

Happy Happenings



Tenth Edition

August 1999

THE SORENSEN'S

We are just waiting for our baby to come (it's due Aug. 4). The kids are very excited. Aaron takes Jaxon & Jancy horseback riding every Monday for FHE and they love it. I ride the 4-wheeler. We had a good visit with Leslie and her kids. Jaxon really misses all of his cousins.

I was called to be the first counselor in the Primary Presidency in our new branch. We have three classes: a Nursery, a Junior Primary class, and a Senior Primary class, so it's really different from what I'm used to. Aaron is the Elder's Quorum President. His main job has been to try to figure out who is in the branch because the only membership list that we have is old. He calls people and they say, "That's my husband's ex-wife" or the person is dead or moved three years ago. It can be kind of embarrassing for him. We have 30-40 people at church every week and we have to drive an hour to get there.

LAWSON, KELLY, AND FAMILY

Hi guys! Cason's doing pretty well with his broken leg. His doctor has been great. He seems genuinely concerned about getting it healed right so it won't cause problems for Cason later in life. The whole thing's put a damper on the summer activity plans, but he's managing. He's made comments a few times about all the attention, presents, etc. being fun but too bad he had to break his leg to get it!!

Kelly and the kids are in Canada for 2 1/2 weeks. Nice break for me! Lots of peace and quiet and time to get projects done. This usually happens each summer and probably the biggest benefit I get out of it is time to really realize how much my family means to me. It's easier to notice when you have time and quiet to think about it.



Lawson and Kelly will celebrate their anniversary on August 3rd!

Lana and Aaron will celebrate their fifth anniversary on August 11th!

MOM & LYNN

Sun., July 25 - Hi from Oregon! We're here recovering from the big presentation we did for the Smith Family Reunion. There were 40 or 45 people in attendance and they are very nice relatives! We enjoyed so much getting to know them and hearing about their families. We shared the picture taken at our Family Reunion in Flaming Gorge and they think that you're all wonderful.

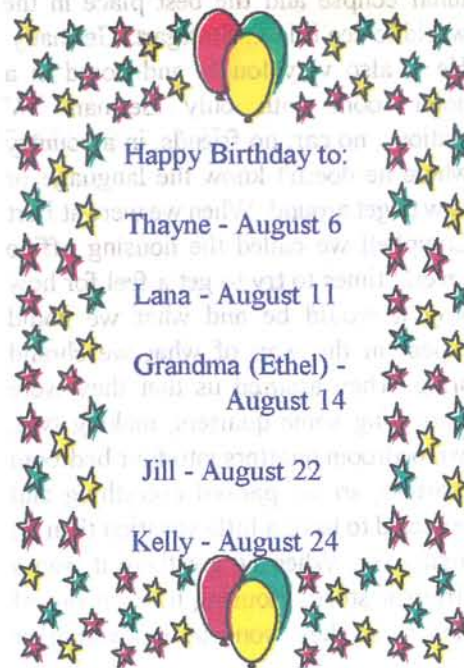
But most of all we loved sharing information & stories about Wallace & Addie Smith, our common ancestors. We enjoyed hearing more about the families of Wallace & Addie's four children. Most who were there descended from Victor, only Sarah & I through Clara, only 1 cousin (John) through Kate, and no one from Frank.

The presentation went well. Thanks to all of you who helped - you assisted with computer expertise, previewing & editing the slide shows, crisis management (when the printed charts weren't exactly right), moral support, fashion consulting (what I should wear), house cleaning, plus lots more. Most of all - thanks to our wonderful Lynn!! He was there every step of the way.

Most all who heard the presentation said it was good and expressed gratitude in glowing terms for the quality of the information. They seemed to love it and, you know, that was enough for me.

I know that we were supposed to be here & give the information we did. I felt the Spirit. I KNOW He approved. I offered LDS information, copies of the Book of Mormon, book marks & Family Proclamations. NO ONE took the Mormon stuff, but I did my best, and who knows, maybe someone was touched and will listen to the missionaries when they come.

I love you all & my appreciation for each of you & our family grows daily. I loved our reunion in Flaming Gorge. Let's don't ever fail to get together as often as possible, especially in the Celestial Kingdom! Love, Mom & Lynn



We drew "cousin" names for the Christmas gift exchange. We enjoyed exchanging gifts at the reunion and will plan to do that again next year. Here's the list for next year (2000):

Tiffany	Cason
Heather	Jancy
Katelyn	Jaxon
Christie	Thayne
Jared	Jeremy
Jenny	Ondylyn
Cory	Katelyn
Rich	Hannah
Amy	Baby Sorensen
Brianna	Jared

Jeff	Jenny
Jeremy	Rich
Anthony	Brittney
Ondylyn	Heather
Zachary	Amy
Cason	Jeff
Tanner	Cory
Thayne	Tiffany
Brittney	Zachary
Hannah	Tanner
Jaxon	Christie
Jancy	Anthony
Baby S.	Brianna

THE WILSON'S

The Wilsons are on the move! We have really enjoyed seeing the family this last month. We were so sorry to have missed the family reunion and I (Leslie) was really sorry to have missed seeing the Coons family and Larry and Katelyn. I'm so glad Greg and the kids got to see most of you and spend some time, which is unusual for Greg.

