

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 left-overs 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

I forgot to tell you, we have finally finished the living room ceiling and painted the room all white. We thought we had done a good job of the ceiling until we re-installed the chandeliers and when the lights were thrown UP against the ceiling every little bump (and a few big ones) showed up. Did we let that throw us? Didn't we just get in and re-do it? No, your darn tootin' we didn't. We just let it go, we had had all of that ceiling we could take. We have a new gold carpet in now and we are waiting for the drapes to come. (two to three weeks) If we are lucky they will be in before Christmas.

Between school, redecorating, and the wedding, do not be surprised if they send me to the little white house.

Better get back to the wedding announcements. If I don't get some of those done, I will feel guilty. Charlotte will do most of them, but she is swamped, too. I tried to get her (like the rest of you) to elope to the temple, but it didn't work.

Love,  
Muzzer