

A collection of letters
written to Lucile McDonald

Introduction

In 1999, Kathleen McDonald and Carolyn Shipp were cleaning up Lucile McDonald's basement when they stumbled upon a bundle of letters that had been kept over the years. These letters were in remarkable shape considering the age and the fact that they were bound by a rubber band. Some of the letters are one hundred years old. I took all the original letters and photocopied them so that I could begin the process of transcribing them to preserve them.

I spent several weeks going through the letters, trying to fit them into some type of chronological order while Danielle and I were in Stockholm, Sweden. During my spare time I began typing the letters up. The purpose of this project was to show what was going on during Lucile's life. Letters are some of the most important clues as to what the economic conditions were. In any case, it is my hope that these next forty pages

will be useful for generations to come as I present these to Lucile McDonald on her 92nd birthday.

Jason Sheen
June 23, 2001

These are three letters written by Amos Merrill to Eliza Drysdale. Two of them were still in their original envelopes, marked simply to Eliza Drysdale in Logan, Cache Co., Utah.

Richmond 26 Feb 1900

My dearest one:

It is now 10 o'clock and you know dearest I am rather tired after my days work is done. I am still working in the creamery and it is possible I shall continue there most of the time from now on if not every day. I am to be employed permanently with the company in a few days but as yet my place of labor is not definitely decided. It will either be as the CVD on at Bear River Station just a short distance from Cannon station.

I shall tell you more about I when I come to Logan to see my sweet one. You can't tell dear how lonely I was when you left. If I should you would come I would ask you to come again but you will want me to come to Logan first anyway. I hope you are well dear. Ma told me you went so well when you left but I do hope you are much better now.

I was over to Trenton with Pa yesterday after noon preaching in the "White Star" In the evening I had to fill an appointment at Richmond so you see my dear girl I was quite busy. I didn't have very much time to think my loved one.

I shall be down Saturday if nothing prevents. I don't know which train I will come on. The early one if possible but at any rate the night train. I am longing to see you. My face is much better and will be quite well by the time you see me again.

So write me darling so I may know how you are. Regards to all, Best love to you,
From Yours Lovingly Amos.

Richmond 7 Mar 1900

Miss Eliza Drysdale
My Dearest Liza

There are a few things I want to say to you tonight, Love, and I want to say them in loving-earnest. Yours of the 5 came to hand this morning. I noted the contents carefully but not with pleasure. Indeed I have been sad all day our on account of them. Four years of trusting loving kindness. Well you wrote it my dear but you did not know what you wrote, neither did you consider the effect. You told me you would never consent to live in certain places. What spirit whispers to you that Amos would not do his very best under any circumstances to secure you a place in which you would be contented and happy. What spirit whispered to you that wanted to see you live in a lonesome place if I could possibly do better! Will you not consent to accept the best I can do for you? If not, God pity us both! Darling I am sorry you wrote such a letter. Even the spirit of it was unkind but I am not angry and although you thought about many thing you dear did not think of our thing from my point of view. My dear if you and I direct our own affairs we will be contented happy and under the blessing of the Lord we will have a nice home in a desirable place some time but if others direct us we will tread on trouble. This my dear Liza we are determined to do so may the Lord help us.

Now Liza my sweet one if the contented of this wounds apply the healing balm of love that flows my soul ten fold tonight and you shall be healed. This tardy pen will not-can not express half my love for you . My heart is willing and my hand is ready to bestow every possible comfort within my power to bestow and I ask you darling to trust me and do not say " I will not" to the best I can do but feel to say I am willing to help him to whom I have pledged my love along the path way of life that both his and my burdens may be lighter. Be our lots cast where kind providence may please to cast it my presence will be sunshine to our home. Liza I am pretty well still at work. I am not employed permanently yet. Things have so developed that I do not anticipate living at B.R. station but prospects are now we shall be wanted to live at the house at the dairy. There is nothing sure about it however. If I work in the dairy it will be one of the most desirable places in Richmond to live. I still have this much confidence in you dear that if the company wants to arrange definitely with me I shall act on my best judgment do the best I can and feel assured that you will be willing to stand by my side. I do not know when I shall be to see you I received my home mission appointment today and I must do my duty to the Lord. We are invited to a wedding reception next Wednesday night at Miary Hendricks. I have thought but little about it. If you feel to come up and go I shall be delighted to go and more delighted to see you. I almost feel you had better come but act as you feel and let me know by letter which dear don't be long in writing to me.

It is now bedtime and I feel quite tired so will say goodnight. May the lord bless you. From your loving one, Amos.

P.S.Thursday 8th

My dear I am feeling very well this morning. I am now at the dairy. Ma is not at all well. I am going to Lewiston this afternoon to attend a funeral of James little one Went to a Democratic rally last night and heard King. Trusting love that you are well I remained devotedly your loving one. Amos. Write soon.

Richmond 28 Mar 1900

Miss Eliza Drysdale,
My Dearest Liza

Yours of yesterday reached me this evening. To be sure I was truly pleased to hear from my loved one again and to learn that you were well. And so you are expecting me next Saturday are you dear, and you may too for I assure you I shall be there if all be well. It seems such a long time since I was down and yet it is just over a week. Not quite so long as two and a half years. My dear it almost makes me sigh to think of that time of our separation but as I was just remarking to ma, it seems like a dream. Thanks the Lord we are as near each other as we are and can see each other as often as we can. It's a happy privilege. I appreciate I assure you dear.

Well Liza dear I have my work arranged for the year. I once thought I would work in the main dairy but one of our men quit his work which was at the Bear River station and it is desired that I take the running of that station. We are to hire at the dairy where Edgar used to live. Alma is going to have the house nicely fixed up for us and the summer kitchen moved more conveniently and things will be very comfortable and nice. The job will be an easy one. During the summer months I will have to be off rather early but I shall return about 2 or 3 in the afternoon. There is not so much about it and more money in it as well. I am sure dear you will like the place a lot better than you think you will for I assure you, you won't be lonesome there. Our house will be vacated next week and they will be very glad when we get settled there. To tell the truth my dearest I will be glad after I feel very unsettled now. It is almost a punishment to be parted from you. My wandering spirit seems to stay with me as you very well know but I always feel the most contented when you are by my side. Both of us will feel ten times more contented in our intended station of life.

Well now dear if I say too much in the letter I won't have anything left to say when I come down so I must say something also. I am well. All the folks also are quite well. I think we won't have our theater for it is getting so late or if they do I have made up my mind not to take part. I have got something also, to think of and plenty also to do. I can't tell you just what time I will arrive in Logan Saturday. It is possible I shall land about 7 o'clock. Do you want to get up early again Monday morning? If not I'll return Sunday evening. I will anyway if you will come with me.

Now I must close. Give my regards to all. Accept as you often have my best best love which is increasing. I am yours. Lovingly, Amos.

These were letters from Eliza Drysdale and Amos Merrill to Lucile Merrill McDonald and Melvin McDonald. Unfortunately, there was no date on most of them so the order might be mixed up a little.

Provo, Monday night

Dear Lucile, Mel and Baby

Hope you are all fine. We are anxiously waiting to hear how you and the baby are feeling. We have thought of you many times today. I would give a great deal to be close enough to see you every day. I would be so happy if I could just step into your room for 10 minutes every afternoon.

Do not worry over any thing and keep cheerful and happy. Your baby is a little dear. He will gain in weight fast when he gets plenty to eat. I just called Mrs. Brimhall and Joy. They were thrilled to hear about your baby. They both sent their love. We are all well tonight. I am enjoying school. The weather is so beautiful. I would like to stay outside all day. It is getting late so I will say good night dear. Hurry and get well and strong. We all join in sending our love. Sina's address is 434 West- 120th St Apartment 1 M, New York City, New York.

Joys address is- Ferron, Utah.

Good night once more, your loving Mother.

* * * *

Thursday morning

Dear Lucile, Mel, and Family

So you finally received your letter! I learned about it yesterday when I received a letter from Alton. Just a shortcoming of an absent minded professor! The worst of it was you had almost come to think I had neglected you. Now if you even get such a thought into your mind that would be bad. Pressure of circumstances may cause a delay in

writing but no pressure of circumstances can ever crowd out of my mind my dear sweet girl and all that she has meant and does now mean to me. Nothing could be more lovely than to sit in my reflections and recall the many happy moments incident to our associations from your earliest childhood to this very moment.

Saturday morning Josephine and I took the flowers out to the cemetery and placed them on the graves. After we got them all arranged it certainly added a touch of beauty. You would have been pleased to have seen them.

We hope you had an enjoyable trip to Heber.

We are still pondering our journey to L.A. It is so lovely that you are going. We got a letter from Lyman yesterday and he is expecting most of us. I wish you would write Vernon and impress upon him the importance of going. I am sure there is no very valid reason why he can not arrange to go. It would mean only a week end trip. Also David: If we let Lyman down this time I fear he will not be interested in our Father's Day get together in the future. And we must not let this our plan and program fall through.

Josephine and I want to go a few days early. She must be concerned about her place in Parowan and to make a visit to Rulon and family or we can drive our car right through to L.A. and make our visit on our return. In this event it would be delightful to have you with us. We could all return to Las Vegas and in case you would be anxious about getting home you could take bus at Las Vegas for Salt Lake City. If as you may remember we spoke to you about going you at Las Vegas and all go from there by bus to L.A. This arrangement would necessitate an all night journey from Salt Lake to Las Vegas. This last program would be the cheaper and much more enjoyable. Let us hear from you by return mail as to how you feel about it.

