

LaRochele - Dec. 13, 1965

Dear Folks: Alors, ca va chez vous? Boy Mom, You don't know how great a surprise that was to get those cookies. My companion and I ate them all within two days. Maybe they were supposed to be opened at Christmas time, but customs had already opened them so we ate them. They were really great. Have you recieved two packages. You should have by now. I am sending the slides the same day as this letter, Monday. Included is a discription of the slides. I hope that you can keep in mind that the only times I have taken My camera has been on D days and consequently I don't have too much concerning the actual work. I'll try to get a more balanced show for you next time.

We went to Bordeaux again for an unexpected conference with Apostle Hunter. Those trips cost. This is a lot different than living in Paris where I could save money. Also there are little things that pop up like transportation for members who can't come to church. And, it comes out of our pockets. This isn't a plea for more money because I'm getting along just fine. It's just that I don't get to save as much as I used to. We went to Bordeaux as a district, 4 Elders and 2 Sisters, in a rented car. It was an enjoyable trip. The conference with Pres. Hunter was really great. The District Leaders gave reports of their various districts and then Pres. and Sis. Hart spoke, and then Pres. and Sister Hunter. The conference lasted about 4 straight hours. Usually they divide it into two sessions, but they did it this way this time so that there wouldn't have to be any night driving. On the way home we went by way of Royan where there is the most Modern Catholic Cathedral in France. It is really an impressive structure, actually just a cement work of Modern art. It is all cement with no furnishings inside except chairs. We attended a mass there too which was interesting. It reminded me of Idol worship as much as anything else.

LaRochele is all decorated up for Christmas and at night the streets are just packed with Christmas shoppers. The other Elders went out to Re island with the owner of our hotel who is an inactive Mormon and got us a tree but it is too big so we are going to give it to the sisters. They have a tree in their room and I put my presents under theirs.

Our proselyting is going just as ever. We teach about 10 hours a week, tract 16 to 20 and other proselyting about the rest to make up 40 hrs. The rest is taken up in branch work. The work is hard to say the least and it sometimes seems hard to get thru to the people, but baptisms are not impossible.

I gave another talk in church last nite on missionary work. I didn't do much preparing, but I felt a little more fleuent in the language than I did last time. Well, so long 'till next week. Those cookies were great.

Love, Stephen

also reading VanLoons "The Story of Mankind" and the Book of Mormon. It is a sharp book and I am going to read it thru again right after I finish it. It seems I underline and make notes on every paragraph. Much snow there? None here, but some in Paris. I will send the slides next week. So long for now. Love, Stephen

Love, Stephen
I will give you notes on every page of the Book of Mormon.

La Rochelle

December 6, 1965

Dear Folks: It has been raining here for the last week. It rains off and on, and the air is always filled with little droplets of water. Nothing new this week. We read the paper every morning. Read where the Y won their first two games. I stayed up late last night working on the branch financial report. Yesterday at church some sharp investigators came, the Budets, they are really humble people and I hope we can get them to see the light. You should have recieved a package by now, and I am going to mail the other at the time I mail this letter. We are really out of it as far as the rest of the mission goes. This is one of the isolated places of the mission. However, we get a mission periodical each week which keeps us up a little bit. Tracting the other day we got on a road that headed out toward the country, we decided to keep going and we ended up in "France", I mean old villages, chateaus, etc. We talked to some real old salty farmers. Just like John Taylor when he was over here huh? Did I tell you what we did on Thanksgiving? We road our bikes 20 miles down the coast and hoarsed around as a district. 4 Elders and two sisters. We went to a little town called Fouras. Elder Boshard, found some oysters and we ate them raw. That is like they are supposed to be eaten I guess. We came back and ate a turkey that the sisters fixed, which wasn't bad and then went to a movie, "Lord Jim", with Peter O'Toole. The Christmas lights and decorations are up here in LaRochele. In many ways it is just like home. All the stores are decked out and the streets are packed with Christmas shoppers. I had my first haircut the other day. Elder Jolley cut my hair in Paris and I had now need to go to a barber. Pres. DeGualle is going to have to go thru a ruh-off election with François Mitterand, as a result of last nites voting. My companion and I were to lawy to go to one of the members house to watch the election returns so we walked across the street and looked at a TV in a store for a while. The voting was on Sunday. Every fast Sunday we take a home sacrement meeting to Sister Rambeau the sister who gives us French lessons every Tuesday afternoon. She is very amusing. She thinks Joseph Smith was a clod and thinks Brigham Young was great. She reads the book of mormon and bible each day. She spent 9 years in the states and is really a walking encyclopedia. She is unable to come out to Church because of her heart. I'm getting a little better on playing the hymns, but I still can only play the easy ones. My French is coming along I guess. I understand better and better every day, but my speaking doesn't (to me) seem to making any progress. Dad what do you think about Nassers change of heart? That is too bad about the plane crash near Camp Williams. Did you know any of the people? Thanks mom for sending the news. There was just a little box in the Trib about it the day after it happend and we didn't know too much about it? Have you found that little blue French handbook by Bottke? That would come in handy if you could even send it airmail. It doesn't weigh very much. In a few minutes we are going to give a lesson to an inactive member Sister Noirbusson. She never had a testimony to begin with and just joined because here husband did. Dad, I am about half way thru "Excellence". The reason I'm taking so long, is that I am making notes all the way thru it and am

8 December 1965
18 rue Gargoulleau
La Rochelle (Charente)

Dear Ann/ You're probably puzzling at why I am writing this letter because it seems that of all the philosophical implications involved there can be none so difficult to understand as the reasons why many of us in our different situations or environments do try to remember all of the events or happenings in our life that make it necessary for us to take heed of certain obstacles. That of course is the true reason to why I am writing in this fashion as to such that it does not seem possible that such an event could take place, at any rate on so cold of a platform as to see such people being tossed about at random into the depths of the spaces of which we as members of a wicked human race know is the source of all the members of the various organizations of the universe and those intellects and powers that it does contain.

To rectify this gross misunderstanding that these things can be judged in a way which many deem mandatory or to which many cognizant persons seem subjected, does indicate that the greater part of the human race would have some need to be flawlessly gone over from head to toe, or from head to knee-cap - which ever would seem to accomplish the task in a more consistent manner than was done before the beginning of the existence to which many of us attribute the oranges or transistor radios or even soapsuds or lawn mower blades.

I am sure that in being agreeement with me thus far you do see some of the light that I am trying to open up into your closed and darkly sealed life to which in breathing the very air that you breathe can make it difficult to analyze such a gross misconception of other things, other than the other things to which we attributed ~~those~~ those other things.

Ann, take my counsel and do not subject yourself or the selves of your friends and family to the elements to which many of us see as an escape to the realities of which seem unreal or even to the magnifications of the man minute monstrosities on the other side of the very world to which we as so called members of the human race subject our minds in a such fashion as to not even recognize the values of such gross magnifications to another if not better man than the very person who was mentioned formerly in the last paragraph where I covered in a more detailed manner that very subject.

I am sure it is very difficult for you to wonder or to even ask yourself the reasons why you think, or even reflect if you will over the very same things that turn the clocks of the human race, and even sometimes wind them to astronomical heights or even to the infinite reaches of the very infinity that we all know does not really exist, for as you know ann, we do not exist nor do you or I, for we are all conglomerations of nothingness as are the masses and masses of all the other matter that doesn't exist in the vernause.

Merry Christmas Ann, from your missionary and mine (How's Tex) Stephen

December 3, 1965
18 rue Gargouilleau
17 - LaRochele, FRANCE

Dear Tom, Tim and troops: Being thoroughly pleased to hear from you both I was thoroughly pleased. Tom, your 1/4 through and Tim is going to be RM clod on campus with food on his tie, his mouth open and tongue hanging out, and holes in his shoes. Man, I can't believe how the time passes. It has been eons. They tell me I'm a man now, but it's going to be hard to impress that in my head.

How is the work in your respective missions. I hope your both getting as much satisfaction out of your work as I am. I was in Paris for the first three months of my mission and have been here in LaRochele on the beach for close to two months. We have a branch of about 60 members of which about 15 are relatively active. It is one of the few branches in France left that have missionaries as branch presidents. I am the companion of Elder Daniels who is the branch pres. I am the branch secretary and the organist. Ha. Would you believe it? This is the real thing. I'm resp. for the branch financial report, Aaronic priesthood, and all the others, - Historical reports etc. We are in the Bordeaux district and you wouldn't believe how sharp some of the members are in this district. Oh yes, I also teach the priesthood lesson. It's really rewarding work.

In the way of proselyting, we work in a small town on the coast called Châtelailon. It's almost empty in the winter but packed with vacationers in the summer. I guess we're not going to match you fellers with baptisms but we'll get them just the same. It's hard for a Frenchmen to be humble. (It's hard for Taylor to be humble) Paris was an experience. I was there with a worldly companion and all we did was price Ferraris and Porches. It was a poor experience, quelque chose n'allait pas. We're working pretty hard down here and it's rewarding - I'm sure you find the case the same.

Tom, on m'a dit que vous avez vu mes grandparents. I've seen Thor Leifson here a couple of times and he says to tell you Hi. I think he's just completing his three year mission right about now. His kids went to French schools and speak flawless French as well as English. How would it be?

Tim, if I were you I'd right Watts and see what he'd do for you. You'd start out right as a Frosh wouldn't you? I think you could make it easily but remember just because it's a Mormon school that doesn't mean there isn't any beaucocracy or favoritism concerning graduated highschool stars. Earnest runs the team no strings attached with Watts and if he doesn't like you your through. If it were basketball that I was interested in most, I'd go to a JC, because there is not much of a gamble, and if your good in a JC, Utah or Utah State will pick you up just like that. But if you were to go to the Y and made the team, (I don't think you would have any sweat) one basket in a crucial point in a practice or a game can make or break you. The psychology angle, especially with a flighty coach like Earnest is a big factor. He can treat you real bad;

One game at half we didn't play too well and he walked in o the dressing room and looked at us and called us a bunch of damn ass holes and then left the room and didn't come back until the fourth quarter. Earnes likes you if you have a reputation. This is my opinion so don't base your judgement on it. Get the opinion of somebody who made the grade. I can look back on my Frosh BB and see a point where one basket would have put me on the Varsity this year. Not the basket itself, but also the psychological implications, communication and otherwise, involved. So much from the expert. Ha. You kidded me?

Rain, rain, rain, We ride those crumby moterbikes. Bad news.

You can each take a photo; Your-welcome.

Girls, you kidding me? I think I've got one letter from Bob Slacks girl, 2 from Whiting, a couple from Spillsbury and one from my honey in Egypt all of which mean nothing. Ann is after my Bod. What a clod. (get it? bod? clod? ha ha)

Well not much else to say. Got one chance to play ball in Paris aganst a Lycée. Clobbered em thanks to a kid named Taylor's scoring prowess.

Keep)up the good work and may God be with you guys,

Taylor

November 29, 1965

Chere famille: Winter has arrived. I read in the paper this morning where we wiped NM, but ASU won too. What an upside down conference. The WAC sure lost a lot of prestige this year didn't it? I read about another plane crash in SLC too. Charter to BYU game. How are things on the home front? We just attended a District conference at Bordeaux for the first meeting in the New chapel. The members in Bordeaux are really sharp and are really proud of their chapel. There was really a fine spirit there. We went down on the train with 7 of the members from our branch. There was Soeur Guyot who comes to Sacrement meeting only. She is first counselor in our relief society of about 3 or 4 active women. ha. Soeur Maigneron is the president of the relief society (Société de Secours) These ladies are both about 65. Frère and Soeur Moinard. They have been thru the Swiss temple and are pretty substantial members. Soeur Moinard is a pretty good head while her husband is really a clod, but were all God's children (for Dad's benefit) Their kids are the biggest monsters in the world and probably the reason for the lack of new baptisms in this city. They have to be bound and tied during the meetings. Soeur Sauvaget who is 27 is a good member and has been to the states. Her little brother, Fabrice (17) came too. It has been raining just about every day here for the last few days. I guess I don't really mind it. It gets dark at 5 and is still dark until 8 in the morning. I have just finished the reports for the branch. It didn't take me so long this morning. With all these trips, I had to shoot the whole wad this month. It was a pity not to be able to save 10 dollars. I got the check today as well as a letter from Grandma saying that she had seen Tom Anderson. It's a small world. (How many times has that been said. Two pair of my shoes, not the good heavy ones, have holes in the soles already. I'll have to get them to the cordonnerie. It is not that yellow French grammar book I want mom, (and red) That was the one I used back in highschool. I want the little blue paper-back that I used in College this year. It is by a guy named Bottke. There should be two packages arriving for you by air (they are both light) I haven't mailed them yet. One is for you and Dad and the other is for Dee. I don't have all that much to say, and anyway it is about time we left the apartment. Oh, have I told you of the other missionnaires in the district. We have two sisters, one sister parry from provo a gym teacher (27) and Sister Morris from somewhere in Washington. Elder ~~Barrett~~ sneaks out to Ré island and goes surfing once a week. Sorry I crossed out that name, but in the interestes of all involved I'll let him be the one to divulge himself. It's humorous though. By. Love St

Ally

18 rue Gargoulleau
LaRochele (Charente-Maritime)
FRANCE

Mission Secretary
Mission Française de l'Est
8, chemin William-Barbey
Chambésy (Genève) Suisse

To whom it may concern:

We here at the Branch of LaRochele are in need of a list of the Branches in the French East Mission. A French serviceman who belongs to the Branch of LaRochele will soon be given a choice of cities in France, one of which he will want to be transferred to.

