

*note: Same day as I received it.*

Fri., Nov 25. 1977

Dear Children and Grandchildren:

Whoever had this idea for the Hallmanack had a good one. It is really fun to sit down and read it and to know what is going on in all your homes at one and the same time. Of course it comes so seldom that we usually call you and get the news in advance, but that's all right--there are things you say in letters that you don't say over the phone. I have one complaint. Those tight-wads (with their written words) Betsy and Tracy--especially when they are both so literate and creative with words.

Betsy, I thought maybe I had zeroxed your family group sheet and put the wrong one in the file, but I don't have it in my genealogy, or in the copies of the Hallmanack. So I guess I'm not the guilty party. Maybe it got lost somewhere. Come on, fess up, guilty party!

The Hallmanack came at a lovely time. Yesterday was Thanksgiving, and we had 20 people plus four children here for dinner. It was fun, but exhausting and since I have a bad head cold (which I hope I didn't give to everyone at dinner,) I promised myself and my husband I would stay in bed and take it easy. I soon started rationalizing that sitting down doing genealogy or addressing wedding invitations was "taking it easy" but haven't got much done of anything, so when the Hallmanack came, I took it away from Charlotte (who was fixing Bryan some of the leftovers for lunch) ~~I sat~~ <sup>and</sup> down and read everything about everyone. Wonderful.

Those pictures of Daniel and Laura and Sherlene and Dan and Barry and Virginia and Nathan were the first things we looked at, of course.

They were so good. I think that's a good idea. I know you hate to let those precious pictures out of your sight, but if we all promise to keep hands off, we can all enjoy each other's pictures and not spend too much money. Those of Daniel with that gap in his mouth are something else.

By the way, Virginia, We love those pictures of Nathan, and we love hearing you and Barry brag about him. I would worry if you didn't. Of course he is the greatest, ever---right along with all those other 15 grandchildren on the line plus the seven+seven who sired them. They say you think your grandchildren are even more special than your children, and it's true, but I still think our original seven were pretty special.

First: Thanksgiving: Bryan's parents come to Springville to visit Bryan's father's mother every year. This year they decided to spend Thanksgiving here (not the first time) but had the additional incentive that four of their children are at the Y. It ended up that the best solution to getting together to meet our family was to spend ~~in~~ Thanksgiving together. I had already cooked one turkey but thought I needed another one (one would have been enough). A little note to add to your recipe file. A 21 pound turkey will feed 20 people and have a little left over. Even if some of them are big eaters like Tracy and Bryan. (Both don't show it--revolting). So I went out and bought another 20 ~~lb~~ turkey and baked it. Since I had already stripped the meat off the bones of the first turkey, we served that first and it turned out to be the driest. When we finally cut into the other Turkey ( I sent what was left home with Bryan's folks to make sand. for their trip home) we were sick. The other was so much better, we

should have served it. When I bought that first turkey I was going to have company, and I was in a hurry and just grabbed it and it turned out to be a "C" grade turkey, which means the skin was broken--but ~~what~~ it turned out ~~was~~ that all the skin was gone off the breast. I cooked it very slowly and it would have been just fine except when I finally took it out it really wasn't done so instead of just letting it get done on the warming before the meal, I put it back in the oven and overcooked it. When spending the money on a turkey it really pays to get one of those self basting, time-indicated jobs. Oh well, that's life!

Sherry (Charlotte) Waiter brought the rolls and Salad, and Pie and that was a big help.. Karen brought carrot and celery sticks. We had Bryan and Sherry and three of his sisters and a brother and his wife (all BYU Students), the ~~Waiters~~, Doug and Nancy, David and Karen and David and their boys and Doug and Nancy & Carli. The Three neices and two of their friends. We had both tables as far spread as they would go and it was nice to have a big dinner again. (but exhausting). Even though I did as much as I could the day before and even though the kids helped. I guess the old gray mare she just ain't what she used to be! After dinner Sherry and I started on the dishes and all the kids (who were going to help) (they REALLY were) got started playing games. I've decided that since Dad and I are alone now, that we will start visiting the kids for Thanksgiving. Isn't that a good idea? You know, though, it would be really neat, just once while I still have it in me to have all of you home for a really big Thanksgiving dinner all together. I never appreciated just what a blessing it was to have your children all snugly within calling distance. I take David and Karen and Doug and Nancy for Granted, but it really is nice to see them. That's the price of educating your children, I guess, and it is a worth-while price to pay, and when I see how you are serving our Heavenly Father in your areas, I am proud and pleased. I am proud of your professional accomplishments, too, but believe me, if you were as rich as Midas and not serving the Lord, I would think we had failed as parents. I've been always proud of your Father's accomplishments, but one of the proudest days of my life was the day they called him to serve the Lord than one who is famous and rich. (Although that has been nice, too!) (I guess that is what is called "having your cake and eating it, too!") As we get older we realize that the thing that counts the most in life is four children and family--we're awfully glad we had you==and we're awfully glad you brought in those neat companions. It was interesting to hear how many of you commented about "enjoying" those first few years of babyhood when it is the MOTHER and the FATHER who makes the most impression on the children.