We are well- We all join in sending love

Lovingly Father

* * * *

Provo, Tue. Afternoon

Dear Daughter, Son, and Family

Your letter came just before dinner. It is lovely to think you are having week end partys and dinners. We are always happy to hear you are well and having a good time. We were glad to learn Dr. Sanders thought all was well with you. I will let you know when we can arrange for me to see him. He is sure a fine Dr and so very pleasant. I am sure David will enjoy his dinner with you he thinks his sister is about perfect. We enjoyed him and Leola and the children. It was a happy surprise.

We think there is a possibility that Alton and Dora might come up the week end. The next two Sundays I will have to be here. On the 10th the Farrer school is holding an exibel and I promised last year that I would give them a picture. I have got to be to their programme. The following Sun, April 14th, the Alice Luese Reynolds clubs are borrowing Mrs Amy Brown Lyman. They are also going to celebrate Miss Reynolds birthday. They will give a [unknown] and have a programme at the Joseph Smith building. On account of me being one of the Presidents I will have to be there so if we come up it will be a Friday and we will have to return on Saturday. I will let you know which week we can come some time after conference week.

About the pennant dear, I have found a lady here that will give me the same kind of cold wave that Wanda did for \$7.50. She has worked in a beauty shop for 10 years. She is married and gives the waves in her house like Wanda did. 3 or 4 of my art friend goes to her and they say she is very fine. I am glad you have found some one as good as Wanda. Thanks dear for all your trouble. Your father has got three big classes he like his work. He got his new glasses on Monday they are very fine. I will get mine today. I found the ones I had 3 years ago so I am getting along fine today. I can read, write, and do any thing, it seems thee is not very much difference in vision as one gets older.

We are both feeling fine dear. We love you so much we will be happy when we can see you again.

All our love
Mother and Father

Dear Lucille Mel and Family

Afton's address is Mrs. Richard L. Smith, 821 East 7 N, Provo, Utah (mother forgot to add this to her letter).

Provo, Utah

We are all fine today. We were delighted to get your letter which came today. You seem to be having a good time. Fine! Good while young! We are just on our way downtown. There is an art exhibit mother desires to see. Art as you may surmise is her fine happy. And how lovely it is that she enjoys it so much. She never lacks for employment. We hope you all keep well and happy. With love, Father.

* * * *

Provo, Thur morning

My Dear Daughter, Son, and Family

We were very sorry we were not home yesterday when Mel called. We went to Sister Newels funeral. Your father was the main speaker. They had a lovely service. Sister Newell was a full sister to Reed Smoote. We have written to Lyman about having our reception on the 16th and have made arrangements to changed the date we will tell you what Lyman says as soon as we hear from you. I believe I told you in my last letter that we had written to him. I think they will be pleased so the boys can come.

We are both fine this morning. We are getting sporty, we will go to the Opera tonight and to a wedding reception on Friday night to a dinner Saturday night and to the Shakespeare plays March 8th. We hope you are all fine dear. We will probably come up the end of next week if we can. We seem to be very busy people. We love you so much we can't stay away to long. Keep well and happy all our love Mother and Father

I heard from Aunt Beth, hope she is better and can soon go to work.

Dear Lucile and Family

I hope you are enjoying the pleasant sunshine that we have here. No doubt you have the same sun shining in Salt Lake that we have in Provo. I am feeling quite myself again this morning after a severe stomach trouble. I should have known better than to bring it on but sometimes one gets into a situation where there is no escape.

We were sorry we did not get to see Mel. I always try to respond to invitations to be at funerals. We saw Reed Smoot The same Smoot he always was- only a little more so. A good father none the less. We hope you are all well. With love, Father

* * * *

Tues afternoon

My Darling Daughter, Son, and children.

It seems like I have just awakened from a beautiful dream having you with us for two night and a day. Every minute we were with you have us untold joy and great happiness. Hurry and come again dear. We hope the trip home was pleasant and the dear children have recovered from their colds.

I have just now been able to contact the Dr. about the prescriptions. He said he would phone the Drug Store and ask them to let me have the prescriptions filled. He probably will not do it until evening. I will phone down as soon as the Dr. gets in contact with the drugstore and have them sent up. We may not be able to get the medicine off until in the morning.

We had a lovely letter from Lyman yesterday. He was sure thrilled to received your letter. I will enclose the first paragraph so you can read it. I would enclose all the letter but it would be too thick. I am not going to town, will let the mailman pick it up.

Your father is eating dinner up at the University today. Some of the Authorities are coming down. We were sorry Melvin left his doll. It is quite large to send by mail, but I can do so if you think the baby will miss it too much. You need not worry about the washing anymore dear. Your father had the washing all done, the floor moped and both rooms vacuumed before 10 o'clock this morning so I have had about 2 hours to paint, read, write or sew before getting dinner. Your father will write next time, he will not be here before the mailman comes.

We heard from Alton. Dora's sister is getting better, so they are quite relieved. We were so happy you could come to see us, we will be more contented now and if we don't have enough gas we will probably come up on the Orem in about 3 or 4 weeks.

Do take care of your dear self. I worry about the condition on your hands and foot. It is caused by overtaxing your nerves, that is what the Dr said. You are probably not working as hard as you have done at the mortuary but it is the constant hurrying and worrying. I think you had ought to sleep a lot dear and probably it would be better not to take any more lessons for a while. Keep well and happy. Hope your cough and hoarseness is all gone. We are fine. All our love, Mother and Father

We use the little table so much, your father thinks we had better not but any ornaments on it. It is not necessary to buy any presents dear, forget it.

* * * *

Provo, March 18, 1940

Dear Lucille, Mel and children

We were thrilled to get your letter. It is the first time we have head from you since we left five weeks today. It surely seems a long time since we saw our dear children. David has not written to us yet. We were happy to hear you were all well and so was David's family. We are glad David has a nice job and is happy with it. It will be 3 weeks tomorrow since we came to Provo. We are enjoying the lovely cool weather and your father is enjoying his teaching. He spoke o the Kiwanis club tonight. They treated him fine and gave him his dinner. I am enclosing a paper they gave him. I was pleased to hear you going to Ogden and seeing Aunt Lydia. I surely would have liked to hear you play it is so long since you played for us.

We will be happy to hear from you often dear. Just a card saying you are all well will be fine.

Alton got a card from Dr West yesterday telling him they have decided to send him to Menessa Colorado to teach in place of Payson. That will be a long ways from home, 500 miles. The altitude is 7000 feet. Plenty high. I am sorry he will be so far away. The man that is teaching thee want to move the high altitude does not agree with his wife. I am sure dear that I did not send you enough money for the raspberry jam. You put up such a lot. I will settle with you when we get home. We are thinking of going by way of Menessa on our way home and see about Altons job and arranging for a house. Zella was the first one to write to use we were sure surprised. I hope dear that you are not working too hard during the hot days, playing, doing house work and picking up fruit seems a big order. I hope your hay fever will soon clear up. I am feeling grand. I think this low altitude is wonderful. One does not get tired like the do home. I am going to write to Aunt Lydia so dear I will say good night. With all our love, Mother.

If the weather is fine we will got to Bar Harbor on Sat or Sun.

* * * *

Thurs evening

Dear Lucile, Mel, and family

We were happy today to get your letter and learn that Melvin was better and the rest of you were fine. We went to Elinor Millics daughters funeral. It was a very unusual accident. It seems too bad one has to die so young. We were happy to hear you were having a good time dancing. We are planning on going to Parowan Saturday morning and will be back Monday. I have got a picture started for your birthday but will not be able to get it finished for probably a month. I have got some watercolor pictures to paint for the class, so I will do them some time the next month. We probably will not be back from Parowan in time to get a gift to you in the mail so am sending you a parcel today if it does not fit we will change it. We wish you many happy birthdays dear daughter. We love you so much we wish we could b with you. We will be thinking of you. We are both very find this morning. I am going to an art class tomorrow. I will not write any more until we come back. Take good care of your dear self. You dear little baby is very smart standing up all ready. We think you have got quiet a talented family. I must close now dear as I have some more letters to write.

All our love, Mother and Father

Dear Lucile

Congratulations on your birthday. May you have as many of them as your mother has had and 10 or more. We want to see you again soon. I'll need to see Wallen about my book soon.

With love, Father

* * * *

Heber, Oct 28

My dear children in Salt Lake

I think of you so much Lucile and do hope that you are getting along as well as any of us could expect. It is so hard when these deep sorrows come when one is in your condition, but I know you are brave, and do look at the beauty and the grand thing for Erma represented every thing that was sweet and good. I would have written you before but I have been in hopes we might be able to come to Salt Lake or you would feel able to come up. We enjoyed George's and Ellen's visit, she is such a dear little girl. Hope he got back in time for work. Lamar's California friend who came out deer hunting got their deer and went back as happy as two school boys. They were both near sixty one was over. I see by the paper this morning Edd Holt died. I should like very much to attend his funeral. We were great pals when we were young. Papa has not decided any thing about his beef. They are not all in yet. Papa's waiting to mail this. I have the little jackets done all but one sleeve on the pink one and I run out of the blue silk. I tired to get some here but could not. Here are some quilt patterns. I want to get some of them to make some baby quilts. I am sending them to you and then we can get some when I come down. Lots of love you all.

Mother and Dad

P.S. I have just got one card from Alda since she left

* * * *

Provo Wed morning

Dear Lucile, Mel, and family

Just a line before the mail man comes. We were happy to hear you were all fine. Alton and Dora came over Sunday night. Alton got his car all fixed and it was very reasonable. He is sure thrilled about it.