We would appreciate your help in procuring this list for us. Thank- you.

Sincerely,

Elder Daniels
(Branch President)

November 22 1965

Folks: Do you realize that in a couple of days it will be December? That's something isn't it? How are things going? It's almost 10 o'clock here. Usually monday morning we spend filling out our various reports. It's usually dark until almost 8:00. Therefore when we go down to the marché to shop all the marchands use flashlights. The weather here lately has been some of the worst that LaRochele has seen. Gusts of up to 115 mph as well as constant winds at 65 or 70. We rode our solexes out to Chatellillon in this weather and got blown off the bicycle path several times. When we got out there the sea was really something else. The road for a while goes along the railroad tracks and just on the other side of the tracks is the Atlantic. But the road is at least 150 yards away from the tracks. Well anyway, the salt water tasted good. We got soaked, and not from rain. I have a pancho that can keep me completely dry except for my feet and head, but those parts were sure wet. In the town of Chatellillon itself, the waves were something to see. I have never seen a storm "tempete" in the ocean but great big waves were bashing against the dike or restraining wall, over it and smashing against the houses on the sea boulevard. Sea water was running all thru the city and the gutters clogged. Therefore as a result lots of water everywhere. It was really somethin to see. A large fishing boat was thrown against a bar and sunk killing 4 men during the storm right close. Dad I got your book, which was sent to 126 rue du Château Paris 17 and it was forwarded to me here by the boys in 126. What I don't understand is how it got to Rue du Château because Rue du Château is in the 14th. Luckey there is only one rue du Château in Paris. I have read the chapters and am amazed and thrilled, really, about how this guy in simple understandable words describes our society in terms of equalitarianism, hereditary terms, and let the best man win terms. It, thus far, is really a fascinating book. As I said, I have only read the first 20 pages, so give me time to make an analysis. Mom, as long as were sending books, heres a list: That Art Book, That little Blue Paperback French Grammar book that I used at the Y. Even the blue verb pamphlet too if you can find it. My Jesus the Christ. I have lost so much weight that I'm not fat anymore. If you want you can send those grey slacks sans cuff that went with my herring bone suit. All by sea svp. None of these things are all that necessary but they could all be useful. I was thinking of getting you a print for christmas if I can find a nice one. There are some beautiful scenes. Beatle type caps are popular here in Europe. I thot I'd send the Fool one. We've got some good investigators. I hope we can baptise some of them. I give a little more of the lessons each time, and I guess the language is coming, but I don't have it down by a longshot. I just saw in the trib. that the Y beat Arizona and ASU beat Wyoming so it looks like we'll have a shot for the championship in a fluky conference huh? Irony in France: Everyone seems to hate DeGaulle but on the other hand, everyone seems to think that he will be elected. I have a surprise Slide that you will really be impressed with when you get it. Rotsaruck.

Love Stephen.

12 Novembre 1965
18 rue Gargoulleau
La Rochelle, (C/M)

Lucien Gauthier
41 rue Jarraud
Angoulême, (Charente)

Cher frère Gauthier,

Nous venons de recevoir la lettre de la part de
Président Desquines demandant les renseignements de
notre Quorum des Anciens.

Nous avons cinq Anciens sur le registre de la
Branche. Trois d'entre eux participent activement
au Programme d'Enseignement au Foyer, et le même trois
travaillent sur le programme des trois générations
pour la généalogie.

La famille Rousière à cause du distance et de
notre négligence n'est pas au courant du programme
généalogique et bien entendu ne participe pas dans
le Programme d'Enseignement au Foyer.

Nous allons leurs écrire une lettre et nous
espérons de faire 1

LaRochelelle, Nov. 15 1965

Dear family. We'll start off with the weather. It has been quite cold here the last couple of days. There is always water in the air in the form of little droplets. I was surely pleased to see that we won the homecoming game against Utah. I noticed in this mornings trib. that we lost to CSJ. I will be anxious to get the clippings to see what happend. I was also shocked to read about the Plane crash in SLC. Was anyone important on it? I guess maybe you will hav included some clippings la dessus. I guess you heard about sister Edith Bentely didn't you? Did you know her mother by any chance? I keep trying to place her in HighSchool, but I can't quite do it. Her face is certainly familiar however. I never met her here in the Mission field, but just before I was transferred to LaRochelelle she was here for 10 months. Consequently many of the members here knew her and a couple were very close to her. She was killed on her Solex while taking a call-back with her companion in her tracting area. Her area is Chatillon which is in the banlieu of Paris. (Like Kéains or Holiday is to SLC) We had a district conference in Bordeaux last tuesday at which President Hart attended. This was the conference at which I gave my talk. I don't know if I blew it or not; Anyway my theme was planning your work. I think I told you. I got some more slides back, but there are only three slides taken in LaRochelelle, I thot I would shoot another role, inasmuch as you have never seen LaRochelelle and then send them to you. You should get them in a couple of weeks. We have been working pretty hard lately. We have been getting a lot of teaching in this week. Elder Daniels is giving me a chance to do a little teaching. And with more and more each time, I think it will come. We have some sharp investigators in this little town of Chatalaillon and we think we might have some possible baptisms. There haven't been any baptisms in this town for a while and President Hart wants us to get on the ball and baptise someone; We in the branche have been working with the members on the genealogy program trying to get them to fill out their 3 generation sheets. Man I don't envy the job of a bishop. The Problems come up everywhere. Everything from the heating in the mtg. hall breaking down to who knows what. Its all part of the test I guess. Letters have a natural tendency to exaggerate, so don't get the impression that Stephen D. Taylor is over here working his head off. We are working pretty hard, but I do get a chance to read the clippings you send me. Havig forgot all the lessons, now, I have to memorize them over too. Ha. How are things at home? How is thrimp? the yard? Has Dee finished my job of beating the VW yet? or does he take the Buick to school every day? Ha. We don't miss a day except Sunday of getting up at 6. Even if we do get to bed real late, that's no excuse. The thing that is amazing is the knowledge that you can do it. Sure your tired, but only if you think about it. Elder Daniels has got self distipline and I hope some of it rubs off on me. No reflection on Elder Jolley, nice guy and all that, but there is no comparison. I hope I can make a Juniom companion proud of me someday. No mother I am not a Sr. companion. Contrary to what your friends teel you about their sons becoming Srs. after several monts out, it is not the same here with Pres. hart in the French Mission. Even the sharpest Elder is not made Sr. until he has been out about a year. This cuts down on a lot of jealousies many of which there are. Man its almost Christmas. The stores here have already put out their decorations. No more room, love

Nov 7, 1965

Hi, I've just completed my duties this morning at Sunday school and at fast mtg. Today I was sec. of the Aaronic priesthood, Sunday school, sacrament mtg. Oh yes, also I was the organist for today. I have lots of reports to do tonight, but I shall give you a break, and drop you a note. Tuesday, we are going to Bordeaux for a district conference, and my companion and I are going to have to give talks of 15 minutes each. My subject is Plan your work and work your plan. A typical missionary slogan I guess, but just the same a profound one. Sometimes missionary clichés like these are fairly important even tho they sound corny. As you can see I am still a little proud. Lest you misunderstand, this is a district missionary conference, therefore the talk is to be in English. We have really taught some sharp and humble people this week. I sure would like to baptize some one. The one in Paris fell thru, we don't know why, but we think he started smoking again and therefore didn't come out to church. Negligence on our part was part of it I'm sure. I am sure ~~glad~~ glad that I have a sharp working companion with a testimony of what he's doing. I am really enjoying going to bed tired and getting 6 hrs. sleep some nites. It's tough for a while but it is surprising how you get used to it. I still have a lot of my lazy traits, but I think I've improved a little from this summer. Remember last week me telling you how great the weather was? Well, I should have knocked on wood. This week ~~was~~ cold as ... forget it. Man, I put those thermals on right away! We were tracting in Chatelaillon and we came across a Prêtre Catholique (Catholic priest) He said he couldn't receive us in his house because he would cause problems with the other curée in town. Chatelaillon has only about 5000 people. But we stood in the cold and talked to him for about 2 hrs. He was near blind, sincere poor, wise, almost enough to give you faith in the abominable church. He had lived in Paris all his life and had been famous once upon a time for his radio program over Radio Luxembourg. Oh yes, the rain has started too. I bought an umbrella some mittens for riding my bike, a sailor pull over ear cap, a beret, that's all. It's kind of salty here, with all of the old sailors. The kids wear P coats, turtle neck sweaters, and cask hats, I don't know if you've ever seen the Beatles wear them, the hats I mean. Dee may know. They're roughly similar to a policeman's hat. We buy a Herald Tribune each morning and keep some what up to date on VietNam, etc; KuKlux Klan, Alabama trials etc. Franc and Russia relations. DeGaulle has decided to run, and proclaimed himself the immortal savior of France, which I guess is in part true. But, what an egotistical person. How are things at home? Right know I'm waiting on the score of the Utah BY U game. It will be in the trib tomorrow but there will be no details. So keep sending the football clippings coming. I sent Mi lit a card when I first came out but we haven't been corresponding. Tim and Tom and I have a three way chain letter which we just started. Ann baby has sent me a couple of letters, I write Marie in French? You'll remember we took French together. I wrote a letter to Farida in Egypt to tell her I was in France and a week later got a long letter. At Mrs. Nelsons request I sent Dee a card and got a letter from him. No more space, see ya next week.

November 1, 1965

Dear Family: I've been about a week in LaRochele now, and I really like it. As Secretary of the Branch, I have all these forms to fill out, Historical reports to write, rolls to keep etc. It is not hard, but takes a lot of time and I enjoy the responsibility. It has been bed at 11:30 or 12:00 and up at 6 each day except Sunday when we get up at 7. After a while you get to enjoy the work and getting up early. That is not to say you get tired once in a while. We have done a little traveling to see members in our area, but out of La Rochele. We went to Rochefort once, Angoulême. Our tracting area is 13 ks out of town in a town called Chatelaillon. It sort of compares to Pacific Grove in California. I really do like the sea, and walking by it. Elder Daniels is a competent Elder. He gives me a chance to speak, even forces it on me, and when I know it he skillfully interupts. If I ever get to the point that I don't like his personality, I will still have no reason to ever complain about the amount of work we do. The weather here has been unbelievable for the last few weeks. It has been perfect. Although the mornings have been quite cold the afternoons are cool and crisp and sunny. Just looking outside now, it looks like the wind is blowing. We live on the first floor of a hotel right near the center of town. We shop every morning at a marché (market) about a block away. The salle (meeting hall) is about a block further away. The sisters live in an apartment just above the salle. I don't know why I can't type this morning. The rent is \$30 a month, double what it was in cent vingt-six. I gave a talk in Church yesterday. There are about 60 members in the branch of which about 10 are very active and another 7 or 8 are partially active. It's small but everything is done just the same. The spirit of the members is really great however. This has probably been said a hundred times before, but the people in Zion have it a lot easier than they know, and sometimes I wonder if that isn't a problem. In France Mormonism is synonymous with TJ's (Temoins Jehovah or Jehovah's Witness to you.) Mormonisme sometimes carries a bad conotation here. The French as a whole are hard to understand. The Catholic Church has been as abominable as the scriptures say. It is a business. It has given the people a letter of the law not a spirit of the law attitude, and consequently their system of right and wrong seems to me to be all inside out. There are still some people waiting to be found however, and that is why were here. In the French Version of Readers Digest there has been published a condensed version of Vardis Fisher's Novel on Joseph Smith. That hasn't done too much to help things. That's ano her thing about these French. They are so much more likely to believe something bad about something than something good. Even tho this is a novel by a person turned against the church, they jump to swear by it's truth. They jump on the palygamy aspect. Not realizing that there are probably more dual marriages, and adultries (It is very very difficult to get a divorce in France because of the Catholic Church, another example of letter of the law) than in any other country. People are funny. (Especially ones who can't spell funny correctly.) Well how are things at home? It seems hard to believe that 4 months have gone by. In some ways it seems slow, and in others fast. I don 't really know if I've impressed upon myself the fact that I'm going to be here for a long time, but I'ts coming. Dad did you rember to send Suzanne Olsens parents address? Mom I think you ought to come to meet me, the whole family for that matter. It's a little early to be talking about it I guess. They'll probably release me a couple of weeks early for Christmas, so check when school starts 2nd semester and see what we can work out. Out of paper See you next week, Love Ste

