

Feb. 20, 1978

Dear Penny, Len, Marianne, Chris & Mike:

It's been a long time since we've heard from You (we are or should I say Moe is, now awaiting some prose from Len) and I hope you are fine. Did our Christmas card and letter (Moe's) reach you? I have lately heard that there was a postmen's strike in Iran and am now wondering if none of our outgoing mail was delivered--the strike was supposed to be around Christmastime.

A couple of weekends ago the kids and I went to Isfahan and looked into the school situation there. I visited the American school there, or should I say schools since there were more than one campus, and they were very nice, all with libraries, science labs, art rooms, and class sizes no bigger than 15. The high school had a huge shop room, and the art room even had a pottery wheel and oven. The kids were fascinated by all the luxury compared to what they have at Parthian (though academically the kids were about a year ahead, I suppose since they started a year sooner under the British system at Parthian). Anyway, they are enthusiastic, but I still don't know if they can get in since the schools are only supposed to be for Bell Helicopter employees. However, Arya Mehr U. Isfahan has 5 scholarships, but 4 are taken. I told them I want the remaining one and then another place for Melanie even without a scholarship. The tuition is \$5,000 per year per child (ouch). So far no word though they were supposed to call me last week so I hope Moe can do something from there. No place in the schools means I don't go to Isfahan with the kids, since the Arya Mehr U.'s school only goes to 2nd grade.

Moe is busy with the new U., but happy that he received almost all the budget he requested for next year. The Chancellor of the Tehran campus announced that the professors had better make up their minds, since in 4 years there would be no Arya Mehr Tehran with everything being moved to Isfahan.

In 3 more weeks the Iranian new year will arrive, and Moe is taking all the family for 2 weeks to Isfahan (ie Mother, sister, nephew, Camron & Melanie). I have 3 days off only from work, and prefer to take my vacation days in the summer when it's hot. With everyone gone, maybe I can finally do some housecleaning when I'm not at work instead of laundry and cooking. The maid I had 3 half days because sick with arthritis and can't work so the windows haven't been cleaned in 3 months. All the curtains need washing, and closets are unmentionable. I also need to stay to take care of the cat, who ~~6666~~ as you warned me, needs a lot of attention. And last but not least, who needs a vacation with a mother in law and sister in law?

The weather here is actually warmish during the day, and I only took a sweater to work today since it's around 60°F. I think that if Moe actually takes the kids with him to Isfahan, I will have my first real vacation in 14 years! I am holding my breath.

Melanie has an "appliance" now which I guess is the new word for braces. After a couple of days resistance, she seems to wear them ok, and since they are removable, her cooperation is essential.

Camron is interested in ping pong quite a lot lately, and the dining room table has become a ping pong table a lot of the time. He recently bought a new racket with his allowance. Did you ever hear of something called a "Super Barna", it's only \$12.00 here and that's what he bought. He wants a real ping pong table, but they cost \$400 here, which seems stiff for something like that.

He had some friends over yesterday, and they played for a couple of hours on the dining room table (covered with plastic & a no hitting the table rule), but then they went home and Camron was very upset because he still had 3 hours worth of homework to do, but 1 hour left to do it in, so he set the alarm to get up 2 hours earlier to finish it. When I mentioned the possibility of the kids going a grade ahead in the American school, he said they believed in kids going with their age group and if they are ahead in some subjects fine--it then gives them more time to explore additional areas and as he put it "bloom like flowers." I don't think that principal has talked to the principal of Parthian school where the goal is to prepare for British "A" levels and "O" levels and where the philosophy is "Study or Die."

Please write and let me know how you are all doing.

*Love
Gloria, Mae
Cam + Melanie*