

Tonite was Christmas eve at grandpa + grandpa Cutler. How we look forward to these family times - Ken + Lois gave dad + me these journals + have challenged us to write in them so I've thought it is hard for me I promise I'll try. On this Christmas eve our celebrating was somewhat curtailed by sick little ones. Joey was really sick with streptococci + fever. I have not often seen Joey quite so sick. Jeff didn't feel too good either. Little Steven has been sick during the week also + capped the evening by upchucking his dinner all over the kitchen floor.

We had a little program after dinner + before gift time. We taped the program + though some parts have something to be desired at least we did it.

The family took a family to look for Santa + I am very proud of them all for what they did. I think the experience was a little less than rewarding for the effort + expense. But I'm sure the reward of blessings will be just as great. All of the children + parents outdid themselves.

We are so thankful for our family and do enjoy being with them especially on Christmas. I hope that all will be well soon + stay that way for a while.

(I think I was less well prepared for tonite's party than I've ever been for a party.)

Christmas morning - a quiet Sunday a.m. We were tired so slept in till 8:30. It was much to lovely warm a day for Christmas day.

"Maddy" gave me a robe, small fry pan, perfume, a necklace, a purse + a dress from Logan Knit - "Cotton print Pleasant dress."

We went out to Bruce's + Kathie's. They had a nice Christmas in spite of Bruce's job change + some slim times. The feathers are still fine + so precious. April is such a busy little dynamo. Missy is a joy to cuddle + love + is such a good baby.

Ron + Carole sacrificed some of their Christmas presents for the "Sub" family but I'm sure they feel blessed because Ron's work is going so well since he went on his own.

Joy is feeling a little better this morning. We went out to Ken's but Lois is not at all well today. There's been too much illness this fall.

Ron + Carole came up for some supper but Jeff + Joy were quite sick again.

Stella + family, Arnold + Carole, + Rhea + Monte came for a short while.

It's good to be with Family.

(For some reason I'm relaxed when Christmas is over), I guess I spend too much time trying to make everything perfect + I'm just unable to do this. Not enough time to just think of true Christmas.

Tonite was the Hostess party at the Church Office Bldg. It was a lovely dinner with lovely fine people but the program was too long. Yesterday we went snowmobiling with Bruce + Kathie + children. They had a fun time + it was a beautiful day + evening.

Ken + children came up for a while but Lois + Stevie are still sick.

Carole + Ron are still ailing. I worry about Carole and her aching. I do wish she would see a Dr. who would find out her problem + help her.

Well the New Year is on it's way & the hustle & bustle of Christmas is over but our hustle continues in preparation for our trip to New Zealand etc.

We went to the cabin on New Years Monday but Kathy & girls weren't there since the babies were ill again. Ron was ill with the flu and, I'm afraid, a bit of Pneumonia. We were quite worried about him but he is better now thank goodness. When Ron can't go snowmobiling we know he is quite sick.

We had a nice day anyway. Kw & family came & had a good time. Bruce came for a short time to tow snowmobiles up. Aurd & Carol & Stella & Mike also came & I think it helped the day for all of them with their problems. I surely wish my family could find Peace again. I pray for this always. Maybe this New Year will show some progress in this matter -

Last night Ken + his family ~~had~~ came by after shopping to say goodbye since they won't be able to be at the airport. I guess I feel a well bit sad that they won't be there and yet glad for the reasons - going to the temple. I realize more + more each day + week that their lives are less + less entwined with ours + even though I know it is how it should be I find it makes me a little lonely. We had a nice evening though - I do so much enjoy having them come + I love the children so much. We'll miss them.

Bruce + Kathie came too with those dear little girls that I've waited so long for. Bruce has his work problems (order was late) but I guess he always will have them. At last it has arrived so to this date.

I'm glad we are able to go on this great trip to New Zealand. But I'll miss my family for so long a time away. I wonder if I will ever get over that problem. Homesick!!!

The time is drifting by till we leave for our trip to New Zealand & today is a very grey day. On these days I get a little homesick. I hate to leave my family. Farrow is working at Butfl. & I picked up a couple of last minute things so we should be about ready so why am I so nervous? I can't relax & also have had diarrhea I'm sure from nervousness. We studied Brian Jeff & Joey last night & borrowed Ravi's camera. I hope nothing happens to it.

I spent my last day as a regular Hostess at the Church Office Bldg yesterday. I'll still be on standby for replacement. It has been a good three years & I've met some very fine women. I've missed some of them I came to be very fond of since they quit.

