

Hey? Mike says Smith got a tape. If you go get the recorder today you can use it to hear the tape on, Smith. And also - I have a typewriter tape - Ribbon - you can hear it if you come & get it.

DALE

DALE

Voici une centaine
pour l'usage de
la maison de
Papier - Merci

Mon Cher Elder Taylor,

C'est moi!

Antony le
15 1/2
19/11

J'ai quelque chose de te demander.

J'ai acheté une magnétophone samedi et j'ai
besoin de quelqu'un de chercher ab la mission à 3
Rue De Lota. - Si vous y allez bientôt ^{vriez} vous
le chercher pour moi? - Elder Sorenson le tien et
vous pouvez le contacter. C'est une Philips -

- 2' by 2' - grey. -

Elder Wilson m'a vendu cette
magnétophone et il l'a laissé
au local à Paris.

Merci beaucoup. -

Vous serez le Mercredi mais
si non et si avant ~~person~~
pourriez le chercher. -

Merci - M. M. M.

De la barre - You will
Citi -
excuse all errors.

7-5-67

Dear family. So that you can remember what
I write like I'll do this in longhand. (Not really,
it just seems like too big an effort to take
the typewriter out. It is Sunday afternoon -
of fast day. I have a thousand things +
nothing to do. Châtillon is OK although
I really haven't put myself to work as yet.
It is a bunch in very poor shape in
which there are many animosities and
constant cuts and jokes even among
the Branch Presidency at B.P. mtg. at
which I attended in the capacity of O.L.
It seems nice to be civilized at times
however. (I'm making allusion to the
automobile at our command - a VW bus.)
I was in Paris at 3 rue de Lota Wednesday
and saw all of the Nogent members and
friends. I have 3 dinner invitations with
them + Bourroux is going to make weekly
trips over to the Châtillon Salle so I can

play for him. I played the piano for all
the church mtg. this morning I had to
sight read a couple of hymns that I didn't
know. I got a letter from Elder Sabey
who was just transferred to
Bordeaux. He was glad to leave the
Paris area after having been there
15 mo. of his 15 mo. mission. I sure
liked him as a comp. He is good
looking as you can see + a lot of
the girls swoon over him. A miss Tour
its tranquility, the people there, the
missionary spirit + desire to work there
immensely (Missionary spirit differs a great
deal from district to district + from
individual to individual. Pres. Hart is
getting funky. He's a good pres. I'm
grateful for you + for my mission + the
support (monetary + moral) that you give me!

Love. Stephen

15th, Ave. Aristide Briand
02, Antony

26:4:67

Dear folks: I hope that you got my last letter saying that I have been transferred. I was really sad to leave Tours. The weather was nice, the missionary spirit was excellent, the work was progressing etc. I really grew to love some of the missionaries, members, and investigators there. I have been moved to the Chatillon branch and missionary district. Whereas Nogent forms the Eastern outskirts of Paris, the Chatillon district (pronounced Chat-ee-ohn) forms the Southern outskirts. In this district they are in the process of remodelling the salle which situated on a hill commands a beautiful view of Paris. The salle is supposed to be the ancient hunting lodge of Mme. Poupadour. Don't ask me who that is. I am district leader here and have graduated to civilization: an automobile. Chatillon covers a large area, consequently like Nogent, there is a mission bus. We still use the bikes however, unless a certain situation commands need of a bus. Although this is a bigger District with more responsibilities, I would have liked to stay in "la Touraine" for a while. My new companion is Elder Robert Smith from Ontario. That makes the 3rd Kanook (as they are called) that I have had. He is an old Jr. companion of 18 months. Did you ever know a Penny Johnson who lives on 3rd South next door to Gary Draper? Perhaps you know her mother. She was one of the sister missionaries in Tours. If you see her mother (if you know her) you might tell her that her daughter is a good missionary. I will be able to tell you a little more about this city after I've been here a while. I am not getting trunky, but I'm anxiously awaiting the arrival of you all so that we can spend Christmas in Paris or Cairo. On the way home we can stop and visit all the Church historical places from Vermont to Utah. It has been a long time since I have seen all that and I can't remember most of it. It means a lot more to me now also. I owe grandma a letter. I guess I should hop to it.

Thank you for the extra money. I really feel like a dog, because I'm sure that there could have been some times where I could have been more careful. I hope I don't have to ask you for more. With this bus, however, I'm afraid. I'll try to be frugal.

Love, Steve



Dear Folks and Dee, and anyone else that reads my letters:

Thanks for the talks dad, I read them with great interest and am looking forward for the time that I will be able to hear these great men talk in person. For the first time in my life I think that I will miss the general conference. Heretofore it was always something that cut out the baseball game or football game, but now it would certainly have to come first on my list. I will have to be content to read the talks in the Era. Spring has momentarily left us in Tours, but instead of an early summer, winter seems to be upon us again. We were fortunate yesterday evening to have the visit of president Hart. He was making a tour of the mission and stopped by for Sacrement mtg. We had personal interviews with him after that. He gave a very good testimony which helped the members out a great deal. Yesterday also, the sister missionaries invited us to dinner. We had chicken, potatoe salade etc; and it was good. During the week, we have stopped cooking at home and are going to what is called the Foyer des Jeunes Travailleurs (The young workers home). There, we can get a cheap meal (70 cents) and we don't have to cook. We'll try it for a while and see how it works. This week we had the chance to speak to several very fine French families, where the kids had perfect manners, were proper, the parents didn't swear etc. They were upperclass people. We hope we will have the chance to talk to them a bit more. How are things at home. Are the rocks going to fall on the house? While I think of it, I am badly in need of socks, all that I have being very flimsy and 3 quarters of them have holes. Perhaps 4 or 5 pair of light to medium weight black socks. Perhaps somewhat like the ones you sent before. If you can find some support socks (black) you might send me a pair or two. Perhaps that would help out on my varicose vein which hurts me from time to time. I really don't know how my teeth are holding out. I haven't seen a dentist in 2 years now. I don't seem to have any tooth aches. Yes, a while back I had one, but it went away and has never come back again. I feel pretty good most of the (is it good or well?) time. I'm never really so tired that an extra hours sleep wont take care of it. I of course don't have any wind, but that is only natural. Also Dad, I got great pleasure out of reading several of those articles on how executives communicate etc. or should communicate quei. I haven't read them all yet, but shall do it. I hate to say this, but I told you that my black pants on the black suit were shot? I went down to get me a new pair thinking that it would be in my means to do so. The Solex overhaul and conference, and Dhateaux trip at Easter and unforeseen expenses for the last baptism leaves me sans argent. I really feel poor asking for more, because it is possible to get along with what you send me. Could you take 30\$ out of my stock and send it to me? That was a joke, but I got the impression that you are not laughing. Any way the pants are in the store and can't be lifted until I pay for them. I assure you that they are a necessity. You realize that I only had one pants suits. I'm sorry that I have to close on such a dismal note. But, I am enjoying Tours, learning lots, and experiencing lots, all which have gone to build more and more my testimony of our gospel.

Lots, of Love, Stephen

Dear folks and Dee: I didn't get much mail from you last week. Maybe I'll get something today. I did get the \$10 check that you sent. I guess you ~~got it~~ sent that before you got my request for \$30. To get out the pants. I hope that didn't startle you too much, but it has really been a costly couple of months. Work in Tours has been progressing ok. Spring is coming along and of course spring fever too. Sister Shone, who came out with me will complete here 2 years in 80 days. I got a letter from Elder Daniels. He'll be over in France in July. I don't think that he'll be in our area unless I should happen to get transferred to Paris within that time. The next mission conference will take place in Nantes, almost at the mouth of the Loire river. It is about 200 kilometers away. The touraine as this area is called is beautiful. The châteaux, the caves, and the greenery are astounding. The narrow roads, the old farm houses, the fellow in the field with two horses pulling a plow really make one realize that he is in a different world. The mailman just came with a transfer. I am going back to Paris to be DL in Chatillon, South of Paris and southwest of Nogent. I don't know if I like that or not. It is a bigger district and has a bus. The socks and ties came too. Thanks. The socks are more than welcome. That is what I needed the most, and they are just the right kind. Your poor soon is really going to be broke now. I just phoned Paris for a mission loan to make the transfer. Everything should be OK there by the first of the month. Please don't send me money unless I break down and ask you to. You are all really great there at home and I love you all. I'm pretty busy so I won't continue and I'll tell you all about it next week.

Love, Steve.

Dear folks: Perhaps I could tell you a little about the baptismal service that was held for the Father of the little girl that balked and the little girl herself. The service was directed by myself and 3 talks were given by Elder Owen, the other Elder Sr. Companion of the District, Sœur Coudert, the man's wife and member for 7 months, and frère Roux, the branch president. All this time as I watched the little girl, I could tell that she was getting nervous. We all were wondering whether she would balk again. When it came time for the baptism, we had frère Bûrrer, the man who was to baptize, frère Coudert, and Veronique get into the portable font together. The fact that they were all in there together gave her or was to give her confidence; It was her turn first. The prayer was said, and then she cracked. She turned white as a sheet and wouldn't be forced down. Plan 2 was put into action. The father was baptized ok and then it was tried again for Veronique. It wouldn't work. She kept saying je peut pas, je peut pas. Her desire to be baptized was overcome by her fear for the water. She wouldn't go down but she didn't want to get out of the font either. It was evident that she wanted to be baptized. Well, we had her father kneel down in the water and stick his head under for a couple of seconds. She watched attentively, then we coaxed her to get on her knees. She slowly got down, then up again then down again. Her father went down and held her knees to the bottom, this making the water come up to her neck. Then, before she knew it, frère Bûrrer and Elder Owen, the witness on that side of the font put her head under. She came up coughing and choking, but she was baptized (I think). What I mean by that is that if the only prerequisite is that one is immersed, she was baptized. Frère Coudert was then confirmed by myself and Veronique by Elder Owen. Veronique was very happy afterward. If she only knew how many worries she caused us; but that is not important.

Did I ever tell you about the family home evenings we hold with sœur Bouysseonnié? She lives in the top floor of an apartment in old Tours that was built while Columbus was trying to get permission to explore for India. We go there on Thursdays and by a gas lamp teach her, Sœur Toizier, and inactive sister who drinks wine and calls us the Mormons (she is one too) and Sœur Toiziers daughter dont the parents died in an auto accident near Poitiers.

We still have our investigators from Henneywell although we haven't seen them over the Easter holidays. We were supposed to see them last night, but they didn't come by. I'm enjoying my stay in Tours a great deal, although the personal contacts and friendships aren't as strong as these in Nogent. Until next week. Love, Stephen

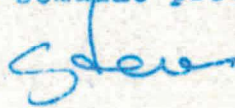
Stephen

29-3-67

Dear everybody: Since my last letter and I have had a very interesting Easter week. Some people who I knew in Nogent, Bernadette Kuo, and her family and Pierre Euvrard came down to Tours. The Kuo family camped and Pierre slept in my bed while I slept with Elder Owen in the other room. We had a very enjoyable time together eating at a Chinese restaurant in town and then spending Monday visiting several of the famous Châteaux of the Loire. I'm including several post cards of some of the châteaux that we saw. It was a rainy day but we enjoyed ourselves just the same. We rented a car, a Peugeot station wagon and fitted the six missionaries, Pierre, Bernadette, and her younger sister Isabelle in and were off. That evening we saw a sound and light at Azay le Rideau, a very beautiful châteaux of the renaissance. I am finally getting the films off inasmuch as the check came. I got Shirlys letter telling about the spys at the Y etc. However, someone showed me a Newsweek article the day before about it. I think that the sister missionaries will have a baptism this weekend. The father of the little girl that balked and the little girl to will be baptized.

jusqu'à la semaine prochaine,

love,

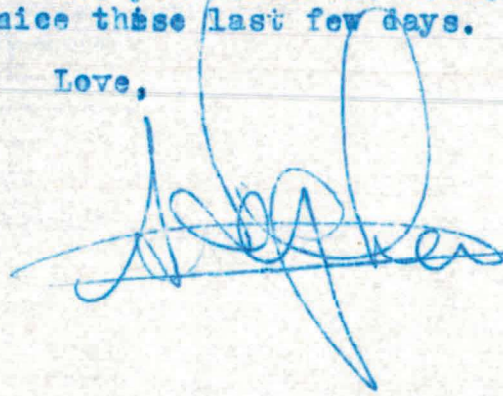


25 3 67

Well, I'm late again, but at least I'll get the letter off. I can't even remember what we did last week so I'll tell you about conference to which we went yesterday. We got up early, (We'd gone to Hertz to rent a car the nite before.) and started out for Angers following the valley of the Loire. The conference was to start at 10h30 but we left at 6h30 so as to see several châteaux along the way. The valley of the Loire is really beautiful. We took the back roads and saw many medeivil(sp) churches, edifices, and châteaux. Malheurusement, we didn't get to visit the inside of any of them because it was too early. We took the back roads and took about 4 hours for an hour and one half drive. We went to the salle in Angers where President Burton gave us an encouraging spiritual testimony. We had interviews with him also. He gave me a special hello from you Dad. He is really a great person. We had lessons and work shops on the lessons and the BOFV in the afternoon afterwhich president hart talked to us for a while. At 8h00 that evening there was a member investigator conference at which President Burton addressed the members and investigators from the Tours, Angers, LeMans, Nantes, St. Nazaire area. We got home that nite about 0h00.

I hope you got the letter telling you to send off my April check a little earlier. If not it doesn't matter. Expences have been a little extra heavy lately. My bike: Everything just went at once. \$10. Black suit: Inasmuch as I weigh 220 pounds now my black suit has been taken out all it can be and the whole bottom has just gone to pieces. Therefore I went to the tailor to have a pair of black pants made. \$20 Angers conference: \$5. Some of the people I knew in Negent are coming down here for Easter. On Easter Monday which is a holiday here we are going to see a couple of Châteaux. This will cost a little too. I should be able to get thru without extra money, and shall "economize" as much as I can April. (This is not an indirect request for coins) so don't worry about it. President Hart told us at conference that the average missionary spends between 100 and \$110. He was addressing himself particularly to those who are spending 125 to 150 dollars. The slides have been wrapped up for 2 weeks. I've just been waiting for the check to come. Hope everything is going well at home. Have you found the robber? The weather has been surprisingly nice these last few days.

Love,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. J. P.' or similar, written over a horizontal line.