Nom et Adresse de la JF

GUINET, Mureille 3 Rue du Docteur Roux

LA PORTE, Sylvie

POUPEAU, Martine Fabienne

ROUSSEAU, Joselyne Françoise

THRYOFF, Catherine Lucette

BODIN, Nicole Maryse Danny

DOLD, Joelle Roselyne

POUPEAU, Josette Madeleine

POUPEAU, Marianne Edith Nicolle

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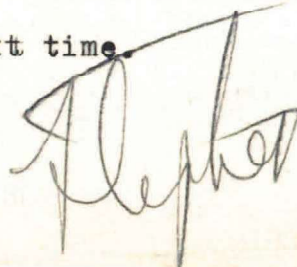
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October 24, 1965

Dear Family, this is going to be a quickie. I have been transferred to La Rochelle as companion to the Branch President there, Elder Daniels. He was in our apt. in Paris for 2 months. I am Secretary of the Branch believe it or not. I never realized how much work it is, especially when you're sec. of the Aaronic Priesthood, Relief Society, Primary, etc. all at the same time. It is really a change for the good, reason no. one, because this time I have a sharp companion, no; 2 we do lots of work. I have to give a talk in Sacrament mtg. next Sunday. I feel like John Taylor, the first missionary in France. We are in the sticks of the mission. La Rochelle is a beautiful little port with lots of history. It is quaint with arcades, and old salty sailors all over the place. The branch is very small, and the members very dedicated with more faith than you can imagine. We meet in a little old hall on a narrow street. You may not believe it, but I played the postlude in Sacrament mtg. tonite. I played a bunch of hymns in C G or F. I'm going to start playing some hymns in church soon. We are doing some proselyting in a little fishing town named Chatalaillon about 13 Ks from La Rochelle. We ride out there every day on Solex. It is a real nice ride. The Atlantic is cold and gray this time of year, although there have been a few nice days lately. I don't have much more to say, mainly because I'm quite busy. I'll try to get more in to you the next time I right. How are things at home? I don't know the score of the last football game. I guess that week layoff has got me all mixed up. There are 2 sisters and 2 elders besides us in La Rochelle. Find it on the map. It is above Bordeaux. Find Angoulême too, we went there Saturday for a Branch President conference. It is a quaint old town on a hill. All of the towns are very old.

Love until next time.



- 1 GUINET, Mureille 3 Rue du Docteur Roux - La Rochelle
- 2 LA PORTE, Sylvie Port Neuf Bat. 23 Esc. B Porte 19-La Rochelle
- 3 POUPEAU, Martine Fabienne 44 rue du Marché-Chatalaillon
- 4 ROUSSEAU, Joselyne Françoise 43 Cité Lafayette Aytré-La Rochelle
- 5 THRYOFF, Catherine Lucette 54 et 56 ave. Edmond Grasset-La Rochelle
- 6 BODIN, Nicole Maryse Danny 9 rue Saint Lo - La Rossignollette-La Rochelle
- 7 DOLD, Joëlle Roselyne 89 ave de Romsay - La Rochelle
- 8 POUPEAU, Josette Madeleine 44 rue du Marché- Chatalaillon
- 9 POUPEAU, Marianne Edith Nicolle 44 rue du Marché - Chataillon

Nom des Parantes

Sunday, Oct 17, 1965

Dear family, as you can see, I got my typewriter fixed and cleaned, along with a new ribbon. I really don't know what I'd do without this machine. The last letter I wrote to you drove me crazy. Well, the "freeze is on". The mornings are starting to get cold. When I get up every morning at 6 (Can you believe it?) I go across the hall to the head, Mom, you know them Arab toilets, I come back and put on that grey sweater, and then that Pendelton Shirt, one of the most valuable items I have and either go into the kitchen or the closet to study my lessons. If I am in the kitchen, the other Elders come in to shave sooner or later, and I'm forced to the closet. I do this for an hour and then have myself. If I happen to be cooking, I go down to "faire le courses" (shopping to you) For breakfast, I'm an eggs and much man. I either grind some wheat or make some Quakers. I usually boil the eggs. Sometimes with it we have chocolate. But anyway, I go down at 7:15 first to who we call the "youghourt lady". We have different names of reference for all the merchants in the area. For example the youghourt lady sells dairy products, wine and cheese. The Squirrly lady does our laundry, the Lavriey (Laundry) lady does our shirts etc.etc. Then I go to the bakery and get a big long loaf of bread. As you know, the bread here is good, but it has no nutritional value at all. Pardon my spelling mistakes, I'm not going to bother going back over everything. Anyway we eat breakfast about 7:45. The concierge comes up with the mail about 8:55, and we're usually dressed by then. By nine we should be out proselyting. In the morning we usually tract, and take any morning meetings we have made. Most often, meetings are not made for the morning, but for the afternoon and evening. The lunch hour is about 2 to three hours long. During this time we eat and when do anything else we have to do. Study, write letters etc. or a cat nap. Meetings, call backs, calling on members take up most of the afternoon, and the evening usually has meetings in store. Most of the time we are in bed by 10:30. I think I might get a transfer tomorrow, although I don't know for sure. There are 17 new Elders coming into the mission in a couple of days, and there have already been two big transfers already, so I'm about due. I won't say I'm looking forward to getting rid of this companion, but a change to a worker, would sure be great. The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence, but sometimes you wonder after being last in your district with no effort for improvement for three straight weeks. Anyway, I'm getting a chance to get the lessons learned. I should be completed by next week. The weather, although cold has been without rain, and I understand it gets a lot worse than this. I guess I told you that I bought a trunk. If you ever get a chance, I have a textbook some place by a woman from Yale on Art. It was from one of my classes in Cairo. Now read carefully. I do not need this book. Repeat: I do not need this book! But that is a subject that has caught my interest lately, with all the museums here in Paris for D-days and Sunday afternoons etc. You can if you get time put this in a Sea shipment. I would not have time to read it now if you sent it by air. I guess it is starting to get cold at home. Dee, what are you doing now? What are all your opinions on the rulings at school concerning dancing etc. Considering the purpose for the Y and its goals, I think it is a ~~no~~ good ruling. Many try to equate the term university as it is that of most everywhere to the Y, but the Y is unique and has different goals. If

October 13, 1965
126 Rue du Château
Paris FRANCE

Dear Dee, check that "Dee":

Thanks for that note. I was quite impressed to receive that air letter all the way from Nouvelle Zealand. You'll have to pardon all the holes in the paper, not to mention the typographical errors, because you're not important enough to erase. How are the people down there? They probably want to hear what you have to say more than the French do. Do you have to learn the Maori language down there? Here in France we have to learn French. Theoretically, were supposed to get 65 hrs a week proselyting too, but that is theoretically. As you remember, the French mission was the big apostasy mission, Church of the First Born etc. I think it still has remnants of this past. The morale and the spirit of the mission, however is generally better than the other missions of Europe. I guess like the scriptures say, the gentiles are going to start to reject the gospel, and then we'll have to start working on the Jews. This is not to say that the French or any other European mission is discouraged, but these aren't baptizing missions. We get a lot of baptisms and the members here are just tremendous - they have to go thru so much, Changing their whole way of life. The Church also has a bad reputation here in France especially from the polygamy point of view. There are so many misunderstood conceptions that we have to fight our way thru. Pres. Hunter told us that this was a pioneer mission and he certainly was right. It's great tho isn't it the sense of a positive direction you feel once you get out here and start to work. After 2 yrs. of apostasy one in Cairo and the other at the Y next year, I've decided to study, work my butt off and accomplish something for a change. The language poses the biggest problem and another big one is communication especially with Senior companions, ~~the~~ especially if they are clods like the one I've got now. (There is my first barrier to overcome as you can see. Getting along with my SC. The only time this guy likes to work is when he has to force himself to take in a movie or something, I don't know. You would never believe all the excuses he comes up with. I guess it's my job thru positive actions and examples to get him on the ball huh? But it is a tough job to say the least. I can't wait for My senior companionship.

Olson died of Lukemia. Did your m
That's really too bad. There is a
I never did know her, but if ever
your mothers class, it was on her
paper on the atonement that was d's-

I did not know that Suzar
tell you? I guess she did.
girl that used what she had.
there was an A to be had in
paper. She wrote a research

My father
tributed thruout the faculty at the Y.
sent it to me and it was great.

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It is interesting to get letters from you and hear nothing about what is going on. Tell me in your next letter about what the political issues are at Y. I'm sorry I didn't finish out the letter in French, but I got tired and my brain is very fragile. Et alors, ne jouez trop, allez à l'église ne fumez pas, ne buvez pas, portez des adlers, portez des weejuns, et bien sur des levis, dites bonjour à Guymon, Val, AW, Godvillia, them, Lurch, and Marie la stomp, et le Grand George. Restewz comme vous êtes maintenant, Met la fleur d'Australie une bonne femme. Vous vous souvenez de Larry Boyce? Maintenant il se trouve à Paris. Justement il va à l'école American (American University of Paris) J'ai changé quelques fois chez lui. Dans l'avenir nous allons jouer basketball si on peut trouver une place pour le faire. Il y a quelque jours je suis allé au concert de la Modern Jazz Quartet. C'était très bier. Hier je suis allé au Salon d'Automobile de Paris. C'est une exhibition de toutes les nouvelles voitures du monde. Quand même je suis assez pris avec la travail missionnaire. Les membres français sont très croyante. Nous pouvons apprendre beaucoup d'eux. (Crud this is bad news typing in French.) Questoequevousfaiteela? How's things. A great experience here in France, in Paris plutôt than I am having. In all fashions, how goes the school there? Do you make the ski always. Does the big George like well his mishen? My mother me has told that you have made ner acquaintance. That is very nice. Do you wear the adlers always. Is big Jim Bakins still around with Sally Seag, (oh pardon) I guess I really don't sound like I've made too much improvement in the way of maturity, but one has to resort to the old days once in a while to reinvigorate oneself on the things in life to which one should reinvigorate oneselfe.(Actually that was just an effort to invalidate that last typeographical error. Je ne dis pas grand chose, rien?

October 13, 1965
126 Rue du Château
Paris, France

Dear Brother and Sister Olson:

I don't think I have ever had the opportunity to meet you, but my name is Stephen Taylor and I am serving a two and one half year mission here in France. You may know my father, Weldon J. Taylor. He is Dean of the College of Business at BYU.

I am writing to you as a result of reading a research paper written by your daughter Suzanne. This was her paper on "the atonement" which was circulated throughout the faculty at Brigham Young by president Wilkinson. This paper was forwarded to me by my father and his secretary, Toni Morrel. With it was the news that Suzanne had passed away at the hand of leukemia.

I would like to extend to you my deepest regrets. I had the opportunity of graduating from Provo High School with Suzanne, and taking an accelerated English course from Mrs. Nelson with her. I didn't know Suzanne very well, but what I did know, and I'm sure that you knew it too, is the fact that Suzanne was always on top of the class. If there was only one "A" to be had in that class with Mrs. Nelson, it was on Suzanne's paper.

This same "A" quality was exemplified in her paper on the atonement of Jesus Christ. This paper is in my file at this moment as a reference to the marvelous sacrifice of our Lord.

Shocked as we all are, we have no regrets or reserves as to Suzanne's accomplishments here on this earth. Suzanne was blessed with ten talents, and she used them all. That is why, I'm sure that the Lord needed her so soon.