Lucile Hughes called today to offer to take us to the plane ~~watch~~ which I appreciated.

Bruce will take us. I've got to have some of my own there & so I can hug some little girls to last me a while.

Well here it is one day to "T Day". I think we have most everything ready to go. The last minor errands done + now to just wait.

Bruce still didn't get his order for delivery + I severely hate to go when things are not well for them. I guess it will work out & it would have to if we were not here anyway but we would like to help him some. Jan 12 Kim + Lois have had the stomach flu I hope they will better today. It has been a March like day with snow Rain + Sunshine. In another day we will be "down Under" in Sunshine Shaps. Just 24 hrs + we'll be in New Zealand where my father served his mission. When he went by ocean liner it took a month or six weeks. It's a very changed world.

Maddy + I are so nervous + I wish I could relax enough to have a nap cause we are going to need it since I doubt we'll get too much sleep on the plane. It can't be much worse than the night on the deck of a Roman's boat this fall. (I was ^{just} ~~was~~)

I must write today of the heavy heart + anxiety I am feeling for my dear sister Rhea. Judy just called and told me of the results of the heart exam. Condition is serious + critical. They are going to operate today at 1:00 P.M. to try + prevent a massive attack which would probably take her life. Dear God how I pray for her. We are so few as a family now + I need her. I pray for her that she might live to experience some of the love + happiness that has been so lacking in her life. She has done so much for others + given so much love + tenderness to others that I pray that she might live to know some joy + happiness + especially the love of her family.

5:30 P.M. Stella called from Hospital to say Rhea came through the operation very well - Misses are pleased with bypass transplant and are very encouraged. Guard called from Acapulco Mex. + I encouraged him with good news + to continue his 4 day stay - We all thank God this night -

Rhea seems to be progressing well after her surgery. I went to see her again. She looked much better than on Wed. She is still taking some oxygen because it is so painful to breathe deeply. She has been getting up to go to bathroom and this is good for her to gain strength. AWARD is home from Mexico & I'm glad for him. He says it was a terrible trip I'm sure it's mostly because of troubles here. He didn't want to go.

Rhea showed me the incisions in her leg & also her chest. No wonder she hurts & is weak. She has had a very hard time. I just talked to her & she sounds a little better. Suzy came in her room & said that Dave is coming. She was so happy & said goody-goody. Glad to see her happy.

Last night was S.V.P. & I sang a couple of songs. Bruce played for me. It's still good to have him be able to do this & I appreciate having him. Well, time to put bread in oven. University theatre tonite

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Still snowing - dumb stuff. I must go in to Church Office again today for Peggy Duncan. Ron & Carole & boys are coming up for family nite to see movies of our trip. I hope they are better than slides. Bruce & Kathy & girls came up after church for a while. I do enjoy those little girls. They are such dear little Sunbeams. April is so busy & full of mischief so much like her daddy Bruce. Kathy's voice lessons are going well & she is making some money to help do some things they want. This is good for her self image & also is a break in her busy life as a "mommy". Bruce still seems to be happy in his work & I guess is making enough to support his family. He is still having a hard time to be tollerant of people who dont have the same drive he has. This makes it hard for him to relate well to people on a possitive basis. He needs to learn how to love people & make friends rather than always "producers" - Time & experience may help.

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How can anyone (but me) wake upon such a beautiful day with such a "grump"? I'm working to wear it off.

Well, Estelle has come through her operation (a triple bypass) and seems to be doing well so far. It is truly an age of miracles + I hope the extra year of life given us are worth it. Rhea is beginning to look + I'm sure, feel much better. She looked so pretty yesterday in my pleated caftan. This beautiful sunshine should help us all to be better. It needs to be gone only such a short time for us to appreciate it more.

We went out to Ken + Lois's for dinner Sat night + he told us of his intent to take a new job offer. He will be working with fine, good, men + I'm sure he will be happy there. Interest is the name of the firm. He has been with Coopers + Lybrand accounting firm for 10 yrs since school + although he has advanced steadily I think he still is not wholly at ease with them. I hope he + Lois will be able to find more satisfaction in their lives now + less tension as has been to this point.