15-3-67

Dear family, I think that it was about a year ago that I was first transferred to Rennes. The time flies by. This letter is a little late, but I am doing all the cooking and dishwashing this week, and I have been a little behind. My Selex had a major breakdown and it is in the shop for several days. I hope it lasts me the rest of my mission. We will have a conference for missionaries this next week. Pres. Theodore Burton will be there to interview all the missionaries. We had quite a successful weeks tracting - we got a lot of call-backs. Wether these people turn out good on our return trip is another story. Sometimes people who looked sharp the first time turn out to be hostile the second. I read where the Y got beat by Wyoming. The WAC had kind of a fluke year didn't they? I got a letter from John Ashton the other day - he said he applied for the U of U law school, and three days later he got accepted. They hadn't even seen his transcript, so he got a chuckle out of the fact that the UofU would accept a Stanford graduate so fast, no strings attached, without even seeing the transcript. It is starting to get light early in the morning, but the rainy season is coming on. In France that means that it rains 6 days a week instead of 4. However, it looks like a nice sunny day today. I got a letter from Elder Bridge. He said he had seen you dad, and had enjoyed visiting with you. He said you had invited him up and that he was looking forward to it. How are you coming Dee? I think I owe you a letter from way back. I'll try to get going. What are you going to do this summer? Well, this is kind of a peer letter - until next week.

Love,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Ashton', written over a horizontal line.

7-3-67

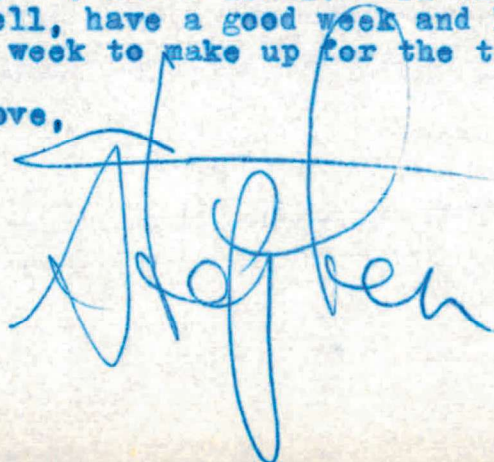
Dear Folks: Thanks for you letter Dad. I got the Harvard business true at the same time. It will be very interesting as I can see - no, I don't think it will bore me. It's too bad that you haven't caught the thief. I just didn't get around to sending you 2 letters last week like I wanted to. I'll get around to it sometime when I find some time. I'll tell you about the baptism that was just held here in Tours. Three daughters of a member who was baptized 4 or 5 months ago were to be baptized. They were taught by the sister missionaries, Sister Shone who came out with me - she's from Austrailia, and Sister Johnson who is from Provo. They are 15, 12, and 9. They were all well taught, and all expressed the desire to be baptized in the interview. The nite of the baptism, all went well; my companion and I put up the portable font, hooked it up to the portable water heater which in turn was hooked up to the gas bottle. The service started at 6h30 on Saturday last. All went well, the talks were given and there was a very spiritual atmosphere. Then we went on to the baptisms. Elder McKay was to baptize the first two (the oldest) and frere Bürrer, who was just ordained a priest was to baptize the youngest. The first baptism went ok except that she didn't go under the first time and it had to be done again. The second went ok too. But the third that is autres cheses. She didn't go down the first time and came up in panic. We tried for an hour to get her to go back into the font but she wouldn't go. (She had crawled out in the meantime.) Strangely enough, a positive result was extracted out of this harrowing experience. The branch lost all selfish thoughts (as was put by Sister Shone) and all their sympathy was with the little girl and frere Bürrer. Even the father of the girl who is not a member caught the spirit of the evening and tried to get his little girl to go down. She wouldn't go .. she was afraid of the water. Well, after an hour of trying we gave up, frere Bürrer was starting to catch cold in the water etc. Anyway, we continued the service. I confirmed the first little girl and frere Roux the branch pres. confirmed the second. The spirit was really good in that meeting. The little girl the next day admitted to herself out loud how crazy she was and the father shewed the desire to hear the 6 lessons which may lead to eventual baptism; something that might never have happened if it weren't for his little daughter refusing to go down. Well, the wether (sp) looks like it will be nice today. We have a mtg. with Honeywell guy and his wife tonite. He comes to pick us up in his car with his wife. (Sorry about all these grammatically incorrect sentences and misspellings) When does the state tourney start Dee? I read where the Y beat WW EBN Arizona state and Arizona. Are they tied for the conference lead? Will there be a playoff? Well got to go. Until next week. Love Steve

Stephen

2C - 2 - 67

Dear folks - I feel so poor about not writing you that one week. I'll have to write you twice this week. I could best start this letter by telling you my day (Sunday) today. It was the District Conference in Angers, but we didn't go as didn't several members of the branch. Consequently the meetings were held as usual. For those that did go, we had a hard time arranging the transportation because there was a train strike and only one train out of 2 left. The meetings went very well in the morning. First we go to Priesthood at 9h30. There were the 4 Elders (the sisters went to the conference), frère Roux the branch pres. and frère Burrer who is an active alcatian (sp) who speaks german, alcatian, and French. Frère Roux taught one class and frère Burrer taught the other. Therefore there are just 2 Elders in each class. At Sunday School I gave a 2 1/2 minute talk. After eating that afternoon my comp. and I went to visit the sister who weighs 300 plus pounds. She can't sleep because she is sick. She is choked by her own weight. She was glad to see us. The meeting of the afternoon was not so well prepared inasmuch as it was conference. Frère Roux asked the Elders to each give a 10 minuted talk and I ordaind frère Burrer to the office of a priest. We were going to do that next week, but inasmuch as the sister missionaries are having a baptism next week, we thout it would be a good idea to give frère Burrer the chance to perform one of them. 3 daughters of one of the active members of the branch who have been taught by the sister missionaries will be baptized next week. I have to get a font down here. I hope we won't end up with cold water like the last time. The branch pres. frère Roux, reminded me of ~~xxxxx~~ of you Dad. This evening on the stand he went to sleep during one of the Elders talks. His elbow was resting on his knee and it suddenly slipped off. He made quite a racquet and he was quite embarrassed. I thot it was quit humorous. Beware Dad, It could happen to you. We are trying to get permission from the mission to move. We have found better apartments that are cheaper. It should be about state tourney time shouldn't it Dee? I hope Prove does ok. Do you have a chance? I read in the trib that Utah State has chosen the NIT bowding out of the NCAA for eligibility reasons. I read where the Y lost to NMU. If the Y ~~Yoss~~ ~~the~~ wins the conference that means that they'll be playing UCLA doesn't it? To use an expression here in the mission, they might as well "kiss off" that game. I got a letter from Selden a while back, this week I guess. Did you find the theif? That ticks me off. I wish I would have been there. Keep me filled in. We had a little rain this week and some nice days too. Well, have a good week and I'll write you in the middle of the week to make up for the time I missed.

All my love,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen". The signature is written over a faint, circular stamp or watermark.

Dear folks: Well, I did it - I missed a week. There are no real excuses, but last week was a heck of a week. First of all the apartment decided that we would take care of the duties of the apt. one person for the whole week. We flipped a coin and it ended up that I had the first week, which of course was last week. That meant I had to do the dishes and all the cooking for the whole week. We reasoned that the subsequent 3 weeks of rest would be worth the trouble. Well it turned out also that week that the muffler on my bike came off and ripped into the spokes of the wheel. This meant that that afternoon I had to walk home, leave the bike, buy the food cook it, eat and wash the dishes. After that I had to go buy a new rim, walk back to the bike and repair it. To worsen the situation it was raining. The next day, I had a flat tire, so we borrowed one of the Elders bikes to go out that morning. It all went alright until when we were ready to return at noon. I couldn't get the bike started. So again this time I pedaled it home (which is a chore) had to buy the food, cook it, eat it, wash the dishes and then fix the flat tire, only to leave late that afternoon and have the gas tank nearly fall off. It was just one of those weeks. Also, a guy ran thru a mud puddle and got me all muddy. I just didn't have time to do anything. I hope you'll forgive me. Last Saturday that is to say the 11th, I went to le Mans again for a District Leader zone conference. They didn't have much to tell us. Apostle Burton is coming to attend our next missionary conferences. The District member conference is being held in Angers this week end, but we are not going. It wouldn't be profitable and the mission suggests we don't go unless we have investigators who we would like to take. Speaking of investigators, Elder House and I are starting to contact several nice people. We are teaching them now, but it is too early to tell or to make any commitments. We have a couple that seems too good to be true. They even come and get us in their car for the meetings at their house and then they bring us back. They insist on doing it. The guy is pretty intelligent and is a young executive for the American firm Honeywell. The weather now is rainy and not very agreeable. It is starting to get light in the mornings. In deep winter it is dark until almost 8h30. Elder House and myself in our companion study classes are studying the Book of Mormon. I'm up every morning at 6 and we study from 6:30 to 7:30. We then eat, do our little things we have to do, and then get out of the apartment between 9h00 and 9h30. I have gotten up at 6 regularly on my mission except for the stint at Nogent. There I tried to be pragmatic about the whole thing inasmuch as it was usually 12h00 before we every got to bed. There were always meetings etc., and we had a lot of investigators. One of the sister members in our branch here in Tours just got back from vacation in Versailles. Get this, she weighs 350 pounds; The voyage took so much out of her that she was sick on her return. She has to sleep sitting up at her table because she chokes herself and can't breathe when she lays down. It is really a poor situation. Can you imagine sitting at your desk or table 24 hours a day for 2 weeks? We went over and administered to her, and with the Branch President frere Roux, we took her the sacrament. Her name is soeur leGrand;

There is another sister member here in Tours, soeur Bouysinnie. She is a cleaning lady, is very poor, and has been a faithful member for 30 years. She is one of the few people that have been members that long in France. We go to her house to have family home evenings with her and an inactive sister every Thursday night. This is interesting too. She lives in a top floor apartment in an old quarter of Tours; there is no electricity therefore she has a kerosene lamp to light the house. She has a cat to keep her company. The cat never leaves the house. There are cats in this country that live and die without ever seeing the sun. Anyway, she only has one room and it is cluttered with everything and anything that she has ever owned. It is almost like an antique store. She really has some old vases that you'd flip over, Mom. I keep saying that I'll send you the slides, they are here, but I never get around to it. When I get the next check I shall get them off. I'll send a little surprise with them too. Whatever happened to the telephone call that I was going to make? I don't know. Right now to telephone anyone or thing we have to go to the postoffice. France is a country and that is further behind Egypt in its telephone system. I still figure on doing it, when I get a good chance I'll let you know. I was glad to receive Dee's basketball program. Feel, how much did you have to pay the editors of that thing to give you such a good right up? I'm glad to hear that the dog is ok. (You'd think that is all I cared about wouldn't you?) The work is difficult, and sometimes discouraging but there are rewards also and I'm grateful I'm here and grateful for your prayers and support. I hope I can become more worthy of it. So long until next week - I promise.

Love Steve

7, February, 1967

Dear folks at home:

I just got your last letter today Mom and also one from grandma. Evidently your having a lot of snow. I got a letter from bishop Pratt which says he has never seen so much snow in Utah since he has been there. Are you enjoying it? It is a bit colder today, and it looks as though it might snow. The last big snow we have seen was in November in Paris. At the end of the week, I have to go again to LeMans for a DL meeting. The 25 and 26 of Feb. we go to Angers for the member District Conference. Consequently we'll do a little traveling this month. There is not too much to do in Tours besides tract. It is that much more difficult inasmuch as it has been tracted out already a number of times. Last Monday we went to the old chateau of Louis XI which is only partially standing. It is just on the outside of Tours, thereby being readily accessible. We were all alone wandering through the old rooms looking at the old artifacts. We saw the same fireplace where some cardinal was burned alive. We gave the guide a Joseph Smith brochure and conversed a little about religion. He was a communist and abhorred the religions today. However, he had never heard of ours. Do you read John Steinbeck's accounts of his observations in Vietnam? I think they are pretty good. But, in this land of pseudo-intellectualism-pacifism where many discouraged Americans find haven he sure gets a lot of criticism. I don't know why I mentioned that, if only to tell you that there are many whose ideas don't coincide with ours; an understatement but nevertheless more vivid when you are directly concerned. Last nite we gave a slide-tape presentation to a family, about the World's Fair pavillion. It was one of these kinds of families which is very kind and likes you, but has no intention of changing their religious ideas. They were from Toulon in France, by Marseill and had spent one year in St Louis, Mo. Yes Elder McKay is still in the apt. I think that I have got a lot done here in Tours. My apt. is probably one of the cleanest in the mission. I'm not trying to be vain, but I'm quite proud of the fact. Especially since I have lived in some dirty apartments. Consequently, I find that my pants are always pressed, shoes shined, shirts cleaner, atmosphere more conducive to study; and result less time wasted. ~~As a result~~ You, Mom, would be proud of me. I hang up my clothes when I come in. For our next Missionary conference, assistant to the Apostles, Theodore M. Burten will be there. I think he plans to interview each missionary. That will also be held in Angers about the 21 of March. Angers is along the Loire from Tours, midway between Nantes and Tours. I really can't think of that much more to say. Say hi to everyone for me, all my cousins etc.

Love,



Dear Micky

That was such a quick ~~good~~ move on
your part that we didn't have
much of a chance to say ^("à bientôt") good-bye.

We think the scripture that says
a good man will show it through
what he does applies to for ~~quite~~
~~that~~ because the fruit of the
Chillon District rested mainly on
your shoulders ^{during these few short months}. You're going to
be blessed for that, Nutter.
You'll also be blessed for the
fact that you're more of a "man"
than most. We hope that after
that snub of a good-bye, ~~that~~
you'll lower your self enough

to continue to be our friend
We're kind of proud - proud
enough to believe that we can
^{exchange the gift} ~~exchange~~ that ^{parting} ~~parting~~ for
a valuable ^{lasting} friendship

Paul
J D
Burt

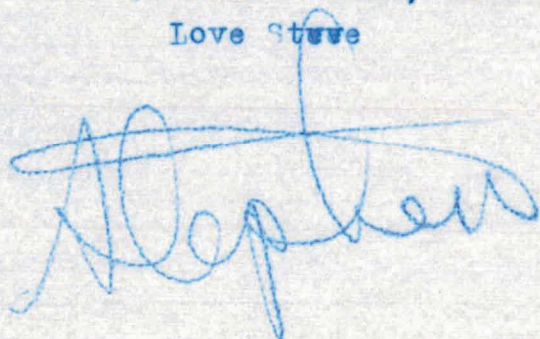
hollowness
hollow feeling
empty feeling

Tuesday 2nd, August 1966

Dear Folks: I realize that I get kind of lax in writing. Here it is already Tuesday. Saturday, while eating dinner, I got a call from the Paxmans saying that they were in Paris and would like to see me. So, Mader Sabey and myself went to Palais Royal, picked them all up, plus 2 girls, and took them to the top of the Tour Eiffel on the extra tickets that Selden had left me when he quit Paris. They all looked really sharp and we were mutually glad to see each other. They invited us to go down the river on a Seine boat trip and eat dinner with them, but we had an engagement that nite with the 2 other Elders who live in the apt. to go to the movie (The battle of the Bulge with Henry Fonda, Robert Ryan) So we said that we'd meet them in Paris for church and priesthood mtg. the next day. Well we got home about 1:30 from the movie (morning) and set the alarm for 7:30. Well it seems that while I was in the bathroom, Elder Barclay one of the other Elders in the place "borrowed my clock without telling me. I didn't notice it when I went back into my room, and it turned out that my companion woke me up at 10:00 in the morning. How embarrassing. The Hogent mtgs. in the summer don't start until

3:00 PM so we didn't miss any mtgs. but we hustled to Paris in the VW bus and met all the kids at Church and then went to their Hotel, Bro. and Sis. Paxman bought us lunch and it ended on a nice note. It was quite embarrassing for us to be so late. It was a nice Day when we went up on top of the tower, but a little hazy, the next day, Sunday, it was quite rainy. Have you had a chance to see Selden since he has been home. I think he had the intention of stopping by and taking some of my slides that I took in LaRocheville and having reprints made of them. Paxmans tell me you have really grown Dee, How tall are you now? How is the work I guess I owe you a letter Dee. Don't forget to send the football news as it comes out. I especially enjoy the editorials. Tracting is quite difficult now inasmuch as many people are out of Paris, but we expect it to pick up. We have some pretty good contacts and are hoping that we can get some baptisms out of them. It really seems amazing that you will be moving into the house so soon. I can't wait to see it, even tho it will be all old and used when I get to see it. I owe grandma and grandpa a letter. If you see them before I get to write them, wish them my best. Until, next week.