Again, accept my heartfelt regrets.

Sincerely,

Elder Stephen D. Taylor

October 13, 1965
126 Rue du Château
Paris, France

Dear Brother and Sister Olson:

I don't think you have ever met me, nor me you, but my name
is Stephen Taylor. I had the priveledge

October 13, 1965
126 Rue du Château
Paris 14, FRANCE

Dear Dad: Thanks for your letter. It is really a big boost to get your support, advice and encouragement. It's funny how you take for granted all this advice all thru your life until you get to a place where you find that it is all true and that if you had needed it before you would be in that much better shape than ever. The problems in the field? Communication, Procrastination (making excuses), the old Mormon term backbiting, Rationalization, and on and on. These I guess are the same problems that life as a whole has to offer. It was sure easy to get around them before though, by not doing much of anything and not really caring where your actions brought you or what other people thought of what you did. But these things that you've been telling me all my life are real, and there.

I suppose this is the big ritual that's gone on thru the centuries of the kid who is growing up finding out that his parents were right all along. Well I'm following the same track I guess, and I've got a long way to go to apply these principles of communication, non-procrastination, and rationalization in my own series of human interactions. I tell you, it is really hard to try to get the last word or cut the other fellow down. It is hard to not tell him about the "little things" like I always hurt Mom with. You're right. Emphasise the positive. It's not as easy as it sounds, but I guess I'm going to give it an effort. Maybe I'll start it by writing these things down, and putting a card in my pocket. All it amounts to is taking several little steps backward to get a giant one forward. But it's true, those letters of yours are worth their weight in gold just as a stimulant to get up at 6 the next morning. It's not hard and I've been doing it pretty well. But I'm going to have a purpose out here. If I'm out here I might as well do what I came for. So many are out here waisting their time, and this is not what I want. I want you, mom, and God to be proud of me. You're smart enough not to make any judgements by this letter I think, but I really hope you'll be proud of the finished result. It really shocked me to hear about Suwann

Sunday Oct 10, 1965

Dear family: The "e" on the typewriter drives me crazy, so I'll have to "longhand" this time. The past week, the weather has been tremendous. No rain, not a cloud in the sky. Only today did it really start to chill up. I got the shoes and the buttons. Mom - those yellow markers are not text book markers, but paint type. The paint goes thru the pages of books. Just the same, they will be useful for other things. The yellow book markers can be found at the 7 bookstore. They are not that necessary inasmuch as I can use red pencil. Don't send them. I really wish you wouldn't send this stuff by airmail. It costs too much and I had to pay 35¢ customs on the shoes. It's not necessary for the extra money either, at least like I said before. While I'm in this cheap apt. I keep \$10 out each check. I bought a trunk (all missionaries have one). I bought it from one of the Elders going home for \$9. It is steel and almost new. I have almost completed the 5th discussion and will be able to do the short 6th in 1 week. That will make about 3½ months, the time it took to learn them. There are certainly some discouraging times out here, like everywhere I guess. My companion just doesn't like to work. I get in those non-working moods too sometimes but one can over-do it. It's about now you begin to know that all the things you've been told all your life about procrastination, laziness etc were true. It makes you grateful that you have parents smart enough to

let you know that. So you have an ice-cream
keeper huh. You can send me one of those too if you want.
For double the price you can get $\frac{1}{2}$ as much ice cream in
FRANCE as in the U.S. It's terrible. Everything is in
small quantities and it's enough to drive you nuts.
The leaves are beginning to fall and the street sweepers
men with (Cairo type brooms) are out in force.
Maximus sent their gossip column. Score of the Op.
game got here Thursday. You can do better than that
can't you? I'm awaiting the San Jose score. I
had the concierge's wife downstairs take in my pants
on the grey suit, because they drowned me to say
the least. The others fit OK. I am about the
same weight I was when playing B-ball. (195-200)
erry Boyce stayed in France and is going to the Am.
college. What does everyone think about Ernie
clumping down on the "Slump" etc? I can imagine
the reaction of a certain part of the student body and
they'll just go off campus to do the same thing.

Essentially the, Ernie is right if BYU is to be
what we say it should be but then on the other hand.
If the Y is to be what we say it should be, what are we
doing with all these Marine non-Mormon football players
run out of space. I guess my X was present so you will
be slide, unless you can think of anything you want **LOVE!** ^{Steve}

Oct 7, 1965

Farido It was great to get your letter containing memories of
days gone by. Forgive me for writing in longhand, but
my typewriter is en panne. Yes, it was great to be
reminded of the good old days in Cairo. Especially
the nice. What ever happened to old John the Clerk. Is
he still around with his hot lips? And yes one
memory I can never forget A Da Sa (Sob) (Sigh)
Shed a tear for the great organization. Now you
don't need to sweat it, at all, being at Agni and
laying in the sun. I'll trade places with you
any day. Paris isn't that great. In fact some-~~times~~
times I'm convinced it's a hole. Believe me, I would
like to come down there and visit, and chances are
that I will, but it won't be for another 2 years.
I'll be here in FRANCE for 2 years. You'll remember
I'm a Mormon and I'm serving a mission for my
church. The Modern Jazz Quartet was here last
week, it was tremendous. Did you remember several
months ago a group of students coming thru Cairo with
a show called "Certain Time USA" They were from
my school in the states, BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY.
Well Mouse, I couldn't help it. I had to write some more
poems which you'll find included. They aren't bad I guess,
but I have done better. Who is still around down
there? M. Teague? Maxi? Tarek M. Keen etc? etc?
The more I think about it the more I liked your country.
And the more I'd like to go back for a ~~while~~ while.

Are there many Americans down there now? Are
you still sold off to a guy your going to marry?
Crazy customs. (Crazy Americans for thinking
other peoples customs are crazy, huh?) Man your
letter sounded just like you. I expected it to
squeak after reading it through. You dont
sound like you've changed too much. There is
a kid here in Paris who I played basket-
ball with at home and we go out and play
occasionally. Whatever happened to Pat
Rooney, the Bello's etc. Time sure flies.
Its been almost ~~2~~ 2 years and $\frac{1}{2}$ since I
first arrived in Egypt. Where does your
brother go to school now? He's about old
enough for college now isn't he. How many
languages do you speak now, 15? Crazy people.
One language is ~~is~~ enough. However, If I
ever make it down to Cairo with in the next 2
years which is possible, I'll look you up and
speak FRENCH to you. It still seems funny to me
that you and I have lived on 2 different sides
of the world, and all of a sudden we became
friends. Yet we both have our own lives, our
own problems, and happinesses. Its funny. Write
me when you get a chance Mouse — Steve

October 7, 1965

Passion runs-high at a moment like this. The chill that went thru me-the minute-I saw that blue air-letter this morning. I knew right then and there the portent it-would-carry thru-out the rest of my life. One letter and a changed life. Why hadn't-I written to you? I thought it was all over for us-that night you kissed me. That was the most w'al'est-most insinc'er'est kiss'st i've ever f'e'l'st. (You'll have-to pardon the 'ls on this machine à écrire) Having previously mastered the language I bought a french typewriter and the 'e doesn't work. Where were we? Oh yes;;;...-è\$ Passion! Does Slack know about me and you.- Does he know about that nit' at the Blue Terrace, Sport Shop; and-G'n'r? Oh Dâç what a-nit'. I saw the Modern Jazz Quartet the other nit', and have been examining Ferraris at the Paris Auto Show-today. This is purely a pagan letter as the mish'nkairys use the word. This 'e is really bad news. - I can beat Slack out for you any day of the week. I asked him one day if he was a man or a mouse, and you know what he told me? He said "I don't know, but come into my-hole a few minutes and we'll talk about it." Ha Ha get-it? H ol'? Mouse? get it? ha Hol'? Ah'm. The fact that you're-busy ought-to keep you busy and away from mauvais influ'nc' like slack. He drinks beer occasionally doesn't he? How's school. I-hear Ernie's clamped down on the stomps. Stomp on Ernie! Get it ha-he ha Stomp on Ernie. If the army gets ahold of slack you 'n me 'll 'ave it made. By the way wats 'e doin lately any-for? I'm out of my mind. How are you anyway. Thanks for the letter. You said you'd do-it and you did. It-gives a young man pangs of hunger for women they love, especially like you. Why did you do it? Why did you give me pangs of-hunger? If I'd have known you-were that serious about me I might have had time to change my life. But now it's too late, I'm afraid.- Does Gary still go with Jan? Does Tom still go with Beverly? Does Bob still go with Kathy? I just put those in-b'caus' they are typical letter ~~xxx~~ clichés. Give Bob my regards 'v'n tho you will be doing it in deception. Try to keep a straight face. I think it's better he n'v'r know our secret, and then we can really ruin his life when it counts. Love and kisses. I-can dream about you can't I? Passion was so High, that I wrote this letter the same day I got yours. Normally that amounts for a loss of a lot of pride, but who cares when it's passion and love. When you coming over to see me? Bob?

Love Steve

Monday, October 4, 1965

It's noon, and I just got back from the Mission home, and from the First Nat'l Bank on the Champs-Élysées from cashing my check. It's hard to believe, because summer weather is here in the fall. The weather has really been great, a little cool, but that makes it all the more comfortable. I got Paxman's newsletter in the mail today. It was quite interesting to read all that gossip; it talked about your trip to the canyon. I thought that was quite selfish not to take the dog along for the exercise. I'm anxiously awaiting the score of the football game bet. the Y and Oregon. That is really something about those first two games. I don't know when you sent the shoes, but they haven't arrived as yet. We found no more excuses not to proselyte this week. It seems they are going to raise the rent on this place and my companion saw that as an opportunity to fix the place up. This may sound odd to you, but I hope the time comes soon when I'll have time to proselyte. I might as well tell you, before you start sending all this extra money in my checks, that I have 70 dollars in travelers checks now. I was going to keep it as a surprise and have something like \$500 at the end of my mission, but that wouldn't be fair to you who have to shell it out. But here is my theory: If I budget my money correctly like this, take 10 or 20 out each check, and put it into travelers checks, I will never have to ask for more. It's too easy to blow your money on junk, therefore if you can take it out at the first of each month you will have a nice roll when certain things come up like transfers, major repairs on the Solex, and when I reach a senior companion I'll be able to buy slide projectors, and slide presentations sans having to ask for more money. It is not hard to here at 126 because the rent is so cheap. But if I work it right nothing should have to change from a 100 dollar check each month. It's too bad that I have to wait till now to realize the value of the money your sending me, but believe me I'm trying to do my best. It really makes you sick to see Elders out here getting 150 plus a month and still getting in debt. Saturday night we really had a treat, we went to see the Modern Jazz Quartet at the new Television building here in Paris. It was quality entertainment, to say the least but the audience didn't merit much. Listen to the Album I have of theirs, "Pyramid". I am still progressing in the lessons. I'm not going to reach my goal of 3 months. But I am going to reach the second goal I set of 3 and 1 half months. As you remember I set my original goal for 4 and a half. That's rationalization for you. I still go tracting with the Elder who had come 2 months after me. I took my first meeting alone with him too, the other day. It was an interesting experience to be on your own. I'll sure be happy when I get these lessons over with. What is the reaction there in town about this year's football team. I guess I should have asked that question after the results of the Oregon game huh? Larry Boyce is staying here in Paris and going to the American college here. It's quite a small school. Is father is going to take command of a ship in the navy soon. Looks like the page is about ready to run out. Marie wrote and said she got the Levi's. See ya next week. Love

Sunday, Sept. 26, 1965

Dear-family: This week certainly has been a change. It has only rained one time, and that time very little. The days have been clear, and cool, not cold. It has really been pleasant. The first district conference took place today. (The first since I've been here that is.) The five branches from around Paris and the one from Orleans were the branches concerned. There were two sessions, morning and afternoon. And I really got a chance to see that there are some really sharp members from around the area. Too often one hears about the inactive ones, but there are really some great people here sacrificing a lot to follow the principals of the gospel, which is a much more difficult task than many people at home believe I'm sure. A French girl member came up to me today and asked me if I was ST, and I said yes, then she handed me

a letter from Robert Sears to you here. Robert Sears had referred her to you, Dad to help her to get started and RS knew that you had a son here on a mission. I guess he told you about her. I can't remember her name and I didn't get much time to talk to her, but she is quite nice looking, so so, very small, petite type.

