



Happy Happenings

October 2002

47th Edition

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Amy, Brianna, & Jeff:

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Hi from San Antonio! We've been here for about six weeks now and everything is settling down to a semblance of normality. We are extremely busy with school and work and moving in and all, but we like it here. The ward is great, so warm and friendly and helpful. We live two doors down from the Relief Society president and her family and they have been really helpful to us. They let us borrow quite a few things until our things all got here. They have a son who is a Senior who drives Amy to Seminary and school every day, a daughter who is in 8th grade and a son who is in 4th. Unfortunately, the two younger ones are really into sports so they're not as compatible with Jeff and Bri, but they have been really nice and the kids go down to their house sometimes. The really great thing for me is that they give Jeff a ride to and from school every day which is a good thing because my classes go from early to late four days a week.

School is going well for me. I have 19 credits this semester but none of them are very hard. It's still a lot of work because there is so much of it but it's just a matter of keeping track of everything. I have figured out a plan to graduate spring 2004 so if all goes well, I would really love to have as many of you come as possible. I will have to take 21 credits each of the remaining semesters and 18 in the summer. I know I can do it but it won't be easy. I have to graduate this time because each time I transfer my credits, more and more of them go into the elective category so I kind of have to start again. Plus, there is a real possibility that I can get the teaching time I had in Germany counted as student teaching here, which would cut off one whole semester. I couldn't do that in almost any other state.

Greg's job is not going like he thought it would. The guy he was supposed to replace decided to stay for another year so he is kind of marking time in the office before he can get a team of his own. When he does, it will be an Emergency Response team made up of National Guardsmen who will be trained to respond in case of chemical or biological terrorism. Like a lot of things, on the whole it is very interesting, to train they have a scenario in which some chemical agent is deployed and they have to figure out what it is and evacuate people and neutralize it. Some of the things they do are very interesting but it ends up being a long, tedious process for the trainers. They kind of have to stand back and let the National Guard do all of the work. When Greg does get a team, it will involve a lot of travel. He already had to go to Missouri for 2 1/2 weeks.

Rich is doing well in Idaho, he is doing his ROTC thing, and they said that if he keeps his

grades up and passes his PT test, they will extend the scholarship to him for spring semester. His fraternity sponsor makes them go to class and study, plus he says the classes are easy, so the grades shouldn't be a problem, and he is his father's son so the PT test shouldn't be a problem either.

Amy is doing well here. She likes her high school even though it's about 4 or 5 times bigger than the one in Germany. It means that she has a lot bigger choice for classes here. She is taking a pretty heavy load this year. She's got AP American History, German III, and English, and Pre-AP Physics and math. She is also taking a restaurant management class in which they learn to prepare and serve restaurant quality meals. All of the driver's ed classes were full, so she has to postpone driving for a while. She has been so helpful since we've been here, especially when Greg was gone and I didn't get home until 7 or 7:30 most nights.

Brianna is doing well in her new school, too. It was quite a transition for her to go from an elementary school with a total of 500-600 kids to a middle school with 500-600 kids in the 7th grade. She is doing well, getting her locker open every day and making it to all of her classes. She is on the pre-AP track in math as well. They call it that because in order to make it to AP math in high school, you have to start in middle school with accelerated math classes. She is in the junior varsity choir and is going to try out for the regional choir next week. She's pretty nervous and I can't say I blame her, I always had a hard time singing by myself in front of people.

Jeff loves his new school. I talked to his teacher today and she couldn't say enough about how intelligent he is and how much he loves science. She said that there would never be a conversation in Science class if it weren't for Jeff. It's been a real transition for Jeff too. He's in 5th grade this year and they are trying to get them ready for middle school

so they don't get recess. He has been really helpful since we got here too. He does his own laundry and has a night when he cooks dinner.

We haven't been able to see anything of Texas yet, or even San Antonio. We had to get all of the boxes unpacked and the lawn cleaned up first. Our house is very interesting, it's an older home with a lot of problems but it has some good points too. We wish we could come at Thanksgiving but we would have to fly and we have to save our money to get Rich home at Christmas.

