

amplified

Hallmanack
Jerry and Betty
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January 20, 1980
Sunday, about 1:00 p.m.

Dear Family,

We do not have a great deal of news but you know me; I'll probably be able to fill a couple of pages anyhow. We enjoyed all the letters from everyone. The Christmas holiday seem so long ago. Mom's party was great, especially when Liz & Marty arrived in the middle of it! I think Mom has to be one of the world's best grandmothers - Each of my children feels personally loved by her and Aunt Jerry often say, "Grandma really knows what kids like!" (And let's not forget Grandpa's toboggan!) Grandpa Langford looks so much better since coming to Mom's, and it is nice for us for the children to become more familiar with him.

Tracy's business is in the "sink or swim" crisis right now - It's been there for some time now but Tracy seems to be a pretty good swimmer. The water's a little choppy but his endurance is pretty good and both the progress so far and our prayers seem to tell us to keep on trying. The returns on his mailings so far show we can probably be in clear water within a couple of years. The really nice thing would be to sell his new technology - which would also require time. So we'll see what happens and keep working.

The children are fine, except for Alex who is struggling with a very bad cold. But his spirits have been pretty good anyway. A few nights ago I was changing him and potty'ing him in the laundry room downstairs. I was also horsing around with Tracy and Gma in the hallway while I waited for him to finish. Then I laid Alex on the washer and ran upstairs to get some diapers for him. On the way back and forth I continued the voracious playing with T & Z. As

I entered the laundry room Alex sighed ² and said "Noise. Just Noise!" I couldn't believe my ears and I thought "If this is Alex at 2 1/2, what are we in for at 15?" He seems so ingenuously "knowing" at times.

To my surprise Robert has calmed down considerably since starting school. He really loves kindergarten. Susanna still seems to have occasional hearing difficulty but she seems a little more secure and confident since I have found some jobs for her to do. Elizabeth is proving as reluctant to walk as her siblings did but she's a lot of fun and we are enjoying her (spoiling her!).

I felt really proud to send two of my former Sunday School class members from Palo Alto (who have been at BYU) into the M. T. C. a week and a half ago. I have stayed close to all of them and we had a "farewell dinner" for them the night before they entered. One of them ~~is~~ was converted to the Church while he was in high school and his mother, whose only

child he is (she's long divorced, formerly a
red technician who passed the bar two years
ago and is now practicing law), had quite
a traumatic time of it watching him go.
She hardly let on to him ^{how she felt} (they stayed
with us 5 days) and I admired her very
much for the way she handled the whole
thing. This fellow (Dean) is going to Tracy's
old mission and Brad is going to Korea.

My brother Geoff came home from Gua-
temala a week & a half ago and Jim very
anxious to see him (he's in Tacoma). We
expect him here (to go to BYU) in another
week and a half. Geoff is really a sweet
brother and I have missed him a lot.

Jim still waiting for the new meeting
schedule! How about you? Jim still
waiting for the release of the Iranian
hostages, too! How about you?