I went tracting with an Elder who has been out three weeks, this week, and it was a very interesting experience to say the least. We spent an hr and one half talking to two people, and I didn't know I could talk that much. It's still pretty poor, but just the fact that I could understand them a little shows I'm making some progress. Mom before I forget, send over in the top of the shoes or something some small buttons for the collars of the shirt and also some of the regulars. They are not necessary right now but the laundries here do not resew them on. Already some of the larger buttons have come off, but one can find a reasonable facsimile of them here. I got another letter from Grandma, one from the bishop and even one from Old Ann. She said she saw you or some one said they saw you. I wrote Farida a card and got a big long letter from her. She said she sent me one to Provo a few months ago. I guess it didn't get thru. Did I tell you that I went out and ran in the Bois de Boulogne with my companion. It was good to get a little exercise for a change. We are starting to work a little more. I hope we can get some baptisms coming up in the near future. We have one coming up I think. That's great about the Y winning a foot ball game. I guess everyone is excited about the future. Say, I guess they have already won or lost another at the time I'm writing this letter. You probably have the clippings on the way. Those clippings are a good break. I usually read them during the 2hr lunch hr we have from about 12 to 2. What did you say happened to Steve Kramer? There are a lot of new missionaries coming out at this time. Also a lot going home. What are you doing Dee? How's school. Well lots of love. I can't think of much else to say.

Love as always,

S t e p h e n

Monday Sept 20, 1965

Dear family: Forgive my lateness today in writing, also the the e's on this machine are on the blink and I haven't had the time to fix them. Also the ribbon on this writer doesn't flip up sometimes. I'll have to take it apart when I get the time. I really don't know what to say. The weather is getting colder and the days shorter. The season is really starting to change. The trees that line the boulevards are all beginning to shed and the broom men mostly negro's are now beginning to sweep them up. We are working in the 14th arrondissement which is the middle south arrondissement if I can explain it that way. It is about a middle class, lower middle class district. We haven't had too much luck so far. We get in about 26 hrs tracting a week, but not much teaching in the last two weeks. Things are beginning to pick up though. My companion is starting to work a little harder. My language seems to be picking up, although like I've said a hundred times before, I still have quite a ways to go. I feel sorry for the guys who come here with no experience at all in French. Somebody got a letter from home saying that it's started to snow already. Is that true? Every weekday I've been wearing the grey suit. I think I'm going to wear it till it splits. It is made of the best material;;; it never needs pressing. However, I don't like the fit. The other three are perfect. Because we worked a little harder and got in late some of the nites last week, I didn't get too much time to study on the discussions. I'm going to have to pick up this week. It isn't too interesting studying, but it is something that has to be done. Did I tell you that we went out to work on the Versailles chapel again. We have a baptism coming up. It isn't anything that I had to do with, nor my companion, but it is the result of Elders transferring and leaving investigators. I don't know him too well, but he is a young man about 20. I've worn the thermals one time on a cold nite. They fit quite well, and I can see that they are going to come in handy. I recieved the shirts, thanks very much, really. But, do you know what the word SEA SHIPMENT means? It means Not airmail, but by surface. Surface means not in the air. I hate to see that postage on those packages, especially when it's not necessary to send them by air. The whole purpose for sending the shirts by sea was to server as a relief for my white ones when they begin to fray. Anyway, thanks, they'll still take the load of my white shirts for a while. One certainly meets interesting people here in the Paris area. Most of the people as I've mentioned before are Catholic. But, they are Catholic by tradition rather than by actual belief. It seems to be more of a social acceptance than a religious outlook. We get everything from door slaming, insults to calling the Police. Most of the people have a false conception of what the Mormons really are. It might not really be a false conception as much as it is explaining our beliefs in a form of ridicule. The Saints over here really have to go thru a lot, and undertake a big change when they join us. But there really are some good members. (Bad ones too, as anyplace.) That clipping you sent of Frere Bald was interesting. He is the Pres. of the Paris Branch. I think he has been a member about 3 years. Right now we are working a big cite (housing devp.) It is really large and impressive. I am anxious to send some pictures home to you and will do so as soon as I get my next role developed. I see Elder Hutchin occasionally but not often. He is right close however in Chatillon. It is located in the Banlieu (sort of like Long Island is to NYC) in our direction. Right by the Porte d'Orleans. No need for extra money, really. So long until next week Love Stephen

Sept. 12, 1965

Dear Family/ You probably got my last letter before Friday. I usually type them on Sunday evening or afternoon. Most of the time since I've been here, I haven't had stamps readily on hand, and it seems like it's Monday Evening or Tuesday morning sometimes before I get the letter mailed. Last time I bought a bunch of stamps in bulk. Say, while I'm thinking in that direction, on passing the newsstands I see in the French papers a lot about The Shah's ex wife Saroya being blind and his present wife Farah inviting here to Tehran for operations etc. I never have had the time to buy a paper and read it for that purpose. What's the scoop? I appreciate the clippings you send me although I feel quite guilty when I see the postage on the envelopes. I really would be interested in keeping up on BYU football, but you don't really need to go all out like you have been doing. I got some slides back, but I'm going to wait to send them to you because I don't have a full box and it would be a waste of postage to send them now. I got the other package of thermals. I'm sure I'll be using them soon. The other fellows in the apartment have already been wearing them for a couple of days, but I really haven't found the need as yet. I wear either one of those two sweaters every day it seems. My grey suit that I bought in SL is my everyday suit now. It holds its press and wears pretty well. I wear it 5 days out of the week. I'm saving some of the others for later years. Good idea? It's too big already and I'm thinking of having the washing lady across the street take it in. My two old suits fit pretty good now. My brown one still fits OK. So actually I'm in pretty good shape. Are you going to send those shirts in a sea shipment? Like I say it's nothing important, but I can see that those white shirts aren't going to last all that long. You would be proud of me Mom. I've gone some days wearing a shirt 5 days. The collar is grey after 3 and Black after 5. I've got three lessons memorized. I think I can still beat my goal. I'll sure be glad when I get them out of the way. Did I say that Paris is getting pretty cold. All the natives have been complaining about the weather saying it has been the worst they have ever seen. All the Parisians are back for vacation, and the roads are congested with traffic. We had a meeting with an American Monk the other day. He was down in the latin quarter. A Monk? He had a real sharp suit on and had just received his degree from Oxford and was in Paris to have a little relaxation. He's going back to teach European History in a Monastery in Indiana. We didn't talk religion because he had already had it out with the Mormons in Wyoming and he wasn't interested in discussing any more. I guess everyone is discussing football at home. Dee are you practicing your tennis and your BB. I seem to think of a lot of things during the week to write down, but forget them when it comes time to write you; maybe I better write them down in a little notebook. We saw the sun the other day which was quite amazing. Dad, are you going to send me that article you said you were? There are fleas here too as well as Egypt. The language seems to be progressing slowly, although I still don't get much experience speaking, just listening. Oh, yes, yesterday we went out and worked on the Chapel at Versailles again. I took my camera out to take a few pictures but the weather was bad and it rained much of the time. It was good to get out and do a little physical work for a change though. There are two other chapels supposed to go up in the Paris area. The land is purchased and everything, but building permits cannot be procured from the Communist controlled city govts. I'm running out of time, you're all great! and see you next week.

September 5, 1965

Dear family: Paris has had it's coldest weather for this time of year in 100 yrs. That plus the rain makes it really bad news. My companion has been in the hospital for three days with a virus. It was nothing really serious and he might have saved himself some money if he would have tried to stick it out at home. While I'm thinking about it, I went out to Boyces to have dinner last night, this time with one of the other Elders who room with us. I'd really appreciate it if you get the chance, invite Larry Boyce to dinner in a couple of months, sort of to repay the favor. I don't know yet how to get a hold of him but it shouldn't be too hard. We haven't seen the Sun for over a week. The longer you get cut in the mission field, the more you wonder why some people are out here. There are really some pagan elders and I personally wonder what their real purpose is for being here. Our District leader, Elder Conway is a great missionary with a lot on the ball. He's done a lot to help me. I don't feel like we're making too much progress with my companion. There always seems to be an excuse for not working. Don't attempt to interpret this letter as discouragement because I'm not discouraged or anything like that. It's not my position to complain about my companion, however, but it is my position to get him working with out creating friction. That is probably one of the largest lessons of the messenger field I guess. I'm still working on the lessons and still hope to fulfill my goal. The language is still hard a lot of it because I don't get much chance to use it. I have had more experience talking with people in French with other elders I've gone out with than with my own companion. And I've only been with these other elders 1/1000 of the time. I'm trying to do a lot of reading, but I guess I should spend more time on the language itself. (The reason I'm making so many mistakes is that my hands are cold. It's sort of like Cairo was, now.) I have been a little sick this week too, I hope it wasn't my amoeba. It's gone for the most part now, but we'll see. I guess you have started school Dec. How are the fellas. All playing football? Do you think you will send my by sea those shirts? You could insert in the package things like a yellow narrow lined marking pen. (These are just things that might come in handy and are by no means necessities) 5 Big hunks, etc. A box of Ritz crackers costs 5 cents. All the prices are terrible. I've lost a lot of weight, I don't know how much but my old suits fit perfect and the grey pants dwarf me from my new suit. I think I'll buy some suspenders rather than take them in, that is if I can find some suspenders to fit. I'm getting a little more to eat than I was now that the last check came. It's really not all as bad as I make it sound. Boy, all the Parisians are back from vacation. And you've never seen a city so congested with cars. It's really terrible. On our Solex's we can get across the city in no time however. A lot of new missionaries just came in and we have a new one for in our flat. An Elder from Logan. Elder Daniels went to La Rochelle to be Branch President. That's about all I can think of to say this week, this will have to be one of the shorter notes.

Love Stephen

Sept. 1, 1965

I'm going to add this page to your letter. I had an experience the other day I thought you might be interested in. We were given this meeting the other day to go visit an American monk from Indiana who had been working on his doctorate (sp) in European history at Oxford. We find him in a real sharp flat on Quai Saint Michel in the Heart of the Latin quarter. He invites us in and offers us a drink. He takes gin and tonic, and we take apple juice. What are you doing in Paris, we say. He said he told his superiors he was going for a walk in the English Country side but instead he got the first plane ticket to Paris. A Monk? This guy had on real expensive clothes etc. He had had 5 yrs. of Greek, 1 of Hebrew, 4 of French, 3 of Spanish, 5 of Latin, and more than one other. I don't know if you knew that Pope Pius 12 was supposed to have received a vision of Jesus Christ, out of course we asked him what the Catholic Churches stand on revelation was and he said it ended with the book of Revelations in the New Testament. Then we said, "Well what about this claimed vision on Pope Pius 12. He bursts out laughing and says, "I think this is the real story behind it: Pope Pius and Cardinal Spellman of New York were having problems at the end of Pius's reign - it seems that Pius was trying to take over everything and more or less put his own interpretations on the dogma of the Catholic Church. Well it seems that when Pius was on his death bed no one was admitted into his room to see him. But Cardinal Spellman needed to see him so bad, that he climbed up the Vatican wall and crawled into the window of Pius's room and Pius then looked over at him and said 'Jesus Christ; you again!!' Well it seems that the Chamber maid happened to be passing by the door and later went and rumored to everyone that Jesus Christ had appeared to Pius the 12, and this is the real story of the Vision of Pius the 12." Keep in mind that this was a monk that told us this. He told us also (this guy was great) he was going back to the monastery to teach the rest of his life. He said they had to chant office 8 hours a day, get up at 4:40, they could take their habits (robes) off to play tennis, swim but not to play volleyball. He said there was just a recent innovation into the system whereby they could now wear watches and use electric shavers. This was about the most intellectual pursuit of a religion, namely Catholicism I think I will ever see. Maybe I'm just naive, but this guy was something else. Great to say the least. I thought you might enjoy this little tidbit and anyway I wanted it myself inasmuch as I Carboned it off.

His name was Sylvester!

