

March Hallmanack: March 9, 1989

Dear Family:

Thanks, Virginia, for telling us about Barry's Birthday present to you. I agree. A neat Guy. A birthday you will remember for a long time.

I guess the sorriest I feel for anyone in the shooting accident is the young brother whose gun went off. Even though it was an accident, it will be a hard thing for him to forget.

And thanks, Charlotte, for sharing Hannah's birthday with us. Two more of our Grandchildren will be baptized this year. Anthony was baptized the 4th of March and confirmed the 5th. By his father, both times.

And Jonathan will soon be baptized, too. (BD 4th of May) A great day for those two, and we congratulate them on good decisions made and to be made. One thing to remember, you fathers. It is important to your children that their fathers be the one to baptize them. When David was approaching eight, the branch president in Schenectady approached Tracy and asked that a Priest be allowed to have the experience of baptizing David. Tracy reluctantly agreed. He should have refused. Although he confirmed David, David has never forgotten that his father didn't baptize him. If it's any consolation, David, the boy who baptized you is the only one still active in the church out of a family of Caulford boys. He lives up in the Huntsville area, and has a large family. I don't know whether his baptizing David had anything to do with his remaining active, but it could have. Anyway, tell the Bishop to tell the Priest he will get his turn when he baptizes his own or his own converts on a mission. Children are very sensitive to their Father's Priesthood, and at 8 enjoy the "security" of having their father perform the ordinance. Another route might have been to leave the decision up to David.

Dan was operated on today. When Sherlene called he was still in the recovery room, and the surgeon had said that he felt good about the operation. He is going to have a rough time for a month or so, however, but we hope that after that he will fall under the 90% success figure they quote.

The family is falling apart, physically. We have a partner's meeting the first Monday of every month at the Tulip Cottage. Dad had been engrossed in Press design all day, and I told him I would probably not be back until about 7:30 or so. We had just started the meeting when the phone rang and it was Tracy saying that something was wrong with his good eye, and he was going down to Oak's office. It turned out that he couldn't get the other car started, so Jens Jonsson took him down. I turned the meeting over to the other gals, and went home. I got into Dr. Oak's office just as he was examining Tracy. He couldn't find a tear in the retina, but told Tracy he would feel better about it if he went to S.L. the next day and got a second opinion.

Tracy had previously been examined by two Dr's in S.L. over retinal problems, and elected to go to Dr. Goodart. They gave us an appointment for 1:30. After a thorough exam of the right eye (his formerly good one) he did find a tear, and right then and there in about 15 minutes he used the Lazer to "sew" the tear to the back of the eyeball. In two weeks or so scar tissue will form and then he won't have to be so careful. A jar or a blow or a fall could jar things loose. He can look at TV, but he can't read. Reading involves rapid movement of the eye, and that is not so good. I am trying to twist his arm into using the tape recorder and doing some short "remembrances" of experiences

for his family history. Our trip to the tool show in LA will have to be postponed, and there are no great amount of tears being shed over that. However, I did plan to pick up a couple of new orchids. Rats.

We have had such a cold winter that our fuel bills have been horendous. During the really subzero weather, Tracy opened the registers in the basement of the Tulip Cottage, to prevent freezing of pipes. The fuel bill doubled this month. Our fuel bill has been high at home, here, too. we usually keep both the upstairs and downstairs warm, and the greenhouse adds to the costs considerably. Anyone want to take over a greenhouse and a collection of orchids?

Enclosed are the copies of the Hallmanacks submitted this month. Conspicuously missing are the HT Jrs, the Bartholomews (we forgive you, you've had more important things on your mind) the Mechams, and the DR Halls. Some of you older Hall grandchildren might consider filling the gap there. Daniel (Thank you, Daniel) called me after he got my long sermonizing letter last month. He said he was just about to tell his Mother, "Grandmother says you should choose carefully, as you have to do what you choose as a profession for a lot of years, so choose something you just love." and then a page later I shot him down when I said there are some pursuits which should be relegated to "avocations" instead of "vocations", one of which was his love, Art. Rats.

We laughed, but I said, well, you should have learned that from the Bartholomew side of the family. What is your Uncle Ralph (who was good at Art) doing for a living now? And is that how you want to earn your living?
(Cleaning Carpets).

It can be done, however. You remember Jim Taylor? He's earning his living at Art. There is a woman in our ward, Jeanne Clark, who left an abusive husband after 25 years of marriage, packed up, moved into our ward, and finished her education in Art. However, in the process, she prepared herself to teach art--just in case. She has been quite successful, but her bread and butter is teaching Art at the Y.

Thanks for your letters. We love them. Also your telephone calls.
Love, Grandmother.