

Hallmanack re Nov 23, 1977

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November 21, 1977

Dear Family:

We just finished Family Home Evening and I topped it off nicely for myself by reading all of your fabulous letters. What a kick I get reading from all of you in one sitting. I wish it could happen more often. This letter needs to move on faster. I'm mailing this tomorrow to make up for lost time.

First, I must say I'm mightily disappointed that we're not getting together at Aspen Grove this year. We were so looking forward to it. I appreciate the fact that many of you have bills to pay and other "necessities" to purchase, but we've been sort of planning this for two years; couldn't we have budgeted ahead for a family reunion? (pardon the punctuation) I believe Brother Packer said something once like "Do you want your children to remember that you had a lovely, remodeled bathroom, or do you want them to remember the good time you had together as a family skiing in the mountains?"

I can't believe Erin is almost a month old! Time really flies. She's really a pretty baby (if you don't mind me saying so). She looks very much like Greg did when he was a baby. I saw the doctor on Monday, Oct. 23, and he said I wasn't ready to deliver, so come back on Thursday. That night after FHE my membranes ruptured and off we went to the hospital. I didn't go into good labor that night, so the doctor came the next morning at 7:30 and hooked me into an IV which started regular labor and Erin was born at 10:54. I had only a few really hard pains after which she came very fast! This time I declined anesthesia and enjoyed the delivery more. Marty said he enjoyed it more, too. (Thought it was more exciting to see me working so hard!) By the way, two other women came into the hospital after I did, with ruptured membranes also. The nurse said it was because of the full moon. I thought she was kidding, but she said it's scientific, and happens every full moon. Made me wonder if the same thing didn't happen when Greg was born.

Anyway, all has gone well. I'm feeling really well, except that I tire easily. I'm back directing the choir, now. Erin was slow to gain back her birth weight, but I took her in this morning to be weighed and she is up to 9 lb. 6 oz. and the pediatrician says she's on her way now. Marty blessed her on November 6, and she screamed through the whole thing. I could hardly hear Marty, as the mike wasn't working. Then she slept through the rest of the meeting, bless her heart. Currently she has a terrible case of baby acne, poor dear, and a rash on her bottom. You could say she's "colorful" anyway.

Marty took good care of me when I came home. I took it easy and he took off two days work, Thursday and Friday, and I had the weekend to rest also. By Monday I was doing o.k. and could handle the household while he was at work, so everything worked out beautifully, and I appreciate all your prayers on my behalf.

Greg and Emily were able to visit me in the hospital and see Erin through the nursery window. I like these new hospital policies!

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Then he took Greg to help with a lesson on being pure in heart. He asked Greg a series of questions, such as "Do you know what Hate is, and do you hate anyone", "Where did you come from", etc. to show how sweet and innocent little children are. Fortunately, Greg performed wonderfully, and didn't say anything wrong. Anyway, the children thought that "semitary" was wonderful!

Greg is enjoying kindergarten. He has a marvelous teacher who just radiates love for the children and seems to handle them very well. My only complaint is that she doesn't play the piano, and they have singing only once a week when an aide comes in. I volunteered to help with music after the baby was born, but I think she'll not accept, as she thinks once a week is enough.

Emily is cured of her thumb sucking. I thought now would be an awful time to try and get rid of the habit, but it turned out the extra attention was good for her, (due to the new baby). We bought a bottle of "Thum", that awful tasting stuff, and put it on her thumb every day. Emily thought that special medicine was really neat, and begs us to put it on. She doesn't even attempt to suck her thumb, even when we forget the "Thum". She has also given up dragging around her quilt. I guess the quilt and thumb went together and without one, she doesn't need the other. She went in Jr. Sunday School for the first time last week and really enjoyed it.

Well, enough about us. Congratulations to Charlotte on her engagement. We're really happy for you, and wish we could make it to your wedding. Marty has used up all his vacation time this year so we may not even be able to go to L.A. for the open house. I feel really badly about it.

Ginger and Barry, your Nathan sure is cute. He sure is an armful, as you said! We'd love to have you stay with us if you're out here for the wedding or whatever.

Sherlene, you certainly are an example of a woman using her talents! With your abilities in speaking and writing, I'll let you be my spokesperson, and I'll stick to music making.

Erin is having her 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. colicky period right now, so I'd better go pay her some attention. She's fine the rest of the night and day, but has a fussy time every evening.

By the way, our new address is: 10408 Bonny Drive
Cupertino, Ca. 95014
(408) 253-6105

We like our new neighborhood better than the last one. Our neighbors are really friendly and I've met some really nice people.

We're glad to hear all is well with all of you, and we love and pray for all of you.

Love,

Suz, Marty, Greg, Emily + Erin