August 29, 1965

Dear Dad, Mom and Dee: I really can't think of much to say this time. (What a brilliant statement, huh?) Paris is starting to get cold and leaves of the trees along the boulevard are beginning to change. The cold here is really penetrating, much like Cairo. They tell me that along with the Cold and the rain in the winter it's very hard to keep dry. I've completed the Second lesson. Because I've completed a lesson, doesn't mean I can go out and give one to some contact right on the spot because reciting a lesson in bed is much different than going out and giving it. It is a start however and by giving parts of it to your contact you can gain the experience necessary to be a good teacher. I seem to be understanding more and more French each day although learning to speak a language and not just saying the Hellos and How are you's is much more difficult than one first anticipates. We have a contact that just asked for baptism today. She was one who we first found about the second or third day I first went tracting. She is an old woman, her name is Madame Conge. She has a very sincere heart and goes to a lot of trouble to come out to church. She has to climb six flights of stairs in her house. Boy, one doesn't begin to realize how big Paris is until he begins to walk and ride through it each day. I don't remember if you ever went to the Sacre Coeur or not but there you can get a pretty good view of the immensity of this city, all consisting of more or less the same types of buildings, with the same color and the same type of people in each. Another thing that strikes me after being here this little time is the amount of rich people who live here. If you can live in Paris and be rich, you have to be RICH. But we never go throughout a day without seeing several \$15,000 plus automobiles like Ferraris, Rolls, Maserati's and Jaguars. It's really amazing. We saw a horrible accident yesterday a great big dump truck creamed into a mini-minor which is smaller than a VW but still has a bigger motor and is much faster, and it about tore the car to bits. We saw it after it happened and didn't see what happened to the driver. Paris drivers are out of their minds. The govt. is trying to put on a big campaign to stop them from getting mad, and losing all sense of rationality when something irks them. It is really becoming a problem. I haven't tried the thermals on yet, but I'm sure they'll fit. It's up to you if you want to send them by airmail but I still find that it really isn't necessary. Do you think you can send those shirts with the buttons moved by SEA SHIPMENT. If you do they'll get here just about in time to save the wear on my white shirts. The Mission president and his wife think stripped dress shirts are very becoming. I've started to read the Book of Mormon again, although I should read the New Testament before it. I got caught in a bookstore and got a couple of books on religions of the world. When I get time I'm going to read the Koran. The biggest obstacle is still the language and the lessons, and once I get those over with I'll be really relieved. My companion doesn't put in as much proselyting time as he should. I'm still a dog on a leash so to speak and when I sort of press him to get going dissention arises. I'm not equating myself to the perfect missionary either. But I know that my senior companionship is going to be different. His main occupations are the guitar and Hot Rod magazine. He's actually like me. He's got potential (so you say) but he wastes it all. But we get along fairly well or so so. That's one of the big challenges of work like this is to be able to get along with people. I'm sure I'm not perfect either and he sees a lot of things wrong with me. My Sarcasm for one thing. I continually cut him down.

For Dee's benefit he's an ex-grease. I hope the mission home for-
wards that check pretty soon, because I'm broke, and I don't want
to have to cash those travless checks. I could get more checks
when your check comes ~~that~~ but that would take 2 trips to the
bank. I'll be able to sweat it out I guess. How are things at home?
Are things getting ready for school? When are you coming over here
to visit me? Dad, are you and Mom coming over here after my mission
and go the Greek Isles with me? When is the fool coming over? I
was reading in the paper where Johnson says being married does not
make one ineligible for the draft. It also said Salt Lake City was
among the highest in the nation for marriage liscences increase since
the draft quota was stepped up. France and DeGaulle are really being
weenees about their attitude toward the US. Is there a lot concerning
the race riots in LA? What's to be said about that? They're playing
up the space shot quite a bit over here. Well I better shut up.

Love until next time,

STEPHENDEWITT TAYLOR

~~Sept~~ Aug 26

Robert: I was dissappointed (sp) to hear that you won't be able to make it over here when you had hoped. I was hoping that before I moved out of Paris, or before I am moved out, we would be able to see a skin show together as a symbol of my sinful days. Paris has had an unusually cold summer and missionary work in the summer in Paris is slow because the French take a one month vacation various times during the summer. The life is different. One thing I like about it is that it gives one the opportunity to think, study learn a language and plan out his future while at the same time being able to work at something constructive, and good. The French as you might well expect are one of the least receptive peoples that one could find. The plague of the Catholic Church among the ouvriers and the bourgeoisie stops us cold. TRADITION. They can't get away from it. The upper classes are too busy driving their Ferraris (scrud ferries) - they are too busy driving their Ferrari's down the Champs. A lot of them take the time too listen too us, but it is purely an intellectual ecoute. Speaking of Ferraries - Paris, being probably the richest city in the world is full of them. What a city for cars: Ferraris, Lotus-Elan, Facel Vega, Rolls, etc. all over the place. I'm almost already home with a René Bonnet (\$3200) or a Simca Mille Bertone (\$2000). How are things at home? You and Kathy still get along pretty well? Say Hi? Ask her why she doesn't write me like she said she would? What are your plans? Are you going to try to get in school? Then sneak off while you've still got your defferment? Is everyone worried at home about the stepup in the draft. They're not going to get me off to Vietnam - not because I have other things to do especially, but basically because I'm Chickenshit. (Don't Blackmail me on that word). I sent a card to Dee in NZ because Mrs. Nelson told me too, and what but here comes a letter from NZ and was I proud to hear from Dee and show off my New Zealand stamp to the guys. I saw Mr. Lloyd when he came thru Paris with all the Utah High School studts. He gets around for being a school teacher. I was thrilled when He said he was going to say hi to my family. I'm kind of looking forward to the school life again already but it's kind of hard to get it thru my head, that when I get back the next time it will be for real. Gee I don't want to be an adult; Missionary slang: grunt, frump - these guys aren't for real. Well after that crummy letter you can dis'own the fact that you know me. When you get a little time tell me about school, your women, and plans. Love Tā

August 22 1965

Dear Family: How's the weather there? It's starting to get fall here - and in a hurry. Today, Sunday, it was really brisk, especially in the morning. The sidewalk cafés were empty most of the day. Between meetings at church my companion and I went for a long walk thru the city which was really nice; Boy, you think I'm bad, my companion (I hope he doesn't come over here and see what I'm typing) but my companion sits around most of his leisure time and draws hot rods and plays the guitar. I guess this is what we're supposed to learn to live with, and I have my imperfections too, but thanks for instilling in me non-procrastination, non-waste-time, and always-be-doing-something. You may not have that I had it before, but since I've come out, at least after the first 2 weeks there has been rarely a time when I haven't been doing something. That's an egotistical statement I guess but I want to really accomplish something out here. I've finished the Doctrine and Covenants, and have shortened my goal to 3 months for learning the lessons, which means every available moment I'll be studying. Memorizing the lessons is not hard from the point of view of difficulty, but just the fact that it is boring and there is no momentary satisfaction at the time. But in the end, I'm sure that I'll have been glad I've done it. Don't start bragging about how your son is really gung-ho until I do something tho. I keep telling you about all these things I set out to do, but be sure to wait until I've accomplished them. I know probably by now that Mom has told everyone in the city, the story of my mission thus far. Say, how's Thrump for the 2nd time? I see that picture on my desk every day and look at my fat face, at Dad thinking, and my cocky brother, and Mom with the air of a boss, and Thrump is one of my sources of satisfaction from day to day. (I hope you're not crazy enough to believe that.) Not including the food, (which I've already paid for, I've got \$5 to last me thru the rest of the month. I have to pick up my shirts Thursday which will cost \$1.75 and gas will cost another \$.50 and I'll be lucky to make it. I had to pay a \$5.00 bill to get my Solex paid, and it will probably another 3 weeks before I get the Insurance refund for it. Talk about a mission to learn the value of money. Dad, you would say that if I was working hard enough that I wouldn't get hungry. But I can tell you that you get hungry here. Everything is in smaller portions. And we don't eat at night unless we want to buy a snack somewhere. No hamburger stands here. Don't get me wrong, I'm not asking for more money, only I'm hungry that's all. I've lost about 5 pounds which is just right, because all of my suits fit pretty well now. None of them fit the same, but I'm at a weight where I'm at a happy medium. An average day: Up six, study until 7:30 when my companion gets up. The other two Elders in the flat get up at 6 too. Tract from 9 to 12. Then in the after noon after eating, we visit contacts, have meetings, or tract if there is nothing else to do, unless my companion can think up a good enough excuse to take pictures of interesting architecture or price Ferrari's. I can't think of anything much else to say, other than that my testimony has increased by leaps and bounds. To Dad, thanks for the great letter, keep them coming. If you can get up at 5:30, there is no excuse in the world why I can't do a little less than complement that at 6:30. When I get a little time I will write you a letter and tell you a lot about what I'm thinking and what direction I'm headed towards. I can't think of a bigger thrill I get than when I brag about my Dad and Mom, and even the Fool and his great scholastic, athletic, and VW driving prowess. Love

Aug 20, 65 Ann Whiting

Well, here goes another mishenary hoe has succumbed and joined the club of mishenaries writing to Ann Whiting. Gad, that girl, how does she keep up with the stamps. (Just letting off a little pride there.) That was real nice of you to take the effort to remember my birthday, Ann. Did you know, Ann - Did you know Ann, that I've spent my last two birthdays in Paris? I'll bet you didn't. How's things? How many affairs did you have in NY? Are you going to marry Tex? After all, what more could you want from an RM - opps! The day will come, won't it? Being a green mishenary is hell. You can't doo anything but listen and take orders from the great big experienced Clods. My life until now is one of learning the lessons and earnestly reading about everything I can get my hands on. That's the part I'm enjoying. Reading and Studying. I really think I can say I know that I'm on the right track out here. I owe a lot of that of course to my parents, for making me act like I was there when I really wasn't. I just finished the Dand C and its tremendous. Even from a non-theological point of view the philosophies it propounds are irreapproachable. The language still poses the largest problem and only experience and study can get rid of that. Elder Hutchings is a nice guy, but at the same time he's kind of a Clyde. Obviously a go getter making sure to let everyone know that he's out to please. He's in a town outside of Paris. He'll go back and get his degree at the Y get married and pick up a 52 Dodge station wagon and have 7 kids. Oh, he'll be happy and maybe even rich, but not for me man. He's a good guy, I'm not knocking him, but just between you and me, how did he ever get to be Soph. Class Pres.? Maybe my values are all turned around huh? I got a couple letters from Spiksbury telling me how she's sad she'll have to go back and study because she's been having so much fun in Colorado. Typical dumb coed. She'll be married before long to her RM. She's a good kid tho; I'd have still liked to have broken the ice. Say, this is all in confidence blabbermouth girl! She said Big Fender Vector George is going on a mishen to Ireland. Bob Slack is about to get nabbed by the Army, but he's going to try to sneak over here anyway. Lewis is a District Leader in Merristown Pa. You're a good head Ann, coming from me that might be less than 0 but when you get a chance write. Stay away from the Clods.

Tim Lewis

August 17, 1965

Est-ce que vous avez jamais entendu parler de l'église Mormone? Voudriez-vous savoir davantage? Ha! Well it was certainly nice of you to think of me here in the "pit." (Our flat that is.) Welcome from the most expensive city in the world, where an ice cream that would cost 5 cents in the states costs 20 cents: where it rains every other day; from where I just got bodily thrown out of a building by a concierge the other day. When I speak French a little better I'm going up to a French taxi driver who has just honked at me for no particular reason, bash in his windshield with a baseball bat, and beckon him to come out and slug me. Welcome from the city where we have to climb 5 flights of stairs to get to the "pit," where there is no shower except for a hose coming out of the sink and standing in a tub. Welcome from the flat where we have no refrigerator: and where a box of corn flakes costs 50 cents.

Welcome from the richest city in the world, the city of beautiful women, Ferrari's, Aston-Martins, Facel-Vegas, and Lotus-Elans. Welcome from the land of the stubborn Frenchman, who when the word American is mentioned sticks up his nose not knowing himself that it is only out of sheer jealousy.

Oh scrud, enough attempt at this literary type trash. How's the new DL? Gees I even feel inferior to you now. (What's that Lewis? You say I always have been?) Really, I appreciate any of the advice you want to throw out.

As you can well imagine, this mission is much different in many ways than one in the states. One is working with a totally different system of thinking. One is working against centuries of tradition, and a naturally short-tempered suspicious people. One is working with a people who dislike new American innovations in everyday life only because they didn't invent them themselves. One is working in a country where the word Mormon means now what it did 40 years ago in the United States. Word of wisdom poses a much bigger problem here than most places naturally.

I'm part way into the second lesson, and do a little bit of the talking on the doors, but the language of course is still not where I'd like it to be. One knows why know that the foreign missions have a longer duration than the English speaking ones. The average length of time given an Elder out here to learn his lessons is 6 months. I hope to have mine down in four as well as having finished the DandC, and New Testament in English, after which time I will start in on the BOFM in French, and the other two again but in French. But the language is the chief barrier to overcome. I won't be seeing you for a while will I? I just got a letter from Bob Slack who was going to try to make it over to Europe, but it seems the army is on his tail, they got him for a physical, and won't give him a permit to leave the country; so it seems he's going to try for a student deferment and not go to school but come over here. He blew it by not getting a student deferment last year. He went to school with a 1A classification. How's your reserve status? Has your unit been called up?

