

June 19 -

April 1, 1981

Dear Children:

Today in R.S. we had our home-making lesson and the teacher had some quite clever ideas for making things fun (instead of work) at home. Let's see if I can remember any of them.

Anne Madsen: "Let's take time out for life". At any time any member of the family could come and say the above and the whole family would drop what they were doing and go do what that person wanted to do. One lady said that she sometimes colors some of the pancake dough a different color, and then makes flowers or animals. She first pours the colored batter in a pattern, allows it to cook a little, and then surrounds it with white batter to make a portrait.

The teacher showed a poster she posts on the bulletin board, and when a child has done something (a chore) well, and without complaining, he or she can draw a "flower" which has rewards on the back. All the flowers are the same color to keep the child from a certain "award" marking. There were a lot of others, but I won't list any more of them.

This has been an eventful month. The law suit could have come to a close, but Bill still is holding out for the sun the moon, and the stars. So I suppose it will go to court about the 15th of April. Is it legal to pray for success in a law suit?

I am taking Mormon History this semester and finding out lots of interesting things about Mormon History.

Dad finally broke down (why do men have to think it's THEIR idea before they do anything?) and got us a good stereo set. We took the old one out to the farm. We can get the FM stations on our set now and it sounds GRAND.

Dad will have his retirement open house in the Geology Lounge of the Eyring Science center, and has been doing a lot of interesting things to prepare for that. He has had enlargements made of a lot of his equipment slides which he has matted and will display. He is also framing all his certificates and will display those, too, and is trying to get all his papers and patents together.

Dad thinks he will be released sometime in late summer from the Bishopric, but is going to be an expert witness in a law suit between DeBoers and G.E. which will not finish until perhaps the end of Sept. but as soon thereafter as we can we want to go on a mission.

There are a lot of things going on, the least of which (Oh Yeah?) is our new grandson, Andrew, via Sherlene and Dan. Anthony R. has arrived safely at Tracy Sr's, and we hope Virginia and Barry's third arrives on time, and in good condition, and is a gently, loving, kind, quiet little girl, although I doubt if in the presence of Nathan and Warren, she would remain thus for long. (Pattern: Emily with her brothers at David's).

We love you all,
Muzzer

DEAR FAMILY,

Sorry we missed the Hallmanack last rounds. You didn't miss much. Well, Doug and I got "home" hungry again when we looked at last months Better Homes & Gardens. We just loved that underground solar home they featured. We suddenly got big ideas of building this energy efficient home with its spacious living area, and large master bdrm. & bath. It's really not that much bigger than the one we're in, just planned differently, and not that "boxed in" feeling you get in these basic, tract homes. Well, we checked with several contractors, and found that we could build a 1300 sq. ft. home for the same as we could sell our present home. (65,000.) Then we checked into different loans. 14%-15% & 16% interest? forget it! Guess we'll stick with what we've got! (for now)

Carli Anne will be in school this coming september. Don't you think we should have another kid? (hint for doug, folks!)

Work is going well for both of us. Doug finally got his GS-6 raise. And I am still Jazzersizing!

Doug and a bunch of men that he works with are going to go up to Strawberry reservoir this next weekend while the quaking aspens are still dormant, to dig up a bunch of them for our yards! They have access to all the trees they want, below a certain water level, because they are federal employees. Normally, anyone caught poaching trees from the forest service or on government land would be thrown in jail, and fined \$300. for each tree poached...so we feel pretty lucky to get such neat trees for nothing. Last year we dug some up, but they were in leaf... and they died. The snow is still on the ground now, so they should still be dormant.

What do you think of the name Moses Tracy Mecham? We think that would be a good name for the future boy in our family. (he's still in heaven) Dougs family thinks that it's a cruel name. But if Carli had been a boy, that's what we'd have named it! Send us your thoughts.

LOVE YOU ALL!

DOUG, NANCY, & CARLI ANNE MECHAM

This is Nancy's March letter which arrived just as I mailed off the other letters. So I put it in this month.

Kim Taylor

WOOD family 3804 North, 18th Street, Arlington, Va. 22207 (703) 243-3690 April 1, 1981

Dear Family, *There's no space left us at the bottom of this so my kibitzing will be in the margins*
Happy Birthday, Nancy! Happy Birthday, Barry! Those of us here in Arlington have been enjoying 70 and 80° weather while you in the Provo area are laboring under 2 and 3 inches of snow we hear. Last Thursday Barry called me from the office at noon and asked if I'd like to meet him at the National Zoo with the kiddies at 1 p.m. It was our first really beautiful spring day here. We spent a glorious three hours together at the zoo. Of course Barry had to make up for his afternoon insanity by working until 10 p.m., but it was well worth it! His work hours have been a little better of late, with his getting home usually by 8 p.m. (and sometimes even earlier.) Saturday, aside from an afternoon baptism which we attended, Barry spent the whole day home getting the garden planted. Then we had a nice soaking rain on Monday, 80° weather on Tuesday and today another nice gentle, soaking rain. It's supposed to be sunny and warm tomorrow again. If we can just keep this kind of sun/rain cycle going we'll have a glorious garden this year. *As long as the shovel-wielder holds out.*