Nancy is full of ingenuity. I will leave her to tell you of her new job and the bad luck they have had with their car. She is going to be the family's authority on plants.

Back to Thanksgiving. The Waiters are a big (six children) LDS family. They are active in the church, and he is a civil engineer. Charlotte and Bryan will have much in common, which helps in any marriage. We can become name-droppers if we want to, as Brian's mother's maiden name is Young, and she is a direct descendant of Brigham Young. By Emaline? Free, who had 10 children by him. Her progenitor was the youngest child of the brood. There are other church names in the background too, such as Richard's etc. I didn't tell her about Walker Lankford's still. I'll get to that Later. I also didn't tell her about Erigham young sending me progenitor James Jackson down to Toquerville, Utah, to help build

wine industry. Enough's enough, I guess.

I will leave it to Charlotte to tell about her romance. Enough for me to say that you would all get a kick out of seeing how happy she is (and he is, too). They are a fulfilment of the old adage that you should never say what you will NEVER do. After we got home from Betsy's open house, I said that if any of our kids got married in December, they would have to marry a local boy because I would NEVER make a trip to the west coast in December again. But that was before two of ~~them~~<sup>you</sup> settled down there.

I told Charlotte she had better have a sofa-bed because guess who is going to be living with them while going to the TOOL show every spring. (You should lobby for it to be in the East or the S.F. area) (You should be smart and be glad it ISN'T)

I have six gorgeous orchids which have just come out and I am holding my breath. I don't know whether to trade them for flowers with a George (Provo Floral) (as I did with Ginger) or whether to try to wait and see if they last. There are four more just coming out and four more that will be out by the first of next week. Big question. Will those 14 orchids still be good by Dec 17? We'll see. We won't have any phalanopsis, Virginia. Oh, by the way, one little start survived the freeze on that plant that we used for your wedding bouquet.

Last Tuesday Trina W. md, David Axford ~~to the north~~ -they're very happy. And Thurs (Thanksgiving at 10 A.M. Malinda had a 10 pound baby boy. We saw her at the wedding and she didn't expect for a week. Virginia was much larger than Malinda--she must not have had an ounce of water around that kid.

I am going to let David tell you about the change over of the corporation. He has done a good job and we are very grateful to him. Including what we have got on our dividends we will have to pay about 10,000 extra dollars to Uncle Sam, but we won't have that worry again. It really boils down to David taking control of Mega. Bill would have been wise to have encouraged David instead of fighting him. I'm afraid there are going to be some hard feelings before things are through because it looks like there will end up being a thorough re-vamping of the organization. (David, just tell them what HAS happened and then tell the rest as it ~~XXXXXXXX~~ HAPPENS because there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip). I hope all your finances have reached the place where you can now hold up the skirt or something because the FUTURE of your holdings will be in the value. / You have all seen the last of the dividends. Maybe you will get some from HTH Inc. But don't count on it. I am with Liz! When do you guys think we can get together at camp as a family? When the Hallmanack comes back to me I would like a committment from each of you as to when you think we can do this and a committment as to whether or not you can plan on being there. O.K.? (She ~~is~~ S A V E like crazy)

Another suggestion: As the children get old enough to read and write, let's add another feature called "Cousin's Commentary" where each literate cousin gets to write to the other literate cousins about what is going on in their life. Then we will hope that no one is as "Literate" as Sherlene. Just kidding. I enjoyed every line of your four pages, ~~and~~<sup>Shirley</sup> and who am I to talk, since I am now on page three. (Noticed, I used the other side of the paper, which still holds me to the two-page limit.)

Luv Ya All.

*Muzzzer*

(Cont back of one)

MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR. WISH YOU COULD BE HERE FOR THE WEDDING.