

December 13, 1984 - From Sherlene

P.S. I sent one to everybody - no need to copy.

Dear Hallmanackers and Bartholomusers:

This month of Nov. was in some ways pretty bleak. I had three rounds of a virus (two bronchial and one, stomach). A painful cough made it hard to sleep nights, so the Dr. finally gave me some medication supposed to suppress the cough and make me sleepy. Instead it made me H-Y-P-E-R and sleepless. Any time I tried to get up, I succumbed to dizziness or weakness. I was blessed, though, to feel better in time to throw together a Thanksgiving meal, but it seemed strange to have all that food and not be sharing it with someone else. But I felt so grateful that we were all healthy as I looked around the table. It's good I didn't dare invite anyone, though, as Daniel caught my stomach virus and lost all the turkey, stuffing, and pumpkin pie he so blissfully had gobble-gobbled.

A few days (or weeks) in bed can be a blessing in disguise, though. It gave me a lot of time to enjoy the Conference addresses, think, review, pray, and evaluate. It also helped me empathize more with those of you who have been ill--though I'm sure I know nothing of your pain. We're grateful Doug and Liz came through their operations successfully and have prayed for your full recoveries. We hope Barry is feeling better and Virginia's rounds with bugs in the family have gone and all the rest of you are all right now. Dad B. is half through his radiation treatments and things look fine for his still going on a mission. We recently learned that two of our favorite people in the ward have serious cancer. It makes us wish we had a magic cure for suffering and grateful for strength to do even the most ordinary things.

Dan's work projects came together all at once after a real push. He wrote up his yearly accomplishments and was pleased to say he completed all his goals successfully and on time and pointed out the millions of dollars his programs and projects have saved the Company this past year. Warm weather made it possible for him to seal the driveway, paint part of our home exterior, and repair our fence that had fallen down. I was pleased to get some outside windows washed and yardwork done.

Daniel and Laura are still pursuing their three bad habits: eating, growing, and going. We measured again yesterday and D. is now 1/2" taller than I and L. is also threatening. They had "punk" day at the school last week--you've never seen such punkers. I don't know how the teachers stand it. D. is going to West Point for a campout and sports workout this weekend with the Scouts, and Laura loves her Girls' program--they made Christmas houses last week at Susan's, frosting graham crackers and candy onto empty milk cartons. She made a reindeer out of a paper bag (pattern in the FRIEND) and filled it with treats for her Beehive "secret sister." You should have received a picture of L. in last month's letter--now we're sending along Daniel's--we hope you especially notice the tie!

The nursery is going great. When I was set apart, I was promised the health and strength to keep up with it. Sure enough, every Saturday night about 10:00 I suddenly had a surge of strength, stayed up half the night getting ready, attended Church and the nursery for 2 hours and came home and got sick again. Mary Ann Motta is helping me in the nursery. Her husband is not a member, but is delighted that she is active and happy again in the Church. They've invited us to dinner this Sunday. Some of my other activities last week were writing and giving a Christmas reading at our R. S. Christmas "concert," (I might send it as a holiday story for my nieces and nephews), holding Dan's big "40" birthday dinner, and speaking at the Westchester Co. Genealogy Society (1 1/2 hrs, plus questions). I also made my first two visits with Nancy Collier in New Canaan, Ct. She is hiring me to help with her business of visiting the handicapped, giving them creative therapy (arts, crafts, singing), and I just instituted a personalized home genealogy program for my first patient whose ~~first~~ name is actually "Charlotte Hall." Tuesday I went with Bonne Simmons to Temple Israel in New Rochelle for a luncheon and dialogue and met the most wonderful contacts. I came home absolutely thrilled with some responses to the Joseph Smith story (one from the pres. of the NY State Ecumenical Women's Council). We have been getting some very valuable insights in some papers Brother Hamblin has been giving us. I plan to send copies to both sides of the family and hope our parents might share them with the rest of you. There's so much inlife to be happy for. We love you all MADLY!! (Sherlene & Co.)

I am sending you copies of some papers Bro. Hamblin gave us. If you think others in the family might want them, Bro. copy and share.

*Sherlene*