

The David R. Hall Family

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Dear Hall Family,

At last I am sitting down to type a letter to you. We really enjoyed enjoyed the bundle of letters you sent this time around, and feel very guilty for not contributing our two bits thus far.

As you all know we are finally settled down here in Orem, Utah now. It seems ages ago, although it was only last October, that we sold our house and most of our belongings and headed for Utah with only our car and what we could pack into a 5 X 8' U-Haul. Travelling cross country with three little kids is no joyride, but we made it safely. Thank heavens for generous parents. We spent our first five or six weeks in Utah alternately living with Mom and Dad Hall or my folks who live in South Jordan. Although we had planned on renting, we ran onto some condominiums which were in our price range. Half of the units are all occupied and have been here for about a year; the other half were not quite finished, thus the long wait before we could move in. However, it was nice for me to be able to pick out my own carpeting, linoleum, formica, and color of appliances. Our unit is known as a townhouse or split level entry. On the upper floor we have two bedrooms, a bath, living room, dining room, and kitchen - all carpeted. The raised basement is unfinished. We also have a double carport, a small private garden plot, and a private storage building all in the back. All the units share a tennis court and playground. We really like the location. Our condominiums, known as Garden Park East, are right across the street from the elementary school and community park. Our chapel is just down the street, about a seven minute walk. My grandmother VanDyke lives in the Timpanogus Rest Home which is located on the other side of the community park - actually we didn't realize this when we bought our place but it sure makes it convenient for visiting her. We are about a ten-minute ride from Mom and Dad Hall's and about the same to "The Shed" on Columbia Lane where David works.

Adjusting to Utah life was a little difficult for us at first, probably more so for me than for David. Unfortunately, Mom Hall became our sounding board for all our gripes and complaints about Utah banks, Utah businesses, and Utah people in general - much to her displeasure. We hope she has forgiven us for that by now. We do enjoy being near the folks. Mark, Stephen, and Michael seem to be thriving well on grandparents' love. It was great being able to spend Thanksgiving and Christmas with both sets of grandparents. It's also nice to be able to call on "Grandma" occasionally to watch the kids while we go do something.

We live in a young, very transient ward; mostly young couples renting apartments and duplexes. Many are BYU students and so the turnover at the end of semesters is tremendous. David is serving as first counselor in the Sunday School - although they have their problems, David really likes his calling. I am Primary inservice leader and trying hard to see exactly where I fit into the auxiliary. It's hard to drum up the enthusiasm for a church calling in Utah when you know that could be so easily replaced by ten others. Please don't think that we ever felt indispensable in the missionfield, but we really did feel needed.

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Of course, David is a hometeacher and I am a visiting teacher, He hometeaches families living here at Garden Park East and I visit teach here also.

David has spend many evenings working here at home. He has built a trundle bed for Mark and Stephen in the basement and a place for a built-in chest of drawers. He's made shelves for the kids toys, a large built in table for me to sew on plus a set of slanted shelves large enough to hold 30 cases of canned goods. Oh, I forgot - he also built two long shelves over our food storage barrels for even more food storage. We are just about prepared for a year - We just about have a year's food storage, David paid our mortgage a year in advance and our medical insurance for a year. No, we are not rolling in the dough - it was to our advantage tax wise to pay for our housing and insurance a year in advance since we already had the money.

This is me now, David, I've spent most of the past few months helping Dad with fixing up the shed and getting the press assembled and the controls made. I think that it will be running by the end of this week March 4th. After that I will spend full time designing drills and pumps. I've spent enough time on design already that I have the basic concepts worked out and need to work out the details. It will take about six months just to finish design of the first prototype models. We have enjoyed all of your letters and will try and participate from now on. I hate this manual typewriter and will have to remember to type out the letter at work next time. We've got an office at work now with a typewriter and two desks and a big bookcase. It is really rough but sufficient for my needs. Dad has his fancy office at home. I'm not sure if dad will sell this press of his or not. He may keep it for himself personally to do research on. Trouble is that all of HTH inc's money is tied up in the press now. Hope you all are well and happy. I have advise for Sherlene---- The doctors right, Mormons work themself to death, take his advise and slow down, and don't react so quickly to things, Publicity on the church is good even if it's bad. It is not necessary to be defensive about the church like you are some times. We do have faults. Besides, your children deserve to have you around for a few more years. Karen and I do miss you and Dan and the Kids. Mark missis Daniel and still doesn't quite understand why we can't go and see you. Now he talks about going to see Gregory now that Liz and Marty came and visited us. I vote for HALLWAYS. Even though the majority of Halls are no longer Halls but Barthomomews and Neil and Woods etc..

Love, David & Karen and boys..

*David & Karen & boys*