



JERRY CAMMARATA FATHER'S DIARY

Oldsters need our help, too

Dear Mom:

I thought I'd write you to let you know everything is well at our house. The kids are getting big and our cat, Cynthia, just had another litter. It's a great learning experience for the kids to see life being brought into the world and to help care for that new life. I hope it will be a first step in teaching them to be good parents as you and dad were to me.

The kids still can't get over the stories you told them about me when you visited us last month. Little Michelle still can't understand how I was able to rock the bed so much that it could travel from one side of my bedroom to the other. I guess, to this day, even I am a little puzzled about that one.

There is something that has been on the minds of my wife and I since your last visit. You know, whether you live in the city or country these days, it doesn't really matter when it comes to being safe. I was talking to a friend of mine in the New York City Police Department and he told me of some things that can be done to make things safe around you. I've written them out, mom. Try to be very careful:

At home

- Put a deadbolt or droplock on your door. Be sure it is pick resistant and has a guard plate.
- Put a wide-angle peephole in your door so you have a fuller view of the outside area.
- Don't open your door until you are sure you know who it is.
- Always double lock your door when you leave your house, even if it's just to throw out the trash or go to the corner store for some milk.
- Don't leave any house or garage keys outside the house or in the mailbox like you use to do when I was small.
- If you ever come home and the door is opened or appears tampered with, don't go in. Call the police right away.
- If you lose your keys, please get your locks changed or rekeyed.
- You may want to think about window gates and locks. "Ferry" gates can be used. Check with Bill the locksmith down the street for some ideas about window locks.
- If you should hear someone in the house at night, just be calm and quietly try to call the police for help.

● Be very careful not to give away too much information on the telephone to anyone you don't know.

On the street

- Try to take Helen or Ann with you when you go shopping. If you have to do some shopping at night, maybe Helen's husband, Gene, would go with the both of you. There is greater safety in numbers.
 - I know you are very careful with your pocketbook. They tell me, however, that it's a good idea not to even carry a pocketbook. Put your keys and money in your dress pocket, instead.
 - When you go to the theatre or out dining, please be sure to put your pocketbook on your lap and not on a chair next to you.
 - Don't carry anything around that you don't need that day. Extra credit cards, bank books, personal papers, etc., should be left home in a safe place. I know you have been resisting the last couple of years, but it may be a good idea now to ask Dorothy at the Chemical Bank down the street if you can have a safe deposit box. Now, you better follow through. I'm going to call Bob Dennis up at the bank and let him know you will be coming in to see Dorothy.
 - If anybody snatches your pocketbook, don't fight for it. You can always replace the contents of your bag.
- #### When walking
- You really have to be super careful today when you cross the street. Everybody doesn't drive slow like daddy. You have to out-think the

drivers today. Watch the signs, the lights and more importantly the cars themselves.

Con games

- I know you like people very much. That's good, but too many people today are taking advantage of olders like yourself. Watch out for the friendly stranger offering goods or services at low rates.
 - Stay away from anybody that says they found money and want to share it with you.
 - Don't give any information to anyone saying he or she is a bank officer and you have to withdraw money. Our bank will write us a letter first advising us of what we should do. If this happens, you call Bob up right away at the bank and get more information.
 - Don't take any valuables out of the house to show anyone.
 - You taught me to work very hard for the things I wanted. We don't get anything for nothing these days. Please be careful.
- I hope this information is helpful ma. We all love you and will be out to see you next month.

Post Script

This is a letter of thoughtfulness that could have been written by you to your mom or dad. The safety tips offered were taken from, "Safety Tips for the Older Person," a publication of the New York City Police Department. If you would like the pamphlet or more information, please contact the New York City Police Department, Crime Prevention Section, 137 Centre Street, New York, N.Y. 10013, or call (212) 374-3810.