I am enclosed a \$1.00 bill. I wish dear you would get me 3 bars of palm olive soap. You could send them by mail. I will send some stamps for postage. I am painting every day and enjoying it immensely. It seems so good to be well again. I am still

thinking of the lovely visit we had with you. We are grateful that we have got such a wonderful daughter that brings so much joy into our lives. I am always so proud to show you off to my friends. Your beauty, talent, and charming personality always thrills me. As I often tell you dear they don't make girls like you anymore as perfect in every way as it is possible to be. We hope the dear children are fine and you will all keep well and happy. With all our love,

Mother and Father
Glad you are having an east week at the mortuary

* * * *

August 11, 1935

Dear Mel and Lucile

We are at Niagra seeing the falls. We will go to Palmyra this afternoon and on to New York tomorrow. Hope you are well, we are all fine. Keep well and happy
Love Mother

* * * *

Provo, Sunday night

Dear Lucile, Mel, and family

We enjoyed our short visit with you very much. We love you so much we can never see enough of you, or see you as often as we would like to. As we get older we love you more than we ever did if it is possible.

Your dear children are so precious, we wish we could see you all every day. The serum came from the Ogelvie yesterday so father will go down and see Dr Dow tomorrow. We hope it will cure up the infection so he will not have it any more. It has been very stormy and miserable today. I didn't go to church thought I would wait until it was better weather.

We heard from Alton, they were fine and he seems very happy with his church and school work. He has got his house painted and the seminary people have put some new floor covering on his kitchen. They are fixed up very fine now. I have got two more letters to write dear. We are fine tonight. Write often and don't work too hard. Your father says he thinks it is a good thing to let the Doctor see your finger often, he can tell if it is not improving as rapidly as it should and could probably tell you some thing more to do for it. Keep soaking it and exercising it often. Good night dear daughter.

Love to all, you mother and father

Good morning. This is Father writing advertising to you and all who read this letter that I love you. Mother is almost through her washing and I should be on my way to school. As I look out of the window I am impressed with the thought that winter is still here.

You speak about your finger. I think it would be well to keep in touch with the specialist. It seems to be returning to normal slowly but to hasten the return it would be well to have him keep a watch on it. I think the infection in my hand is better but still I have it with me.

The next time we go the Salt Lake City I hope we can stay with you longer. I think David will feel like we slighted him because being so near we did not call to see him. It's hard for us to take the punishment of not seeing your children but often we are governed by circumstances. Come and see us.

Loving Father

* * * *

Wed, before noon

My Darling Daughter and Family,

I am still thinking of your beautiful little daughter. I looked at her just before we left. She is just like a beautiful little doll. I hope that rash has gone and she will sleep

well at night. You looked so lovely dear it is wonderful to see you coming back to health. To see you recovering so rapidly from such a serious illness is nothing short of a miracle. We are grateful to our heavenly father every day. We were sorry we did not have time to stop and see Robert and Melvin. I go for my treatments at 1 o'clock. Keep getting better dear daughter. I want to thank you again for the beautiful crystal piece you gave me yesterday. It looks lovely in the center of the glass and the stopper bottle on the side. It makes a perfect trio. They are lovely. Thanks a million. Your father will write when I am at the Doctors and we will mail this letter hoping you will get it tomorrow before noon. All our love you our darling girl

Mother

Dear Lucile, Mel, and Children

As I remember I wrote you once today already. If you don't mind, however, I'll just confirm what I said this morning, namely I love you. That it seems to me is the most important thing of all.

We are having a very spring like day in Provo today- warm and pleasant. The forerunner of a storm I suppose. We want it to be fine part of next week for we want to drive up to see you again for an hour or two. In the meantime continue to improve every minute. The next thing you know you will be able to play your violin and I know that would be delightful.

Mother is feeling improved today. We hope she is on the best side of her trouble and that she will soon be normal. We rather expect both David and Alton to see us Saturday. Alton and Dora are likely to come if they come at all Friday night. Mother I am sure would like to do a lot of extra cooking but I am going to dissuade her. Rest is what she needs most.

Now the flowers are out of your room, I hope both you and baby are better. If you feel the slightest effect from them now it seems to me it would be well to discard them all together. The kind you have hanging on the wall are the best for you.

Get well and strong soon and keep happy, with much love

Father

* * * *

Provo, Sunday morning

Dear Lucile, Mel, and children

We were very happy dear to get your wonderful letter yesterday. Your letters always bring joy to us. You are like your father. You know just what to say and how to say it. We are glad you are happy with your father's appointment. He will probably have just as many meetings as he had. They phoned and wanted him at prayer circle and High Council meetings. There is going to be a fine concert in the ward tonight. The Madsons are putting it on. We went to the merchant of Venice last night at BYU; Morley took his part to perfection.

* * * *

Friday evening

Dear Lucile and Family

We are just ready to go to a basketball game at Provo High School. This is the first one this year. We care but little about them but being a board member it appears we should go occasionally. We got a nice letter from Alton today. They are enjoying life and all are well. He anticipates our visit to them which we want to make along in May. Three of our girls went home today for the week and it surely is different around here when they go away. We really enjoy them. Afton is all excited about getting married. She wants to get married as soon as the winter quarter classes end. And is she excited! You must have heard that David changed his job. From now on he is going to work for the state. I had some concern about his giving up teaching but he thought a good

opportunity preceded this and that he had advanced as far as he could where he was so he decided to change. In his new work he will be Keep well and happy, we are well.

Lovingly Father

* * * *

July 24, 1944

Dear Lucile, Mel, and Family

We had a house full of company all day yesterday. The girls came down Saturday night and spent yesterday with us. Dora and Alton came over Sunday morning and Dora got dinner and supper and relived me of all worries and responsibility. I sure did appreciate it. We had a nice visit with the girls, they helped with the dishes. Dora has been wonderful while I have sick. She won't let me do anything.

I read your letter to Alton and Dora. They appreciated the invitation but Alton has to work today. Everybody at the Steel plant is working. I have been wondering if your company came. Alton said he would try to get us to see you sometime before he starts school but he does not know just when.

Dr. Don Merrill has been here this morning visiting us. He wants me to go the hospital Thursday and Friday and have an ex Ray taken of my gall bladder and stomach. He wants to know just what caused the hemorrhage. We think it will be a good thing to do. I am feeling just wonderful the last few days. I feel I am back to normal health but I will not do any work for 2 more weeks.

Your father is having his beauty sleep just now and the mailman will probably be here before he gets up. Father and I are resting today and staying home. We are enjoying it. We are planning on going to Salt Lake one week from today after dinner and stay with you and might stay 2 days and then we will go out to David Wednesday night and stay with them 2 nights and 2 days and return home this weekend so we can be home for Sunday. Alton and Dora will only be here two or three more Sundays and then we will not see them for several months. Alton has to work quite late on Saturday so there is not enough time on Sunday to drive up and back the same day and have a good visit. Don't worry over the 36 Rays. The only thing that is worth the worry is the price but you won't worry over that either. We would love to see you all today. Hope you are having a nice time. We love you so much we can hardly wait to see you. With all our love. Mother and Father

I am writing to David also, our plans might change when we hear from him. We want to visit him when he is convalescent so he can help me paint. We will delay the vacation until he can help me it will repay me for time wasted which I have been sick.

* * * *

Monday, 3:50 PM, 1948

My darling daughter

I have just had two lovely experiences. A few minutes ago, your dear husband called in and told us all about you. When he told us just how ill you had been and that now you are better, our hearts went out in gratitude to our Heavenly Father for his loving care and concern for you and a prayer of Thanksgiving that all is as well with you as it is.

My second thrill was the reading of your letter which Mel brought with him. It was long and so lovely our pleasure was great as we read it. From it all it seems but a matter of a few days now and you will be home with your children with you. How I wish we could be near you I sure we could lighten your burdens and help you to regain more quickly your health and strength.

In my last letter I spoke out of my own experience. But my experience, up to the time of my sickness, was not of a nature that taught me wisdom adequate for my needs. Self preservation is the first law of nature. Now we both have had the experience, I am sure we will be inclined to observe more closely nature's first law. Yours is the compensation in knowing you were serving others and thus doing the will of the Father.

I assure you, sweetheart, all this willing service which you have rendered did not go unnoticed, nor was it forgotten by the forces of heaven in this your hour of need. Your friends by the hundreds say nothing of your loved ones, are yearning and praying of your deliverance. Your courage and faith never faltered. As a result, God intervened. His blessings, more vital supplements of the efforts of those who attended you and so to him and to them all praise and thanks that things with you are as well as they are. So may the Lord continue his blessings with you.

I have just taken mother for another treatment. She is now having both the manipulation and the heat treatment. The manipulation seems to be of a great help to her. The last one she had, last Friday, made her feel so much better that she could hardly wait till today. She is taking it now. I expect her to call almost any moment for me to come and get her. As for my self I am enjoying what seems to me perfect health. My stomach is fine, the old troubles had disappeared. I seem to have plenty of renewed vigor for my daily tasks. All in all, love, you see I am as good as new (almost). The old machine, you know, though thoroughly repaired is never quite as good as the new, though it runs satisfactory.

We got a letter from Alton today. Their baby has had the flu but was on the improve when he wrote. He expects to come up on Friday so that Dora may have some slight adjustment of her teeth. It seems from what he says, she is very happy with them. He thinks she looks quite as good with them as she did with her own. One thing he is especially pleased with, her smile is as sweet as ever. Of that he was quite worried. He loves her beauty and did not want anything to mar it.

Mel tells us you are in the midst of a flower garden. That's fine. That adds cheer and makes a contribution to your recovery. Now I think I had better close. You see I have left no place for your mother to write. And is she happy that things are as well with you as they are! Seeing Mel was a real thrill to her. When she gets to see your face and see you lovely smile she will be well right away. We'll be seeing you soon. With love and kisses, Lovingly Father.

* * * *

August 19??