Yesterday our new carpet came and it is really nice. I went to lunch with the boys & it was very enjoyable. but its sure different going with men than women. Just get the "job" done & back to work. — It was a very nice gesture and I really appreciate it. Ken is still very nervous & up tight about changing jobs next week. Bruce told him "this is good for you", now you can know how Ron & I have felt several times. I hope they all soon find their place & it is comfortable for them. I want for them to be happy more than anything else in this world. When they are happy I am happy. Bruce & Kathy brought the little girls up for me to tend today while they went to the temple. I really enjoy having them. April is such a happy little "2 ton doll". Kathy keeps her nice by dressed & her hair is always done tidy & cute even though it is so very straight. She is just the kind of a little girl I always wanted & someone else has to the washing & ironing & I can just enjoy. Melissa is such a so-bee sides little doll anyway.

Sunday again - This has been the week of the wall
tear hanging preparation thereof in the living room. An
other mess made & cleaned up. Carol Green came out to
help me & Rha came up to look on. That was some task.
We worked at it for about 12 hrs straight but it
looks very nice except for little flaws to doctored up a bit.
I can surely feel the wear of the years on a project like that
when I got so very tired. Karen & Casey came out to be with her
mother. We enjoyed little Casey - he is a cute little 1 1/2 yr old.
Last Sunday I had Anard out for dinner & he went to
church with us. I had some talk with him and I hope he
will soon begin to work things out for himself & Carl and
that it will be the best thing for both of them to straighten
out their lives & change the direction of the passed many
years. - I have had a miserable cold this past
week but am feeling better now. Ken & Lois & children
came out last night. Little Storie has pneumonia & bad ears
again. We all worry so much about him. I do hope he will
outgrow this time & soon become a healthy little boy.
Ken has just finished his time at Coopers & Lybrand & is
ready to begin his new job - I do hope he will be happy

and he satisfied with his decision - this is very hard for him - to be satisfied & secure - I mean I feel sure it was a wise move to this point. He has made many friends & is a well qualified young man. We have had a lot of stormy weather this and I really long for warm spring. Today we are going to Bratten's for dinner after church. I've worked so hard all week & I don't know what to do with myself till church time. I wrote this -

May - 2.

Curtain day - Our curtains came today and they are just beautiful. They really give the living room a lovely soft glow. The room now sets off the old furniture. Laron said as he walked passed the door & glanced it sort of made him gasp. He said it made him think of the old parlor in the old house - What more could I have wanted? - Success - achieved.

Sanon & I got into the motorhome & headed
So. The Keeses were going to go with us, but Steve
was ill with the flu so since we had planned
to go we went alone. I should have stayed home
because Steve is going into the hospital to have
tubes in his ears & adenoids out. Lois had made
arrangements for Barbara so she doesn't really need
me. We went to the Prowd temple and after had
some lunch & then drove down to Mariti. There was
a session at 7:00 so we drove through town & found
a ward house. We got permission to park overnight
& went back to the temple for the session. This is
a beautiful old temple & I'm glad we were able
to go in before it is remodeled. This was really
a pleasant experience. We went back to our
parking place & had some fruit, toast & hot
milk & went to bed. It was very quiet & lovely.

We got up about 7:30 + started driving. After an hour or so we found a place to park by a deserted school ground. We had our breakfast + I got dressed + cleaned up + ready for the day. We drove on down through Zion park + on to St George. We were going to go to the "Homespun" but we took the wrong road + were 10 miles too far south so decided to get our parking place + go back after. We stayed at the Redman park + inquired about going back to the Homespun. The man there told us it had changed hands + was not worth the trip back. He suggested + made reservations for us at the "Gable House". Dinner was very good + the atmosphere was delightful. After dinner we walked around town + found the old house that Mark + Barbara bought + restored. Monte Mahony, our neighbor, has been doing the work on it for a year. We walked back to the car + went home to park.

Little Stevie was operated on today + I was praying for him all day. It was late when we got back to a phone so did not call Lois. Tomorrow will call.

We called to find out about Stacie & no one was home. We called Carole & she didn't know about it. Joey had his cast off on the same day & is doing fine. I'm sure I told her about Stacie. After breakfast we went over to the Temple for a session, that's -3- —, then we headed home to S.D. It was a nice drive but soon we ran into wind & cold from Cedar City on. Boy there was really some strong wind & it was a bit hard driving. We got home about 4:30 PM & Larion mowed the lawn while I did some things to eat. We called Lois & Stacie is doing well & is home already. He talked to me & I felt better about him. Even after only 3 days I'm always glad to come home. I don't know how I'll ever be able to go on a mission. I get so homesick. I'm too family oriented I guess. ~~My~~ My family means too much to me & I just can't let go ~~the~~ like I should.