

Reminder: Tracy & David have not read this.

Jan 13, 1981

Dear Childruns:

We appreciate your phone calls and contacts, bless your hearts. I'm glad we live in an affluent society, as I know this increases your phone bills like crazy.

Thank you, also for your Christmas gifts, which we are looking at, listening to, and enjoying muchly.

Charlotte, I thank you for those cute baby pictures. She is a cutie. At this stage it is hard to pin down resemblances, but we sure will claim Hannah--she is a cutie. I have enclosed the pictures in the Hallmanack so that it will return to you.

It has been a very busy christmas season. The day after Christmas I decided to have David Optoff (from Mega) come and work off some of Daddy's Tractor hours by having him do some cleaning. David told me I couldn't have David but he sent his Janitor over for a day or two and we got a lot done. We cleaned the Hall, stairwell, ceilings and all. He got the ceiling of my bedroom done and the ceiling and walls of the main bath. Then he spent a whole day cleaning carpets, and I got Dad's study carpet, the downstairs carpet and stairs (done by myself) and the upstairs l.r. carpet. If any of you are doing your own carpets, rent the Rug Doctor. That is the name of the machine. It is the best I have ever tried and does as good a job as the professional carpet cleaners we have had and better than most. (also my B.R. Carpet) — ova

Frid
The next day we got word that we would be hosts at a New Years Party on the 29th, and we had just taken off the dining room chair covers to have them cleaned, and Tracy edicted that I would not put them back on, but get new ones. (does anyone want some tapestry chair covers) (slightly worn but still good)? We will send them to DI's. I found a place that would cover them for us in one day. We went out to Zion's and found a remnant for about \$45.00 which covered all of the chairs and had a couple of yards left over. Maybe we will have a chair recovered.

pool
The Wendell Hall girls, Caroline, Teresa, and Anna are with us until they can get back in their house in June. Merrill's mother has terminal cancer and they thought they would lose her, and so Merrill came home from the Semester abraod in Spain to be with her, bringing Carolyn with her, but leaving the other girls with Wendell in Spain. They had planned to spend the other six months in Europe, but that is out now as Merrill needs to be close enough to get back if her mother has more problems. She did survive surgery and a pace maker, but is having chemotherapy. This seems to slow it down, butthey anticipate that she will die of this.

It is fun having them, but they are so quiet you never know ~~Whay~~ they are around--highly unlike the Tracy Hall and the Delbert Hall girls, who are quite noisy! (who's noisy?)

We had our Family Christmas party on the 27th? Thursday before Christmas, at any rate, and we had dinner with Candles, Grandmother's new silver, and all the trimmings. We then went downstairs and had a nativity scene, managed by Betsy. She is very good at quietly organizing children.

another crisis

Sister Lucy James died and while she was still in the hospital in intensive care her daughter who had the three ward holiday party (and the final of the susquicentennial) under her charge called Tracy and said she just could not do it and suggested we just cancel. The bank said they would still have to charge us 600. Tracy talked to the other bishops and decided the best thing would be to cancel anyway and just pay the fee. Then Gayle Dudley called and said she would like to do it as a memorial--kind of--to Lucy James. Joyce Ridge (Lucy's dau) had made some tentative plans, but had been so swamped by Lucy's illness and a wedding just prior to Lucy's death of her daughter, that she had never instituted them. So Dad got invited to be in a ballet. He was the star(?) (He says everyone says he had the prettiest legs. (No compliment) and so the party went on after all.

That night we had twenty people her for pre-ball dinner. it was a nice affair. Everyone brought something, except Dad and I furnished the meat,

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It is fun having them, but they are so quiet you never know that are around--rightly unlike the Tracy Hall and the Robert Hall girls, who are quite noisy. (who's noisy?)

We had our Family Christmas party on the 27th Thursday before Christmas, at my rate, and we had dinner with Maudie, Wanda's mother, new silver, and all the trimmings. We then went downstairs and had a nativity scene, manned by Betty. She is very good at nativity organizing children.

I just stand in open mouth amazement. Carli Ann was Mary and all the other children had parts, Carli Ann just kept looking at the baby Jesus as if in awe, and the others did their parts quietly and reverently, (even Robert) and Mark threw himself into his part thoroughly, kneeling, before the Baby Jesus. Can't understand how we got all the cute grandchildren--but i'm not complaining.

One funny happening. We had each child bring an old toy as a white elephant. These were all wrapped and each child got to draw one. Mark drew a stuffed doll, at which he pulled a face and made complaint. Zina said to him: " Well, if you wouldn't always grab for the biggest package." They were told they could trade with anyone willing to trade, and Mark couldn't trade, but I think he secretly really didn't want to, because he went around hugging that thing all night.

Then they opened their gifts from Grandmother, and Grandfather. Zina liked her doll dress very much, but was intrigued by the electronic presents some of the boys got. (also some of the girls). She said: " I'm glad we got these presents before Christmas."

" Why?," I asked. "Because maybe they will get tired of their games and let me have a turn.", she said.

Doug was at the game in San Diego with friends, but Nancy opened the plane that Bryan and Charlotte had sent, and Tracy Jr. (Big Tracy Jr) just had to try it out. It ended up broken before Doug got to use it. Tracy however, mended it before he left so that Doug could fly it.

Our whole holiday seemed to be one crisis (minor) after another. Dad had two colds, and with tithing settlement closing in on him, he got treatment for both, which helped (this time). Saturday before Christmas he finally did something about the Ward Christmas letter which he had been stuck with. Then he decided to deliver it personally (after getting it duplicated by about noon). Then he got the big idea to (since this was his last year as bishop--to include a box of chocolates or something for each family. We ended up (after pricing chocolates) sending orange sticks, and giving more boxes to large families. We were until about nine o'clock that night (starting at 4 P.M.) delivering those.

After New Year's I got thinking about redoing that Hall that Dad has been trying to get me to do something about for some time. I was going to wallpaper it with a different paper on the bottom part and the top part, and spent quite a bit of time looking for paper and finally decided on some. Then I decided to repaint the bottom part of the Kitchen which had needed another coat ever since we had it put in. I liked it so much I decided that maybe I would just paint the walls of the hall--I already had the paint--I had gotten it when we painted the living room and got new drapes, and then decided that that much gold would be too much. So I had two gallons of gold paint. I tried to pawn it off to the kids, but wasn't able to. I conned Nancy into helping me last Saturday and Dad did the top part of the stairwell, which job would make both Nancy and My legs "hurt". (height fright). But we got the job done. I did almost all the masking and patching the day before. I was glad to get it done. I do need to do some repatching here and there as we only used one coat, but I think it looks good, and didn't cost me anything except about 20 or 30 dollars in paint supplies. (rollers, thinner, sanding paper, etc).

School has started and I have two classes. D&C and a History class which follows church History, Luv Ya, Mom