Greg has been in Germany since July 15th. He has been working very hard to get housing so that we can get over there before school starts, and before the 11th of August because there will be a total lunar eclipse and the best place in the world to see it is ... Stuttgart, Germany. He is also very lonely and bored in a hotel room with only German TV stations, no car, no friends, in a country where he doesn't know the language or how to get around. When we were at Fort Campbell we called the housing office several times to try to get a feel for how long it would be and what we could expect in the way of what we should bring. They assured us that they were renovating some quarters, making two, two bedroom quarters into four bedroom quarters, so we packed everything and expected to have a little vacation then go right over. When he got there it was a different story. Housing has run out of money, so they won't be renovating or

anything until fiscal year 2000 in October. Greg wasn't about to wait until then to get us over there so he went to work to see what he could do. To make a very long story somewhat shorter, after talking to about ten different people, being told many times, "come back tomorrow and we'll have an answer for you" and really looking for solutions, it looks like we'll be able to move into two different two bedroom apartments that are slated for renovation, then when they get the money, we'll move our stuff out of the way and they will come knock down the wall between the two apartments. In the meantime it will be a big pain because the apartments are in different stairwells so we'll have to go out one door, down the stairs, over to the other stairs and up to go to the other apartment. We would do more than that to avoid being separated for any longer, though. We will be living on one of the three "concerns" around Stuttgart. The main one is called Patch Barracks; the kids will go to school there and Greg will work there. We will be living on Kelly Barracks, which is about five miles away. Greg says it is very nice and peaceful with big trees and not a lot of traffic. There is a commissary, a nice gym, and some tennis courts, but mostly it's just housing. The other concern is Robinson Barracks which is also mostly housing plus the toy store, a small PX and some other specialty stores. The only

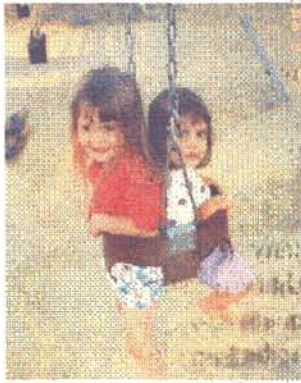
drawback is that Kelly is the farthest from the church, we'll have to drive about 30 minutes (still not near as far as Lana and her family have to travel). We share the building with a German ward but our ward is all Americans. I guess they have about 130-150 to Sacramento each week. Not near as many as in our last ward, but not too shabby. Greg says there is a decent youth group and that all the teenagers seem nice; that's always a concern.

I don't want to take up any more room. I will try to keep everyone informed as to how everything is going for us. I don't know our address, phone number or E-mail address yet; that will have to be in the next newsletter. I am so grateful to Loreen for doing this. I know that it will be especially important with us so far away.

We want everyone to know that there is an open invitation to come visit us. If you have ever wanted to go to Europe, now would be the time. We will be there for three years, we always have plenty of beds, we'll feed you and take you around, all you have to do is get there. Sometimes there are some pretty decent fares, you just have to look for them, so start planning now to come see us.

UPDATE: The Wilson's left for Germany on Friday, July 30. Good luck to the Wilson's! We will miss you all!!!!

THE COONS & JENNY



We had a great trip to Utah and Nevada and really enjoyed seeing everyone that we were able to see. It was so fun to see our kids with

their cousins. This picture was taken at the park in Nevada.

We brought Jenny back with us and had a GREAT three weeks with her. We went to New York City and saw the Empire State Building. The view was truly



amazing and it was fun to be in the city. We also saw the Sea, Air and Space Museum that day and enjoyed that, especially Todd. We went to the Aquarium in Mystic, Connecticut the next week.



We went to Niagara Falls the next weekend. This is a picture we took and if you look over to the right, you can see a boat called the "Maid of the Mist." We rode it to the Falls and into the Canadian

side. We had to wear raincoats and we still all got SOAKED.



We went to The Hill Cumorah Pageant. Here is a picture of the girls with one of the angels that were in the pageant.



We also went to the Sacred Grove, Hill Cumorah Visitor's Center, and Joseph Smith home. It was so neat to see the Pageant and Sacred Grove!

The next week we went to the beach in Rhode Island so Jenny could swim in the Atlantic Ocean. Jenny is such a fun person and we were so sad to send her home.

Here is a picture of the girls roasting marshmallows with Grandma and Grandpa up Mueller Park Canyon.



We love you all and hope to hear from you next month, by the twentieth, if possible, so we can get the newsletter out a little earlier. Take care!

Love, The Coons

The following poem was printed in Grandmother's Church bulletin with these comments:

"This poem is one that has been written and contributed by Agnes Palmer. I thought you might like her 'little explanation,' too: 'After having to miss church for several Sundays, I was able to be back one Sunday. I was a little early, and as I sat in the Sanctuary, some thoughts came into my mind. I came home and put them into verse form.'

"Thanks, Agnes. For those of you who might not know, Agnes is almost totally deaf, but she comes to church faithfully, even when she cannot hear the contents of the sermon. I think this is a great tribute to God and to us as her friends. 'We love you'..."

*God's House
by Agnes Palmer*

*I went into God's House today
And how my heart did sing!
Its beauty and its quietness
His presence seemed to bring.
A calmness fills my spirit
And soothed my cares away.*

*Then in that lovely stillness
A voice fell on my ear -
A breath from out of Heaven,
A whisper, soft, but clear -
"I'll not leave thee nor forsake thee
Thou wilt always find me near."*

*The symbols on the altar
Spoke of God so high above
His grandeur and His greatness,
And, most of all, His love.*

*And then I heard a movement -
A filling of the pews -
As people came to worship
And hear the joyful news.*

*I looked around about me
And there, in row on row,
Were all the friendly faces
That I have come to know.
Their smiles gave me a welcome;
From out their eyes shone love.*

*As I looked into those faces
Without a doubt I knew
The thing which makes God's
House so great
Is each person in each pew.*