Dear Daughter, Son, and Family

Lucile dear, I am feeling just grand this morning. I have had a fine nights rest. I did not have to take anything all night and my stomach feels perfectly normal. I won't have any more trouble now.

I am eating most everything and it does not give me any distress. I have had to toast, poached egg, strained our meal and milk for breakfast. Your father has gone to school but he washed the dishes made the beds and fixed very thing up before he left. We go to bed early and get up early. I am going to read a lot. I am normal again. I promise dear, I will never be unwise again and rest and be down when I am weary.

We went to Springville yesterday afternoon to see Dora and Alton for a little while. They have got a lovely location for their trailer under a big tree and there is grass all around. It was cool and lovely. They are only and 2 1/2 blocks from town. Dear do not worry about me I am sure I will never have another hemorrhage. I will heed the warning when my stomach does not act just right. I will start dieting and taking medicine. In another week I am sure I will be as well as I ever was but from now on I will rest a lot and be careful.

There is only two more weeks of summer school. Your father feels fine but he will be glad when it is finished. The girls, Harriet and Afton wrote yesterday and said they were coming down o see us this weekend. I wrote back and told them I had been sick and for them not to come until several weeks had passed and I was able to cook them some nice meals. It is lovely and cool this morning the weather is beautiful.

I will probably only send you a card tomorrow, mostly cards from now on.

Write often dear, All our love, Mother and Father.

* * * *

Saturday morning Pre-1940

Dear Lucile and Family

On Wednesday afternoon, it is our intention to pass through Salt Lake City on our way to a place near Brigham. If arrangements can be made I should like to call at the office of Dr Roland Merrill and have him examine my eyes, ears, and nose in an attempt to locate a little trouble that seems to be there. What I would like you to do is to call him and tell him what I want and make an appointment for me at 3:30 Wednesday afternoon. Then, after talking with him, you can write me so that I can adjust to his time of the 3:30 period. We expect to stay in the City but a short time. We want to call at David' on our way out. On our way back we shall have no time to call either at your house or Davids unless mother stays at one of the places which probably she may do.

We are all going along nicely with plenty of work to do. Mama is feeling much better than when you left. Of course we are anxious about you and will be pleased to learn of your safe delivery.

With love and kisses Lovingly father. (over)

Dear Lucile and family

When we get to Salt Lake I will go to your place at once and visit with you until your father gets his business done. There will be six of us in the car, 2 entertainers, Alton and his girlfriend. It will be quite late when your father gets through with his meeting so he thinks it would be better for me to go one with them and we will not have to stop in Salt Lake the way back. He has to teach school the next day so we had better get home as soon as we can after the meeting. It will be quite a long drive and late. Do no prepare anything for us. We will take it with us because it will be too earl for us to eat before we leave Salt Lake and we don't know what the accommodations will be in the town where we are going. We will stop and say hello to David for a few minutes and will go on. Hope you are fine dear. We will be very happy to see you if it is only a couple of hours. Probably it will only be for one hour. It will seem grand if it is only for an hour or so.

Wish you could go with us but of course it would be very unwise to every think of it so crowded. I wish there was only one entertainer going there we would have plenty of room. Keep well and happy dear. We are thinking of you all the time. Love the dear baby for us. With all our love, Mother

* * * *

Provo, October 1, 1944

Dearest Daughter, Son, and Family

We are always happy to hear from you and learn the you are all fine. It sounded good when you had such a few funerals last week. You are a dear to want to give your mother a birthday dinner but it will be impossible for us to come to Salt Lake this time. Your father has just a little gas hand he has to save it to go up on the hill and to town where have to go. Two gallons a week does not take one very far. It would take nearly all the gas we get in a month. Do not feel bad about it dear. We will have a good time and go to a show and have an extra good dinner. There is a lot of sentiment with you dear daughter and we appreciate it and your wonderful thoughtfulness when we have a birthday but in war time restrictions we can't do as we would like to. We love you so much we would like to come and see you very often but we will have to wait until the terrible war is over. We are truly grateful for everything and the many wonderful blessings we have. We will try to be very happy. Just thinking about you on my birthday. I do appreciate you getting my paints in Salt Lake. They arrived yesterday and were just what I wanted. Thanks so much dear.

We had some bad stormy weather last night and yesterday but it is clear this morning. Guess you had some rain also.

Afton has not come from Arizona yet guess she will be here today. We had a nice programme at the Y Friday night. We were supposed to go up the Canyon to a turkey dinner last night but it was so stormy we did not go. It would have cost us \$3.00. You are fortunate dear to have such nice paying jobs on the side, it comes in handy when you want a little extra luxury.

I want you to be sure and get better tomorrow morning so you will not be disappointed and prepare anything for my birthday. You will make us happy if you do not think about it and forget it. You are so wonderful we appreciate your thoughtfulness and the many good things you do for us. Write often and keep well. With all our love, Mother and Father.

* * * *

Provo, Friday afternoon

Dear Daughter Son and Family. I have just got back from the hospital. I had a X ray pictures taken of my gaul bladder yesterday morning and this morning at 8 o'clock I had pictures taken of my stomach. The pictures have to be sent to Salt Lake so I will not get a report of conditions until about next Wednesday. I am quite sure that with my gaul bladder and the ulcer in my stomach caused the bleeding. I think there was no need of X Rays but Dr Don though it best to find the cause of the hemorrhage. I am feeling fine and have not had any pain or trouble with my stomach for several days so I feel I am all well. I am thrilled to hear Dr. Earl Philipps is going to take the children's tonsils out you will have a nice job done and they will get along fine. I wish David could have had him take care of his. I believe he has got a good Dr a plastic surgeon.

I guess David and Lola are up on top of Timp not I hope they will get along fine. Dora and Alton will spend Sunday with us. The Bishop wants Alton to speak in church Sunday night. We are fine, Hope the children recover rapidly. Let us hear about them often. All our love, Mother and Father.

* * * *

Sunday evening.

Darling daughter, Son, and family

You will never know dear how much we miss you after being with you for 2 weeks. It was so wonderful to be with you and see you every day. We learn to love your dear children so much when we are with them.

DaCosta and his family came to see us for a short time before evening meeting started. Dr. Don and his wife came this evening and stayed about 2 hours. We had a very nice visit with them. They have just left.

Your father is feeling better every day. He had a fine rest last night. We did not get up until 9 o'clock this morning. We are living a life of leisure. We took baths, changed beds and I washed what few things were dirty yesterday, so I will not need to wash this coming week. I wish dear you could be with us and sleep until 9 o'clock every morning and have a good rest.

I have been thinking about you a lot dear since I got home. You get so weary and are working and doing too much. Nature is warning you so please slow down or you will have some serious nerve trouble. If you could have some school girl come after school and clean your house and get your supper ready, and the children to bed a couple of hours help a day would greatly relieve your burdens and you would have time to rest and you would not be so weary. Your father thinks you can't do so much very much longer without having trouble and your health impaired. We appreciate you sending the lovely steaks, thanks so much. You should only have sent us a special piece you are too generous. It is very cold tonight. We are happy we have got a good furnace. We are getting along fine your father is enjoying his meals and the grand steak and he is sleeping better.

It is time I was in bed. Love to all, Your loving Mother and Father.

Dear Lucile

I suppose you are anxious concerning my welfare. I am gradually getting back to normal health, Mother looks after me with great care indeed. She David got us home in good time and in good condition. Keep well and happy and don't worry to much. With love, Father

* * * *

Provo, Friday morning

We are sorry we can't go to Caroline's dance review but the wedding reception we are invited to is one of your father's students. She would feel badly if we didn't go. I know Caroline will do well. We heard from Lyman yesterday We have decided to have our reception on April 16th. We have made definite arrangements for that date. Mr Berg said from 2 to 5 PM would be the best for them. Your father has gone to school he will make arrangements with Mrs Headquist for the serving. She furnishes every thing for \$20.00 a hundred. Mrs Van Wagner said she thought hey had 400, we would probably have more on account of some of the students coming. We will make arrangement for our dinner at the University or at Suttores. We'll let you know the details where all the arrangement are made.

We are well hope you are all fine.

All our love, Mother and Father.

* * * *

Provo Tues night

My dear daughter and family

I was going to write you a long letter tonight but company came in so it is late so I can only write a note this time. Your father had a good nights rest last night and he is improving every day. The Doctor said today they must give his leg a treatment. Thursday and Saturday so he won't be up this weekend. We feel the violet ray treatments and what the Doctor is doing now is more important than anything else.

Wed morning

Your father has just come from his class and he walks fine this morning. He had a fine nights rest last night and did not have to treat his foot once, the first time since w were up to see you so we feel there is a great improvement. The treatment Dr Don is giving your father seems to be drying up the ulcers and causing the blood to circulate more freely. He will take a treatment tomorrow and on Saturday so that is why we will not come up this week and quite sure we will be up next weekend. The sun seems to shine brighter now that your father's foot is so much improved. I must write to David also dear and tell him we won't be up this week.

Tell Robert his baby pigeons are growing fine and we will bring them up next week. With all our love Mother and Father, write often.

My dear daughter Lucile and family

You must not be too concerned about my trouble I think now. My foot is slowly improving. This was surely an unexpected trouble. I hope out of it all we shall learn wisdom and patience. Keep well, lovingly Father.

* * * *

Tuesday evening

My Darling daughter

I have been waiting for your father to come from Board meeting. He has just read me your letter. You know now dear, why we did not come to see you sooner. To phone you everyday was the only comfort we could get when we could not see you.

We love you so much we could hardly endure the suspense, but I did not dare to let you see me when I was not well and had a lot of pain.