We continue a wait-and-see relationship with O'Melveny and Myers. Several weeks ago we received a letter from one of the Paris partners saying he was coming to Montreal in the near future and wished to come to D.C. and meet with Barry. Barry is a little ~~more than~~ perturbed with my having told a couple of L.D.S. friends about it. Word spreads fast (and not infrequently incorrectly) in Mormondom and last Sunday someone told Barry, "I hear you're going to Italy for six months." He doesn't think they'll make him an offer, but I do.

We are anxious to meet the latest addition to the Bartholomew family. Barry has a broadcast convention in Las Vegas April 12-15, so while he's in Vegas I'm going to take the kids and go up to Sherlene and Dan's for the week. I may stay as long as twelve or thirteen days as no sooner does Barry return from Vegas (after a one-night layover in S.L.C. on the 15th) than he has two days to prepare for a case in Miami where he'll be going on the 20th and 21st to take depositions. He'll route his flight back through New York on the 22nd so he can help me wrestle the children back home via the train. The only thing I'll regret about my stay at the Bartholomew's is missing Barry direct the choir on Easter, which will be a real treat. Barry has really done well with the choir and has a very good response from the faithful few who are there week after week. Several weeks ago, Barry sang a beautiful solo with the choir (someone else directed). His voice just gets better and better with age, while mine deteriorates. I applaud Liz for continuing her voice training. I'm too lazy to pursue it right now.

We'd be delighted to have ^{non-FHA} one of you invest in ^{why seems larger because it doesn't have a garage.} the house next door to us. It's the same size as ours, though the yard ^{and, like ours, backs on the park.} is a little bit larger. Linda's asking \$102,950, though I think she would take an offer ^{the Wash- ington office of N.Y.} in the \$95,000 range. Yesterday, much to our surprise, the house three doors down from us also put up a 4-sale sign. They are asking \$94,950 and judging from the stream of viewers just since yesterday, they'll get it. It's only two bedroom with oil heat and an unfinished basement, though it is in very good condition. It also sits on a lot that is measurably larger than ours. ^{John's home} We tried to get some friends of ours into it. They went as far as sitting down with a realtor to write out a contract, but when they looked at the dollar and cents on paper, decided it was too much of a chunk out of their monthly salary (more than half.) He's a first year associate at a major law firm in the area and makes very nearly the same salary as Barry does. We read in one of the law journals that a leading New York law firm is going to offer their beginning associates \$43,000 dollars starting salary this year which is more than Barry is now making (and which makes a ^{4 1/2}-year-out-of-law school-attorney that I know ~~more than~~ a little bit irritated.) I'm sure glad we got into the market 2 1/2 years ago. At least when we do try to get into something bigger, we'll be able to turn over the equity we've got in this house.

We'd love to be able to go to Dad's retirement party. Be sure and send us all the news about it. ^[2 Apr - last night for my birthday Virginia spirited me away to a Chinese dinner with some other lawyers in our ward and their wives]

Barry's grandmother had a tumor removed from her colon last week and learned yesterday ^{very nice} that it was cancerous. We hope and pray that the doctors were able to remove all of the cancerous tissue (as they think they did) and are reminded to be grateful for the good health which we are now all enjoying.

We wish you all a nice Easter season, and wish we could join in your festivities!

Love, Ginger and Barry

NEIL FAMILY

Hi Folks!

This will be a short letter this month, so I can get the Hallmanac on one page. I hope we can hear from every family in May. So far we haven't heard from a certain Hall family at all. In case you don't know who you are, you're the ones who live near the Provo Temple.

I've been busy making a hundred sugar panorama Easter eggs for my Beehives to sell to raise money for Youth Conference at BYU. What a job! Glad it's all over. Now I can concentrate on getting our house cleaned up for Marty's parent's visit. I'm making new quilts for Greg's bunk beds--still have one more to tie and have to get his room painted. Marty is planting our garden and just put in lots of strawberry plants. John had just overcome his wheezing when he caught another cold. Now he's wheezing again. I'm beginning to think Mom was right about boy babies being less healthy than girl babies. Always thought that was an old wives tale. (Sorry Mom)

Greg passed his piano Certificate of Merit audition (the playing part) with flying colors and was "highly recommended" by the auditor to play for the San Francisco Music Teachers Convention in July. We're hoping he'll be invited up there to play. He didn't pass the theory test. Most of the questions he was asked were so difficult--things I didn't learn till my college theory class!

Sure would like to hear about Sherlene's new addition. How come we're always the last to know out here? Alexander G. Bell invented this neat thing called the telephone that allows news to travel faster than the stage coach.

Well, hope you all have a happy Easter time. We love you.