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# Happy Happenings

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Twenty Fourth Edition

October 2000

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## Lynn & Mom

Hi, from the 'old-timers' of the family.

We've had an almost non-stop trip all month. Lynn/Grandpa (that's me) had a business trip to the Seattle area the first part of the month. Mom/Grandma went along for the ride. Saturday turned out to be an un-busy day for work. Then Monday was a holiday -- Labor Day. So we had Saturday and Monday for sight-seeing, etc. It was fun. We had lunch on top of the Space Needle in Seattle. The restaurant level rotates so that by the end of the meal we had seen Seattle and area from 360 degrees. That was fun. We got to go to Mount Ranier National Park, and had some spectacular views of the mountain; it was great. We also took a little trip up to North Cascades National Park. That was fun too, but didn't think it was quite as spectacular as Mount Ranier. On Saturday we went over to the Olympic Peninsula and visited with Mom's/Grandma's second cousin (and wife) we became acquainted with a couple of years ago, Vic and Ev Smith. They treated us to lunch at a nice seafood place, then drove us up to a place in Olympus National Park where we should have been able to overlook Mount Olympus. But, alas, it was all covered with clouds/fog; so we didn't see much. A delightful day none-the-less; the Smiths were such good hosts.

We were home just a few days when it was time to take off for Loma Linda University Medical Center (Loma Linda is a suburb of LA. To the east -- near Pasadena). This was to check out another possible treatment for my cancer -- a type of radiation, somewhat like x-ray, but using protons rather than x-rays.

We have spent a lot of time looking into various types of treatments, and even before we went to California I had about concluded that the various kinds of radiation treatment are about equally as effective. But we had a very good consultation with a very fine doctor there, and came away with a renewal of that conclusion. To take the Loma Linda treatment would have meant living there for a couple of months. So, I'm going for what's called a 'permanent seed implant' -- and there's a good doctor here in Salt Lake who does that. What that means is they will put 100-150 small radioactive seeds or pellets into the part of my body which has the cancer (my prostate). And the radiation over time is supposed to kill the cancer. I went in on Tuesday (Sept 26<sup>th</sup>) so they could take lots of ultra-sound pictures of my prostate in preparation for building a 3D 'map' of my prostate so they can figure out exactly where to put every one of the 'seeds'. Get me to tell you sometime how much fun that was! NOT! We're trying now to schedule the actual treatment (putting the 'seeds' through 20-25 needles

into my prostate). It looks like it will be either the 18<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> of October -- probably the 31<sup>st</sup>. We'll let you know. We'd appreciate an interest in your faith and prayers for that operation, and for it's success. Back to the California trip. We took a little extra time to do some sight-seeing. We went to the Joshua Tree National Park. We happened to arrive at a gorgeous lookout just as the sun was going down. How beautiful that was. And the Joshua trees were most interesting -- and all the other features of the desert. We took in a session at the LA temple, which was nice. But we became convinced -- as if we needed any convincing -- that LA is not for people, especially if you drive a car (but then, I don't know how you'd go anywhere without a car). Then on the way home we stopped and spent a little time looking at the Mojave Desert Preserve. We had a good trip.

Then Mom/Grandma went to Wyoming to spend a couple of days with Lana and kids while Aaron was hunting elk (he got one). She wanted to come home Friday evening but I was aware of the weather forecast, and called her and asked her not to start out at least until Saturday morning. She came home Saturday, but her knuckles are permanently white after that experience. We felt she was protected.

Now, Mom/Grandma is in Connecticut helping the new mom and the new sisters -- and

Todd --through the first few days of being a larger family. We love y'all - lots!

### **Todd, Loreen & Family**



She's finally here! Our sweet Aubrey Melinda Coons was born on Tuesday, September 26 at 4:38 am. She weighed 7 pounds and was 19 inches long.

She is doing so well and is a joy to have in our family. Her sisters can't get enough of holding her and giving her lots of love and attention. She has such a sweet spirit and we love her so much!! We are so grateful to have her in our family and for all the blessings that the Lord gave us to get her here safely. Thanks to all of you for your concern and prayers. It's soooo nice to have Mom here and we thank Lynn for letting her come. We enjoy her company and appreciate her service.

It's a great blessing. We love you all! The Coons family of five



### **Steve, Lisa & Family**

Hello from the Piersons!! We are all doing well. The good news is that Christie got a job! She is working for Faust Chiropractic (the doctor is James E. Faust's nephew!). She got full time hours and insurance benefits - yea! She has been there a week, and really seems to be enjoying it. She even gets free adjustments! Cory has been busy at a Pow wow getting three more merit badges. He loved the archery one. Jared still loves going to school, but the first thing he says when he gets off the bus is, "Will you take me to the new church?" A new church is being built a block from our home, and there has been a lot of digging going on! If I can, I take things I need to work on and drive him over there so he can watch. He'll say, "I'm in heaven!" After Conference we were taking a walk. A neighbor stopped and asked me where my man was. Jared put his hand to his chest and said, "I'm the man!" What a cutie! Jenny is busy with school and work and friends. She manages to do it all! Steve is now Executive Secretary, so he spends a lot of time at the church with the bishop. He also had a job promotion - Vice Pres of Engineering. More responsibility and stress!! Hope all of you are doing well! Love you all!