Dr. Don could not find a thing the matter with me only the bad rheumatic condition in the muscles of my arms, back, and chest. It caused plenty of pain about like bags. Thank goodness I found the right Doctor at the critical moment. I feel fine tonight. The trip made me feel fine because we were so housesick to see you. I have not got any soreness in my arms and . Occasionally the muscles in my back and chest hurt a little. I put on a hot pad and it all leaves. After I have another tomorrow I will be about as good as new. I will keep the treatments up as long as there is any trouble. I did not go to church Sunday, but I new the building was cold and though you would think I stayed home because it was unwise to go. I did not want to worry you in any way.

We sure suffered in our feeling more than you will ever know because I was sick and we could not see you. We hope and pray the weather will be fine so we can come to see you the forepart of the week. Alton and Dora will come after school Friday. They will get their teeth fixed Saturday and return to Parowan about Sunday before noon. It is a long tiresome ride with a baby.

We are so thrilled and overjoyed at seeing you look so fine. I am wondering if we will be able to quiet down and sleep. The Lord has sure been kind to us in preserving our darling girl. We love you so much I can't find words to tell you how precious you are. We are still thinking of your darling little daughter, she looks so fine and I am sure she is getting the best of care.

Do not worry about not seeing her for a few days, the time will soon pass and you will have an opportunity to love her all you want to. We are so happy we could not go to bed without writing you and will send your letter by air in the morning.

We'll let you know about my treatment after I come from the Doctor in the morning. Sleep well dear and keep happy. All our love, Mother.

* * * *

Provo, Tuesday Nov 1945

Dear Lucile, Mel, and Family

We were happy to learn today that you were all well and was so pleased with your coat. The reason dear, that it fits you so well is, because it was too tight around the hips for me. I think I am not very broad across the shoulders, but rather large around the hips, that is why it always felt too small and did not fit as it should from the waist down.

We are so happy it fits you and I know you will always feel dressed up and it looks so nice and will keep you warm.

No one in the world deserves it more than you dear. We are more than paid because it has made you happy. I will tell you all about my coat when I see you. I did not intend to get it when I went in the store. Mr. Lewis gave me the hat. I had my old one on and he said he would throw the hat in if we took the coat. I know you will like your permanent very much. Tell the lady that gave it to me that I think she is an expert.

We went to hear Grace Nickson Stewarts read her play. We were very disappointed. She can't read half as good as Leola. Will tell you about it when I see you. I think we will probably get up Friday night. Your father's meeting is at 10 o'clock Saturday morning. We have inquired about return tickets from California but we will have to wait until Friday probably Saturday before we can get any information.

Your father is at a board meeting tonight. We are going down to the Tabernacle tomorrow night. Mrs. Madsons chorus is giving a concert. Anything she puts on is always good.

Thursday night the Y is putting on a play so we will be stepping out. We are both fine dear. Your father will probably not have time to write in the morning before he goes to school but you can rest assured we love you very much and can hardly wait to see you. Our visit was so short last time. If you have any plans for Friday night, don't upset them,

we will have plenty of time for a nice visit anyway. If you have a party we would feel terrible if you did not go.

With all our love, Mother and Father.

* * * *

Provo, Thursday morning

My Darling Daughter, Son, and Family

I am feeling just wonderful this morning. Just as strong and well as I ever did. I feel perfectly normal but I am going to be a lady for one month and not do any work. I will go to bed whenever I feel the least bit weary. I went up to see Dr. Don yesterday he is home now. I know it did not do me any harm to ride up and back in the car. I am going to follow his advice on everything. He told me not to do any work for 1 month. I asked him all about my diet. I had a printed sheet telling me what diet I should follow. What to eat and what not to eat. I took it up to let Don see it he said it would be fine.

This morning for breakfast I had a poached egg, a slice of toast, a dish of cereal and a glass of milk. No one needs a better breakfast than that. For dinner I can have a baked potato[sic], steamed carrots, chicken, if I want it or fish, apple sauce, milk, and slice of toast. My meals from now on will be just the same as I have always had so dear do not worry about me not getting plenty to eat. I did not dare eat anything but custards, strained mush, and jello until I talked with Dr Don. The medicine that Dr Wolf gave me worked wonders. I did not have any more hemorrhage after I took it. The medicine for my stomach is very fine. I ate some strawberries without straining them and was not careful enough about my eating. I felt a distress and soreness for several days before I took sick. I should have gone on a soft diet and taken medicine as soon as I felt it but I felt it would be all right in a few days. I think I have learned my lesson about being careful and taking care of my self. I do not think I overworked, I just wasn't careful and did not take the warning when it came. I will watch my step from now on.

I told Dora and Alton that they could come and do their washing Saturday nights and come for Sunday dinners but they would have to cook it. Your father is a dear. He gets breakfast and does the work before he goes to his class. He is getting a real cook. I sit and tell him what to do. He keeps the house clean and lovely. He did the washing in an hour and manages what we have to have moved. He is feeling fine now. Will send you a card tomorrow. Don't worry darling I am stronger every day. I feel grand this morning. I go to bed whenever I feel the least bit tired. With all our love, Mother and Father.

* * * *

Tuesday morning

Dear Lucile, Mel, and Family

How lovely to have been with you if but for a short time. And your playing sweetheart was the talk of the crowd! Alton phoned us last evening. It seems likely the he will go with us. We made no arrangements, but this much seems certain. We will go on to Las Vegas. When we arrive in Parowan today we will come to arrangements. Be sure to stop at Parowan on your way to Los Angeles. It is just likely he may want to ride as far as Las Vegas with you. From there he will drive us into LA. In this way we will go right through with car instead of bus as we originally planned.

We are just ready to leave. Will be seeing you at Lyman's. We want to find you last evening after the meeting but failed to contact.

With much love, Father.

* * * *

Friday morning

My Dear daughter and family

I have only got a few minutes before the mailman comes but I know you are anxious about your father's condition. He went to the Dr again yesterday, he said his foot was very much better and I know it is because he can sleep all night the last two nights and does not need to dress it because it does not pain him. When it does pain a little he dresses it and it stops. It is not severe like it was, it is giving him less pain all the time. Dr. Don said he had a case last summer, very much worse than your fathers and the treatment cured it. We are very much encouraged because it is getting better every day. Do not worry any more about it.

Alton and his brother-in-law, Mr. Miller, that lost his wife Delsie, Doras sister, came to see us last night. They had been to Parowan and took the baby down for Don to take care of for a few months until Mr. Miller gets settled and can get some one to take care of his children. Mr. Miller's mother is living in Salt Lake and will take care of the 3 other children for a few month. Mr. Miller has sold his farm in Canada and will live in Salt lake and try to get work there or go into business. Vernon phoned last night to see how his father was. They are all well and getting along fine but very busy at the pool. I hope we can come up next week and we love you so much we are always anxious to see you. With all our love, Mother and Father.

* * * *

Monday afternoon (after year 1938)
My Darling daughter, son, and family

I must tell you dear how lovely the graves were on decoration. We took out a beautiful basket of flowers to Emma's grave and one to our baby's grave. DaCosta put several baskets on Erma's grave and Laura Gai put a lovely big jar of peories, iris, and snowballs on your baby's grave. There must have been 7 or 8 peories beside the other flowers. I thought it was sweet of Laura Gai to think about your baby. The girls left yesterday afternoon. Afton's father comes for their things and Afton told him to bring some more peories, so he bought two lovely bunches of pink and red peories. There must have been 4 dozen. We divided the flowers and put them on Emma's and your baby's grave. They sure looked lovely.

Alton and Dora came down Saturday afternoon. We had a nice visit until then and they stayed until last night until 5 o'clock and then we got supper and went to the Bacreloric services. It is the President's reception tomorrow. We will be up there in line from 3 o'clock until 4 o'clock. We will probably go to the banquet but I guess we will not know many. We are fine dear, it is about time for the mailman. I got a permanent on Thursday, it is sure curly, but I like it. We love you so much we can hardly wait for you to come down.

All keep well and Happy. With all our love, Mother and Father.

* * * *

Provo, Wed morning
Dear Lucile, Mel, and Family

We are all fine this morning. Your father has gone to the upper campus to register students. I am just getting ready to paint. I am going to try and get 2 rose picture finished by the end of the week so Milo Moddy can get his and then I want to start the oils so I many not write again until Sunday. The girls came back yesterday. They got disappointed on one girl she had to go home on account of the illness of her mother. They will try to locate another girl. We had a nice time on New Years. I roasted a chicken, made pies, and had a nice dinner. We wished you could all have been with us. I painted in the afternoon and your father fixed the children's table and chair. We enjoyed it. We hope you will have an opportunity to come down some time this month. We love you so much we get homesick to see you. Your father enjoyed his visit with you when he was up. I took your bracelets down to Mitchel. He said he would not be able to fix them for 3 weeks. They are so busy. I will check there toward the end of the month. Goodbye

for today dear. Hope you had a nice time on New Years, and will all keep well. Excuse the fancy cut in the paper. With all our love, Mother and Father.

I think my flower basket is lovely. Thanks again for it. I believe our beautiful fern is doing all right.

* * * *

Provo, Monday afternoon

Dear Daughter, son, and family

We are very fine today. I forgot to tell you dear, that DaCosta has not phoned or brought the collars. I believe he has gone fishing. He will probably bring them up as soon as he gets back. I know they will be lovely. I found the one that you gave me on Saturday. I am very happy with it. It is white and a lovely collar.

I also forgot to tell you about the meat also. We got another lamb before the points went out, that makes 2 lambs and a 1/2 of veal that we have got in the locker. We will not have to worry about points anymore.

I have got one hundred and fifty red stamps that are good now. We got 1/2 on Saturday so we are fixed up fine. We are going up to see Dr. Don for a little while today. He is out of danger now and everything going well for his speedy recovery. I feel as well today as I ever did, it is wonderful how soon people recover when they take care of themselves and rest. Goodbye for today dear. Will all our love, Mother and Father.