There's nothing like a mission to increase your testimony. I've got to be grateful to my parents for setting an example, because I don't know where I'd have been without that example. But I'm sure glad I'm here, and I plan to work my butt off. There's supposedly lots of discouragement in the Fr: European missions in general but not with me man. I know what I want, and I'm going to try to work for it. Lots of luck. Sent Tom a card. No reply

August 14, 1965

Dear Dad, Mom and Dee: I'm really used to this typewriter now, I think that when I switch to an English one, I'll have the same problem changing back. The only letter I usually foul up on is the Z which is located where the W usually is. All periods, numbers etc, have to be capitalized, because the extra letters with accents are more commonly used than the numbers. No one knows why the period has to be capitalized. Last Monday while on the way to the Mission home from our flat, I was sandwiched in on my Solex between the curb of a bridge across the Seine and a two trailer semi Belgian Van. It ripped off half my handle bar, and I was lucky to stay out from under the wheel. However either my or his insurance will take care of the damage which has already been repaired. This has been an unusual week for me. I've been thrown out of several buildings. While taking a call back with the District Leader, Elder Conway from Blanding, the Concierge, a man had had complaints about the Elders tracting earlier that day. The Concierge would not let us in. Even though by law we could get in because of an appointment previously made, but reasoning would not prevail and the Concierge went out of his head, making sure that the people in the building would hear him so he would not lose his job. I might tell you something about the laws here in France respecting going from door to door. It is against French law à vendre quelque chose (sell something) or quêter (collect for charities etc.) Most buildings, in fact, all most (sp) all of them have signs at the door saying in essence, "All salesmen, representatives, and collectors for charity in this building" So this gives us a loophole to try to sneak past the concierge on the bottom floor to get to the top of the building to start tracting. By French Law, the Police can't do anything to us because we aren't "selling or collecting", but of course to most people whom we encounter we are more or less doing the same thing. So therefore, we can get kicked out of the building, but if they were to call the police, the police would just tell them to get lost. But it kind of makes you wish there were a better way to find investigators, than going into places where you know you're not wanted. The French members aren't much for getting referrals because the French never have more than 2 or 3 close friends anyway. You'd be surprised how so many of them never leave their 7th étage four walled flat for days at a time. I have my first lesson learned now; The fastest anyone has learned the discussions has been 3 months. I don't know if I can beat that or not, but I'm going to try to get it done before the 6 they say you should have it done in. There are still elders out here who have been out a year and still don't have the lessons down. I am half way thru the Doctrine and covenants and am now wondering why I never have read it before. After this I'm going to read the New Testament, the Book of Mormon again, and then by that time I should be able to read them all over again in French. The Old Testament is on my list too. (I really get into enthusiastic moods sometimes don't I) No? "When," do you say? I kind of expect to see some big changes in the Missions in Europe during my 2 1/2 years. I don't know what they'll be tho. We get word from the French East missionaries who pass out here that there is a lot of discouragement in their mission, a lot of elders getting sent home for moral, testimony, and mental reasons; There is a pretty good morale in our mission however at the moment, although the discouragement is to be found. France is a material country, and a lot of it seems to rub off on some of the Elders. For example, in the French East mission several of the elders were caught swimming at the beach in Cannes. This is all my opinion of course. I told you before Mom, a sea shipment is as good as any thing to send things. You ought to move the buttons like Grandma did on those 2 striped dress shirts and ship them along by sea. I don't

Sunday, August 8, 1965

Dear Family: Another week has gone by. It is about 6:00 and we are home early from Church. We didn't go this evening because we were waiting for an investigator, and he didn't come, and we didn't want to go in late. The investigator we were waiting for was from out of paris, but he had lived here for 9 months. We gave him a first lesson and he took it beautifully; I don't know why he didn't come, but we have an appointment with him tomorrow anyway, so we'll stuff some more of the truth into him. Another choice investigator we have in Paris is an elderly lady who realizes what a black cover the Catholic Church has put over peoples minds, and she realizes that what the Mormon Church is doing is right, but it is our job to convince her that it is the only way to salvation. In a couple of days, I should have the first lesson down. I'm a little behind schedule, but I'll make it up.

Yes I got the check. Just today I got your presents and the thermals too. I didn't think you meant to send them by airmail, but thanks a lot. The wallet is perfect along with the pictures, the tieclip is nice too, and I'll be able to use the handkerchiefs to shine my shoes. Oh excuse me! You don't need to send those Converse by air, I didn't mean for you to. Neither the thermals, because winter isn't here for a while. You can figure on about 3 months for something to get here by ship. Yes it would be nice to have those other shoes. I won't go as far to say that they're a necessity, but they sure would help out a lot. As I said before if you do decide to send the shoes, well then again not, my companion just told me you wouldn't need to send them as two separate packages. YOU decide.

I've taken a roll of film, but I don't have enough \$ to get it developed. I'll have to wait until next check to develop them and send them to you if they are any good. I keep turning the conversation to \$ don't I? Many of the Elders get more than 100 a month, but a lot of it goes for souvenirs, film, and suits, trunks etc. For the time I'm sure I can finish out the month on the last check, so lets keep going this way. This is truly the most expensive city in the world. One honestly doesn't see how the natives live until he sees some of their apartments which are nothing more than little cubicles with one lightbulb.

Howard Hunter was thru the other day and spoke to the missionaries of our area. It was an inspiring conference. I think he is a good speaker. He's in charge of most of the European missions now. We have another conference coming up. I think it's sort of an annual orientation, new ideas conference.

Everyone in this apartment sends most of their laundry out. I send my shirts and do the others my self. I send the sheets to. My socks are getting harder and harder to clean and it looks as though I'll have to send them off every 4th time or so.

You meet a lot of missionaries out here who make you wonder what they're doing out here. Missionaries who go to lots of movies and find other excuses not to work such as a puny physical disability blown all out of proportion. But it makes you look at your own self and wonder if you yourself have some of the same characteristics. But I really have a desire to be a good missionary and to speak the language well, and I can see what I have to overcome to do it. Let's hope I can make it.

Mom, do me a favor: Wrap up those old levi's and send them to Marie Spilsbury 6905 S. Prince Circle Littleton? Colo. Let this be my Birthday card to you Mom. HB I love you. As well as you, Dad and Dee. See you next week.

August 7, 1965

Dear Fool: Yes I was real pleased to hear from you, and that you're racking up the hardware. That's a lot more than those other brown-nosers are going to have to show for their efforts. I hope you weren't too dissappointed about not making the all stars. You know and I know that you were good enough to make that club, but you're going to run up against a bunch of bureaucracy like that in sports, playing favorites. etc. Maybe I can give you a few pointers about how to make it good in anything you do, not just sports. You have a lot better more well rounded personality than I ever had, and if you can see the other guys point of view, and not lose your temper you'll go a lot further. You've got the qualities of being Studt. Body Pres. at that crummy school if you only play your cards right. Be nice to everybody not just because you want something, but because its fun to be nice. When you have the urge to make a cutting remark or the be sarcastic about someone just force yourself to hold it. It's not really that hard, and you'll feel a lot better after you've done it too.

When you play basketball, play your guts out, play to win. Drive into that basket, even if you have to knock someone over to do it, and keep your temper, it'll pay off in the long run. You're not going to get hurt in there if you have to push a little or get pushed. Learn to drive, and use both hands equally well in doing so. I was crummy, but I could see what I needed to be good, and it was just that: Drive and play your guts out and don't say anything to the refs or make fun. Just play hard. Believe me. It's always easy for someone older to tell someone younger the facts and just let it go at that, but take it from me, I could have been somebody if I had of done these things and you can. Nothing would please me more than to see you make twice the puny accomplishments I did. Above all be nice to people, look at their point of view, and you'll be respected for it. Start funder-cover of course) working for that goal of a class office and be a leader. I saw those other guys play ball and man you've got it made. Just work hard and fight. Literally fight. Play to win even in a 2on2 game. Tennis too. Have fun with that VW. I've got my eye on some sharp cars over here, but don't tell J; Oh yes. Listen to J; Whatever he says is right really. I found

Première Aout Mille neuf cent soixante-cinq

Dear family I'll have been in the field about a month in 5 days. Does it seem that long to you? In ways it's gone fast, and in ways it's gone slow, but anyway, just think, I've only got 29 more to go. I thot this time I'd just try to give you a little idea about what I spend here, for what, and how often etc. For ex. this month, since your first check came, (I'll translate into \$) Haircut - \$1: deodorant .75: Stamps \$1: (Each letter under 5 ounces costs .20 to send) I bought a pancha for riding a moterbike in the rain which costs \$4. Every Sunday, the missionaries go to a self-service for diner and this usually costs about \$1.50. We just had a conference and therefore the missionaries in Paris had to pay an equalization fee of \$2 because some of the other missionaries had to travel great distances (from Normandy etc.) to get to the conference. Consequently they make it so each missionary has to pay 2 bucks, regardless of where he lives. It seems kind of harsh to us missionaries in Paris who then theoretically have to pay 2 dollars to hop on the metro, or our solexes (moteur bikes) to get to the mission home for the conference. The reasoning they use is that at one time or another each missionary will probably be far away for an occurrence like this, and will be able to make good use of the equalization system. I don't know if I told you before, but our apartment is the cheapest by far in the mission, at \$3 each per month, but because of equalization (I'm still having trouble with the z's on this typewriter.) we have to add \$15 to that a month because some of the others are paying as much as \$30 a month for a flat. But we may come out ahead in the long run because the mission pays the utilities which are so expensive it's hard to believe. We also have to pay \$4 a month to the mission home for District use of the Volkswagen bus. By the way our district doesn't have a VW. But during our mission we'll probably be getting into districts that do. We have to pay \$2 to the concierge each month for a place to park our bikes in the back. Gas is so expensive here (\$100 a gallon) that it takes \$5 a month to run our bikes. Food costs about \$6 each a week. Pork chops are about \$1.00 a pound. Other less frequent incidentals: Insurance on Solex \$15.00 per yr. Visa \$8. In these first few weeks, I've been getting things which I wouldn't normally get after being here for some time. Solex, typewriter, insurance, visa, file (\$7), but things like stationary stamps, Sunday dinners, panchos, etc pile up. I'll be as frugal as I can, but this place is expensive to say the least. There is no unemployment in France therefore you see so many little stores selling the same thing with 4 times as many employees as they need and they sell so little consequently their prices are so high.

Do you remember Larry Boyce? (frosh BB) I looked him up and since we have been invited to a party bidding farewell to a Mormon Service family (It was sort of in connection with the Am. military Branch in Paris. The American military has a branch of 100 members which hold English Services. And also once to their magnificent home for dinner, in St. Cloud, a suburb of Paris. The Boyces are nice people and new uncle Vern very well in The Arlington ward when they lived back in Washington. Bro; Boyce is the Naval representative for NATO here in Paris.

Yesterday I took my Solex apart, and bored out the Engine and now it goes quite a bit faster (against French Law of course) By law they're only supposed to go about 20 mph but some of the missionaries have suped them up to go 40-45.

I have already given about 5 Joseph Smith Stories in French in investigators homes, some prayers and some door approaches tracting. I've still got a long way to go, however. It's easy to get discouraged about the rudeness, curtness, and short temper of the French. The drivers

1 August 65

here are out of their minds. In fact the govt. has started a big campaign to get the Frenchman to smile. Many of them have signs in their cars saying "We don't get mad." But it doesn't make a bit of difference. The word is spreading fast among tourists that the prices, and the inhospitality put Paris last on the list, and the French Govt. is really worrying. Political situations don't seem to help the matter either. DeGaulle is fouling up NATO, he redeemed all his US dollars for gold and all the old ladies of Paris blamed this cold spell on US rockets. We forgot to close a door the other day and one lady snootily replied, "Is that the way they do it in America. If you even bump a Frenchman in a store, he gets mad at you, not just Americans, but anybody. We tract many places where where there is a different mans and womans name on the door. Many fine people (families) are being held from babbtism because they never bothered to get married. Sometimes their kids are babbtized but not them until they get married. The Catholic church controls everything in France. They controlled the Boy Scouts, and wouldn't let the Mormon Church have a charter to form a boy scout troop. The mayors of several towns won't give us a building permit to build chapels on land we already own. Never theless, Paris is still a beautiful city and there still are some sincere people who are willing to listen. The Church here is thot of by most as a sect which practices polygamy, and because it isn't Catholic or Protestant it is equated with the Jehova Witnesses who send out many witnessess here.