Love Steve

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen", with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Nogent

August 15, 1966

I can't believe how negligent I am, having forgotten both my Mothers and Fathers birthday, and I don't even know their anniversarie. Happy both Mom and Dad. I have received your gifts and your counsel of which I am very greatful. The ties arrived the day after the snirt, Mom. Those ties were in very good taste. When you send ties however, try to remember that you have already sent me 2 red striped ones. My birthday wasn't really out of the ordinary. I did go into Paris where Elder Daniels bought me, my companion and Elder Bridge dinner. We went down to the gare de Lyon and saw Elder Daniels off to Geneva from where he was to take a plane to Chicago, and then home. He gave me 9 tickets worth a dollar each to get to the top of the Tour Eiffel and I thot I could give them to Taxmans when they come. They sent me a letter the other day telling me their arrival dates etc. They come on Friday the 19th and will be busy that day, the 20th, 21st, and will have the day free the 22nd on which day they would like to see me. They'll call me when they get here and we'll make arrangements. For a change the weather has been hot and sultry. That means that even tho there are many who are on vadation, those that are not on vacations are not to be found home. That makes tracting difficult and sometimes one wanders if he is wasting his time or not. At any rate I can't wait for September, which I suppose is one way of rationalizing myself out of the "little work" I have accomplished recently. I will be taking my drivers liscence test Wednesday. I have no idea what to expect, therefore no idea what to study for. It appears that the tests differ in nature from departement to dept. (state to state) Thanks to dad's gift, I mite be able to hold out until the end of the month, so there is no hurry on extra money like I said in the last letter. I was really pleased to get the pictures of the house. I really like it. You folks and the dog look fine, but there was no picture of Dee. I hope everything is going fine. One of these days I'm going to write you a letter that is not so dead.

Well it is afternoon now, and I think I'll add a little to the letter before I send it. I don't know what I'll add. We just finished tracting a building of police. They weren't too receptible. There are so many people who pass door to door that these people become very wary as to who they let pass, or who they listen too, and the police probably are aware of this more than the others. However, we did give one book of mormon away on which we have a callback next week. My ribbon has about had the cookies, in fact, the typewriter has about had the cookies too. Well, I shall close. Until next wk. Love, Steve

2 August 1966

Dear family: It seems like Paris is having one of its unusual summers. Much like last summer it is quite cold and very little sunlight. Most of the Parisiens take their vacation in August so the highways were filled yesterday and Sunday and now Paris is more or less empty. (Except for 100's of tourists) There is nothing unusual going on now. We had a little better luck tracting last week, we found some receptive and interested people. We left them a marked B of M, and will go back and discuss it this week. There are times when I envy your hot weather back home. When do you think that you'll be moving into the house. It seems amazing that it has gone up so fast. I guess when one is away he doesn't realize the things that are going on at home.

Where we live in Paris is quite unique. We live in an old mansion on about 1 acre. The Church bought the mansion and land in hopes of building a chapel. Nothing has materialized yet, so the branch meets on the 1st (ground) floor, and there are remodeled apts on the 2nd and 3rd floors. The remodeled apts were originally made for the building supervisors. Men like Mr. Leifson - remember him? He was one of my old French teachers. Consequently, these apartments are really nice. Gas stove, frig, stainless steel sinks, cabinets, washer, dryer, vacuum cleaner etc. When the building missionaries and their families moved out, they just left all of this stuff. And now, we can take advantage of it. We all have a room to ourselves, my bed is an extra long bed etc. so we are in pretty good shape. There is a big garden outside, but it has gone to pot. overrun with weeds and unkempt. I guess you have been busy during the last several wks with all the visitors. Dee, are you keeping up on your tennis? Tennis over here is a prestige sport, and if you play tennis that shows you are bourgeois and that you are ok. The French are a people obsessed with being with it. They are obsessed with their cars, which is the greatest status symbol in the world; Those that are with it, wear driving gloves. Their often tight rules of protocol, and savoir-vivre (good manners) often prevent them from being sincere. It is a society full of classes and social level. This is one of the reasons probably that the church works better in the states. It is at times difficult for a white collar worker to think himself equal to a worker, and consequently one often finds that the branches are made up of one majority one class or majority owner class. For example the missionaries fell very nervous about bring a worker investigator to the Nogent Branch, whereas in Rennes or LaRoche one would feel a little more nervous about bringing a bourgeois to the branch. The Saints here are fine, however church organization in France has a long way to go. There are lots of quarrels and lots of people who don't really understand what is coming off. On the other hand these that are sharp make the Mornosn at home look silly. Sometimes it is really paradoxical. Well, I'll sign off here, anxiously waiting to get those pictures of the house.

Love Steve

July 26, 1966 Nogent

Dear Folks: I had an interesting week this week. The Tri-French mission Youth Conference is or was held during the week. People from all three French Missions came. This year was the first year that missionaries were not allowed to go. Well it seems that upon arrival in Nogent, one frère Bourroux asks me if I play the piano and I told him I goof around a little on the piano but it is nothing more than to amuse myself. But anyway he gives me some swing numbers with the chords marked and we went in and I played them for him. We sounded ok, so I said I'd play for him when he wanted. Well it turns out that he is lined up to sing at talent night at the youth conference which was to be held at a real plush French high school, boarding school near Versailles. So, reluctantly on the part of Pres. Hart, I was permitted to go accompany him. It seems that frère Bourroux had also gone to the mission and insisted that I play piano for a combo at the dance two days later. He did all this with out even asking me. Therefore, I find out the night I accompany him that I am to play for a combo the next night. In an effort to please everyone I might have got Pres. Hart in a little hot water. I guess I faked out piano playing enough to make frère Bourroux think I wasn't bad. If he only knew.

We had some interesting teaching experiences this week. We tracted out this fairly nice husband and wife and child (boy). They didn't know what we wanted, but let us in. We gave them a first contact, a B of M and got a meeting for the next week. The husband had heard of the mormons but the wife not. We found out that they had been studyin with the TJ's. Jehovah's Witnesses for one year. Well, when we went back to take our meeting, we walked in the door and there on the table nicely placed was a bible and book of Mormon that we gave them, like they were all ready for a discussion. Then, out from the kitchen pop 2 TJ's. You have to understand what a TJ signifies for a mormon missionary. These are the people who know the bible quite well and pride themselves on the fact that they can "frappe" people with their knowledge telling them that they do not have the truth etc. They capitalize on ignorance. They accept nothing but the bible. A French missionary when he learns his bible directs himself towards 3 things: Proof of Apostasy and Restoration (refutation of Catholicism) and divine calling of Joseph S.) and then anti-TJ scriptures. The TJ's are so indoctrinated that they are all the same. It is remarkable. They pose the same questions etc. I was "frapped" by a TJ in Rennes when I was first a Senior com. and I vowed to learn some anti-tj doctrine at that time. I studied quite hard. I met several other tj's and held up pretty well, and finally I find myself in the situation I just described. Usually you don't get anywhere with a TJ and most of the time these discussions lead to nothing but a verbal scripture argument. But we "frapped" these people and hard. It is kind of poor to have this kind of spirit, I guess, but this frapping discussion lead to this: It placed a doubt in the peoples mind who had been studying the TJ's for over a year. That doesn't mean they accepted our doctrine, but it does mean that they were baffled by the fact that we could defend ourselves with logical arguments and that we were just as certain we were right as were they. All which showed that the bible is incomplete and that we need something else. We got another meeting for a BoFM archaeology discussion. The TJ's were shaking - they were losing a contact. So, they offered to have the meeting chez eux the next time, and in the presence of the investigators they couldn't refuse the BoFM that we gave them to look over until the next meeting. We can't wait; at this meeting they'll have every anti mormon true they can get.

Tue July 19, 1966

Dear Folks: It has been quite a full week this week. We didn't do as much tracting, but we had better results with what we had. Saw Elder Daniels again on the 14th (Bastille Day) and He and my companion went and saw the parade again plus DeGaulle. He went by a crowd waving and there was a polite applause. Last nite I went to the youth conference at which no missionaries were supposed to go. My excuse was of all things, that I had to accompany the Nogent Branch road show on the piano. I also played for Freere Bourroux who sang 4 numbers. I read the chords and play by ear. When I'm not the center of attraction at the piano, I can fake it out and do it pretty well. At the youth conference I saw some of the members from La Rochelle and we were mutually glad to see each other. Bernard was there. They put on quite a cute road-show. It is kind of cold right now and my fingers are working slow. I hope I will get a chance to see the paxmans. I gave a talk in church last wk. and also at a baptismal service, the first I have seen, can you believe it. It was a referral given to the sister missionaries several months ago. Before I got here. I guess we'll go out and tract this morning. We use a B of W in our tracting. I think I have already told you. Are you trying to get my drivers liscence? Are things being processed etc? I have been driving a little since I've been here on an over dated International liscence. I went down to apply for my French liscence and found out that my Residence Card had expired and that it had to be renewed. That, takes a long time. It is just like Egypt here in the regard that you either have some sort of pull, money, or you wait in line. And, the lines are long. The French just operate on a different system than we do. I sure hope you send some snapshots of the house. It seems incredible that you are going to move in so soon. I guess it is because I havn't been thinking about it while it has been going up. There are a lot of new missionaries coming into the mission now. I found out that some of Elder Daniels and my investigators are still hanging on down in La Rochelle. I really enjoyed everything down there. It seems that there are a lot of tourists down there now. Well, until I can think of something else to say, by until next week.

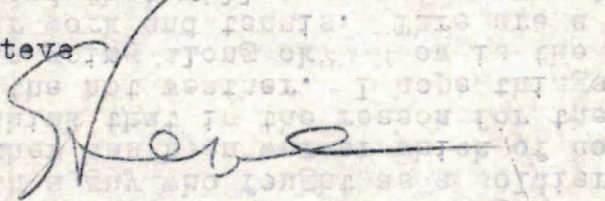
Monday July 4, 1966

Dear Family - Happy independence day. It is an overcast Monday morning here in Nogent. My Solex broke down for the first time since I had those repairs 6 months ago. All that happened was that the bolts that hold on the gas tank worked themselves loose. Yesterday, I mean Saturday, a family (Canadien) who my companion Elder Sabey knows came thru Paris. So, we showed them around a little bit. Wednesday we went out to the Versailles chapel and worked. The chapel is almost finished now, and all that is necessary are the finishing touchings inside. There will be a youth conference out there at the end of the month. My companion and I went to a Jehovahs Witness mtg. yesterday. Last week we had a scripture battle with a (we call them TJ's Temoin de Jehova) TJ lady and got the best of here. That is not teaching by the spirit, but every now and again it is nice to test what you know and what you don't know about your own doctrine. We decided to go out to one of their mtgs. and see what it was like. It wasn't too impressive - a profound study of the bible that is much more like an indoctrination period than a study period. On the way home we got caught in one of the bigger rainstorms I've seen and even with our rain gear on, we kind of got soaked. Our tracting area is in a town just outside of Paris called Maisons-Alfort, it is comprised in what is called the banlieu of Paris or the outskirts. It is just about a continuation of Paris but the boundaries don't continue out that far. After leaving a few investigators in Rennes, it is kind of difficult to start from scratch again. But this time we inherited a couple of choice investigators - one a young girl who is lacking parental permission and the other a woman who has read most of the standard works and is preparing herself for eventual baptism. Other than that we are totally lacking in investigators and have to start out from scratch by tracting. Tracting the last week wasn't too fruitful - I hope it picks up some this week - Some times you can get in every other door and other times you won't get in a door all day. It is very discouraging when you don't get into doors, at least even to sit down and talk. The word religion is mentioned and the people completely turn off. They have a horror of door to door. So do I, but I guess until we can find a better way we'll have to keep it up. Dad, a late happy birthday, thanks for the talks, magazines etc. I enjoy those talks you send very much. The branch of Nogent is noted to be one of the stronger branches in the French Mission. The people are a very high class of people, and there are very few stories. I understand that George Romneys son will be coming into this mission within a short time. Here in Paris we meet a lot more anti DeGaulle sentiment than we did out in Province. He has really been receiving the headlines, however. Dee thanks for your letter. I am enclosing the Drivers License application. I hope you can find a Notary Public who can notarize this without my presence. Taylor up at the bookstore said he would do it sometime ago when ever I need something notarized. Send me some snapshots of the house. It is hard to believe that a new house is going up all the time. I hope you get this letter before the end of the week. I realize that I have been kind of negligent.

