

July 2, 1989 - 180 N. Maple Avenue, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Hi!

It was great to get the Hallmanack and read your letters, especially those from Uncle Wendell. There's something about reading letters from a missionary in the family - it rings glad bells in all my heart chambers.

Today we had a wonderful fast and testimony service - three of our best missionaries leaving all at once, but not without leaving us one last fabulous new member--our Relief Society president's husband! Bro. Dave Price was baptized last week, and it was such a joy. He's been coming out for some time now and seemed like one of us already. A few weeks ago when I was again substituting for the Gospel Doctrine class, I asked Bro. Price to give part of the Joseph Smith story and address the lesson question: "How did Joseph Smith prepare himself to receive a revelation on true religion?" He put such thought and care into his presentation--it was fun to see him participate like that with such enthusiasm. The next time I gave the lesson, I called on him out of the blue to give the closing prayer, and he gave one of the sweetest prayers I've ever heard. Sometimes we need to give non-members more responsibility, so they can feel the Spirit helping them and feel the joy of real participation. His wife is a convert, too.

We are still praying for Rev. Pepper and hope you will all remember him in your prayers. Such a big step for him. We think it will probably happen in July--I just hope it isn't while we're on vacation.

I was thinking today that next fast Sunday we'll be on vacation and two weeks later Daniel will be on his way to BYU. I didn't stand up, but I felt such a rush of gratitude that he can anticipate a mission and serve with the scriptures instead of a gun. I thought about Solomon Tracy, who at age 17 signed up to serve in the Revolutionary War. I'm so grateful to him and so many others who were willing to risk everything for a dream which seemed so impossible, but for the help of our Father in Heaven, in whom they blessedly trusted. I am very sentimental about the Fourth of July. When the "bright stars and bright stripes" wave and the rockets trail, I cry. I want it to be such a memorable, family day. So Daniel plans to go to the beach with Courtney, and Laura decided to work (since she's going to miss the next week of work with Girl's Camp), and I suppose Dan and I can get used to putting up the flag by ourselves and I will find entertainment enough seeing what I can do about the temple work for some of these ancestors. A nice way to spend the 4th--but it should be a family day, you know, WITH ALL THE FAMILY. It was a great Fourth in D.C. at our family reunion. We still have our T-shirts, Charlotte.

I had a great experience at the Morristown Family History Center last week. I was on duty, and they assigned a non-member, more-experienced librarian to keep me from breaking all of the equipment. Her name is Betty Culbertson. A Baptist patron got all shook up when he found out his grandmother joined the Church without telling anyone else in the family. He found an IGI record where she had sealed herself to her parents, and though thrilled to find that much more genealogy, he was a little startled to find

the Mormon connection. He wanted to know what goes on in those temples. Betty told him he'd have to talk to me about that one. Anyway, Betty and I got talking and she went over my pedigree key for the Hall side and found several places where we are related. Barry had just been telling me about the Jewetts the week before. Betty's maiden name is Jewett, and she mailed me some good information the next day and told me where to go for a lot more. You will notice on chart 30 of the pedigree I sent you, #4, I didn't know whether it was Joseph or Dea. Maximillian Jewett. Well, Betty has documented that we are actually descended from Maximillian, who is also her umpty-ump grandfather. I'm sending you retyped sheets to replace in your pedigree (Mom, please copy for all, OK?).

This was graduation month. Daniel graduated from the Church 4-yr. seminary program which definitely involved more effort for him than his high school graduation (getting up is the hardest thing for him next to going to bed at night). I think is no small feat when teenagers are willing to get up at 5 and 6 a.m. to attend seminary before school. It is easier here because seminary is at 7:00, but in Westchester, it was at 6:00 and we had a long ride getting there and then I had to take them all the way over to White Plains High because by then they had missed the bus. But it was a tremendous blessing. They have had wonderful teachers--Emron Pratt, David Hamblin, and now Nancy Ferderber. And it was a good opportunity to bounce ideas during the ride from seminary each day. I think this has a lot to do with Daniel's strong testimony and his desire to serve a mission. I'm proud of both of them for wanting to attend seminary--I never felt they were going to please me--they went because they had inspired teachers and they liked the feeling it gave them each morning.

Graduation from Ridge High was another fine evening. It was hot, raining, very humid, and the school air conditioning went out. Graduation was in the gym and with 200 graduating seniors and all their teachers, a band, and the parents in there, let us say it was a graduation by immersion. TOTAL immersion! Being a "B", Daniel sat on the first row, not looking much happier in his robes than he looks when he has to wear a suit-coat at some Church service (not that he hardly ever does!). He was not very excited about graduation, complaining that all the formality was pretty stupid since he only considered graduating on the unhealthy condition that you needed a diploma to get to college. Nevertheless, considering his attitude about most of his classes and even more of the assignments, testing, etc., it was some strange miracle that he graduated, period, never mind was accepted to BYU. People are wonderful. His boss at work called me and said the office staff had voted to get Daniel something significant to show their appreciation and what color luggage should they get Daniel for college and his mission as a graduation gift? Can you imagine? They got him an American Tourister dark-gray set that retails at \$350. Our neighbor from White Plains mailed him a tie. Dan and I got him a pocket quadruple-scripture for his mission and paid the insurance bill now that he is driving.

