

8-6-86

Wednesday

Dear Family

Happy birthday to Marian and Renae.

Greetings from the state of Washington. We have finally moved into a place over the weekend. We are still opening boxes and getting situated. Our address is

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We are located about 10 miles East of Everett and 30 miles North of Seattle. We are out in the country. We are renting a large 4 bedroom house. The school district is rated in the top 10% nationally. Sarah will be going to the 2nd grade and Hannah will start Kindergarten. The ward is very friendly. We have been invited over to dinner at different homes 3 times. The ward is large but not ready for a split. So far Charlotte & I do not have callings in the church. We are pleased to be where we are. The area is very much like a forest.

Charlotte and I had planned to leave Bechtel for about 2 years. We tried to transfer within the company to a permanent position which would not require moving first. Nothing seemed to work.

Then we decided to try law school. That didn't work out either. Finally we began looking for new employment. Nothing opened up. My assignment in Southern Cal was nearing completion and Bechtel was looking to transfer me to Houston, Texas. I decided now was a good time to break.

I was laid off instead of transferred because I did not push for a transfer. Bechtel was laying off about 20 a week at the time. This was just what we wanted. Because we were laid off Bechtel had to move our furniture back to point of origin ~~or~~ or equivalent miles. We took the equivalent miles. We had to pay \$650⁰⁰ out of \$3,000⁰⁰ to move here.

"Why Washington?" you may ask. Charlotte and I decided where we did not want to live first. That cut ~~of~~ out east of the Mississippi. Then we didn't want to live where it snows regularly, nor in the desert where it gets very hot.

California was looking good except for the price of real estate. I want to buy a bit of acreage. Washington and Oregon looked the best. I went down to the library and got a listing of all the electric utilities in those two states and sent out resumes. I received a favorable response from only one that had a position open. It was located in Everett. That is one reason we came here. The other reason is because Seattle is large enough to look for employment. I have learned that I made the Top 5 for the position of chief standards engineer but ~~was~~ not interviewed. I didn't get the job. There were over 50 applicants. I have no immediate job possibilities as of this writing. Right now I am selectively looking for the right job, not just any job.

Financially we are comfortable. We have prepared for this for 2 years. Also I get a big \$193⁰⁰ a week in unemployment. Learning about the unemployment bureaucracy has been interesting.

Charlotte and I came up here with the idea of living in a tent until we could find housing. It rained every day so we moved into a motel. Also Willis had a bad cough. Camping in a constant rain is very uncomfortable. We looked for housing for 3 days before we found the place we are in now. The only draw back was it had tenants in it who were not moving out until July 31st. That was in 18 days. We found out what ward we would be in and called the Bishop. We moved in with the Schurig family as house guests. They needed the money too. We paid them \$100⁰⁰/week. This was cheaper than the \$60⁰⁰/day at the motel. The Schurigs needed help in other ways too. I split 5 1/2 cords of wood for them. I also did some work on their house. They are a nice family with health problems. We were comfortable and the living arrangement worked out well. We ate together family style. We shared cooking responsibilities every other day.

The temple is 40 minutes away. We have been several times. We also went up to the Expo in Vancouver one day. Anyone going should be prepared for a price gouge. \$5⁰⁰ for a hamburger!

Love, Bryan & Charlotte & Kids