26 June 1966

Dear Family - Well I guess you think that I am getting kind of
lax and you are probably right. I got transferred back to Paris, in
the suburb of Nogent sur Marne. I will probably be here for a
long time. My new companion is Elder Sabay from Montreal. He is
allright guy too, almost as tall as I am. We'll scare a few French
grandmas gracting. I hope I will be able to see some of the people
coming through Europe this summer like Paxmans. Did Daniels call
you? I knew he was coming over. The district I'm in now is a pretty
good one, maybe I'll have more luck. after baptismal drought LaRocheville
and the apostasizing branch at Rennes. In a way I was kind of sad
to leave Rennes, Resha and I started out from scratch and we finally
built up a few investigators. But it was quite hard there for a
while getting those investigators. We are living in the upstairs
of an old Mansion which was to be torn down and make room for a
new chapel. The meetings are held down stairs, so we don't have
to go far to go to church. It seems that I have either forgotten how
to type or that I am tired or something. It has a refrigerator and
an oven and a washer which is really neat - in other words some
thing that is not to be found in too many missionary apartments. By
the way, my phone number is TRE 31-64 in case anyone wants it.
it really sounds funny to hear that the house has gone up as far as
it has. That is really going to be something to see it completed.
Dee - how are you and your job coming. I suppose you are at Boys
state now. Did you get my drivers liscence. If you need anything
else for it just let me know. Next week we will go out to the chapel
in Versailles to work. It is almost completed and they will dedicate
it soon. I have been promising you an epistle some time but I will
put it off again. I'll tell you more about Nogent the next time

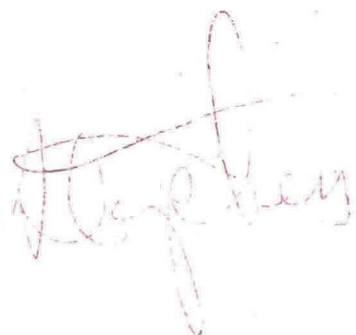
love Steve



Tuesday June 14, 1966

Dear family: Yesterday and Sunday were missionary conferences in LeMans therefore I didn't have the chance to write. We rented a car and 6 of the 8 from our district took the 2 and one half hour drive down there. The next week will be the LeMans 24 hour auto race and so LeMans was quite busy. Elder Jolley, my first companion is now the Branch President there. I was glad to see him. I saw a lot of missionaries that I hadn't seen since the first of my mission. I am glad to get your letters they mean a lot to me and I like to hear about what is going on. We had a fairly interesting week last week, we met a lot of interesting people. A lot of people want to know what our views on VietNam are. We have met, and have as a contact, a Frenchman who fought in VietNam and who sympathises with the Americans. We also have a student who sympathises with the American govt. These people however are rare. The French are a rebellious people, proud of their origins and they think therefore that it is chic to be against something. There are a lot of old people too. Every now and again we talk with an old geezer who fought at Verdun and it is really astonishing to think you are actually talking with a guy who fought as a soldier in the First World war. The weather has been warmer which of course brings on Spring fever, so I think that is the reason for the conference - to keep us going in the hot weather. I hope things are OK at home and that the house is going along ok? How is the dog. Dee, how are you enjoying your work and tennis. There are a lot of new Elders that are coming out and that will come out soon. At this conference there were a great many that I didn't recognize. All of the old Elders, those of Elder Daniels Era that I know have either gone home or are in different districts. It is possible to meet an Elder at the first of your mission, and never see him again for 2 and 1/2 years. There are 3 districts in the mission and each of these districts holds its own conferences. In LaRochele, I was in the South or the Bordeaux District, In Paris I was in the Paris District, and in Rennes, I am in the West, or the LeMans District. There are some that spend their whole mission in one district, so I have been quite lucky in that regard. Well, it is time to go eat. (It's 12:45) So I shall sign off with lots of love

Love, Stephen



Tuesday, May 31, 1966

Dear family, Yesterday was a holiday, so there was no mail pickup therefore the letter may be received again on Saturday. Things are going ok here. We worked pretty hard last week, but not too many tangible results. The weather also has been sunny for about 3 days. There is a district conference coming up, as well as a missionary conference. The week after that is the auto race, the 24 hours at LeMans, and inasmuch as we are so close to LeMans, we may try to make it. Things have been pretty unexciting around here lately, so there is not much to tell you. Maybe I could tell you a little about the branch. There are about 35-40 active members among 160. These members have been accumulated over a period of 7 years. At this moment the branch is at a low ebb with a lot of bickering and jealousies. There is one family of 9 that is the cornerstone. The wife is the Sunday School teacher, and the Husband is the Melchizedek priesthood teacher. They are quite active, and of course the other members see them taking everything over, therefore they get mad. There are a lot of old ladies who don't even know why they come, a few young people etc. There are plans to build a chapel in Rennes. The land is ready and pres. Hart is waiting for the go ahead. The way things look however, that chapel wnt be built for a while because the members aren't ready to support it or build it.

How are things at home? How is the house coming? Have you gone ahead on it yet? What are you doing now Dee. I'll bet you are glad for summer to come. I can remember that I sure was. What do you plan on doing this summer Dad?

I just got your letter, and I about laughed myself out of the door when you talked about Ann whiting. Listen, don't let anyone kid you - If you want to know, I'll tell you the story. Believe this or not, but it's the truth. When I went with Ann, I treated her like dirt (pardon the expression) I went to get her for dates in my levis (dirty) and sometimes unshaven. I really didn't treat her very nicely. She would do anything for me - she almost proposed to me every time I took her out for some reason or another. Well, about the end of basketball season "I" told her where to get off, that she didn't interest me, and that she shouldn't waste her time trying. She was really trying too. She searched me out in the library and try to put herself in the places I'd be at certain times etc. She was really out of it. Well, it was in quite an indiscreet manner in which I told her where to get off because she was half out of her mind, and I couldn't figure it out. I gave her the line. "Ann, I'm not interested, but we'll still be friends. So, she felt real bad, and I didn't at the time. Well after this, she kept persisting and I started to feel sorry for her. I didn't take her out any more, but when I saw her I was nice to her. She sent me 2 letters at the first of my mission. So, I answered the 2nd one about 2 months after she wrote it. It was a friendly letter and that is all. Saying how the mission was going and asking how BY U was etc. That is the extent of it. So she answered just as soon as she got it. It was more or less out of pity, guilt and simply a friend that I wrote too her. That is it. I didn't have any interest in her then, when I kissed her off (expression for "dropped her") nor did I when she wrote me on my mission nor do I know. Only as a friend. She sent me a wedding invitation and I sent her a card with "best wishes for a happy marriage" written on it that is all. I was glad she married off. Maybe this card is the "letter (nice)" that Margret told you about.

Ann probably used me to boost her own ego and to make her suitors jealous etc. I kissed her off ever a year ago because she didn't interest me. Dad probably doesn't believe me. I am trying to save face. But this is really a story. I knew

dropped her. I can't believe she married. Pity on her and evidently she is still crazy.

Tuesday June 7, 1966

Sorry, folks, but it is Tuesday again, so you probably won't get this until Saturday again. Well, I suppose school is just about all over for everyone. This is a school town too, and the students are taking their examinations right now. We eat at the student restaurant, but it will be open until the end of July, so we will be able to get cheap food at least until then. The weather has been quite nice this past week and a times it has even been quite warm. That is when the tracting gets tough because the people all leave and go to the park, or go walk the baby etc. And what is more is that it is hot in the sun with a suit on. Next week is the district conference and missionary conference at LeMans and we are looking forward to going. Congratulations Dad on your being chosen as prof of the year by the U of South Dakota. That is quite an honor. The work is still going pretty slow, we have some nice people but they are not yet over the hump and we'll just have to keep plugging along. I rread in the "Etoile" the French language "Bra", and article by Paul Harmon about Joseph Smith. I wonder if he knew it was in there. I know that this isn't very much to write, but I really can't think of anything else to say and I wrote a longer letter la st week . So, I guess this will have to do for now. I'll try and get the next one off by Sunday.

Love Steve

May 22, 1966

Dear Family: I decided to get the letter of tonite, it is Sunday, instead of retarding until Tuesday as I have been doing in the past. I was interested to hear about your trip to cal. Mom and I hope you had a good time. I was pleased to get the cards. If the mail, my letter, came extra late last week, it was because of the mail strike in France. France at this time is plagued with strikes. We just went 24 hours with out electricity. You don't really know you miss it until it is gone. We have to fill up the tub with water so we can flush the toilet. The pumps of course are run by electricity. Saturday nite we had a fête, a talent nite. The missionaries put on a skit, and we formed a small band for the purpose of the evening. I played the piano and the small flute I have. Strangely enough, I didn't play my trombone. I did get a chance to toot on it a little this week however. The weather here in Rennes is still irradical. We just don't know what to expect. I should give you a little run down on my clothes situation. I still have my 4 suits. I wear the brown one the most, tracting and meetings etc. On the week ends I trade off with the black one and the herring bone. The grey one is really baggy so I don't wear it quite as often. I wore the seat out of the greay one the first 6 months of my mission, but it is repaired. The black one is the best suit, the nicest looking, the herring bone is OK too, the brown one has a worn out seat once repaired and is all shiny, but still ok for a work day suit. My blue overcoat has had the cookies: shiny, saggy, faded etc. I won't need a coat from here on out, but next winter I'll probably have to ask you to pick out a coat and send it. I just had all 3 pair of shoes re soled. That makes 2 resole jobs for 2 of them and one for the other. My shirts are holding out suprisingly well, no problem. Socks: ok, socks: hurting. So here is how it stands. Suits: OK, but perhaps when I have about a year to go a French suit might be a wise investment. Overcoat: Next winter will need new one. Shoes ok - they have oil on them and don't shine to well but they are OK. Maybe a new pair about the time of a new suit 8 or 9 months from now. Shirts: ok. Socks: You might do well in sending (by sea mail please) 4 or 5 pair of black dress socks, not the heavy black adlers, but maybe a medium weight stretch sock, I have the medium weight adler stretch sock wich I like very much. Try and find some if you can, but remember my shoe size is 13 so get the biggest ones you can. Garments: ok PJs, maybe another pair of cheap cotton ones. Can I ask one of you to go down to the police dept. and check on the drivers liscence. I know I'll need an eye test, but I'm wondering if that is all. Please send me the necessary forms.

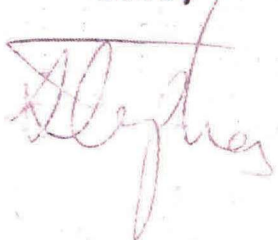
Well, we hope to put in a good full week this next week. We had 3 investigators out to church this week. They aren't too sharp but they enjoyed themselves. Got Paxman's letter as usual, interesting as usual. They said they hoped to see me if i was in Paris. They are going to Kitzbuhl which is a beautiful little town. I spent 3 days there when I was in Austria; it is right in the Austrian alps, ski lifts going up every mountain; green green green. How is everything going with the house? Well, until next week Love Steve.

Dis done, FOU, comment ça va avec les jeunes filles? Ecoute-tu les conseilles de Gé? Ecrit-moi un mot quand ~~tu~~ tu auras le temp.

Tuesday May 17, 1966

Bonjour: Finally the weather is changing here. A guy gave us some statistics the other day telling us it rains 180 days out of the year in Rennes. Right at this moment there is an electricity strike. There have been 3 or 4 in the last several months. The French laborers (ouvriers) are asking for more money and less working hours. The last several weeks we have been tracting out some new housing developments, so we have made contact with some people, and have gotten in a few hours teaching. My knowledge of the language and the gospel have sure increased just since I have become a Sr. Companion. I got a letter from Grandmay yesterday along with your letter. I also got the Missionary Pal reference. Thank you. I'll have been out 1 year before I know it. I know Elder Bendie very well. He showed me the picture of his brother and Joan Riveto. The name sounded familiar, but I couldn't place it, nor the face that he showed me. I am in the apartment here with Elder Ribers who was in that French class too. Yes, he was the one who wrote on the envelope. He is the Branch Pres. here in Rennes. There are so many problems in the Rennes Branch. It used to be a fruitful flourishing branch but now it is not too. We live in building of about 10 stories that is about 150 yards long. We are just a number. It almost looks like a prison. It is on the south end of Rennes where are found many of these "cité". We are on the 3rd floor (the ~~2nd~~ fourth American Floor). Today we'll tract, and take 2 or three meetings, or call-backs. We pass out marked book or Mormons for people to look at and then we go back to check what they have read, answer to their questions, or get the book thrown back in our faces. We have during the last week met some real white people, not particularly because they agreed with what we had to say, but because they were sincere in the beliefs that they had. One was a young girl who is Catholic. Her belief in her Church was very strong and it was clear to me that she wasn't a Catholic because she was forced my traditions and mores to be one. The other was an atheist who was just as strong in his beliefs. You sure get a chance to meet people and learn ideas. Sometimes I really think it is amazing that I am communicating with people in a language that is not my own. All the missionaries seem to be agreeing that we have hit the conservative area of the French Mission. Just about everything is being discouraged by Pres. Hart. Missionary Member picnics etc. missionary entertainment etc. Pres. Hart's image the the missionary is the proselyting one. He maintains that we are set apart to do this work and that it is the only work we should be doing. He is not forbidding however intr\$-a-miss. activities. Well I'll terminate this incomprehensible letter.

Love,



3 May 1966

Hi: I just got your letter from San Diego, it sounds like you are having a good time there. I was also pleased and excited to hear that Dee made the finals. Weather here the last couple of days has been pretty good and even almost hot. It may get quite uncomfortable here weatherwise in the summer. Got up late this morning because we were at an investigators house until 12h00 last nite. It was more or less a first contact message that we gave them, after we discussed politics and then watched Eliot Ness and the untouchables on TV. We will go back and give them a first lesson next week. The last week we tracted in area that hasn't been tracted out for quite a while, and we had better luck. But, most of the area that we have isn't too good inasmuch as it has been worke d quite often. The contacts are still there however, just harder to find. Thanks for your letter Dad. It took me a half hour to decipher it but I got it 'OK. I think it is pretty humorous about Dee barfing in the shower.

Wow, I'm sorrey, it is Tuesday nite, and the next mail pickup won't be until Monday morning. We had a pretty successful day today it kind of raised my spirits up a little bit. I got a chance to do a little more teaching. We also passed out 4 book of Mormons. What the people do is they read several passages that we have underlined and then we come back and discuss what it is about. If my mission brings me one thing, it will be a hate or dislike for the Catholic Church. It teaches the gospel of Christ under the guise of hypocrisy, fear, and tradition. Every now and again we come on some sincere people. By sincere, I don't mean people who accept our point of view, but people that are not dictated by what their neighbor thinks or by their traditional backwardness. Wow, you don't know how lucky I am to have such sharp parents. If my testimony of this gospel came from anyplace, it came from you, your example, comportment, generosity and I could go on for ever, and I'm not trying to butter you up as Mom would say.

Well, I am hoping that on the 19th of June we can get permission to go to LeMans to see the 24 hour spectacular race taere. It is the most prestigious auto race in the world, and Ford is supposed to take Ferrari this year for the first time. Usually there is a temple trip every year for the French missionaries but president Hunter has stopped these in all the European Missions except those which have an easy access to the temple. So it looks like a trip to the Temple is out. We went to the salle today at noon and practiced for a small orchestra that we are getting up among the missionaries for a branch talent nite. Inasmuch as no french person has every had the time, money, or ingenuity to do anything besides work for a living it is always the missionaries who are the talent for the talent nite. It is funny. We are so lucky. Here, leisure time is only for the rich. The majority of the people don't have the time to learn to play the piano, play golf, etc. They work long hours for very little. Notice that I didn't say they worked hard. A one hour coffee (wine) breack morning and afternoon, plus a two hour lunch hour. Well, I'll have to close. I love you, again congratulations Dee? I think that t at is the greatest thing in the world - Boys state etc. They interviewed me, the I lacked the qualities that you have. Go get em.