Father has a faculty meeting so can't write this time. Hope the darling children will keep well. Alton and Dora said they enjoyed their visit with you and Mel very much.

Various letters

January 1, 1944

Dear Lucile.

Happy New Year. Love DaCosta

Dear Ones in S.L.

I would have written you sooner. I thought maybe I could persuade Papa to come up, but I have finely got disgusted to even suggest it to him, so some one else will have to put the pressure on him if they get him to move out of Heber. So I will have to wait and come up with Alda and Geo. When they come. I am so happy to think that you have good help Lucile. Now do be careful and take care of yourself. We surely do miss Carolyn, we did enjoy her. She seemed so grown up, and she has such a sense of humor that she couldn't get homesick. With Grandpa and I, she could see something interesting most of the time. I bet she has lots to you about everything.

From Elizabeth Ann Thatcher

Viking Park, Utah
Sept, 1st 1933

Hello Lucile dear

If you are angry or hurt at me I don't blame you a little bit but please don't stay that way. To try and make up for the summer that is gone which is impossible, for you can't bring back. Yesterdays only in memory. So dear I will just try and be better.

We are still living in Vivian and I love my little cabin heaps. It is cold as winter nights and mornings but the days are lovely and we can sleep so much better up here. Pete went fishing this morning so he is still asleep. I am sitting up in the grass, there is a naughty little wind blowing so I can't keep my paper still so excuse the writing.

The mountain back of the cabin already the fall paint brushes have been bust and little patches of red and yellow and all shades of green to make me think that it

won't be long now. In fact just two weeks and I'll have been married a year. They say the first year is the hardest and I hope so for you see there are so many things to learn and try to understand that I ask myself why a dozen times a day. Lucile, I have been planning on coming up on my day off all summer so I could talk to you, as you can't write much in letters. But something else has come up and away the times went, however I'm still planning so keep hoping.

A little bird told me that a sweet little girl a very fine young man were going to have a "blessed event" in the home in the near future and my best love is with this happy couple. May God bless and keep you safe and see you through this well and happy is my prayer for though I haven't written or seen you to talk to Lucile, I have thought of you often and remembered you in my prayers. (You are a little sick dear and I only hope you are feeling well and everything will go okay. Mother was just saying yesterday what a lot she thought of you.

Josh, Zola, and Clyde were happy weren't they and I hope there always just like that. They got so many pretty things. Really it makes you want to get married all over again when you see such things as that going on, doesn't it.

All the club girls were going to the train to see them off with rice and old shoes and etc. But my courage failed me so I just went up to Clydes and had a little talk with Zola which made me feel better. Clyde was packing so when he got through I wished them both luck and said my good by right there.

Lucile, I bought me a very pretty new watch, and I have just about got it paid for, but you see there is so many places for money to go, so that is one reason I haven't been able to make it to the city yet and to I haven't been as well as I could just nerves I guess. I have had to take time off, am much better now though and so for little Melvin Jr., I am going to make a little gift and bring it as soon as I can. Love E.A.P.

31 March 1960

Dear Lucile

It is a blessing to know such people as you. I knew of your graciousness and talent from Papa, before I knew you. It was surely kind of you to play at the University West Stake Relief Society program and social on Tuesday. It would have been incomplete without you. Thank you.

May you be blessed for your sweetness and unselfishness in sharing your talents with other and bring joy to them.

Sincerely
?????

Miscellaneous letters

January 3, 1934

Dear Mel and Lucile

We were certainly happy to receive your lovely xmas card, especially the greeting in the back. We have wondered why you didn't answer our last letters, but we understand now how things have been.

We were very sorry to hear of your recent sorrow. It must indeed be a difficult adjustment to make—We were certainly shocked when we heard about it. Lucile, we just know how brave you will be; you always have so much courage and To understand aren't they? Just one of those things we can't see "why" they happen. But then is the time our religion seems so comforting. It gives us so much to live for and

makes it much easier to bear. But we do want you to know that we too feel your sorrow. I certainly wish we had known about it sooner. You must indeed feel that we are very thoughtless—but we hadn't heard about it.

How are you feeling Lucile? Take good care of yourself and get good and strong. We are both well now and everything seems much brighter. I was quite much better. It has been over 2 1/2 months since I was at work but I may go back the first of February. It seems so good though to be feeling well again.

We are certainly happy to know that Mel is doing so well in his work. He is so well qualified and ambitious that we know he will succeed. Jim has been working hard the past two months. He has been in the toy department during the "Xmas rush". It is a real rush in that department. He worked until two and three in the morning- but now it is all calm and quiet again. He is back in the silk department again. He is enjoying his work and is getting a very good experience.

We had a very enjoyable Xmas. Jim's brother Owen and wife are in New York this year. We have all take an apartment together. It made it great for Xmas. It is on such occasions that you feel a long way from home. We had a great time. We hope you had a merry xmas and wish to again extend our greetings to you for a very prosperous successful New Year. May it bring with it good health, peace, contentment and a clearer understanding of "why" your recent sorrow came about. May the New Year bring with it joy and happiness.

From ?????????

Panguitch
14 December 1941

Dear Mel and Lucile

Congratulations again. You should certainly feel proud of yourselves. I can hardly wait until I can see him. He arrived on LaMar's birthday didn't he? He come cery near coming on Carolyn's birthday too.

Who does he look like? How did you get along? I wish we were nearer so you could answer all the questions I would like to ask.

I wish I had it all over with but it makes you will feel like quite the family people. The McDonalds are certainly going in for boys this time. I guess Papa has been down to see him. I keep thinking how proud Mama would be. She was always so thankful and proud when your babies were here.

We probably won't be able to get to Salt Lake until after Christmas. George is lined up until the last minute, but if we can get away their might be a chance we will get there to spend a day before. School lets our Friday here.

As for our Christmas gifts, we would just as soon be surprised. If you haven't already purchased them, George is always pleased with tools about the only thing he has is a saw and a hammer, in fact we both like tools, because he is always making things for me.

George has already had one Christmas. The Adult Seminary had a surprise party and gave him a lovely traveling set. They made us feel so good.

I hope you are feeling fine by now Lucile, and your little son is doing well. I can hardly wait to hear what Carolyn and Robert think of it all.

Take good care of yourselves. I have wished so many times I was nearer, so I could have helped with your children. I hope we see you soon. Love ?????

April 29, 1957

Dear Lucile

There are times when I wonder why I should be so blessed to know such a talented lady, and one, too, with as many talented friends.

You see when I lie awake nights counting my blessings instead of sheep, you are among those that I am grateful for. The programs have been delightful and the year a most pleasant experience. Thanks for the role you played in making this experience possible.

Congratulations to you for being invited to be president. It carries with it many pleasant responsibilities.

Congratulations to the Mother's Club for leaving your talented services. I am ever as grateful to you and am happy for the privilege of working with. Best wishes for your success the coming year and with admiration for your ability.

Sincerely
Edna Faux

Dear Mrs MacDonald,

As a family we certainly appreciated your fine contribution to Mother's Service. We have admired your talent for many years and have been aware of your service to others.

May you ever find joy in the use of your divine talents.

Rhea and Earl Maw

Letters of condolence from the loss of Lucile and Melvin's first child, Amos Melvin McDonald

257 W 4 N
Provo, Utah
Oct. 13, 1933

Dear Lucile and Melvin,

We didn't know until we read in the paper last night of your disappointment and loss. A mere letter or words can't possible explain how sorry we are, but we did want to drop you a line to let you know we are thinking of you.

We came so close to losing our baby at first that we in a measure know how you feel, but what doesn't help to lift the sorrow any.

Lucile, dear, although it will be hard, make yourself get well and strong, and I am sure it will help to make you feel that perhaps, even though you can't understand it, there is and should be a purpose in such a loss. I know that the stronger you get the easier it will be for you and also Melvin.

With love
Hilma and Bertill

239 E Capitol St

Salt Lake City, 3, Utah
July 7, 1953

My dear Lucile

I have called on the phone twice and called at your home once since I read of the passing of your dear father. I knew that I would not have the opportunity of going to the funeral because of other commitments coming at the time but felt that I must talk to you. This will have to suffice now—this letter.

I first became acquainted with your father when I came home from my mission and he was the president of the returned missionary organization. He was so very kind to me and I learned to love him and his kindly smile. Later I took classes in education from him when I was training to teach and thus became acquainted with him in another capacity. I found him calm and serene and unruffled under all circumstances and in the years since have looked for his kindly greeting whenever I went back to the B.Y.U. I shall miss that greeting and that friend in future years and am sad today knowing that change must come and still resenting that change because it takes on from my dearly beloved. I am sure your father was proud of his family and it has been my delight to tell him several times of what a wonderful daughter he had in you and what service you rendered to the community. It must be a source of satisfaction to all of you to know that you have acquitted yourselves proudly in the eyes of your parents and I am sure they felt repaid for every sacrifice they made to educate you.

How wonderful that you could have them both with you for so long and how yearningly I have longed for my father at times during the twenty years he has been gone. May the Lord bless and comfort you, Lucile, and give you children obedient and loving to you as you have been to your dear parents.

We send our love, Brick and I.
Donna D. Sorensen

Wilma B. Bunker
1345 28th Street
Ogden, Utah
July 7, 1953

Dear Lucile

It is with a heavy heart that I write this to you. I can so easily put myself in your place and know how you feel at the loss of your dear Father. It is something none of us are ever prepared for but know that it is inevitable.

It must be a source of comfort to know how many lives he touched and had an influence for good upon them. He was a great teacher, and will. I am certain continue to inspire those those with whom he comes in contact over there.

