
Happy Happenings

Twenty Third Edition - September 2000

Hi all! This is Lawson. I'm helping Loreen with the newsletter this month. Since I don't have some of the cool things she has to spruce it up, I'm just going to insert miscellaneous pictures that I have here and there! Sorry I don't have pictures of everyone, but I'm sure you'll enjoy the ones I do!

I'm sure Steve will appreciate this!



The Coons

We have really enjoyed the month of August. The weather has been so nice, usually 75-85. One of the funnest things we've done is work outside. We have planted a lot of grass. It rained most every day for 3 or 4 weeks so the grass came up very nicely and quickly. We also put in a rock wall at the back of our yard where there is a row of lilac bushes all along it. I survived poison ivy again. Luckily, it wasn't as bad this year as last and took two (miserable!!) weeks instead of a month to go away. The pregnancy is getting harder and I'm having to

rest more, but there's just about a month left so we'll most likely survive it.

Todd was called to be Young Men's President. He'll do a great job! He's going to buy a pair of the bicycle brakes he designed to put on his bike so it will be fun to see them. He has been so good about helping around the house. He even took a couple of days off and he's been doing the cleaning, laundry, shopping, and everything, not to mention taking care of me and the girls.

Brittney and Hannah are doing great. Hannah has worn dresses almost every day for probably six months. She finally discovered that she has some really cute shorts outfits so now she changes clothes 3-6 times almost every day! She still wears dresses, too. Brittney is counting down the days until school starts (Sept. 5). We'll go to the school next week and all the kids will meet their teachers, see their classrooms, and ride the

bus for a little while without parents.

We love you all! Todd, Loreen, Brittney, Hannah and ???



Swimming at Lava.

The Burnetts

Kelly and the boys have been in Canada for the last 3 weeks. They come back soon and it will be nice to have them back. I've been putting in extra time at work; trying to catch up on some projects and also trying to get some things done around the house. I finished the music class I was taking at Weber State, so I guess I'm officially done! I don't have the piece of paper yet, but that should be along shortly.



Here's Cason exersizing at day camp!

truck. She'll pull the stuffing out of that and play with it like she does the hair. She's at a very fun age and we love her lots.



At the Summit.

MOM & LYNN:

Boy, our summer hasn't exactly gone the way we hoped it would. This flood and water damage has sure taken a lot of our time and energy. We wouldn't have chosen this way to get our ceilings and some walls painted. New carpet wouldn't really have been worth all this trouble. But I've thought several times that it might indeed have been a blessing in disguise. In the first place, it wasn't *nearly* as bad as it could've been. I was only gone for 45 minutes. What if it had been all day? Or a weekend at the Summit? Or a two week vacation? So, we were blessed in the amount of damage that *wasn't* done! Well, it certainly has been a test. Hope we're passing!



At the Summit.

We enjoyed so much having Leslie and the kids! We miss them! LOTS. I had a great experience having Amy, Jeff, and Brianna while Leslie visited with Kimberly in Mesa. I also had Jeremy, Anthony, Ondylyn and Zachary for a few days while Laura and Greg went to a puzzle party in California. They were such good kids and fun to be with. I hope they will always remember the fun things we were able to do.

On Saturday, we went to "Summerfest" in the Bountiful park and watched international dancers and ate international food. The young kids spent lots of time in the "art circle", painting, making paper chains, sand art, "Ausie" sticks. I bet I sat there four hours and let them do whatever they wanted for as long as they wanted. It was pure heaven. Grandpa and Amy watched the dancers and then decided to go home. But I was with my kids! Plus we watched the dancers from China. COOL!



Getting seven kids ready for Church turned out to be a challenge. (I don't know how I used to do it.) We did get to Church though--early, even. PLUS I put a roast in the oven! Lawson came over for the evening (Kelly and the boys were in Canada.) I had a little surprise planned for everybody. I let them make the *pie of their dreams*. I had bought small individual graham cracker crusts so that everyone would have their own. We made chocolate pudding, yogurt and dream whip filling, cheesecake filling. We also had bananas, nuts, popcorn, candy, and whipped cream for garnish. On your mark, get set, go. They made their own dream pie and you should have seen the combinations! And then they ATE them. After devouring the pie, crust and all, they filled the pie pan and again, ate that. I think Jeffrey had SEVEN pies! What a blast!



On Monday, I ran into somewhat of a traffic jam here at the house. I had everything from the bedrooms stacked in Lana's room and everything from the family room and kitchen in the dining room, waiting to get the damage fixed. The repair people came to get started on the sheet rock and painting. It had taken so long to get them here that I sure didn't want to discourage them. But, I didn't figure they

could work around seven kids, so I let the kids go to the creek over by the school. They had a good time cleaning up all the debris people had dumped in it (well, all except Jeff. He thought they were taking the project *much too seriously*.) I took them a snack and drink and made them be my "baby birds", eating from my hand. I figured they were *really* dirty. They also jumped on the trampoline with the sprinkler underneath. They loved it. Never mind that the summer rules say not to water between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.



We made a trip to the airport to get Leslie from her trip to Mesa and I got lots of stares. I guess people thought I was pretty old to have so many children. Or maybe they were staring at how good they were all being! Because they were GOOD! We took all the kids to Arctic Circle. It was so fun. We just sat and talked and ate and let the cousins enjoy each other.

Helping Leslie pack all her possessions to go to Germany was another challenge. We lost lots of sleep talking and packing. It was all worth it! At last the day came to send them off. It took the truck plus the Dye's van to get all the people and suitcases to the airport. Again, everyone was so well behaved!

We were sad to see the Wilsons go.



The Dye children and I spent the remainder of the day up Mueller canyon. We took a picnic lunch and had a very leisurely day. We waded in the creek, picking up rocks, exploring, and enjoying the beautiful outdoors. We made quite a compatible group! No one complained or objected. We ALL loved the same things! The kids were so cute. After they found out how much Grandma loves to wade her feet in the water, they made sure I had the best rock to sit on and the best view of the surroundings, so that I could enjoy each new pool they found. We did have to fight off some wild animals though. Squirrels and chipmunks kept raiding our picnic area. They chewed through the bread wrapper and ate the bread. They LOVED oreo cookies! We finally put our food in the car in self-defense! I was glad I had the Dye's van. That way the kids could

just load their *tons* of rocks directly instead of having to transfer them. I guess their parents weren't too surprised since I think gathering things of nature is a "Dye thing."

So, thank you, parents for loaning me your kids. Wouldn't want to do it too often or for too long! (There's the truth) But it was sure lots of fun. Kids, remember how much Grandma loves you. And that goes for all of you kids! Every last one!

We are going on a trip to Seattle Thursday. Lynn has to do some interviewing in the area and I'm tagging along. I've never been to Washington so I'm excited. We're hoping to see my second cousin, Vic Smith, while we're there.

We're also planning a trip to California for September 13. Lynn has an appointment for a consultation about the Proton Radiation treatment they do at Loma Linda Hospital. So, remember us in your prayers. I hope he'll soon be able to come to the best decision about treatment for his prostate cancer.

We love you all. We pray for you often. You are all very special to us!