Love Steve

10 May 1966

Rennes

Well, I'm late in getting this off again, I'm sorry. I hope it gets to you before the end of the week. When do you usually get the letters, on Friday or Saturday? This last week was really miserable weather again. It rained every day. It has rained every day I have been in Rennes except for 3 or 4 days when it was nice. I got your letters and talk yesterday evening Dad. I read both of those talks this morning and enjoyed them both very much. I enjoy those talks and appreciate any that you think are worth sending. In France they turn off the central heating if there is any at Easter. Regardless of whether it is cold or not after, they stop it at Easter. So we have been freezing in rather unusual May mornings the last couple of days. Looking out the window now however there are not too many clouds and it is sunny. I am anxious to hear the results of Dee's campaign. It is funny, but all you have told me has not included the name of his opponent. Anyway, Dee, I don't know whether you have won or lost, but the fact that you are where you are shows a great deal and is a very justified reward for your accomplishments. The last 4 weeks, we have tracted over 26 hours each week. That is a lot of tracting if you don't know. Our area must have been tracted 6 or 7 times complete in the last 3 years so you can imagine the reception we have been getting. I would like to open up a new virgin city sometime and then we could tract out enough contacts in 10 hours to last us several weeks without tracting. The "Lormons" get a reputation after passing so many times, and most of the people know who you are the minute you open the door. Tracting is the main way in France of First Contacting. It is Referrals in the States. But here the church hasn't evolved enough where the French members can proudly take the initiative and bring in their friends. The missionaries therefore have to do everything. Even the branches are dependant on the missionaries. Slowly, we are finding some hospitable people and are starting to teach them. Well, anyway, the time is really flying by isn't it. We had a family home evening last nite with a member family and enjoyed ourselves. They live in a housing development (buildings, quoi) that almost looks like a prison or a beehive. Individual little cells on top and to the side of each other. In this housing development there are about 15 members of which about 2 are semi-active, the rest, baptized in the Dyer Era when baseball clubs were formed by the "Americans" for the kids and the kids were told to bring their white pants and white shirts for the swimming party after, and other races like this. That is why there are so many inactive members in France now. Many of them don't even know what was coming off at the time they were baptized. We had one inactive member here in Rennes offer us coffee and tea, and he was really astonished to find out that we didn't drink it and he wondered why? You see things like this every day. Well I'll sign off. Keep cool there at home. Did you get the slides? There weren't any but that is about all I had. Love

Alvin

Monday April 25, 1966

18 Blvd O'neal Leroux
35 - Rennes FRANCE

Dear Family: It is monday morning about 7:50 and I've just finished doing a little studying, cross referencing my bible etc. My companion went down to buy breakfast. It is his turn to cook this morning. He cooks for the 4 of us. I cook tomorrow and the other team of Elders will take over again next week. Last week was a pretty tough week too inasmuch as we tracted a lot and didn't get too much done in the way of finding people. It seems that the area we are in has been tracted out every 6 months for the last 5 years. But, the tracting has to improve sometime. It can really get discouraging at times. I don't mind tracting a long time when we get to talk, at least, to several people. As senior companion there is a certain responsibility that you didn't feel as junior. (obviously) But, as Junior it was the senior who made all the decisions etc. And you just left it up to him to decide who was going to be taught, and you just sort of stayed in the background. I think my confidence could have built itself up a little if I had been able to baptise when I was a junior companion. I might not have had anything to do with it, but it still would have taken a load off my mind. Sometimes I wonder just what the heck is coming off. Here I am an American trying to change these peoples way of life. Of course right there is a simple lack of faith that has to be erased. I know, however, that what I am doing is right and we're going to keep working hard. The grass is green always on the other side of the fence, but some times you wonder if you are just unlucky first being put in LaRocheville which hasn't had a baptism for a year and then in Bretagne, the most catholic part of France, and then in a tracting area that has been worked almost dry. But I realize that it is in overcoming this obstacle that brings happiness and success and that the bigger the obstacle, the harder it is to overcome and thus the larger the blessing. The weather here in Rennes has been pretty rainy. Spring in France is pretty bad news if you have to spend it outside all the time. How is the weather home? How are you coming with the house? Have you started it yet? How are you coming with your tennis Dee? How is the dog. I haven't got the slides off yet but will try to do it tomorrow or the next day. Could you please go up to the Y book store or to 70's bookstore and by me a reference called "Missionary Pal" "Reference Guide for Missionaries and Teachers" by Keith Marston? Well I will call it for now, and wish you all my continued love/

Love Stephen

Stephen

Thank you for the postcards
I haven't read them yet
but they are really interesting

17 April 1966
18 Blvd Oscar Leroux
35 - Rennes

Dear Family: This week was one of the lousy~~est~~ weeks of my mission. We tractted a lot and got just about no where. We didn't get any teaching done the whole week. We have the South West area of Rennes which is mostly residential area with big housing devps. Lots of salesmen pass and we get the door slammed in our face as soon as the door is opened. The area has been tractted out a number of times before also. So, I guess the only thing to do is to keep going, and to pray that we'll get some contacts. We are working with several of the members giving them lessons etc. trying to reactivate some of the inactive ones. Last nite the branch had a party which was partly rained out but it was a little fun any way. It was held on the lot where there is to be a church in the future. You heard that Rennes is one of the better branches, well, that isn't really saying much. There is much bickering etc. So, Missionaries must hold most of the positions of leadership. There was recently ~~was~~ one apostasy of a whole family of five. It has really been discouraging for me this week. 6 hours tractting a day with out even getting to talk to anyone is pretty bad. In La Rochelle we'd tract 2 and one half hrs a day at the most and get to talk to about 3 times as many people. Of course we tractted out new areas there, and that might be the difference. This is a pretty rotten letter. Sometimes you wonder what you are really doing out here. You see the French members fighting each other, you get turned away all day at doors, and it can become pretty discouraging. I really don't have too much to say this week. Yes, Mom, I think the plans for the house are ok. Dad, if you think you'll get into trouble financial wise, call the whole thing off or of course if you want to you can use my stock (joke, get it?) your letters and council from home were the things that have kept me half way sane this week. The weather has been rainy every day since I have been here. They have here the fastest changing weather I have ever seen. All this plus the fact that my comp. can't talk and I'm on my own makes it pretty tough at times. It's not all as bad as it sounds, I'm sure its a passing stage. By the way, the house again, I sure hope you remember to have a stereo-tape speaker system in the house. Well, by for now. Love as always -

Sorry, but it is now Tuesday morning the 19th and I'll mail the letter right away. The refills and ties came yesterday. It was really a pleasant surprise. Those ties (in perfect taste) will be a welcome change each morning. Tractting yesterday was much more fruitful, so things seem to be looking up a little. I'll close this now and write a little more next week.

Monday 10 April 1966

35 - Rennes

France

Dear Folks: (and Dee) Yesterday was Easter Sunday, and quite a full day for me. I gave the Relief Society theology lesson on the word of Wisdom, a talk in Church on the Sacrament and then after Church, the missionaries, of which there are 8 in the Rennes District, went out to eat at a swank restaurant. There, although we paid about \$2.50 we had all sorts of food and ate all sorts of delicacies such as snails, shell fish, mussels etc. It was really good, but also the sort of thing that one couldn't do every day of the week. I haven't received much mail from you lately, the last thing I received was the letter and talk from you dad. It was excellent and as usual applied a great deal to my progress out here and my own state of mind, but nothing ever does this quite as well as your letters themselves Dad. How is your back? I have both checks now, Mom and I may be needing both of them, I don't know. This change entails the purchase of a whole bunch of BofMs and other Senior Companion necessities that I had always relied on my other companions to have before. (Lessons cut outs, flannel boards, First contacting pictures. etc;

The weather here has been terrible for the last week. Nothing but rain and let me tell you that it is really lousy to ride a solex in the rain. I had my last pictures developed and there is kind of a cute one of me and Sister Rambeau in it as well as some pictures of Elder Daniels departing from LaRochele. So, I'll send them home to you as soon as I can. I'm going to get the one of sister Rambeau and me duplicated so that she can have a copy (a photograph) and then I'll send them all to you. I think that there are only about 18. I hope we can get a lot of work in this week. It's funny, I was made a Senior companion at 8 and one half months, and I probably have less proselyting experience than my companion who has been out 5 months. Of course Elder Jolley and myself didn't get all that much work done, (even thought we had quite a field of investigators) and with Elders Daniels and Bridge, of course I held branch responsibilities and wasn't expect to get and enormous amount of proselyting in. Elder Rosha is a pretty nice guy. He is Polynesian of origin and comes from Hawaii. He is really having problems with the French language (And by the way, the fact that I have been made Senior does not mean that I have an absolute command of the French language, far from that.) He was out five months, doing more proselyting than most of the Elders in the mission and as of now he cannot give a simple Joseph Smith story. I don't know whether it is a fear on his part, or that he didn't have a desire to learn it, or if he and his former companion didn't hit it off and he used is tendency to not learn as a defense... I don't know. But, anyway he seems to make an effort now, and is making a lot of progress. What are you doing about the house? Keep me filled in? What are you doing now Dee? How is Thrimp or has her name been changed again. Is she old and creaky? I hope she is still alive when I get home. It is hard to believe that she is that old and that we have had her that long isn't it? I've forgotten all the people I should write to, why don't you send me a small list of those to whom I should write, that is to say those who have contributed a little towards this effort. Well by fef now. Soyez sage, tous les trois, Thrimp y compris

Love,

April 3, 1966
18 Blvd. Oskar Leroux
35 - Rennes

Well, I've been in Rennes for about 5 days now and I'm really out of it. I haven't written you a comprehensible letter and haven't received one from you. It isn't your fault however, because there are rail and train strikes all over France. I expect to get a letter from you, or that is hope to get a letter from you tomorrow. Well, I'll try and start from the beginning. In LaRoche last week on the 23rd of March, I got a transfer saying that I was to go to Rennes to be Senior companion. I was quite shocked, because I thought I would be able to enjoy the easy life of Jr Companion for several more months. It seems that there was a big mission turn over these last several weeks, and they had to dig deep into the inexperienced to get senior companions. I don't know who else was made senior or if any others who came out about the time I did were made Sr. Anyway I was quite sad to leave LR, especially some of the investigators and members who I liked very much. Also the fact that I am Sr. companion in Rennes starting out with no investigators or anything is a little on the depressing side. So, right now, I don't know whether I am coming or going. I have all these responsibilities in front of me that I didn't think I had to worry about for another 3 or 4 months. I really would have liked to stay in LaRoche for a little more time. I am right about now beginning to realize my lack of knowledge of the gospel and the French Language. We tracked out a TJ the other day, (Jehovah's Witness) and she chopped me right to the ground, but it really got me in the scriptures when I got home. My companion is Elder Rosha who has been out about 5 months. He is from Hawaii. He went to one year at Stanford and one at the Y, but I am really confronted with a big and strange problem. Elder Rosha's former companion and himself were just about on top of the mission for several months before the transfer. I came expecting Elder Rosha to speak fair French as a result of his experiences but he can't speak, write or talk two weeks worth of French. On the back of our weekly reports we write how many lessons we have learned, one thru six, and he says he has completed all six lessons which I don't doubt a bit. Yet, he cannot present the Joseph Smith story (a paragraph) so it can be understood. Therefore, he has learned all these lessons with no help what so ever as to pronunciation, inflection, accent etc. This suggests to me that either he didn't put forth an effort to learn, or his companion didn't teach him anything and I think it is a combination of both but I don't know why. We are requested to have 4 hrs. companion study (helping each other) a week, but he says he and his first companion didn't do this - evidently, because an Elder, any Elder should be able to give an understandable JS story after two weeks, even if it is just memorized and he doesn't understand a word of it. He says his companion was after the hours (taught 90 year old ladies etc who didn't understand anyway) so he could be made a District Leader, then Zone leader etc. It is very odd to me that after 5 months he cannot do this, however he seems to be putting forth the effort now, and he is improving a little. (Monday, the 4th) Well, I shall try to get this in the mail this morning when I go down to buy the paper. Rennes is a university town about the size of Salt Lake. We have enrolled in the university and have the right to eat at the university cafeteria for pretty cheap, so I should be able to save a little money. I got the check for 112 dollars, it should help me out a little. I hope I have enough money this month inasmuch as I need to buy several things necessary to a Sr. comp. I'm thinking about a record player portable. I'll let you know if I need a little more. Write some confi

30 March 1966
18 Blvd. Oscar LEROUX Leroux
35 - Rennes
France.

Well, the mission really shocked me this last week. I'm Senior companion in Rennes to Elder Rosha, a polynesian from Hawaii. He has been out 5 months, and I of course have only been out 8. So, this should turn out to be a real experience. We'll have to see how it is going to turn out. A lot of Elders have gone home lately, so they had to go deep to get new Seniors. There are a lot of Elders who have been out longer than I have who were not made Senior. I don't think it is because I am so exceptional, ~~but~~ because the other Elders are competent.

I hope you got my card. We went to Limoges (where the porcelain comes from, to play a basketball game. We were all out of shape and got beat by about 40 points, what a humiliation. We had a good time anyway and stopped off at the US army base in Poitiers and had some ice cream and hamburgers and Doctor Pepper. I will say the transfer broke me. It was totally unexpected. I had to pay off the rent, ship my stuff, and pay the baggage shipping, and so I arrived in Rennes with about 50 cents. I went to the only address I had, and old one of about 3 months, and found that it was where the Zone dealers lived. Everyone was at a district conference at Angers, so inasmuch as I had had no sleep for about 3 days (the basketball game, all night up on trail etc.) I slept from 9 am to 4pm and the Elders got home at about 5. So, I came here and met my new companion, Elder Rosha who seems to be a pretty sharp guy. We are going to eat at the university cafeteria which costs about 27 cents a meal, so you can't beat that.

I was kind of sad to leave LR just as summer was coming but I am also happy with the new responsibility and hope that I can take care of it. My check is in LR, and Elder Bridge won't get my address till tonight and that means just about another whole day of being broke. All my clothes are dirty, but of course I had to pack them anyway.

Well I'll terminate now, and write you longer next week. I'm kind of busy getting organized now. Pre-occupied too, as you can probably tell by the tone of this letter.

