

March 13, 1977

Dear Penny, Len, Marianne, Chris & Mike:

Great to hear from you! Hope everyone is up and about and recovered from flu and the nasty winter. I can't remember what I last wrote you, but I am still working full-time at the same place, and our house which refuses to be finished is at last accepting a front walk and driveway so that we no longer sink into mud on the way in. Moe's mother has moved into her apartment upstairs and she remains in good physical health, but has become senile in the past year and a half (that is, she forgets things, so carrying on a conversation becomes a trying affair). Otherwise, she still takes pride in her appearance and looks good for a 76 year old woman, though she still has her depression problem. Her maid lives with her, so both of them live upstairs in an apartment the size of ours. Moe's sister recently returned from her 2nd trip to England in 7 months to help her daughter settle in school (the daughter, who is 20, could have done it herself, but is the helpless type). She tells us she is planning to put her son, who is Camrom's age, in boarding school in England and then possibly live in England herself, since as she puts it "it's so much more comfortable to live in England than Iran." Moe is against boarding schools for children, and I can't see why she wouldn't get an apartment for both of them rather than put him in boarding school and live separately. You get conflicting reports about Moe's travel plans to U.S. and so do I--because of the Isfahan Arya Mehr University, he goes to Isfahan every week for 2 or 3 days, but so far is not planning a trip to U.S. to recruit for the new campus since it seems more important to get the construction work there done.

Our plans as usual are vague in that I still don't know when or if we are going to move to Isfahan to live instead of Tehran. It doesn't look like we'll move there next Fall, but perhaps in a year or two. I've already told Moe that I can't cope with the house if he goes to Isfahan alone, and I can't go since they haven't yet built the school for the kids. Of course, if we go to Isfahan, we must take mother with us since Moe has asked her who she wants to be near, him or sister, and naturally she choose him. I'm not anxious to go to Isfahan since the kids are doing well now, and Isfahan can only have a poorer school situation than here, which isn't exactly great.

Camrom weights 90 lbs., and is 160 cm. tall, which I understand comes out to 5 ft. 4 in. Melanie wears size 8 slim jeans and weights 52 lbs. She is much taller than the usual child here, and he is much taller and heavier. I am surprised at how big he is--he is now taller than Moes mother, of course shes short, but I still get surprised when I see them next to each other.



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Beginning Wednesday, the Iran New year holiday starts so the children have 3 weeks off from school--I have a week off from work and hope to catch up on my drastic housekeeping situation. I manage to get the cooking and laundry done, and wash floors once a week (sort of), but the big jobs don't get done. Closets and cupboards are a jumble, and the windows all look frosted but aren't.

I'm really looking forward to visiting the U.S., and have made reservations at a state park in Ohio for the first two weeks in July (did I already tell you?)--I hope the kids will enjoy an outdoor atmosphere after 5 6? years of city life. Tell Barb & Lee to hang in there--its only taken us 2 years to build our house and its still like the unfinished symphony. I hope to see you in Champaign toward the end of July or beginning of August. Right now I plan a six week stay altogether in the States, but hope to be in Champaign for a day or two to see you. Its possible I'll stay longer in U.S., if for example, they don't agree to a six-week leave at my job and I lose it, I have no particular reason to rush back here since Moe will be gone most of the time to Isfahan. My brother hasn't sold the house, so I won't have any hotel expenses. If I do stay longer, I hope you'll visit us in Chicago and have a mini-vacation with Len--I'll be glad to babysit while you and Len hit the night spots instead of the computer lab. Cambron & Melanie will be glad to have the ~~XXXXX~~ chance to play with your kids.

Say hello to everyone there for us, and give our best to Bijan, Judy, and Andrew when you see them. Try not to get into any more trouble until we see you, then I'm sure with the 5 kids Len will have to find another door to karate!

Take care,

*Lone*

*Gloria, Moe,*

*Cambron, Melanie*