Dad, thanks for your letter. The French businessman is doing you a favor by having a store, therefore he may be rude or even neglect you when you go into a store; he won't be nice unless you're nice to him. It s just oppisite of the States where you do the store-owner a favor by going into his store and he rools out the red carpet. Because of the non-unemployment situation, in a store about one half the size of Ernies, There will be 5 people working. You don't pick out what you want, you tell them what you want and they go get it for you and bring it back to the cashier. Actually as far as efficienc goes this place is about as bad as Egypt. They have some supermarkets but what a farce. They're messey disorganized and you have to bag your own food.

What a negative letter huh? I'll get over it. About the only kind of studying I'm doing is memorizing my discussions. as soon as that's over with I'll be able to study on my own, It's just something you have to get over with. But, it does help you a grent deal with the language.

Dad if you think it gets messey at home, here I'm in all my glory. The dust in this place is about a foot deep.

Mom if you had to cook with what we have (2 burners and an oven with 2 temperatures) you'd crack.

Dee congratulations on your tennis? How are the fellas? Give the Clydes my regards.

LOVE,

2 July 22, 65
Mom, I need Bob Slacks address. He's coming over here in the fall and I'd like to tell him where he could reach me. Also Tom Andersons home address.

What about this vericose vein of mine? It hasn't given me any real problems, but after a lot of walking and climbin escaliers it pains a little. Not real bad, but just so one would notice it. And sometime the muscle down there twitches a little, you know, like your eyelash does sometimes. No real problems now, not even as bad as during basketball, but I'd appreciate it if you'd ask John nevertheless.

Dad, I havn't been here long enough to give a real just appraisal of my sojurn thus far. President Hart is a real fine man. He has a big job with 200 missionaries under him to cities almost on the Spanish border, where I might be some time. Look on a map of France. We have 2 branches in Peau and Tarbes in the Pyrenees.

Well I've gone further than I should.

I have 40 dollars in travelers checks left plus just about enough to get me through the rest of the month (I hope) This first month has really been expensive; I should expect a cashiers check at 126 Rue du Chateau Paris 14e France by the first of the month or a couple of days before. Thereafter it might be easier to send it to 3 Rue de Lota Paris 16 in case I got transferred they could forward it to me faster than a bunch of lazy missionaries could from this apartment. I'll let you know, but send it to 126 this time. 126 pronounced san van sees in French is known all over the mission by just that name San Van Sees (Cent vingt-six)

If you ever want to send me anything besides those thermals, you might try some black converse lowcuts size 12 and one half sent one at a time on two different days to prevent theft. All packages send to the Mission home. I don't need those shoes badly but we do building on chaples and they'd be pretty handy for D day. I'd like to save the high cuts for basketball when the occaision comes. Good looking ties are expensive over here too so when thesenwear out in another 6 months I might ask Dee to pick out one or 2 at the book store for me.

I'd better quit Y our probably wondering why
I'm not working.

Love to all, including the fool.

July 22 1965

Dear Mom, Dad and ~~Pop~~ Dee/ Dad, as you can see by the address or the letter head, I have not yet grown up. However, there is no need to worry. I don't think I'll be able to keep up with your letter writing pace Mom, but your letters sure are welcome here if you can keep it up. Don't feel obligated to do so however. I'm moving right along with this typewriter, except for the numbers which are all capitalised, and which I can never seem to remember.

That black plastic raincoat was the best thing I brought over here. On record this has been the coldest and wettest summer in Paris History Modern history that is I guess. Also am I ever glad I brought that tweed suit along. I got the brown one drenched in a sudden rainfall but after a pressing, I think it will be alright.

I don't get to shower but once every 4 or 5 days. There is no shower in our flat, but my compaignon just before I got here rigged up a home made job that hooks on to the tap in the sink. The pressure is horrible, it has to be bailed out of a big tub, but of course it's better than nothing.

I get up every morning about 6, study the discussions until 7, shave wash etc., eat at eight(There are four in our flat and 2 take the cooking each week. Prices are too high to believe. Missionaries here spend 100 dollars to 110 dollars a month where those in Germany can get by on as little as 50 sometimes. Rent is \$15 a month food costs about \$ 24 dollars a month, then there is transportation, letters cost 20 cents each to send, gas for the moterbikes, when its not raining, stationary, books. Actually, now that I have my bike bedding, typewriter, standard works etc; and since we live in the cheapest apartment in the mission, I should be able to get along on less than 100 for the first little while at least.

Tracting is difficult. The people as a rule are hard headed Catholics and as a rule don't even want to try thinking about thinking. We have some good sincere contacts however who do have some possibilities. Because of the different way of life over here, it is much more difficult for the French people to accept Mormonism. The French probably more than any other people including Americans, are only looking out for themselves. Many in the apartments don't even know who their next door neighbor is who has been living by them for yrs. There are still sincere people in France and I guess it is our job to find them. Many of the concierges are nasty, rude, and vulgar too us which is different from anything I've ever seen from any other peoples.

Mark E. Peterson just came and spoke to us at a French mission conference. It was mostly to get the missionaries on the ball in the summer. Many of the people in Paris go to the beaches en vacance and you may martyr tracting for an hour sans finding anyone home. They tell me it really picks up around September.

Send those long Johns; they tell me it isn't real cold as cold is, but what there is of it, its penetrating.

Dee, keep up the good work on tennis, too bad you got beat in singles. Practice a lot, and don't be second best in region. If you practice hard enough, and really want to win it bad enough you can do it. The same with Basketball. I don't speak too highly of any of the coaches (as far as coaching goes at PHS) but if you go in there and wipe everybody out the coaches will have to forget their 9th grade favorites, because I've seen you play and you're better than any of them. Work hard, don't be lazy like me.

Marie
Spilbury July 20, 1965

2
Ma pauvre petite bête: Well I guess I won't attempt to pound out a letter in French, although don't get me wrong, I very well could. It would just take me 9 hours, that's all. Anyway I'm just getting used to this French keyboard, which is somewhat different, and could very well cause someone to make a lot of errors while typing; It's got a whole bunch of real neat letters: é è ç à = ê &. Isn't it neat, and you don't even have one. Ha Ha or hihi (hehe in French). Vraiment it is really surprising how fast the language is coming to me, it is somewhat discouraging however in that the more you find out, the more you find out you have to learn. I think I was sent to the right mission. This has got to be the most liberal mission in the Church: I can see how many of the apostate organizations stemmed from French RM's. Lots of the mishenhaireys over here are more clothes conscious than Val: I've already got me a pair of round beige english type lunnettes or glassessss. you know; the kind that the old people wear sometimes. They've gotta be too much. I'm quite pleased with the new halo over my head; It's as good as I had ever hoped it would be; My companion is from SLC and plays the guitar very well, so I went out and bought a recorder (small flute) and we go quite well together, playing nothing but junk of course;

To tell you where I am, they would have to put me in Paris. Marie, I love this city to no end; I'd live here the rest of my life if it weren't for the latin minded short tempered people. But there's one out of 1000 who, I guess are willing to think about thinking a little bit for once in their lives. Gees, we have little motor-bikes and a ride along the Seine, past the Eiffel Tower each day is almost trop to take. I live on the left bank in the 14th Arron. not 5 minutes away from where I lived for a month last year. The city looks the same, and it's fun getting to know it a bit better. All the mishenhairys over here play the guitar and sing, so tell Big George not to sweat it. Guitars are about the only things that are cheap in all of France.

July 20 1965 Maine Spillsbury

Well, I've seen a couple of good shows this week, I doubt they'll ever get to our area but both have had fair reviews. One is "The Knack" and the other is "Les Poupées" Yes, sometimes we do do mishenhaiy work, not often but sometimes. No, I'm just kidding: I really have'nt been out long enough to get accustomed to anything yet so it's not even just to make an appraisal of a mishen thus far. We just had a conference with Mark E. Peterson apostle who spoke. I really do have an intense desire to learn more about what I'm teaching as well as the language; I'm reading Dand C now, and I never believed such tremendous and portentuous ideas (actually revelations) existed. It falls in with a lot of ideas I've had Ians previously consulting it. Maybe I had a testimony all along, I don't know. People today comprehend 1/1000000 of the way to God which is all the knowledge heretofore accumulated and thus deny God because of all this accumulated knowledge. Can one explain a Physics book to a 4 year old?

, Yes, about those garments. Actually I sneak them off when no one is looking, and quickly hide them in the corn flakes, and no one knows. The way I wash them they start to turn yellow. How cute. Gosh; they even have weejuns over here; you can even buy a Gant shirt for \$10;00. To be a cute mishenhaiy over here you have to have a tweed suit with a watchband or chain to fit in the vest pocket and round glasses, all of which I have. Plus a paisly tie and oxford collar shirt. It's too much. Most of the mishenhairys supe up their \$0cc moterbikes and the cops get them when they go too fast. You also need a hair dryer, garters on your socks and suspenders. No other mishen can beeee like this. Oh Oh, I can feel my halo slipping off, so I'd better terminate anyway, this letter is too long now. Next time I'll write in French, I promise. Have already seen several people I know just passing thru. Too bad you're not coming next year.

Retsarucketc

Steve

①

Bob Black

July 19 1965

Cher Frère: Je suis ici en France depuis dix jours, et déjà, je parle français avec facilité. J'addmetrai que c'est bien difficile à taper avec cette machine française. Il y a beaucoup des lettres qui sont arrangé differentment.

Really, Bob, although I don't speak French like I said I did above, it really comes fast once you get out and talk to the people each day. I can understand most of everyday conversation, but am about 5 seconds behind, consequently when a question is addressed me I can't stay with the rythm of the conversation. But they tell me it will come.

1
The French Mission is nothing like I thot it would be, but I don't want to give you the wrong opinion. But; this has really got to be great out here; It's basically just like home. There is a tremendous desire to learn the language and the principals of the gospel. I never realized there was so much great material in the DandC. (Read Sec. 93 on the definition of the elements and of truth; and God's relationship to each.) It's tremendous. There are some really liberal sharp guys out here. It's too much. There are a bunch of guys out here who are so style conscious that you would have to spend \$100 monthly to keep up. One of the amazing things about it is that the guys who dress well are the most liberal and also the ones who speak French the best; I'm not going to have enough argent to spend to go to all the movies that these guys go to. I'm not trying tto convince you to come on a mission, but I'm telling you that it is bien different que vous en pensez. I don't know how to tell you sans sounding prudish but at the same time as you gain a satisfaction of the work you are doing and a deep respect for it's purpose, you can integrate ideas you have previously had, with the teachings of our Church and they fit perfectly. § In other words, a testimony? I don't have a strong one now, and I can't even begin to comprehend the benefits derived therin. But I know its what I want, and I'm going to try for it. You don't lose your tastes; I still want a Porche etc. and a boat, and am turned on by these French women, but I can see something ahead that I want and that I know I'll be happy with.

(2)

Bob Slack July 19/1965

I remember that I used to look at the stereotype RM's on campus and laughed my head off. I still do. It doesn't have to be like that if you can adeptly integrate your ideas with those of the Church's. It's the way to live. Everybody here hates the French people & I'll qualify that sentence without saying anything to qualify it. But you can find that 1 in 1000 who realizes what a pagan backward religion Catholicism is. It's too hard for these people to even think about thinking about something. It just wasn't meant to be thus. There's something more to this world than that, I'm sure of it.

Well I didn't really want to go on like this, but the reason I wanted to write before you left was to tell you that when you come to Paris (my first assignment) you have a place to stay. It may be on the floor, but it will be free. We are down in the 14th near Montparnasse at

126 Rue du Chateau
Paris 14e FRANCE

quatrieme étage, first door on the left: My companions are pretty good boys; 2 from SLC, and one from Canada.

Give Kathy my regards, and don't ~~laugh~~ laugh at this letter too hard with Bernhard. They remember him here at the home. He came in a couple of times with Stratton. I'm starting to go back to thinking English typewriter keyboard so I'll quit. God I don't have your address. I'll get it from Mom or something, so don't panic at the letterhead date. Looking forward to seeing you over here.

Sincerely,