Love as always to you all;

Sunday, March 20, 1966
LaRochele, France

Wow, I could have kicked myself last nite. After mutual Elder Link myself, and sister Sauvaget decided to go to the movie. We went To viva Maria, and with Brigitte ~~Bardot~~ Bardot and Jeanne Maurot. It was the movie that BB went to the states for the premier. It was quite a hilarious movie and if it ever comes, you ought to go see it. Well, what happens the next morning? Elder Wilder comes downstairs the next morning and told me he heard the whole BYU-NYU game over the air for the network which came live by satellite. I had a suspicion it would be broadcast, but I didn't give it a second thought. I really could have kicked myself. The Y has been getting pretty good coverage in the Herald Trib. We'll see what it has to say about their winning game tomorrow. I hope Utah wins, but I guess that is a little too much to hope for.

Well, the weather in LR is improving, that is to say the sun is appearing a little more, but the cold has increased. There are quite a few blossoms around on the trees and it is getting to be quite pleasant. I will have been in LaRochele 5 months tomorrow. The first of the week we were at District Conference, I think that I've already told you a little about that. I'll tell you a little about our latest investigator. We have been tracking in a little town outside of LR called Puilboreau. We tracked out this man who had lived in Germany for several years and had a German wife. His name is M. Juteau. He is quite the guy. We go to his house each Wednesday evening at 8h00. He insists on feeding us at that time, and we don't get up from the table until 10h00. Puilboreau is made up of only farms and a couple of stores. Well, this guy is almost self-sufficient. He makes his own wine, everything. I guess our hardest point will be the word of wisdom. His family is real nice especially his German wife who can't speak a word of French. She weighs about 200 pounds and is the kindest thing on two feet. Our last meeting there lasted until about 12h30 in the morning.

We still take French lessons from Sister Rambeau. You mention you are having sister Clark for dinner, well Sister Rambeau really likes sister Clark

Bernard Moinard was ordained a deacon two weeks ago. He has reverented a little bit, but at some times he is the same little devil. We've thought of a thing for scouts for him; the next lesson will be on first aid and we'll use him for a guinea pig, wrap him all up, put a piece of tape over his mouth and we'll have a good class.

One of the sisters is being transferred to Paris. Sister Parry. Another, sister Deitch is coming down.

I got a letter from John McIntyre, the kid I knew in Egypt whose ~~dad~~ uncle was in the Embassy and always being followed. He is the one who got an audience with Nasser. I sent him a card around Christmas time.

Priesthood mtg. is in a couple of minutes and I am giving the lesson on the 8-10th sections of the Doctrine and Covenants. I am as qualified as DeGualle to do it but I guess I'll learn at the same time.

My drivers license is the next thing I'll have to get renewed and I'll have to send that home with an eye examination. When do you start tennis Dec? How's the back dad? the Yard Mom? Bye Lovetall

March 15, 1966
LaRochele

Dear Dad, Mom, and Dee: I've had quite an interesting week, this week; we went to a combination Member Conference and Missionary conference in Bordeaux. That is to say that a Missionary conference was held right after the Member Conference Saturday evening and Sunday. We were held all day Monday in the Missionary Conference. We rented a car, and took two members down and one investigator and three missionaries: me, my companion, and Elder Link. The two sisters and other Elder came down later on the train. However, we all came home together inasmuch as the members left for LaRochele Sunday evening. Elder Bridge and I forewent the luxury of a hotel and stayed with Elder Jolley, my old companion in their place in downtown Bordeaux. We brought some lily looking mattresses from the salle in LR and slept on the floor. We brought our own bedding. It was pretty good to see Elder Jolley again after almost 5 months. Even though there were times when we didn't hit it off too well, in the end we both liked each other, and realized it even more after being separated. He has made almost a ruin of his mission by too much guitar playing and photography etc., but I guess some guys just have different aptitudes. Right after the conference Monday at about 4:30 PM Elder Jolley, Sister Morris (A sister from LR who needed something notarized) and myself went to the American consulate downtown. There in about 15 minutes I had my passport renewed for 2 more Years. It will be void for good in June 1968, about 4 or 5 months after my mission is over.

Both conferences were good ones. They were both of course held in the new chapel in Bordeaux, a small but beautiful one. The member conference's theme was direct toward the young, chastity, a Christian life etc. There was one session Saturday eve. And two sessions the next day. The missionary conference was to start right after the Member conference Sunday evening, but President Hart was quite busy with interviews that it didn't start until next morning. It also was held in two sessions of about 3 and one half hours each. A long one. It's main emphasis was more widespread distribution of the Book of Mormon. Also the use of the family home evening as a proselyting tool. President Hart spoke in both sessions and as usual gave us some stimulating thoughts to help surr us on.

Here in LR, the work is about the same. No baptisms in sight. We still however have the regular investigators but with no commitments. Many of them have failed to make the effort to come out to church. The BYU temple score was not put in this mornings paper, but I suppose it will be in tomorrows. I know nothing about the state tourney except for the South Game.

How did you like Elder Daniels. He is a pretty nice guy isn't he? I hope you do get the chance to invite him to dinner.

How are you feeling Dad? What is this girdle you have to wear? How is dean Clark coming along? I got Shirlys letter the other day and she mentioned Dees fine playing in it. Keep up the good workd Dee - Kill them in tennis. You ought to go out for baseball at the same time. I think they let you do it. Track would be easier if you can run, because alyou have to do is show up for the meets and do a little training. I got a letter in track without doing anything but running the 220 about 3 times and getting 2nd each time. I was a slow ox. Well every one, stay active and healthy - I think I will start excercising in the morning before I become a vegetable. Love

28 Feb 1966
LaRochele

Dear Folks: Well the mail just came a few minutes ago with nothing for me, including "no check", which means that inasmuch as I am broke I will have to cash one of my valuable travelers checks. There was a transportation strike in Paris, so I thot it was because of that but my companion, Elder Bridge got his mail so that was that. How are you Dad? I read in the paper this morning that Utah won both of her games, so I guess that knocks the Y right out of it. To bad. After such a good start of the season. How is the weather home? We haven't had any real cold days here for a long time. In fact we have had more sunny days than usual. President Hart visited LaRochele yesterday and came to Sunday School with his wife. It was the first time that he had been to a mtg. here. We are in the process of getting ready to go to Bordeaux for District conference the 12 and 13th of March. This time we will have a missionary conference right after the District conference. This will necessitate staying over nite for 2 nites. There is really not much new to tell you. I'm still Sec of the Branch, play the piano at all the mtgs., and am loosing weight. The black suit and the herring bone suit fit perfectly now and the other two are a little too large. They all fit ok but I am speaking from the point of view of a perfect fit. I haven't heard much about you lately, Dee. Why don't you tell me how Provo blew it. When is State? Is it over. Will Provo win anyway? They must have really been cocky to ~~xxx~~ loose two games at scores like that. We went on a district picnic Saturday out to Isle de Ré. Link went to the base and got some marshmallows and we got some hot dogs and had a nice picnic in the sand. We hit some fly balls and took a walk along the beach etc. If no mail comes tonite or tomorrow from you, I will start to worry. either you didn't write or it was lost someplace. I've got a little work to do, so I'll have to cut off. Love:

Stephen

Monday 21 Feb 1966

Dear family: Don't scare me like that about Dad, Mom. You said something hit him in the back and I didn't know whether someone hit him with a baseball bat or if it was something that snapped inside. Dad, I hope you recover OK. Do you think you want to walk to school, is it because of that? I don't think that you had better waste your money by sending me anymore clippings. After seeing all four scores in this morning's paper I was very disappointed and disgusted. On second thought send the clippings of the Utah game but other than that don't bother too much. That really blew what looked to be a no. 1 season huh? Dad, thank you for your analysis on Viet Nam public opinion in Provo. I wonder if the next time you could include something concerning how deep this is imbedded in people's minds, that is to say, are they apathetic, or is there a real sense of concern, or fear in their minds. For example, I can say that I think we should get out or stay without having a true idea of the significance of our presence there, one way or the other. This was kind of what I wanted last time. I am truly at a dilemma as to whether I am a hawk or a dove and I seem to find good arguments on both sides. I think Wayne Morse is a fink but the other guys like Fulbright and Mansfield I believe are not talking thru their hats. Until now I have believed that we should win the war, bomb strategic targets, as Gen. Taylor suggests but these other guys are putting questions in my mind. Of course it is freedom as opposed to Communism but is it any of our businesses with people of totally different mentalities and customs? I still think we should stay but that is a question I would like to have an answer to with reference to the B of M, teachings of the Church etc. I hope you don't think all my time goes into politics, because it doesn't, just about 15 minutes in the morning after companion study and 15 minutes in the afternoon at lunch when I read the paper. I don't think it is too much, and it is well worth my time to keep informed. I realize the importance of the work I'm doing (Maybe I guess it will be a long time before I fully realize it, I guess) but as one Elder rationalized, "In reading the paper, we see modern prophecies fulfill themselves". So maybe I should call it study, huh?

Well I've gone this far and haven't told you about my new companion Elder Bridge. We got Elder Daniels off Saturday for Paris. He had been president of the branch here for six months. The funny thing about this whole thing is that Elder Bridge was Elder Daniel's companion in 126 rue du Château, and now both of them will have been my companion. Elder Bridge is from Raymond Alberta Canada, has about 10 months to go on his mission. So, by coincidence or foresight or something, check in the slides and on the ones taken Bastille day you will find a picture of Jolley, Bridge, and Daniels on the same photo when we went. As a result of this change, we didn't get much proselyting done last week. The reason I'm typing so badly is because of all the potato chip grease on my fingers. There is a new Elder in La Rochelle who doesn't speak a bit of French. It is really frightening to look at him and see how far he has to go. Elder Bridge and I just got back from 4 hrs trading (a lot for one stretch) we found several call-backs. Welllll by til next week. Get well fast Dad. Hi Dee. How about those Provo losses?

7 February 1966 (Monday)

Hi: I've been sick all week, except monday. A real bad sore throat as well as a bad cold. It was all because of the nice weather that came, and I didn't put on a coat when I should have. Consequently, I missed all of the good weather having had to stay inside all day. One funny incident; Thursday I bundled up and went down to the corner pharmacy for something to ease the sore throat. I told the guy just what I had, and he seemed to have just the thing. He gave me a box, which cost about 75 cents and I sauntered on home. When I got home, I showed the box to Elder Link and we looked inside. Then I said, "these are sure big pills," and Link said that they weren't pills, they were to go in the other end. He said they tried to get him to take some in Nantes last year and he wouldn't. Then one of the brethrens investigators came over and we asked him to make sure. He tho't we were crazy, because everybody in France takes "suppositoires;" Well, I finally took one and my sore throat improved within a couple of hours. Right now my cold still lingers and I'm all stuffed up in the morning. I've started to take the vitamin pills and will take care in the future. Nothing really exciting has happend, it has been kind of a low point of my mission so far. Sicknes, feeling lousy, and not feeling like doing anything. I went down to buy breakfast this morning for the first time in a week, and I also went to buy the paper. I knew the score would be in there and I was scared to look. I forced myself to open the paper, and boy was I suprised at that score. Boy, Dee I hope you sent that tape the munute you finished it. Maybe I can retape a message on it and sent it back to you. We are having a conference here in La Rochelle Wednesday for investigators, members etc. and anyone who wants to come. The wigs from the Mission are coming down with the film that was shown at the Worlds Fair. We show quite often at peoples homes a slide-tape presentation of the worlds fair and contents of the Mormon pavillion but the show that will be shown Wednesday is the one that was shown in the Pavillion. We hopea lot of our contacts will come out. Dee how you comming in ball. Has tennis started yet? Will Prove take state? Play hard and don't beef. Before I forget, thankyou for the Valentines day card. I certainly don't deserve a build-up like that. The weather has been nice but everyone thinks it will change. Right now it is overcast. The District Presidenc y (Bordeaux District) came to our meetings yesterday. They are all three French, young, and real sharp guys. Ths kind you like to show off. They came down to try to rectify our relief society problem. They said it had started long before we got here. They said there were too many chiefs and not enough indians inasmuch as there are only 4 active sisters and 3 hold jobs in the Relief Society presidency. I can't think of much else to say. I've lost a little weight this week and still feel a little weak but I'll be full force in a couple of days. I pray for you all every nite and I hope you do the same for me. Love until next week;

Monday 14 February 1966 - - La Rochelle

Dear Folks/ It is Monday, my companion is fixing some potatoes à la française, that is we will peel them still hot and spread butter on them and then eat them with our hands. He is also frying some pork chops and we'll have these with a green salad and caramel pudding wich comes in little cups. Things are getting kind of I don't know what around here this week inasmuch as my companion and Elder Boshard have both completed their missions on the 17th. I will get a new companion who will be branch pres. on the 17th. I will have my work cut out for me to help him get oriented to every thing. It won't really be that difficult but there will be a few things to do. I really enjoy getting your letters. I really get a lift when I walk in and see those envelopes on the hotel desk. Thanks for your letter last week Dad, how was your trip in St Louis. Dee, thanks for the tape. That was a pretty good game except we didn't understand the last part because Mom was screaming. He He. You should have erased the tapes before, because we don't have a 4 tract tape recorder and we get all those songs to accompany the game. Link, one of the Elders upstairs got a 4 tract tape recorder a couple of days later however so we listened to the finish of the game again. One point can sure change things. I guess everyone is full of renewed hope at home. The test will be at the Y on the 5th of march. I'll get those tapes in the mail this week. I am pretty well recuperated from my bad cold although it still lingers. I don't think I'll need any extra money for the bike. The bill did come to about \$ 15. I gave a talk in Church last nite. We didn't have too big of a crowd (17). I talked en liberty vis à vis conformité aux lois I didn't prepare too much for it, but I think I did a pretty good job. The next district conference is March 13. (A district conference is just like a stake conference at home. We will try to get at least 10 of the Branch to go so we can get reduced rates on the train to Bordeaux. The conference will be held at the new chapel in Bordeaux. Inasmuch as LaRochelle is so isolated from the rest of the Mission it is always fun to go see what is going on and see some of the other missionaries. I see by the clippings which just arrived that PHS got beat by Carbon. What happened Dee? Was Condie ticked? We can see some of the trees that have blossoms on them even now. I hate to think that Spring is almost upon us. We have a real sharp investigator lady (young) who has a pretty good testimony. But her husband doesn't want anything to do with it. He wont even meet us. So, we sent the sisters out there Saturday when he was home, and he let them in. So, maybe we will make a little progress from here on out. I would like to know. What is the general attitude towards the war in VietNam in Provo. Do people think about it a lot, or is it just something that is happening on the other side of the world? Does it come up in many discussions? Are the people concerned? Try to give me (anyone) an honest objective answer if you can. I follow the situation quite closely in the Trib. Editorials etc. and I was curious to know what a general attitude would be. Of course everyone is aware that there is a war going on there, but what is the general feeling or attitude towards it with reference to one's everyday life? Well that is about all for this week. I love you all. Soyez sage.