### **Aaron, Lana & Family**

Aaron went elk hunting for a week in the mountains above Dubois with a guy from our branch. They packed about 20 miles up the trail and camped out. Aaron shot a big, 6 point bull elk that filled up our freezer. Jaxon was sad he couldn't go but wasn't big enough this year.

We had a super Saturday for Relief Society and I showed them how to do a wall quilt.

Aaron's been horse trading this month. We've had up to seven horses, but we're back down to five. We have two horses the kids can ride and I ride the palomino with Amberly so we all go riding as a family.

We just bought a new (to us) truck. It's a 1995 Ford four-door. Probably won't be able to drive that gas-guzzling thing much, but we needed something to pull the horses!

### **Lawson, Kelly & Family**

Thayne has the Bweeana syndrome! Some of you will remember when Brianna was younger, she said her name was Bweeana and she lived in Awaska! Thayne has several words like that now. We have a neighbor girl named Lisa. He calls her Weesa. We say Weesa and he says no, it's Weesa!

We went to a production of Annie put on by the local junior high recently. On one side of the stage they had big round cardboard columns and a bigger round cardboard top made to look like a building in New York City. During intermission, Thayne decided to try to climb that building and it partially collapsed! Lucky it fell back toward the wall to keep it from going all the way to the ground! And thank heavens it was the last night of the play!

Tanner's really been enjoying his soccer, but doesn't get quite as excited about scoring goals as he used to. I remember the first few times he scored goals.

He'd run over to us on the sideline and give us high-fives, hugs and kisses! I recently missed one of his games on a Saturday because I was helping a friend roof his house. When I saw him later that day I asked him how the game went. He said it went well, "scored a couple of goals..."! He's on a really good team and they score enough that I guess it's getting to be old hat! Cason's having fun with soccer too, but there aren't nearly as many goals scored in his games. I'm enjoying coaching his team.

This last weekend I took a couple of days off and we went to the Summit and to Dad's house. We had an enjoyable, relaxing time at the Summit. It was fun to build a BIG fire and have skillet surprise and cobbler... yum! At Dad's we were pleased to see that Grandma is doing well. She's getting around on her own and gets outside a lot. She was out feeding the cats and other animals. One time I stopped to visit with her and told her it was good to see her out and about. She said something like "this is the third or fourth time I thought I was done, but I don't know why I just keep coming back"!! She's cute!

Dad used to have a horse, Roy, that Cason could ride by himself. The horse was very well trained and we could put Cason on him and he'd be entertained for hours. Dad had to get rid of the horse, which made Cason very sad. This visit we found a Welch pony that Dad has that's well enough

trained for Cason to ride on his own. He spent several hours throughout the day riding her. It was funny to watch him bounce around trying to get her to go the way he wanted! He had a great time and can't wait to go back. I took some pictures of him, but forgot my camcorder at Dad's, so I can't include them here. Hope my camcorder doesn't suffer the same fate as the camera Lana left there once!

We found out that our old ward in Ogden was dissolved recently. I guess they just didn't have enough activity to make the ward work. It's weird to hear that the mission that this area falls in is one of the highest convert baptizing missions in the world, but that in spite of that, there are areas here where the church is declining.

Cason and Tanner have scooters that are pretty new. We've had a problem with them not putting them away at night. Last night I went out after they were in bed and found them on the front lawn so I hid them. They've been looking for them and have concluded they must have been stolen! We're hoping that this will have the desired affect on them to take care of their things!

Yesterday Cason was kind of throwing a fit so he got grounded for a day. He was so mad he said to just ground him for a week, so we agreed. Tonight, at dinner, Tanner whispered to Cason "let me tell you something, when you're mad, don't ground yourself for a

week"! Pretty good advice I'd say!

Tonight we had family home evening. We played games and had treats. At the end I wanted to talk about obedience. I tried to involve them by asking what we could do to help them be more obedient. The first response was that we need to hurt them! I thought, 'that's what we usually feel like doing when you're not obedient!' We tried to help them see the good things that come from being obedient instead of the bad things that come from being disobedient. Hopefully we can get through to them. It's frustrating to see our kids fight with each other. We want them to be good friends, to like each other and get along well. Hopefully someday!

When they called Kelly to be Young Women's president, they released me from teaching in Primary. I was very sad to leave that calling. But that's really the first time I've been away from Elder's Quorum and now that I've been able to go back to it, I realize how much I missed being involved in those lessons. Though I've always known attending Sunday meetings was important, lately I've gained a much stronger testimony of that. Most every Sunday I notice specific things that I've heard that have been a great help to me. I think that's great!

Wow, how about that? I wrote almost as much as Mom does sometimes!!! Just kidding Mom. We love to hear lots from you!