

November 11, 1980

Dear Fandamly:

I really enjoyed reading all of your letters. We're all well here on this end of the world. We're inviting one and all to our home for Thanksgiving dinner. We have no relatives nearby any more, now that Marty's only brother has moved away, and we're feeling pretty lonely, especially when we read about family hay rides in Utah!

We were so encouraged by the election results this year! It seems like the country is finally coming to its senses! The only disappointing thing was that President Carter conceded defeat at 7:00 p.m. our time, before the polls had even closed here! We turned the t.v. on at 5:30 and ABC was projecting Ronald Reagan the winner. Everyone in California was quite stunned, to say the least. President Carter should have waited to give his speech until the polls had closed. I ~~XXXXX~~ foresee some election reforms in that regard!

I am enclosing some pictures of our kiddos. The picture of Erin looks so much like Emily a few years ago, that when we sent it to Marty's parents, they thought we had mislabeled the picture.

My mutual job is keeping me so busy! I'm the second counselor in the Presidency and the Beehive advisor to boot. I have 16 girls in my class, and now that the Primary girls advance when they turn 12, my class will grow. I have given mini-classes for the past two months in Relief Society, also. One was on padded picture frames and the other on chocolate dipping. At least I have all my Christmas chocolates all dipped and packed for gift giving. If we can keep our hands out of them that's one Christmas project already finished.

Emily seems to be doing really well in first grade. She loves school and works really hard to please her teacher. She has become a whiz at jump rope. It's so fun to watch her and her friends jumping and singing all those silly songs I used to sing when I was a kid-- "Cinderella, dressed in yella, went upstairs to kiss her fella, made a mistake and kissed a snake! How many doctors did it take?"

Speaking of jump ropes, I am reminded of a miracle we witnessed last week! The children were holding the jump rope tight and seeing how high they could jump over it, when Erin suddenly let go of her end. The handle smashed into the sliding glass patio door, which shattered all over our family room. There were wicked shards of glass all over the room, surrounding John Patrick who was lying on the floor. Not a single piece of glass touched him! No one else was hurt, either. We replaced the door with tempered glass the next day. We think John is destined for great things!

I talked Marty into coaching Greg's soccer team. We went to a parent's meeting where the first order of business was conning someone into being the coach, or "there wouldn't be a team!" He's enjoying it--I think. At the practice after the first game, one of the boys came up to Marty and said, "No offense, Coach, but my mom says you don't know what you're doing!" He couldn't think of a reply.

Dear Family.

In case you may have forgotten, here are the rules for submitting to the Hallmanac:

1. You may use half to two thirds of a regular page (8½ x 11")
2. If at all possible, type.
3. If you write, confine yourself to the page limit.
4. Have mailed to me by the fifth of each month. (I should receive it by the 5th)

If you single space the entire letter, including between paragraphs, salutations, etc., more important stuff can be crammed in your letter. I realize I once said I would not reject long letters, so I set myself up for this month's Hallmanac; however, whenever possible, keep your letters brief. If you do send an extra long letter, please send two sheets, as I can't cut up a back to back letter. Obviously, if everyone writes each month the news won't pile up so letters can be shorter. Enough! Enough! Enough!

We're all fine. We had a wonderful vacation at the beach the week after Easter. Condominiums are a great way to vacation! We had all the comforts of home (washer, dryer, dishwasher, t.v. three bedrooms, two bathrooms, etc.) plus the beach out the back door. The children had a great time, and so did we. We kept the cooking simple but abundant. We didn't even have to clean up when we left (except to straighten) because there was a cleaning service included. We didn't even have to take linens or bedding. We recommend renting condominiums adjoining for our next family reunion. It was less expensive than Aspen Grove. Of course you still have to cook and there is no one to watch the kids, but we can rope the husbands into some kitchen duty, and we could even take a few babysitters along to help out. We're planning on going to Lake Tahoe with some friends in June for one weekend and we're going to take along two babysitters.

Marty is getting close to the release of his new product and expects to be travelling a lot this year, especially after September. He will probably go to Japan in June.

John turned one April 23rd. He is not walking and I don't expect him to for at least another month. He's such a big guy! He is still wheezing, too. We gave him another course of antibiotic when he got another fever, but the doctor says we may have to look into other causes other than infections. Probably allergies. Wouldn't be at all surprised!

Well, hope you're all happy and well. Congratulations to Virginia! (and Barry.)

Love,

Marty and Liz and kids

BARTHOLOMEWS, April 8, 1981

Dear Family:

Just a few scribbles to send our love and let you know we are alive.

We are enjoying spring weather and flowers, etc. The kids are playing outside, the bulbs and forsythia are out, and we have just planted some of the early garden crops.

We are enjoying our new 3-year-old, Andy. He's active and bright. He's half-Jewish and half hispanic with an apparent bit of black heritage--curly hair and olive or light brown complexion.

Daniel and Laura have long wanted a young brother or sister and have been very good, helping and playing with him.

Andy likes to help a lot himself, always wants it to be his turn at prayer-time, loves to bounde and throw a basketball, tell his own stories from our book collection, and ride Laura's old tricycle. He had a ball when Sherlene took old toys out of storage.

Laura has been selling seeds and learning some Spanish on her own. Daniel plays basketball outside at every opportunity.

We had a scare recently when Andy ate a half bottle of vitamins with iron (one of the kids had left it down.) The Dr.s pumped his stomach and gave him an IV. to flush his system. We spent two days in the hospital, trading off, where he could be monitored--just to be sure the iron didn't accumulate in his liver. His Aunt Edie, member of the church and teacher in the NYC school system, had just visited and decided we were an ok family for Andy. She's the legal custodian and worked with the church social services in the area to have him adopted. We trust this incident will not deter.

Sherlene had just completed a food order for the ward and has since been ~~xxxx~~ busy with Andy--plus a few of her projects at home.

Work has been very busy for me and interesting with system testing and design and documentation. I have been working on this system for some time (several years), so I should probably start looking around.

We are grateful for you and appreciate your letters.

Dan (& Sherlene & Daniel & Laura)