Love Steve

Dear Folks and Dee: The time is slowly drawing near. We are in the middle of conference. The Paris Missionary conference which was held in two sessions, half the missionaries on Monday and half on Tuesday went very well. I gave a talk on Total commitment to Missionary Work. There were also workshops on the lessons, scriptures, and French. They all went quite well and I think the missionaries profited from them. This weekend we will be going to LeMans for the West Zone conference. The next week of course will be the South. I hope to pass up through LaRochele and spend a day visiting some of the old investigators that we had there. I had the chance of going through LaRochele with the president, about a month or two ago, but that was just on an emergency trip from Bordeaux and we passed thru LaRochele about 2h00 in the morning. (We were going to Nantes) I can't remember if I told you about it. We are in the process of figuring out a new report system for the missionaries. It should be along the line of the correlation program of the priesthood. It will give the Zone Leaders more ready access to the work their missionaries are doing. As it is, we, the Assistants receive all of the reports and we don't have as ready access to the Missionaries as the Zone Leaders do. If they could do some of the work that we have to do, it would be profitable for everyone. I received the check for 130\$ thank you very much. I think I told you about your Christmas presents and my camera etc. There are a number of things that I could get and would like to have that I don't think would be too frivolous and many of which would be very profitable. I picked up a book called the American Challenge by Jean-Jacques Sevrin-Schreiber which is a French best seller and a very much talked about book. I bought a few maps, posters and film. Do you think that I could purchase 4-5 record albums? I also picked up a sweater. Anyway, as it stands now, I am traveling quite a bit. We have to foot a good part of the bill 20% of our hotels and 80% of our food, all this added on to the regular rent and food money we give to the mission home. I have enough money to pay my rent and food for the month of December here but aside from that, I don't have too much. What do you suggest as far as traveling plans go. If its going to be too hard for us I'd just as soon that you sent a little extra and then I'll come right home. I won't have a lot of time towards the end of my mission and right now I get just an hour here and an hour there to do the little things I want to do. That is why I'm starting to spend a little money now. It is quite cold out this morning. Elders, Hutchings, Winston, Bingham and myself went out into the Forest and ran this morning. It was quite tiring and I'm quite out of shape. I don't eat breakfast any more. I didn't eat breakfast in Chatillon ~~either~~ either for quite a while. I would kind of like to go to the opera before I leave. I have received 2 shirts thank-you. All of the shirts that I brought out with me have frayed collars now. I think it will work out ok now though. There are many missionaries going home consequently there are a lot of transfers before Christmas. This creates a lot of work for the president and he has us consult with him for suggestions. I'm more or less waiting for your word on what I should do. Everything is going fine and I will be I think sad and glad to leave. It's about now that I'm getting somewhat apprehensive about coming home. By the way, I paid \$3 for that circular that you sent. I'll try and write sooner next time. I will start to send some stuff home. Books etc. Most of my clothes are not worth taking. You should see them. My French suit is in the best shape, I guess I'll bring that home. Love.

Stephen

31 Janvier 1966

It's about time I record the crazy happenings of the LaRocheville district in my annals. It seems that about two months after my arrival in this town things started to happen. Elder Link (the name will give me an adequate definition of his personality in the future) and I got to be fine friends. It seems one day I was talking to Elder Link, and he said, "Guess what Elder Boshard and I did today?" "What?" "We went surfing." Ca par exemple. This knowledge of Boshards surfing exploits as well as surfing with Frère Baele, the member-owner of the hotel were silent with me for a number of weeks. Their surfing exploits went on for a number of weeks, including one outing on Sunday until about Christmas, when Elder Link divulged to me that Elder Boshard was out dancing at a discotheque until 2 am. Here, for the best interests of the district I "squealed" to Elder Daniels. He just wouldn't believe me, that one of the Elders went surfing once a week, and sometimes with members and investigators. I told him I had seen photos and everything. Suspicion mounted one day when Boshard had left without Link. We started to go out to Ile de Re to catch him in the act, but we saw him coming home on the way out. We returned and Elder Daniels went up and talked to him. Elder Boshard denied everything all the while standing by the sink with a wet suit on, salty hair, and wet levis. He said he went out on the beach and layd down. He said he used the wet suit for long underwear (this is all true!) We let it drop for the time and Elder Daniels had no proof, except Elder Boshard offered to let him take care of the wet suit to prevent temptation. One sunny day in January, the wet suit was gone. It was kept under an overcoat in our closet. Elder Boshard had replaced it with a veston, to maintain the thickness. We wrote a note on it and said "nice try david". David came down and denied everything. He had taken off the note and then came in to act like he was admitting taking the wet suit, and he said he did, but he just couldn't go surfing. Elder Daniels congratulated him on his fortitude. But why did Elder Daniels drop the matter after that?

It seems that about the first of Jan. Christine Sauvaget and Selden have been making eyes at each other. I know about all of it because manny tells me everything. At first it was kind of a joke, but then we started finding excuses to meet with her. Like, cleaning the floor, waxing the floor, polishing the floor, all on consecutive nites. Then we went to the carnival together. etc. It got to the point that each of them knew they liked each other but neither had admitted it. Finally at a movie one nite it all came out into the open. Fabrice, her brother manoeuvred Manney into the seat next to her. Ca y est! It was all out in the open. Then came all the horny love letters, talk of the future and more dates on the sly. I went all the time so manny was in safe hands. We've eaten there twice already. Plans are being made now to see each other on the sly in Paris to talk things over. He has already invited her home to see how things go there. Things were complicated a little because Gerard Noirbusson, 2nd counselor with 2 kids, is hot for her too. She says there is nothing. Manny was jealous for a while, but he is pretty level headed and got the facts. They had a hard time understanding each other until my superior knowledge of human relations intervened with the 3 point plan.

1. Good Mission
2. See you in Paris.
3. See you at Home.

1188.

to be continued

Monday 31 Janvier 1966

Hi. It's a nice day to day. Spring has arrived in France. At least that is what it looks like. They tell us that it will get colder however. Mom you mentioned all those things you have sent me. Yes, I have got all of them except the telephone book. I must have had Paul Harmons book for a month now as well as the French book, which I use every day, and the Art book. It usually takes about 3 weeks for sea mail if the package is small. Has BB lost some of it's lustre after loosing the games to UNM and Wyo.? I see just by the last paper that we beat USU by a good score, (your clipping in the letter you sent me) Today's paper says that Utah beat them too. The majority of the New York Herald Trib. Deals in Foreign affairs, (just what I like) Viet Nam etc. I guess it's a little too early to start worrying about the future now, but I sure hope this thing blows over before my Mission is thru.

We continue to proselyte. I sure wish we could get some baptisms in this District. There were only three last year, one was a summer vacationer, one was a little brother of 2 active sisters, and the other was an old man Frère Bouyer who has 85 years. So, there is only one baptism as a result of direct proselyting. I hope I don't sound like I'm making excuses but it is quite tough here. Some districts in the Mission are doing quite well as far as baptism goes. I am still, however continuing to enjoy myself here, especially the little branch, even though there are some problems. What do you do when you try to start a scout troop and one of the members with a half mentally ill son brings two of his friends who are also not all there. This doesn't make a nucleus to attract other sharp members, but yet you can't turn them away. That's more or less the problem all the way thru the branch as far as proselyting goes. I got the check yesterday. My Solex after about 6 months of steady use is being overhauled. It got so slow, and it would have taken hours for me to do it myself, and I'd have never found the time. So, I hope I can make it thru the month inasmuch as this might cost as much as 15 dollars. I guess those things weren't made for 200 lbs. Don't use large tapes. (reels I mean) Dad, does this scare of inflation make you think twice on building a house or what? Do you have faith in Pres. Johnson's prognostications concerning guns and butter? We went out to Ile de Ré the other day. It's an island off the coast, a resort in the summer because it has very nice beaches. Yves Montand among others have summer homes out there. We went over to try to find an investigator but it got late and we had to turn back if we wanted to catch the last ferry which left at 9 PM. We still do some work in Chatelaillon although we only go out there about twice a week to see some of our old investigators; several of which still have some hope. We did a little farming town after that called Angoulême and didn't have any luck, the people were all poor and communists. In Aytré, the town we are doing now, we met just Saturday an Englishman who sells insurance to the Americans (army) in France. He had married a French wife and had settled on a quaint little farm. He has worked with the Americans for 15 yrs; and has an Am accent, follows American news media and is almost an American himself. He drives to Orleans once a week. He is going to get us a case of 7-up. He's a pretty nice guy. The other Elders have been out to Croix-chapeau the army-base with a housekeeping staff. They found that there was a small commissary so they are going out again to get some ice-cream and peanut butter. No more paper.

24 Janvier 1966
18 rue Gargouilleau
17 - LaRochelelle, FRANCE

Hi: I wrote a few things down so I wouldn't forget to mention them in the letter. 1. The fleas here are pretty bad, and they seem to not like me very well. We catch them occasionally, and either put them down the drain or in scotch tape. 2. The weather has been extremely cold. It has been some of the coldest that France and LaRochelelle have had for years. Cold means about 15 degrees F. Somehow, that seems colder than home. Maybe it is because we are outside much of the time. The Apostate sister, Sister Raybeau, knitted me a grey scarf which is very nice. This time we went to her house and she had again accidentally left her cigarettes in full view. This time she told us that one of her old lady friends was asleep in the other room. So she went in there (the other room) and started talking as if to her friend when it was all the time evident that she was talking to herself. It was kind of funny. Some of the Mission field experiences I guess. The scarf she knit me is very nice however. Despite all of her inconsistencies she is pretty nice. 3. Thanks for the letter Dee - I really enjoyed it. Keep them coming when you get a chance. If this gets to you before the Utah game, tape the game on small reels, regular size tape. I know it might be expensive, but it's just for this one game. 4 I guess I've put my grades off long enough. Unless you have already locked Mom, the next time you go to work why don't you go over and check mine. I probably failed BofM and Handball, but check the others anyway. Remember I can make up the handball class without attending, so don't panic. 5. Yes, I can wear those kind of shirts, but for the moment I don't need any inasmuch as all the ones I have brought are still holding out pretty well. Maybe for next Christmas or when the ones I have start to wear out. I could never find a shirt to fit me here, unless I had it made. 6. Thankyou for the pants, but I still can't figure out why you send things like that airmail. Sea mail I've found out takes about 3 or 4 weeks. 7. We have some good investigators (new) One young house wife has a testimony, prays, and follows the word of wisdom, but her husband beat her up the other night because of us and that poses a problem. The "Crazy Lady" (a different one) has had all 6 lessons but she says her husband is a mad man and she would be verging on divorce if we came to meet him. I think, however, it is an excuse to cover up for her fear of baptism, or change of way of life. 8. Church/ We really had a good crowd to the meeting last night. (26) The Moynard kids, (those devil inspired kids) scared all the investigators away. My companion took the oldest (12) into the back room and beat him up. We are in a dilemma as to what to do about the priesthood for him because he is so terrible. His parents think he is great and are all set for him to receive the priesthood. His Dad in the meeting last night got all restless just like a deacon after the meeting got a little lengthy. Sometimes you wonder. The wife Moynard however has a real Mormon Spirit and teaches a great Sunday school class. Usually French kids are so obedient it makes you sick but this is really a case. 9 Yes send me a little T bone music, not much, just a book of solos like that one we had or something. Dee keep up the hard work in BB. Don't complain publicly or privately about the coaching, in the long run, just playing you guys out will pay. Something I didn't do. Either one. Bye for now. until next week. Stephen

22 Janvier . 1966
18, rue Gargouilleau
17 - LaRochele FRANCE

Fans: Writing to you guys makes me realize how old I am - Euichek! As far as your concerned, I just started my mission. C'est à dire, I have been out 6 months and have two more years to ~~serve~~ go. That seems like a long time, but to use my favorite cliché, "to quote an old cliché", the time has really sped by. You both know it goes faster when your working too, don't you? I'm grateful for my experience thus far. I'll kind of let you know what progress, (if any) has been made. 1. The French language is difficult (to speak correctly) For example, I can give all the lessons myself and do all that is necessary to really go thru the motions. To many missionaries content themselves with this goal and go thruout their missions without really speaking French. If there is a reason why I'm unhappy a lot of the time, it is impatience at not being able to express myself correctly. What I learn, depends on the effort I put in so I guess I'll just have to be patient. 2. Baptisms/ None. They are hard to come by, but not impossible. LaRochele is considered one of the armpits of the Mission, but this is pure fallacy, because the people will be baptized if the message is presented properly and with the right spirit. We have a lot of sharp investigators with small testimonies of the Gospel but problems, and oh what problems. Husband irrational completely against.....Fear of the change of life, (which, believe you me is big)...Word of Wisdom, (wine).... Not married to person by which you have had 10 kids (found so often in France). 3. Position in Mission bureaucracy (sp): JC assistant to the Branch President. My companion is going home in less than a month. Secretary of the Branch. Companion is also district leader. Many many problems in this branch with backbiting among the members etc., struggles for power. It's really amazing sometimes. Many of the members are very simple people (an I mean simple). Sometimes this deters some of our proselyting efforts among some sharp people, but I guess if they're the right people they'd be able to overcome this barrier. We have three kids in our branch, sons and daughter of the Sunday School teacher and Superentendant (sp) who are inspired by the devil. They have been the "self-said" reason for two excommunications who said they couldn't stand the meetings with "those kids there".

We just had the first chapel dedicated here in France at Bordeaux. President Hunter was present, and presided at a missionary conference. These general authorities keep us pretty stimulated as I'm sure they do you.

