

Dear Family,

April 23, 1981

It has been a long time since I have written. This letter is going to Charlotte's and my side of the family so some of this information may be a repeat for some of you.

Hannah is now four and a half months old. She is developing her own personality and is such a joy. Until fairly recent, Hannah was an extremely quite baby. The only time she would cry was at meal time. Even when her pants were ready for a change, Hannah would rarely complain. This last week she has learned to scream. It is a complaint which means, "I want some attention." We are afraid those quiet days are gone forever. Still, she is so good for the most part. We wish her older sister would take some lessons.

Sarah isn't taking all of this new baby stuff sitting down. She still wants everyone to know who was born first. She feels that attention should be given in the same order as age. Most of the time Sarah says, "I want you to HOLD ME!" You could say she has a mild case of jealousy. We do not have to worry about Sarah hurting Hannah, but occasionally we have found Sarah sitting on Hannah. Hannah thinks it is great. She very rarely cries.

Sarah has very good body coordination. She likes to balance herself on the brick work by the drive way. She isn't afraid of heights either, which scares her mother to death. Sarah also speaks with excellent diction and pronounces her words very clearly. All of the other mothers in the ward with children of similar ages have been amazed at her progress and vocabulary. We suppose it comes from being the first child. Sarah also loves to play with other children. Hurry up and grow Hannah.

Charlotte has recovered from her pregnancy for the most part. She is back down to 109 pounds and feels good about her weight. Nursing helps to burn a lot of calories. There isn't much exercise in it though. She still would like to get some of those stubborn stomach muscles to go down. She can look good in a waisted dress, but women are never satisfied with themselves. Charlotte is enjoying Hannah as a "good baby", unlike Sarah who had colic for the first four and a half months. Charlotte said if all of our kids were going to be as good as Hannah, she would be willing to have ten kids.

We got a very good tax return this year. The first thing we did with our state return was to buy a used piano. It cost us about \$600 and plays great. Charlotte has been wanting a piano for such a long time. Then when we got our federal return we bought another car. It is a 71 Dodge Dart we were able to pick up for \$1400. The nice thing about it is that it only has 38,000 miles on it. Considering my folks have a 68 Dart with 190,000 miles on it with out any major work on it, we feel we finally bought a car that will be free of problems.

Two weeks ago I took the Professional Engineering Exam. If I have passed it then I will get a certificate stating "Pass". It really doesn't mean much except for status or if I change jobs. I feel that I have a fair to good chance of passing. It will take three months before I get the results.

Love you all,

Bryan, Charlotte
Sarah & Hannah

WOOD 3804 N 18th St. Arlington, Va 22207 703 243-3670 1 May, 1981

Dear Family,

Forgive the handwriting, but our typewriter is on semi-permanent loan for a while to a home-teaching family of Barry's. He's got a thesis due the end of May.

Well, the Wood baby #3 seems to be heading for a post-due date arrival. The baby hasn't dropped much and I'm not dilating at all. I've had lots of false labor, but would just as soon wait for Grandma to get here before hand anyway. Incidentally, Mom will be here on May 10, Mother's Day - so send your cards and letters this direction. Mom arrives on May 5th; the baby's due May ~~10th~~ 7th. Barry's predicting the 17th which doesn't fit into my plans at all. May 5th would be just fine!!

Last evening, Barbara Smith addressed a gathering of our Stake K. See. She gave a very inspirational address, encouraging us all to realize our capacity to improve and increase our physical, intellectual and spiritual abilities. I sat there feeling guilty and inspired all at once. A nine-month pregnant, very tired lady here doesn't have much get-up and go left in her!

This has been an action-packed month! I spent a week at Bartholomew in White Plains while Barry was at the Natl Asso. of Broadcasters Conv in L.V. Nevada. The new Bartholomew addition is a lively, bright, cute 3yr. old. He seems like he's always been a part of their family. They brought me back home on Easter weekend and visited the temple, then proceeded down to Charlottesville, where Dan's sister lives.

Barry has also been very busy trying to get another L.O.S couple into the house next door which is selling for \$75,000 (w/o a realtor's fee). Lynda accepted our original offer, but the details are still being worked out. It appears that we will be buying the house with another couple who will buy us out as soon as they are able to. We can assume Lynda's 10 1/2% loan which was sold to Fannie Mae and has a remaining balance of \$72,000. So the only problem is coming up with some \$23,000 for a downpayment. It will be WONDERFUL to have another LOS family with small children and a non-working wife in the neighborhood!

Well, I hope you're all doing well! We love and miss you all!
The Wood Family