

Hello Ranch! Ranch Aug. 30, 1978
Dave Gardner

Yes it's me again from that beautiful
lands of dream come. I have been work-
ing on the room + teaching steadily so
haven't written in awhile. It is really
coming along nicely. Pat had some
African material that really looks
sharp. Just had a platform about 5'
high built in one corner so kids
who get active + need "time out" can
climb up there + relax, also, they can
play underneath. It is kind of trippy.
So our apartment complex is now a
regular on visits by guests, reminds
me of the old ranch days. How well I
remember especially when they didn't
show up! But I always liked decora-
ting so I'm having fun. We have
also made kind of a playground
under the apartment with swings,
see-saw, sand box and even some
boards with cut out shapes, triangles
etc to throw bean bags thru. We'll con-
tinued to add things as we go. Then we'll
do the toddlers apt, then the pre-school
playground. Pat has drawn up some
plans + it will be really nice, natural.
Then comes the elementary playground
the kids'll love it. That is what we're

pre-occupied with right now.
Everyone here, of course is great.
Daren seems very happy & will be start-
ing high school with Jeff + Billy in a
few weeks. He is making nicely &
continues to speak out in social science
classes he's really lost that little boy
shyness. He said he wrote a couple of
letters to you Claire last week. He enjoy-
ed his stay with Richard in Georgetown.
Richard was here about 3 or 4 days while
he relaxed a bit. He saw the classroom
half in progress. He seems very content
with what he's doing - much more relaxed,
he received a package from you here
with odds & ends of things & was very
pleased, those things do come in handy.
Maui has settled into a routine of working
with the animals & is happy, of course.
I saw her being pretty friendly with
a young guy the other night so maybe
there's some hope huh Claire? I'll have
to check it out & see if all "little Maui"
is growing up. I don't think she's in
a big hurry though, she's pretty sharp
about guys from the way she talks.
Jeff continues to work in the baby
nursery & is seen as a hard, sensitive
worker by all. He passed a pulmonary
& resuscitation test with the highest

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marks, maybe we will have a second doctor in the family? Marvin of course continues to be responsible & learning many medical techniques. Darius is really very sharp & can really get a grasp on informative movies he loves learning about world events & grasps a lot. All Denny B. is in the same building where I teach now so I see him more often. Pat says he is doing well in school on an individualized basis he is much happier & more enthusiastic about learning, he has a greater awareness of world events. He & Ronald Biekman just dug a huge hole under the apartment & are having a blast doing it I just wonder how deep they'll go. They enjoy doing different jobs hauling dirt, collecting fish & plants for different projects.

Will is so funny about knowing countries in Africa, he knows a lot and answers questions we ask about different countries, real smart guy. He is such a "little lawyer" that's what we call him, he is such a stickler for detail he gets along very well in school & looks forward to seeing you Sue & thinks of David often. He's very happy here &

Kim Preston & Bev are doing fine, I
am going to give Bev a dollhouse but to
put together she'll love it. Preston contin-
ues to be a diligent worker & much app-
reciated by all. Curtis is in his element.
He puts around with some older men
who build walkways & fences & is very
content. He loves to get up & dance with
this senior who plays harachies. It is
really wild, everyone gets a bang out of
it especially Jim. I haven't seen as much
of Betsy lately she says she wants to come
to my class though, she is happy, does
well in school speaks up more & asked
about you Kim.

Listen, have see if you can send a
job of sewing machine needles Singer's ok
there's very few here Ruby's real low. We
need some so the young girls can be taught
to sew, please send them to me scissors
are needed & sewing kits are great. I
could also use greatly a razor & some
blades, soap dish, these little items are
really nice to have. The head scores
are just regular ones you get blue, red
& green. Outdoor scores, surplus stores have
them. Rob would know K-Mart would have.
If you can send these things I'd appre-
ciate it much. All take care and write
soon I understand there's a letter waiting
for me from you. I'll write again
soon. Dad looks all. Cde
Marlene