Lucile dear, I hope my love for you as a very choice friend can help you through this difficult time. Be comforted because your Father is happy in the reunion with your Mother and Father and with Erma. May the blessings of heaven rest down upon you at this time.

Love, Wilma

May God bless you. May a comfort and console your aching heart. Is the prayer always so of your friend, Nelda.

711 South 13th East

Salt Lake City, Utah
July 7, 1953

Dear Lucille:

Twenty-eight years ago, at the "Y", I noted my name on the bulletin board to call long distance. My father was dead.

I left school and traveled home to Idaho 300 miles. Three weeks later I returned to school. In one class I asked to do make up work and take extra examinations- the request was refused. Another class was in similar condition. I went down a long hall to an office door and paused to read the name: Amos N. Merrill, Ph.D. Dean. As I read, his kindly voice invited me in and I explained my problem. Quickly I was told that all measures would be taken for me to do the make-up work and take an examination in his work. The requirements were met and I was happy and he seemed happy too.

Another memory. Day after day, as I climbed the long stairs to the art department for my 1:00 o'clock class and again at 4:00, I saw Dean Merrill's sweet little wife at her easel. Her first efforts seemed futile. I was one of many students who sympathetically glanced at her work and wondered why she persisted. Yet- she went on and on. Today the creations of this lovely woman grace the walls of many homes and public buildings in Utah, to bring everlasting joy to those who view her paintings.

Now, both she and he are gone on and are together again. As we grope about in our earth-life, it is well for us to ponder what people like them have done for us- for after all, we are the product of what others have given in our behalf.

Lucille, they are idle words that would remind you of the worth of yhe lives of your parents, because you know. But today, as we tearfully say "adieu" to your father, I am compelled to write this note and tell you how I loved them and you.

Raymond is in Washington D.C. and I am sure that he joins in my sentiments today.

Sincerely,
Esther

Salt Lake City
July 10, 1953

Dear Lucille

I hope you will excuse my delayed note. I wanted more than anything to go to your father's funeral. You may remember I did his steno work for a number of years and learned to regard him greatly. I used to even "cry on his shoulder" some and received comfort from his warm , sweet counsel.

I am sure with your understanding and faith you realize his going was a step we all take into a grand place, and you wouldn't want him to be back, but I also realize the void that will be in your life. I wanted to let you know your friends all are in sympathy with your heartache. I was responsible to meet my two nieces that very morning so I couldn't shift my responsibility to anyone here. I was so sorry to miss adding my presence to those of your friend who were there.

Sincerely,
Oa

Didn't know until yesterday of your Father's passing. Accept our sincere sympathy and Love. Al and Florence Ellett.

Dear Lucille

Bob and I were so sorry to hear of your Father's death. We know how close you were to him and how much respect and love you had for him and we do want you to know we are thinking of you in your bereavement. May the Lord bless you Lucille. Love Lillian and Bob.

God bless you all. Love and best wishes from Mrs Marl Corlett and family

Lucille

We felt so shocked to hear of your father's passing away. It is surely hard to have to accept such things but our religion surely helps us over that big worry. Thought perhaps you might like this extra clipping. Please accept our sincerest sympathy at this time. Delbert and Ardella Smedley.

We can truly sympathize Lucille, for we too, have had to part with our beloved parents and there is a void caused by their passing that is never filled, but, with our philosophy on life we are able to envision a time of reuniting with our loved ones and through such belief we are able to make what adjustments are necessary to make in this our stage of mortality.

Your dear parents- and I might say- your entire family have been very greatly loved by us- we have considered you an ideal family group. We shall treasure the memory of many fine friendly visits with your dear folks. We were always refreshed and encouraged when ever we chatted with them.

Your inheritance is something to be proud of- and you are carrying on some fine traditions. May the Lord comfort and bless you each and every day of your life. We are grateful for what the Merrill family means to us. Our love, Florence and Franklin Madsen.

July 20, 1953
Utah State Agricultural College
School of Commerce

Mrs. Lucille McDonald
Salt Lake City
Utah

Dear Lucille:

I just want to express to you and through you to other members of your family our sincere regret in the death of your father. I know he wasn't young, old in fact for a Merrill, but he didn't seem old. There was a definite air of youth about him. I honestly thought at the last reunion that he looked ready for twenty more years. He seemed that much younger than your Uncle Edgar.

I should have liked to go down to the funeral. By some mischance I didn't hear about anything until the day of the funeral. Some one at the college mentioned it to me. The article was in the Sunday Tribune but I didn't see it. We hadn't been particularly close over the years, but I had seen him more frequently lately—in School Board meetings, working in the family association, at reunions and funerals. And I had come to admire and like him. It happened too that he graduated from college the same year my father did and that tied in much closer than many of the family.

I know none of you have any regrets about his life. It seemed to be pretty close to ideal. And apparently he had usually had good health, good spirits, and general satisfaction with that he was doing. If we can all do anywhere near as well we should be pleased.

As I indicated, I am writing to you because I have seen you more frequently—and been delighted with your artistry—but it is primarily a family expression from our own to your group. I hate to see them all leaving, but after the record of our own particular family it is good to know that a few Merrills lived beyond three score and ten and very happily and successfully.

Sincerely,
Milton R. Merrill

Ogden, Aug 26, 1953

My dear Lucile,

I've wanted to write to you for some time to express my deep sympathy for the passing of your dear father. All will miss him greatly, you especially. We can't live forever on this earth. Think how happy your mother and Erma are, life eternal.

The last time I saw your father was at your dinner. I shall always have a mental picture of him as he looked then. He wrote me a lovely letter in March telling me about his birthday dinner. He was so pleased that Josephine had you in his home. Your father and my husband's birthday- the same day March 15. We use to celebrate together when we lived in Provo. One satisfaction you children have. You had the best parents on earth. I often remarked that they didn't come better than Uncle Amos and Aunt Eliza. What fond memories I have of them

I left Ogden on June 4th for New York. There was a purpose behind it- I wanted to see how my sons were living and a new pain had developed and I needed medical attention. Ambrose found that I had an infection of the kidney and bladder. That was cleared up in two weeks, but it can come back again. He suggested for me to go to a hospital. I have a specialist but I said if there was a hospital in it I wanted to go back to "home sweet home". My doctor here knows of all my ailments and I wanted to be with friends and relatives. They seem to be so "cold blooded" there. I would be just another grumpling.

Steve took me for a 18 day trip along the Atlantic coast from New York to Bar Harbor, Maine. We stopped 4 days at Cape Cod, 4 days at Bar Harbor. The drive was not tiring because we never drove more than 100 miles a day. It was one of the nicest trips I ever had. The scenery is beautiful. I could appreciate your mother's paintings now more than ever.

Steve and wife love life. They live it to the fullest. A very happy couple.

Ambrose and wife are more congenial than they use to be. I feel that they have made a good adjustment. The only thing that bothers me is that Ambrose works too hard. I am afraid I'll out live him if he doesn't changed his habits.

Hope I can see you and family in the near future. Then I can tell you more and you can also put me up to date. Love to all, Aunt Lydia

People who sent cards expressing their sympathy

Donna Ruder
Road and Naomi
Jean and Ned
Dick and Betty Merrill
Rilla, and Afton
Norma Jackson
Road and Naomi Shumway
"The Old Zipperettes"
Mr and Mrs Rulon Bate
Mr and Mrs Grant Thatcher
Mr and Mrs Earl Hutchings
Mr and Mrs Lawrence Oborn
Colonial Hills Ward Sunday School
Alda and George Strebel and Grandpa McDonald
The Bunkers
Hill Side Stake Presidency
Hazel and Myrtle

Letters from Lucile McDonald's children to her

June 4, 1954

My dear Mom and Dad

This might seem a little different, silly or out of the ordinary but this is a pretty important moment in my life and a big turning point. I want to take a minute and in writing tell you how very much I love both of you and how much I appreciate all the many big and little things you do for me. You're the most wonderful parents a girl could ask for and I love you very much. I hope that I have made you proud of me in some ways in school even though I let you down where my grades were concerned. I'll try now, as I go on to college to make you proud of me in respect to my grades if for nothing else. I love each and everyone one of our family and I'm proud that I can introduce you two as my parents to my friends. I do like to show you off. Maybe not in the way you think I should but in my own way. Tonight, as you watch me get my diploma I know you'll be hoping that this might be repeated in four years. I, too, hope that unless a perfect fellow comes along that I may graduate from college and complete your dreams for me. I'll end this now and once again tell you I love you both very dearly.

Your daughter, Carolyn.

Dear Mom

As I write you late 44 days from your birthday June 27th the date, I hope I'm not late to show my love and thanks. Jesus told us to love and rate in Gods first ranks, You help us in our troubles, you teach us how to pray. This note is for the things you've done. God bless you every day. You help me with my violin and my piano too. I thank you my dear mother and many happy birthdays to you. Happy Birthday, Melvin.

I was on a scout hike June 27th

October 14, 1955

A mother is a choice thing, With love and care so true
With love and care she carries me, She cares for all chores to.
The nights were sick and lay in bed, You come dear mom, Right to our side,
You stay there till the sicknesses gone, Then to your chores in stride.
The problems mom, you help us with, And teach the truth so well,
Mother, you are Gods right hand, Mother, you're just swell.
The truths of God you teach me well, The lord has love for you,
Mother, he will bless you so, Because your lvoe for hims so true.
Now, You dear Dad, help with our mom, Dad, Your wonderful, sweet and true,
You and mom just lead the way, We just follow you.
The lessons parents, You teach us, To mend us in our day,
The salute you need, so well deserved, Now hear us mother, pray.
Father in heaven, Please hear me, I want to tell you something, thee,
We in our weakness, help us work, So dear Lord, we may not shirk.
We pray dear Lord, For all our safety, Cause we need mom and dad,
We pray dear lord for there guidance, that our family will not be bad.
Bless mom and dad, as they bring us up, that we may partake of the bread and cup,
To help us lord to redeem our sins, that thing love for our family will be sharp pins,
No that my prayer is now galore, I pray dear lord that I do my chore,
To love my parents, Mom and dad, so when they're gone they will be glad.
For lord, they be with you up high, Look down on us from in the sky,
Caring for us like they always will, this I know, as I know I kneel.
That after we're gone we'll do the same, For our sweet children, Who'll also get fame,
Now I close my prayer with a prater for three
In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Melvin Jr.