The weather here for the last week has been some of the coldest France has had for a long time. It is sometimes tough to get on those moterbikes and face the cold wind. We can bundle up pretty well however. By the way, speaking of Moterbikes, did either of you know Sister Bentely from Prove, who was killed on her bike in Paris. Her face is so familiar (I never saw her in Paris) I associate her with the girl who was always with Ingrid Thomson, (Ruth's sister) in the halls at PHS. Am I right? Speaking of PHS - Supposed to have the team this year. My little brother starts at guard on the JV's and suits up for a lot of the Varsity games, and his team is undefeated also. The Y blew it. Well stay off the trunks Lewis, and say Hi to my Grandma sometime Tom. Everyone is getting married, I'll be an old man, sob. Bye for now, and keep working. Stephen DeWitt Tayler

12 Janvier 1966

Dear folks:

Sorry this letter is off so late, I hope you got my card explaining the delay. We have had a lot of work this week with branch yearly reports etc. and didn't find the time to write. Before I forget, yes I am getting the papers, they came in a bunch one day, but nothing concerning PHS which interests me also. About the only things I would be interested in reading, are those articles concerning PHS and BYU. I don't find the time nor the interest to read about other sports, except the conference and occasional good columns, so you are doing pretty well in your choices. I'll remind you again to send me a phone book if you have one. Also in your next letter include the addresses of the Holdaways and Paul Taylors. Not much has happened during the past week. Our proselyting continues at a steady pace in teaching although we have not commitments as yet for baptism. We have three investigators who have small testimonies of the gospel, but for 2 of them a husband and wife, we just have to break the ice and get them out to church. We are doing this by acquainting them with some sharp members, the Mars. The other Protestant lady is in the process of getting a divorce from her crazy alcoholic (sp) husband who almost keeps her prisoner in her own home. She hasn't been out to church yet either. The weather has been off and on cold and warm. We have really had some unusually warm days. I can tell because I don't have to wear the gloves when I ride the bike. I still have those black driving gloves which I put under a pair of cheap mittens when I ride the bike. The old half apostate lady, Sister Rambeau, from whom we take French lessons, (she is very qualified having spent 9 years in the states and speaking both languages fluently) is knitting me a scarf, inasmuch as I lost my other one. We went there yesterday for a French lesson yesterday and she had forgotten to hide her cigarettes, so she told us she had visitors and that she expected them back any moment to get their smoking utensils. It was really hilarious because she kept saying "I wonder when they are going to come" and they never did. The missionaries have known she has smoked for a long time because her white hair is yellow towards the ends because of nicotine stains. It was really hilarious and an interesting evening. She loaded us up with chocolates when we left. She is a very nice lady and a very interesting person.

I might as well tell you about my French. Some days I feel it is great and I'm coming along tremendously and otheres I feel like I'm in the dark ages learning to speak. I guess I have made some improvement, but I wish I could wake up one morning speaking French. Oh well. I give part of each lesson we give, and take half the first contacts. My companion always backs me up when I run out of things to say.

The branch has had some problems this past week. The relief society pres. Sister Maigneron resigned because of a bunch of things including the backbiting and jealousy in the branch. We settled that problem by terminating the Rs (only 4 members). By. Love Steve

L6 January 1965
La Rochelle

Dear Folks, sorry about the delay in last weeks letter, we had monthly and yearly branch and district reports to get out and were pretty busy. I'm doing this letter Sunday evening after church. I'm getting better on the piano with the hymns but still cannot play the complicated numbers. Thanks for the letter dad. Item no. one: Yes, I approve of building a house. Yippee. Put in a sound system before you put in a TV. If there is to be a choice let the sound system come first. What would be good would be a combination stereo-tape, phone-graph, and stereo-FM with one study type room or living room to house the equipment and main speakers with speakers in most of the other rooms of the house. Extravagant? Sellthecar! Ha. You could even hook up a hammond organ to the system if you wanted to. I'm trying to see if I can remember all I had to say. Holdaways and P. Taylors addresses, phone-book, (by sea mail). The zaps are here from Angoulême (zone leader). Dee, what I wish you would do this year for me, is tape the Utah game, the one home or there, and send me the tape. It has been the coldest here for the last week than France has had for a long time, Paris has had the worst snows that it has had for a long time also. Our investigators that we wanted to come to church today didn't come so another setback. I think I'll wait till morning to finish this later. Everyone is talking and I can't think. As I remember I had some other things to tell you and I didn't want to rap off another nonsensical letter like I did last week. This one is half done anyway. Monday, Noon next day 17 January 1965. Nothing new, the zaps are still here I just fixed some macaroni and cheese and string beans à la française for everyone. I worked with Elder Wallace from Cal. this morning. He says that you, Dad, and some other professors about had him kicked out of school for some pranks that he pulled during his freshman year at the Y. His dad is a professor at UCLA. Just got the news this morning that the Y got beat again by Wyoming. Disgusting isn't it? Especially since Utah beat them both. Therefore all the more I'd like to have a tape of the game Feb. 5 h Dee. (If that isn't too much trouble) I won't ask you to do this all the time. Thanks for the pictures, they were really sharp. We can get a better picture for before Christmas than mine on the pier. I don't think we had any taken by a Christmas tree here. My companion is getting trunky inasmuch as he goes home in a month. In a few minutes we have a meeting in Chatelaillon with a lady to whom we lent a book of Mormon. We will try to give her a first lesson. She is what they call a pied-noir (black feet). These are the people who came from Algeria and Morocco (sp). They are really French but some of there ancestors in Africa go back three or four generations. They are usually much nicer than the other French. Time to go. Not much more to say. Love. Steve.

Take State

La Rochelle

27 December 1965

Dear Folks: First on the agenda/ Did you get my slides? You haven't mentioned them. Maybe I'll get a note today from you saying, yes. The mais hasn't come for 3 days because of the holidays. Second: I feel terrible about not telling you about my horn that I bought from Elder Harward. It just slipped my mind inasmuch as I put it on top of a bureau in our room. I was going to mark it on the last letter but forgot. I hope you don't get the opinion that I was trying to conceal it. I hope I didn't put you or Elder Harward in a trying position. You should have paid Elder Harward \$20. I wrote out a note for him to give you telling him at the same time that I will have told you myself before he got home. Elder Harward was one of the first Elders I saw when in France. He took us "greenies" for a walk right after arriving in Paris. He played the T-bone at Orem high. How about Y basketball? Isn't that something? How come I've stopped getting clippings? I sure would like some on that St Josephes game. In the Herald Tribune the headlines on the sports page were "Duke beats Michigan - St Josephes Humiliated" It gave notice to Jeff Congdon and Dick Nmelka but that was about all. I sure hope you have sent the other clippings. The mail just came. The Bottle book, thanks and more Cards. One from Uncle Paul telling a little about the game and one from Aunt Betty. Thankyou for the great Christmas presents. Each one of them are really useful and great. The sweater is really good looking, I couldn't have done better myself.

Christmas Eve was spent at the salle wher the sisters prepared us anther Turkey dinner. Alas we didn't get invited out. But nevertheless the dinner was good and we started to feel the Christmas spirit. After we all went to a movie: The gentleman of St Tropez. It was a French comidie and louzy, but we had a good time. After that, my companion and I went to a Midnite Mass at the main cathedral here. It was kind of interesting, but not to spectacular. It had a good choir. Next it was home to bed. the streets were noisy with drunks a lot of the nite. Christmas is really a commerce over here. Next morning we slept in until 9 o'clock which was really great, opened the presents and just walked around town for a while. At 1:00 the sisters prepared the leftovers from the nite before and we filled up again, even going to another Lovie, Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines" This one I really enjoyed. It was dibbed in French. That afternoon my companion and I tried to find some old Members to present them with one of the new Books of Mormon but no one was home, so we'll try again this week. I have gone this whole month on 8 shirts. That's a switch from the old days isn't it? I have to take all my shirts and my brown suit to the laundry today. My clothes are holding out pretty well, but I'm sure that by next winter I'll be needing another coat. That spanish one that I bought at English Taylors is really taking a beating, pockets etc. But it will be a year before we have to start worrying about that. Monthly and yearly reports are coming up and we'll be quite busy. Proselyting is coming along slowly. Like I said before I sure wish we could baptise some one. We've got several good investigators. A protestant lady, Madam Jaquet is the closest. We've introduced her to frere Mars a member from her town and they got along quite well. I sent last letter to Arin. B. Love;

Did I like presents? I like to see some pictures of you too! Mom Dad
I want this button, Bazz Lee? Go get em at B-Ball.

Sam 66
3 Decembre 1965
18, rue Gargoulleau
17 - LaRochelelle

Hi: That was one of the fastest years that I've ever gone through. Was it for you? I guess, however, that we say that every year don't we? How was your trip to Arizona, Mom and Dad? I hope you got a good rest out of it. Dee, I'd sure like to hear a little more about your activities, why don't you write me a note and tell me about school, BB etc. If you are keeping most of the PHS newspaper clippings why don't you send them to me as you get them, and then I can bundle them all up and send them home. Or, see if you can get ahead of (get that spelling) another paper some where. I would like to hear a little more about IHS basketball inasmuch as I understand they have a fair team this year. I'm glad that you like the presents. There is nothing much to those prints what I mean is, is that they are not old and valuable, but I like the one of the map of Paris. Did I send you a map of France too? While I'm thinking of it why don't you send me a Provo phone book, by sea of course (i've found that it takes about 3 weeks, alors, ça va.) There are people who have sent me cards, and others to whom I'd like to send notes and I have no way of knowing their addresses. Yesterday we worked quite hard. The family home evenings that they started chez nous last year are starting over here this year, and we have to go to each families house to show them the film concerning it. We also had a real sharp group meeting at the home of a sharp Mormon family (only the husband is a member, but the wife is positive and the kids come to church occasionally) with one of our investigators Madame Jacquet, the Protestant lady I think I told you about. She has been pretty positive thus far but we haven't yet challenged her to baptism, we are going to see how it works out next week. Another investigator couple the Maistres, are coming along well also, but we haven't yet got them out to church. We have had two days of Spring weather, on was New Years day. New years eve we went to a members home, the Moinards, the one's who's kids are brats, and an anti proselyting tool, for a get together, we didn't do much but watch the TV festivities in Paris, play games etc. got to bed at 2:30, and up the next morning at 11:30, shades of home huh? At 2:00 one of the Elders baptisms came and visited him from Tours, and they fixed the district, (six missionaries) a meal. After, we went for a walk around the city, and then to the carnival to ride the dogems. It was an enjoyable day, inasmuch as we did it all with members. How were your holidays? (newyears) I'm including these two articles in which you mite be interested. Dad, I finished Excellence this morning. I sure think it is a sharp book. Every paragraph had something to say so the whole book is full of notes and in red. If you have anything else in the caliber of this book and that Communication article, send them on. The communication article has played a big part in my experiences thus far, at least I have tried to apply its theme, "see the other guys pt of veiw" and it works. I can see it is just oppisite to my former ways of thinking as I guess you well know, you too Mom. Oh, well, I am by no means an angel anyway, so enjoy this next 2 years while you have the chance. (I'll never complain about mowing the lawn again, just raking the leaves/) te he: Bye love steve

LaRochelelle

20 Decembre 1965

Dear Folks: Noël is about upon us here. We just had a mutuel party last nite. The members and several investigators went to the homes of two inactive sisters and sang carols and presented them with a gift. After we came back and decorated the Christmas tree at the salle. This Wednesday, the members are going to have a Christmas buffet. This morning as always we are buried in reports and historical data for the branch. I just completed typing up the historical reports for Sac. Mtg. Priesthood mtg. and Branch Presidency mtg. My companion is doing his missionary district reports. We sure are a reporty Church. I don't know what we are going to do for Christmas. Christmas Eve, the sisters are going to fix us another dinner like Thanksgiving. I think the next morning we are going to meet at the salle and open our presents. That nite we may go to the beach, build a fire and roast chestnuts. This is all tentative but it sounds pretty good. My companion and I will undoubtedly pay some visits to some inactive members or some disabled members. The weather the past week has been Ideal. You wouldn't believe it was December. It has really been warm. I read in the paper this morning that the Y took Santa Clara twice and that we play St Joseph (2nd in the Nation next) What an opportunity. I hope we don't blow it. The mail just came and I didn't even get anything. How discouraging.

Our proselyting activities are going as usual. We are now tracting in a town between Chatelaillon and LaRochelelle called Angoulins. It is a small worker town. (We noticed on the public notice that everyone voted for Mitterand in the elections so it must be a little communist. DeGualle was just reelected this morning. I'm taking the gamble that you'll be at Grand parents so I'm sending the letter by way of Arizona. I'll sort of let this be to everyone. (The letter that is.) Grand-ma they did send your card airmail so I got both your card and letter. Thank-you very much for the gift also. I'll bet it is warm and nice down there. It's fairly warm here to as I said before, but it rains every day. I'm really pleased to hear about Dee and his basketball. I hope he does well. If he can stay as quick as he is now and gain a little more height, he can really be a good ball player. I guess the school spirit at the Y is tremendous after the sports triumphs including the NCAA trackmeet in 67. I wish I could be there. Tell Karen and Diane thanks for their card and that I'll try to drop them a note. Merry Christmas to everyone, By for now.

Love,

Stephen

La réunion de Sainte-Cène de la Branche de LaRocheUe

19 Decembre 1965

Commencée à 17h00

Présidée par Selden Daniels

Organiste: Stephen Taylor

Dirigée par Michel Mars

Annonces par Michel Mars

Cantique d'ouverture No. 158 "Dieu entend monter vers Toi"

Invocation par Selden Daniels

Cantique de Ste-Cène No; 5 "

17 Dec. 1965

Rockelle

Dear Tim baby: I don't know whether to feel insulted or privileged. Is it because you feel sorry for me not getting any letters or is it you that is not getting any letters. At any rate the French stamp on this one ought to impress your friends and missionaries to the utmost. That is sad to hear of the decline of the stomp, at BY U but I'm sure than sin will prevail off campus to keep things stablized. Do you ever see any of the old gang, (if it ever was one) Val, Marie etc.? Spilsbury and I exchanged a couple of letters in French only she didn't want to take the time to write in French and felt embarrassed writing in English, you know like she was obligated in some way or the other. She always got the idea that I was after her bod. I really didn't give a ----. She was just somebody fun to dance with. To bad you didn't get sent to an apostate mission like this one. The Elders upstairs just went surfing yesterday and one of them is planning a skiing trip in Spain next week. It's all verboten (to use Tim's big word) of course but isit "humor" everthelless. Are you still a pseudo self proclaimed intellectual? I don't know why I can't get into the missionary spirit in this letter, I guess it's because of your "black spirit". The work is tough over here, the language is coming slowly but surely I guess. I'm companion to a branch president and we work pretty hard. I've sort of resolved that if this is what I believe, I'd better work for it, no farten around. (I can't loose my pride and say no goofing around can I?) The work is rewarding as well as are the testimonies of the few French Members there are. There are some black Frehch members too, but the sharp ones really have to go thru a lot to enjoy the same things that we take for granted. I'm Branch secretary, organist etc. So you can see that I'm having a lot of fun. Before I forget, Merry Christmas. Aren't trivialities and small talk terrible? I hear from old friend Tim still. He and I are still faithful after 30 years of not seeing each other. (Lewis that is) Out of paper. I hope that your experience will be as valuable as mine has been thus far, and I'm sure that you'll beable to say as you terminate your experience that it will have been the "best two and one half yrs. of your life. (You don't really believe that do you?) Therefore Elder, the counsel that you recieve from me will do nothing more than to strengthen the idea that as a result of various theories

10 December 1965

Barf Slack, it couldn't have been to beat the draft because of the new law. Not having gotten an invitation I don't know why I'm writing you except that this news item excited me to the utmost ~~height~~ in astonishment and surprise.

I am a member of the American Society of Human Rights.

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