracy  
Nancy  
Liz  
Charlotte  
Sherlene

Nancy  
Tracy  
Sherlene



gospel and the eternal family. I'd better see that they have this blessing or they will give me what-for when I get back to where they are. Why don't I get my genealogy done? Bad Girl.

Love Ya all.

Mom

P.S. By the way. The basic genealogical sheets for your new four generation sheets are being done. You can tell your ward genealogical committee that it is being submitted by your family on the Hall and Langford side. Each of you will have to do the allied line in your own family--Mecham, Neil, Bartholomew, VanDyke, Wood, Weight, and Huntington. When we get them all finished we will send you all copies of the sheets. Doug, I'll bet your cousin in California is doing your four generation sheets. You should get a copy from her when she finishes it, so that Carli Ann will have it, and so that you will have a copy for your own book of remembrance. Is there a member of your immediate family who might be doing the sheet on which you appear as a child? That one your cousin wouldn't do.

Barry will probably be the one to do his families sheets, and Karen might be the one to do the ones in her family. Most of the rest of you will probably have relatives who will do theirs. What about you, Marty? Will your mother submit them? Maybe you will have to put your wife to work.

P.S. I just found out that so far I have earned 18% on my investment so far and this is more than I could have gotten in money market certificates. The idea behind this thing is to buy low and sell high. I am still not investing anything more until I find out just what the turn-over will amount to versus what I would have earned in money market certificates. Will keep you informed on high finance. (?) My earnings so far are in return of rents in the apartments we own. Dispersements are every six months. Earnings are put in accounts until dispersed.

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*Handwritten notes on the left margin:*  
Marty  
Karen  
Doug  
Carli Ann  
Barry  
Neil  
VanDyke  
Wood  
Weight  
Huntington

*Handwritten notes on the right margin:*  
Marty  
Karen  
Doug  
Carli Ann  
Barry  
Neil  
VanDyke  
Wood  
Weight  
Huntington  
Sherlene  
Nancy