Happy birthday to a Sweet Mother
Happy Birthday

Dear mother of mine, I love you so. You cook, you sew, you help me grow.
Mother, I love you. 49 year old

Love, Colleen 1958 (10 years old)

March 14, 1962

Dear Mom and Dad,

I have a minute so I thought I would drop you a line and let you know my
address. It is: 2122 Bryant Ave.

Minneapolis 11, Minnesota

Every thing seems to be going great. Will write next week and give you the news.

Sure love ya

Elder Mel

About March 1962

Dear Family

I just returned from the doctor's office where Becky had her 8 month check up.
She weighs 19 lbs and is 28 inches long. She's in very good helath- she doesn't like
doctors.

Gee how wonderful it was to talk to you the other night. I just miss you all so
much. I'm so thrilled about your student teaching assignment mother- you will love it-

don't let it worry you a lot though- take things in their stride. Why didn't they want you under Wonda Robertson? You really must be doing well to have everyone so interested in you. I'm also thrilled about your average- what did you get a B in?

I felt bad when I learned you wouldn't be coming back here- one reason is I was planning to ride to SLC with you. Plane fares- as you know- are out of our range and I don't know how Becky would fair on a bus or train. I'll have to see if anyone is driving out in June- just one of our problems we'll have to try and work out if I can come.

The box arrived and we sure appreciated its contents. The package from Auerbacks came too- they sent some elegant hand perfume- that I didn't ask for but love and my eyebrow pencil.

I gave some of the applesauce cake to my neighbors and they raved about it. Royal devoured everything else. We got back our pictures of Becky (the latest ones) and you will love them. I'm sending the negative to the Shipps and they will send them to you. We have paddcaking, crawling, walking, crying and some of Royal and me. I'm enclosing a picture that should soon appear in the church section of our new bishopric. Recognize anyone?

I really have to hurry or I'm going to miss the pick up. I love you all so much! Thank you for calling me. I was on a cloud for 2 days afterwards.

We have some good friends livin in Minneapolis, Dick and Pauline Edgely- tell Melvin. She promised to him to dinner if he ever was stationed there. We had the missionaries speak at a fireside here last night. We had 30 mutual kids- I was very pleased. Will close for now! Love you so! Carolyn

P.S. Royal is interviewing just for experience! But it's fun to know he makes such good impressions.

April?

Dear Family,

Gee, I was glad to finally hear from you last week- when you didn't write on Royals brithday and then the whole week went by I was a little concerned that something had ahppened. I know everyone is busy especially mom and dad but Collen and Kathy- you're not! Like I say I want the tape but that only excludes dad- the rest of you write occassionally, ok? Becky is now paddy caking and how cute she is. No matter what shes doing if I start saying the rhyme she starts paddy caking. She is on 3 meals a day also and is taking longer naps- so all in all life is rather pleasant.

Royal and I have been talking about some plans about this summer. Mother- are you planning on going to school? The reason I ask is this. We feel if Royal decided to get his DBA- that he will be really busy this summer taking 9 hours in school when top lead is 6 ours. This would be a good time to come home and if I did I'd stay about 8 week (if you'd have us that long). I'd come about the 15th of June and I would like very much. What do you think my chances would be for getting on for 2 months daddy? Of course mother- this all depends on you and if you can and would watch Becky for me. It also depends on whether we plan to stay on here for a DBA or not. We think Becky should know her grandparents and this would be a good chance and well as a chance for me to be with you again. The money from the bank would help also- do hope I can get on. Let me know what you think I should do dad? I don't know how they choose teachers for summer school but maybe I could get a job there. Mother would you call the B of E and ask about that? I really doubt I could get on teaching although that would be my first choice. Gee if I do come home it would only be 3 months from now. Let me know your feelings on this as soon as possible.

I have- after 7 years- changed my hair style. I had to or get a permanent and they are really really expensive and not very effective. I quite like my hair- I have slight

suggestions of bangs- well send a picture of it. We are busy, healthy, and happy. Royal is doing really well in his classes. I'm so proud of him.

I just miss you all so much and love you so- I get so excited at the thought of seeing you again. Do take care and write often. Don't over do in school mother.

Love you all

Royal, Carolyn, and Becky

February/March 1962/63

Last week after I mailed your letter the lovely birthday care you sent Royal arrived. It had been sent to Texas by mistake- I guess. He was very pleased as was I. I knew you wouldn't forget his birthday and that something must have happened.

Much has transpired since I wrote last week. Royal received a letter from the DBA committee stating that he had been accepted into the program. We were so pleased and I felt especially proud since they are only accepting 6 or 7 new candidates this fall and they had well over 100 applications. Their present facilities will only allow about 85 or 90 total candidates and they have that many now and it just happens that not many are leaving this year.

Our plans are always subject to change but we are tentatively planning to go on and get the degree. Of course it depends on the kind of assistantship, they let us know how much 1st of April, they give Royal, but they are usually very generous with their DBA candidates- giving him enough for him and his family to live on. We would finish up in the spring or summer of 1964. As I say these plans are tentative.

I was delighted to hear when dad was taking his vacation. Why don't you come out here and spend as much time as you can (1 or 2 weeks) and then Becky and I could go back to Salt Lake with you. As I said we have a bed couch and we have some friends that have a [end of letter. From Carolyn]

[no page 1 found]

baby for so long.

Tell me what's going on with Pat Menlove? Is she pregnant again? Has Nancy Ruthe had her baby?

I am enclosing the dance program of our Gold and Green Ball. Thought you'd like to see it. The mutual keeps me busy. If we stay here- I would like to come home this summer and if I come I would like to come during MIA conference but we shall see. I really do need some help especially about the girls program and 1st Counselor job. Mrs. Bioshinisky never did send those charts. The mutual is really growing. We get new members constantly- I just want it to be so good as possible not just OK.

You know it's funny that our here in the mission field every significant job is held by people from the west. From Stake President on down.

I don't know if I told you Kathy Pinnock and her husband are still here. They invited us to dinner in 2 weeks up in Indian[sp?]. They have access to a discount house so I think we'll but Becky a high chair.

We are all well, and happy. Miss you like crazy. We do appreciate your support in our endeavors. We are having a marvelous experience.

Love you, Carolyn, Royal, and Becky.

Dear Folks

Got your letter yesterday and I also heard from Melvin- everything looks fine. Two questions unanswered are (1) About Uncle George. I will not count on him meeting me unless I hear otherwise in the next few days (2) a diaper foil (?) - this is quite necessary- Becky's diapers may need to be covered- if you can't borrow one they are usually quite cheap at Grand Central, maybe we can pick one up.

I've got 1,001 things to do before Saturday morning-mainly for Roayl-army uniforms and what have you. Sweet Becky- I hope you like to tell stories because she loves to hear them. She runs and gets books and bring them to us to tell her stories. She is usually a daddys girl lately. She just adores playing hid and seek, peek a boo and paddy cake with him. He is so cure with her. They are going to miss each other. Well I won't write again unless something comes up, a kid in the ward has the measles. I just keep my fingers crossed. I'm so anxious to see you- a little nervous about the trip- till Saturday.

Love Carolyn. Royal sends his love too.

Dear Family

I can't believe I wrote last week and left out half the news so I will begin right off. We finished our roll of film and sent it to the Shipps. You should get it immediately if not already. I want you to take special not of the red jumper!!! I made it all by myself. I am very proud of it ad I think it's a pretty good job if I do say so myself. The next thing I forgot to tell you was about Becky and her little girl music box. If you think she loved it this summer, well, she is absolutely crazy about it now. Everytime we walk in the bedroom she says, "girl, baby, ups" and we wind it up then she dances around, hums and the minute it wears down we go through the same procedure all over again. She examines it so closely and just cherishes it. I don't let her hold I though because I'm so afraid she'll break it.

The next thing I'm going to tell you makes me quite sad. We received the tape and something went wrong on the first side. All we could hear was Colleen and Ram singing horrible songs. We had a guy from Audio Visual come listen and he said there might be something wrong with the eraser on your machine. Anyway we couldn't make out what Melvin said or Kay or the first part of mothers. I got down on the follow with my ear next to the recorder and I could get bits of it but dear Ramon just drowned everyone out. The second side was just fine. I'm so curious to hear all about the baby and everything that was said on the first side so maybe you could send us another one. I'm very curious about this youth deal Melvin is working on the Jean mentioned. I haven't heard anything about that either.

I got a letter from Net and she said they were expecting a baby. I'm so thrilled from them. She filled me in on some of the news around Salt Lake. There sure are lots of our friends getting divorced.

I don't know if I told you or not that our friends Gary and Kay Driggs of the Western Saving in Phoenix (they were here last year), well they send up a big box of grapefruit from Western Savings for Christmas. We have so enjoyed it. We have had some everyday since and still have 8 or 9 left.

I have been typing papers for Royal all week and will be doing the same this week. This semester is almost over for him and I will ever be glad. He works so hard. [end of letter. From Carolyn]