

October 12, 1975

Dear Penny:

Great to hear from you and everyone! I'm sending you two recent pictures of the kids (taken for school red tape purposes), but I guess it will be a while before I can send you house pictures or a picture with Moe etc. since I haven't had a chance to buy film for the camera (stores close at one when I get out of work and open at four

when the kids come home from school and don't want to go anywhere.) I am thoroughly bored with my present job, but as soon as we are settled in the new house and our finances become less hectic, I plan to visit home and when I return find a more interesting job and one that is closer to our new house. The traffic in Urban is so bad that it takes me 40 minutes to get to work, only 3 miles away! When we move, I will be 15 miles away. As things are going now, we still think of moving in around March or April.

Moe sympathizes with Len greatly, I think, since I remember he went through a number of similar tortures around promotion time (you have my sympathy too, Penny, because their moods affect the whole family). In reply to your question, Moe has received permission to leave the Ministry job and return to the Arya Mehr University (Mehdi Zarghame was recently made Chancellor of Arya Mehr) where Moe has accepted a job as Vice-Chancellor for the Safahan project. This is a new branch of Arya Mehr being built in Safahan to accommodate 10,000 engineering students, and Moe's job consists of being in charge of completing this new branch. However, he now comes home each night around 9 or 10, really done in since the Minister asked him to remain until he finds a replacement so he's teaching classes at Arya Mehr, attending meetings regarding the Safahan project, doing all his regular Ministry work, and working on our house besides. He plans on offering to resign his new post for fear of keeping the project back if he can't leave the Ministry soon enough; but, he is intensely interested

in the new job and anxious to leave the (2) Ministry. Moe says that even if he can't get out in time for the Lafahan project, he will nevertheless return to the University. It seems that both of us have been enmeshed in work we don't much care for, but I think the experience helped clarify for Moe what work he will do in the future. For me the choices here are limited, secretarial work or teaching English. The language barrier for me is still considerable since I can't read or write Persian, though I think I will take off from work in about two or three years and spend a year becoming literate to 4th or 5th grade level if possible. Since Melanie has started Persian this year, I will try to do her homework assignments along with her. I don't seem to have the time to spare for outside classes, since I need to make dinner and do the laundry in the afternoons (no sunshine, no dry laundry and I haven't a dryer).

My brother tells me he is back to work and that he gets a \$600 yearly raise due to the strike. However, he was one out of the 3 teachers in his school who voted against the strike (27 ^{others} voted for it). He never explained why he voted "no".

About the house, it does have three floors, but the ground floor has storerooms, a family room, laundry area, and garage, as well as a small room for the central heating (hot water-radiator type). We need to use gasoil,

but we buried the tank underground to save space. The first floor (really at second floor level) is our apartment with 3 bedrooms, a study room for Moe, bath and a half living, dining, + kitchen. The rooms are not large and it was difficult arranging them since the sides of the house adjoin the neighbors on both sides like the brownstones in the States making lighting difficult.

The 2nd floor (3rd) is Moe's mother's, a duplicate of ours.

The front of the house hasn't a yard since it is set back just a few feet from the street. Our house is a "jonubi" with yard in back while "shomalis" have the yards in front. All the

houses on our side of the street are jonubis and all of them on the opposite side are shomalis. The backyard will be completely walled in as is the style here, and about one half of it will be swimming pool if we aren't hauled into bankruptcy court first (we're working on getting the 3rd mortgage now and I wish I were joking).

However, Moe's job (if he has a job) will probably take us all to Lafahan in one or two years so I may just finish decorating and then we'll leave. I took the kids and my mother to Lafahan for a two-day visit when my mother was here, and I personally rather liked it. It

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was nice and quiet and the air was clean unlike Tehran. I understand that there is an international school there, which is

supposed to be good. However, Safahan hasn't English movies, theatre, shows, exhibits etc

but then we never go anyway since Mo is usually too exhausted. Both the children and I have friends in Tehran, and the kids are doing well in their present school and I am reluctant to make changes there. Anyway, it is absolutely useless planning ahead in Iran, so I'm not worrying about it right now.

The kids are going to a Halloween Party planned by the Foreign Wives of Iranians Club (another group not likely to be in Safahan) and Melanie will be a princess and Camron an owl (he has a costume left over from a school play last year). I'll make Melanie's costume out of some gold threaded fabric I got from Shiraz - she's wild for costumes and dresses. Camron and Melanie say hello to everyone and to your children. Ali's wife, Jill, is expecting No. 3 in a month, which will mean 3 under 3 (she does tell me she's

changed her mind about having 8
children, however).

Lots of love + best wishes to you all.

Gloria