

March 30, 1975

Dear family,

I wanted to write and tell you that everything is going well with our house. We can't remember who we have told about the house we are buying and who we haven't. Just for the record, we are in the process of buying a home here in Princeton; the closing date is May 20. It has taken an entire month since we made our offer to have it accepted by the owner and his lawyer and get the OK on a mortgage. The house is a three bedroom rancher with an unfinished basement and sits on a lot that is one and a quarter acres. The home is six years old but looks brand new. The owner who built the house is a bachelor and has lived there all by himself all this time. He had originally built the house for his father who died soon after it was completed. The home is in a very nice neighborhood, most of the homes around it are \$125,000 homes. We will be out in the country, or the woods I should say. Across the street from our front lawn rises a tall thick forest and our back lawn slopes down to a small stream and a forest rises in back of it. There's a herd of deer who feed on our lot occasionally, there's a salt lick and some sort of a feeder in the back. The home comes ready to move into. The kitchen has all the appliances including a good dishwasher, all the drapes are included also. Last week we went over to make arrangements to buy his washer and dryer and some industrial shelving he has in the basement for our food storage. The home has a fireplace and central airconditioning - actually much more than I ever dreamed of getting in our first home. Anyways we are very happy about it. It seems like when things happen to us they happen to us all at once. Last week I got a call from David at work asking me how I would like to move to South Africa in sixteen months since he had just accepted a job with the company down there for a couple of years. I had told him before that South Africa (Johannesburg, that is, not the jungle) would be a nice place to live. Ingersoll-Rand has a contract with a gold mining company in Johannesburg. David will work on the design of the equipment here at the research center in Princeton and when that is completed, the deadline is 16 months from now. David will go down with it as a representative of IR to supervise part of the project from there and stay until it is completed. David got his shots and passport last week and will be flying down a week from today to receive some orientation on the project. I understand it's a 17 hour flight one way to Johannesburg. There is always the possibility that something may happen to prevent us from going but we are reasonably sure things will go as planned. You may wonder what we plan on doing about the house we are buying. The only thing we have decided at this point is to go through with the purchase and then we can sell it when we leave or rent it till we get back. We are really looking forward to spending some vacation time in Utah. I will be flying out with the two kids on June 14 and David will come a little later - he can't miss too much

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school. Stephen is finally walking and going through a really cute stage, although he definitely has the Langford temper. Stephen has definite opinions on what he wants and what he doesn't want and when he gets mad he really gets mad. He went through about ten days of head banging. If he got mad or frustrated about any little thing he would get on his hands and knees and bang his head on the floor. His forehead developed a sore that would bleed everytime he banged it - thank heavens he gave that up - the head banging that is; he still has the temper. Mark is learning to talk - his pronunciation isn't too hot but he tries to make sentences. Mark is an avid Sesame Street fan and sits on a chair in front of the TV the entire hour it is on, he also likes to draw and likes to read library books (not really read of course, we don't have a child genius here yet anyway). People in the ward are beginning to mistake Mark for Stephen and vice versus. Of course we think they still look very different and they are not exactly the same size but you can see for yourself in June. I'd better close Stephen just woke up. Anyways I think that's about all the news we have.

Love,

Karen

P.S. Mark & Stephen wore those little matching suits you had sent them for Christmas. I had made them little white pullovers to wear with them & they sure looked cute.

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