

Dear Family,

Well, there was a double bonus in the mailbox today--a letter from Mom and Dad Wood and the Hallmanack. To top that off, we've had calls from Mom, Liz, and Sherlene this week. It's making me very homesick!

Charlotte, as you're living at a separate address and all, Mom's letters no longer count for you. We want a blow-by-blow account of your apartment life and LOVE LIFE. I vote for a May, June or July wedding.

Nathan is wanting some attention from his Mom RIGHT NOW, so he's sitting on my lap helping me type this letter. I get quite a bit done when he's napping, but when he's awake it seems that all I do is play with him. He's the nicest toy I've ever had. On the 17th Nathan had his 2-month check-up, though he was 9 weeks old. He weighed in at 15 pounds (top 97 percentile) and was 23 and 5/8" long (top 90 percentile). I don't know where he gets it. He's quite the armful. He's already into 6-month and year old clothes. At the pediatrician's he got his Polio drops and DPT booster. He was one crabby baby on Tuesday. He's been such a cheerful baby that it was quite a change.

Liz and Marty called and told us they had one day to decide if they wanted to go live in Scotland (Edinburgh) for two years. Marty would be in charge of sales in Europe and would probably enjoy a fair amount of travel. Barry and I told him to jump at the chance and wish we were in their shoes. This doesn't mean they'll get the job, only that they'll be considered for it. I'm sure they can clarify what I've just reported (and enlarge on it) but I wanted to spread the news first.

As of today, Liz hasn't had the baby, but by the time this reaches someone we'll have a new relative. Nathan feels displaced.

Barry has been called to a new job in the Elder's Quorum. He writes and puts out the Quorum newsletter and mails it out each month. He's also in charge of publicity for the quorum and is supposed to get articles into the local papers (I'm afraid he's headed for a Sherlene-Dan responsibility). Needless to say, it's one of the wittiest papers our ward has ever seen and quite a change from the usual misspelled, dull, uninspired efforts our ward has seen so far. (I think I need a dose of humility. It's a good thing only family sees this letter.) Barry has also been featured in our ward newsletter lately and to our surprise ended up featured in a local newspaper. (The articles extolled his genealogical efforts and finds.) We have a very good ward publicity director whose articles have appeared in the Washington Star and I understand will soon be published in U.S. News and World Report.

I'm still Nursery Coordinator for the Relief Society and teach the 3-5 year old Nursery Group. On work-days, I have about 20 but otherwise have only about 12 children to work with.



Nancy, I'll bet you're a terrific sitter. And it sounds like you're really pulling in the money. I think I'll hide your letter, or Barry will have me opening up a day-care center. I tracked down the playhouse for you. Did you ever get it? I'm sure you're glad Doug's on a permanent basis now and that you are able to get insurance and steady pay-checks. Congratulations.

Barry just received a promotion and a cost-of-living increase of 7%. (His promotion will be in addition to the cost-of-living increase, but I'm not sure how much it will mean though I think I remember Barry saying it will mean a 20% increase in our pay-check.)

Sherlene, in the event this reaches you before our phone call does, we will not be coming up this weekend as planned, but will come up the following weekend (October 29-30) This is due in part, to a visit by some relatives of Barry's who will be in the area October 25-27.

Betsy, one of your gifts is that of noticing life's little amusements and being able to record them so we can enjoy them. You know, I miss your kids. I really do. I think we'll have to convince Sherlene and Dan (and the Wood's, of course) to move to California. Then we'll have to get Nancy and Doug down and finally Mom and Dad. Charlotte may end up in California anyway (or so rumor has it) so I won't worry about her. Of course, David and Karen will have to move to California to test his mining equipment on off-shore drilling rigs and we'll all live in the same neighborhood. How's that for a day dream? I would love to have a Christmas Story up-date when you have one to spare.

We missed Liz's letter, but appreciate the fact that she felt obliged to send it on as her time was limited, and felt she was unable to get a letter out. We note the long stay the Hallmanack had in Provo and urge repentance.

We also forgive Sherlene's many pages and I for one feel there was a message there for me. I haven't even registered as a voter here in Virginia yet. We were warned in Conference that it was no longer enough to just have good homes and be good examples to our children. There are just too many outside forces threatening our homes and it is time that we made our concerns known to our communities.

I hope to have a picture of Nathan to enclose in the letter, though I'm not sure we can pick up the prints today. If not this letter, then the next one for certain.

We love and miss you all and hope we can find some way to see you all this summer.

Love,

Virginia