We went to White Plains for a graduation party the Hedbergs held for their son Jeff, Daniel, and Bryce Inouye. The three were inseparable friends growing up and were dubbed the "Three Musketeers" by the ward. A lot of old friends showed up, and we had a fun reunion. The Hedbergs have been worried a little bit about Jeff who found himself a "way out" girlfriend this year who encouraged him to get a way-out haircut. Do they allow guys to enter BYU who have shaved half their head, scooped the other half down and around in a dyed-red swing? Jeff is also starting to question whether he wants to go on a mission. I can remember how I worried when Daniel was such a rebel, questioning everything, challenging everything, refusing to get serious about such things as Eagle Scout awards and school grades, etc. I thought, "Look at how serious and dedicated Bryce and Jeff are about everything"--I had to admit Daniel was a lot more fun to be around, but I worried about him sometimes. I used to ask the other mothers what their secrets were to find out where I was blowing it. Now the other mothers are coming to me to find out how I did it and dreaming up every excuse to get Daniel down to White Plains to influence their sons.

I guess each person has to prove his individuality at one time or another--I'm glad it hit Daniel early and not now--not that he still doesn't question everything and challenge whatever he can. But now he's doing it because he wants to be able to give rational answers on his mission to back up the spiritual testimony he has received.

Laura is starting singing lessons this summer. We've found a wonderful teacher, Barbara Johnson, who lives in Chatham--a bit of a drive, but she has a daughter Laura's age, and it will be a nice way to bring the girls together. Barbara does lots of fun things with bringing youth together for string and song jam sessions and I'm only sorry they are not in our ward. I met them on the Israel tour we joined a couple of years ago--there are a couple of women in their ward who are soloists--did we ever enjoy their music on the tour!

Well, Mom, Grandma Langford's print came yesterday and now my collage is complete! Now I just have to scrape up some money to frame it--our tax bill comes due this month. They bill us quarterly for part of a \$5,500 year's total (county, school). There are times when I'm not sure how free this free land is! But we decided we wanted to be here--and we have loved the schools.

We spent most of last week weeding. It has been a crazy year. We were supposed to be having a severe drought, so even Mayor Koch called for everyone to pray. Well, now we need to get a tri-state ark. It finally quit raining enough to go out and weed the thousands of plants which can grow out of rocks. That's all we did last week, from early morn 'til late at night--but it's starting to look like a real yard--and I got a nice sunburn to go along with my poison ivy, sore muscles and broken, blackened fingernails. Neighbors jogging by, warn us that we could get Lyme disease from ticks in the grass. I don't tell them they also fall out of trees. But, ah, glorious dirt-gardening. I do love it. We're leaving for

Pageant July 27 and plan to tour the Berkshires and maybe into Massachusetts and Vermont.

We've been praying for your full recovery, Dad, and pray all is well with the rest of you. Love, Sherlene and family.

Dan's P.S.: Just a few odds & ends, since Sherlene covered much of our June happenings above & in her previous letter. There was Daniel's & Laura's prom (I got to do most of the shopping with Laura--a lesson in appreciation), & our landscaping saga continued (we're now babying shrubs & trees against bugs & heat & have lost a few; also learning what an acre of "rocks & hills," however patriotic the feelings, does for mowing; and appreciating the roses after all the spring blossoms are gone!). There was O'Rullians trip to L.A. for AnnaLisa's bone marrow transplant (he's our Elders' Quorum president, so I'm now filling in), and our DC weekend w. Barry & Virginia & BriAnne's wedding reception (D. & L. presented me there with a very nice basketball for Father's Day which I can't wait to start using).

Before graduation, D & I stopped in at Ridge H.S., during an errand, so he could quickly show me the art show. It should have been an evening for the whole family: some very nice art pieces, much of the faculty and town present, hors d'oeuvres, and chamber music, led by Daniel's humanities teacher (& school music teacher) Mr. Birnbaum, all coupled w. an awards night. Daniel had some good art work on display. He had to push me out of the building.

I have had a real windmill tilt during the last 2 weeks, trying to upgrade our two PC's to DOS 3.2, so we could connect them and share a common printer using David's ManyLink™ product. No problem with one (w. 20MB Shugart hard disk), but TO NO AVAIL with the other (w. 30MB Seagate hard disk)! The Dos upgrade would not take. Though the PC's are essentially twins except for the 3rd party hard disks. Any thoughts David?

At work I'm seeing new AT&T products & announcements, esp. in the computer & data networking area. AT&T seems to be progressing in getting some product lines together & in getting more respect. Let it continue! AT&T is doing more w. Novell & other main players for compatibility &/or connectivity-- filling the gap, I hope, that David has previously noted. Among other things, I'm getting familiar with computer support products for the disabled.

Happy Fourth to all! Laura & Daniel just watched a few TV specials & became quite conscious of the Chinese massacre & suppression. Laura fasted a day for the Chinese. I don't think we're as aware of similar spirited people's movements throughout Soviet territories & satellites. There's no foreign press there to report and dramatize. Nor is there in China any longer. Freedom rings for but a very few. Let freedom ring!

Hi, Mom! I'll type and mail the genealogy tomorrow and get it to you. I mailed this letter to all separately. But will you send the genealogy in the Fed Ex. Coming TOMORROW!

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