

January 29, 1975
Wednesday

Dear Penny:

Thank you very much for sending the two pamphlets on fireplaces to us--I think following the diagrams we'll have a good chance to build a fireplace that works. I'm typing this at work where at the moment I'm not busy. I've been working here at the International Relations Dept. at Tehran University for two months now. Everyone is nice, but the job is not as interesting as my last job; however, I think that I was taken advantage of salary-wise there. As soon as I was paid a week ago, I had British Airways telex an airplane ticket to my mother for Tehran, and a couple of days ago they informed me that she had filled in the date of the ticket for March 10, so we are really happy at the prospect of seeing her soon. Moe is trying to arrange for reservations at the Caspian for the Persian New Year which will be about 10 days after my mother arrives. I will have two weeks off from work then, and the children will also be home from school so we can show her around easier. March
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I understood from Mary Ann Rainer's Christmas letter that she may get to Illinois to see you sometime this year. You might tell Bev that Jill is planning to come to the US this summer, though I doubt she will make it to Illinois. Jill's oldest daughter, Simin, must be the same age as Tammy. Last night there was a meeting (dinner party) of Iranian Illinois graduates. Moe says they plan to get together every first Tuesday of each month, and hallelula(sic) wives are invited too! I think male chauvinism began in Iran.

Latest rumor has it that the Iranian government won't permit parents to leave the country with children 11 years or older unless the parents put up a deposit of 70,000 rials as a security deposit. Now I shudder at the prospect of having to save \$10,000 in addition to plane fares etc so that Camron, Melanie and I can visit the States when Cam reaches the ripe old age of 11. This is to discourage parents from sending their children abroad to study. Among the richer families here it has been the custom to send their children to English boarding schools at an early age. But since we have to leave here on an Iranian passport, the law affects us as well. My husband's cousin took his family for a summer's trip to Europe. His older son was studying at Tehran U. and is draft age, but for just that summer trip he had to deposit 500,000 rials as insurance for his son's return.

Camron and Melanie are fine and were happy to have had two "snow days" off from school this week due to the bad weather. Yesterday was one of them, but already all the snow has melted and the children went reluctantly to school today. Moe is busy preparing exams for his classes at Arya Mehr as well as carrying his usual heavy load at his government job.

Hope you, Len, and the children are all okay. Write if you get a chance, and let us know how you are and what you are doing, though whenever I hear what you've been doing I get dizzy with sympathetic exhaustion.

As always,

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