We love you all. Love, The Wilsons

The Burnett Family:

September was mostly a fun month for us! It had its up and downs. At the beginning of the month, for the Labor Day weekend, we went to the Knolls which is a little sand dune recreation place a couple of hours away. After that we went to Mom and Lynn's. We went swimming, had lunch and played there with them and the Piersons. After we got home, Thayne helped me wash the 4-wheelers. He was a big helper, but a few days later I went to start up my motorcycle to go somewhere and I found out that besides washing the outsides of the ATVs, he also washed the insides of the exhaust pipes! They were all full of water! We had to start them up and run them for a while to blow the water out. We all had our turn with some little sickness. Kelly and Landon started, then it went on to Cason and Thayne and then to me and Tanner. Not fun, but those little things always make me remember how nice it is to enjoy good health most of the time. Kelly got another calling as ward chorister. They called 4 of them so she'll just have to do it once a month usually.

Tanner will be baptized on the first Saturday in November.

The boys are having lots of fun with their soccer and they're doing well. Thayne scored 3 goals one game. Tanner scored a few in one game. And Cason had a really nice assist in one of his games.

In our Cub Scout pack meeting this time we did a space derby. It was harder to run than a pinewood derby, but it was fun. That's the last pack meeting for me as cub master in our old ward. They called a new cub master and he'll take over next month. That was a fun calling for me.

I broke my right middle finger playing basketball. It was broken enough that now I have a pin in it for 6 weeks and a cute little button on the bottom that's attached to a suture to hold one part of the bone in place. It only hurt for a few days after the surgery and thanks to Lortab, I just slept most of those days!

Our last thing to share is an announcement: Kelly is pregnant! She's about halfway along now. We don't know if it's a boy or girl and Kelly doesn't want to find out so I guess we'll have another surprise!

Hope you all are well.

Thanks again to Lawson for doing the newsletter these last months. As you can tell by how late this is, I still definitely don't have it "all together" but here it is anyway. Here are some pictures of the kids. The first two are of when the school hosted a Garden Showcase which Brittney and Hannah participated in. They each chose and entered their own Zinnias that we had grown in the backyard. Hannah got a second place ribbon. Brittney got a first place ribbon and she won the grand prize which means that hers was the best flower in any category. She got a big potted mum and had her picture in the paper!

The third picture is of the girls on the first day of school. Aubrey had to have a little back pack, too. Then here is a picture of our sweet boy, Caleb. He is such a wonderful baby and we love him so much!

We had the Primary Sacrament Meeting and Brittney sang a solo, "I'm Trying to be Like Jesus." She did a fantastic job! She is taking a drawing class once a week and enjoying it. She still has piano lessons.

Aubrey had her second birthday. All she wanted was a strawberry cake and a "brella" (umbrella). She got them and a few other things and really enjoyed blowing out her candles . . . several times!

I canned salsa, pie apples, and peach-raspberry jam with my friend, Cindy.

Todd is still looking for a job so pray that we can move closer to everyone. We love and miss you and are excited to see you at Thanksgiving!

The Coons Family:



What an eventful month!!! And, we think the events are good – even though the *major* event is very painful right now!!

Event #1: We decided the cabin at the Summit needed a new coat. When we put the outside finish on several years ago we thought we got the best stuff there is for log siding (maybe we did, but if we did there ain't much good stuff out there). Anyway the finish was all cracked and peeling and generally looking awful. We tried power washing, paint stripper and a combination of the two. In the end we used a sander on the whole of the outside. We completed putting the new finish on the day after big event #2. It really looks nice. Here's hoping it lasts better than the last one did.

Event #2: About 2 1/2 weeks ago we got a phone call from a man and his wife who had looked multiple times at the house in Bountiful several months ago but had completely stopped being interested – or so we thought. (He has been starting up a business and so didn't have enough history of a good income on his job to qualify for a mortgage loan. They were interested in leasing with an option to buy, which we didn't want to do but did talk with them about that possibility.) Anyway, they called saying "We're still interested. Are you?" We had already begun all the paperwork with someone else who had wanted to do this kind of thing, so, we came home and started the paperwork for them. Grandma sat at the computer and we got it all worked up.

They were very interested – and agreed to just about all of our suggestions for the contract. About 36 hours before *event #3* they handed us \$5000 option money plus \$1500 for the first month's lease payment, and we all signed all the papers. There is, of course, no guarantee that they will in fact buy the house, but we think it sure looks good. We are getting what we think is good price – almost as much as the appraiser said it was worth back in February. *Hooray!!!*

Event #3- the Biggee On Friday the 27th of September I took Grandma to the hospital at 7:30 in the morning. By about 11:00 they started operating on her right knee. They took off a portion of both the thigh bone and the shin bone where they come together at the knee, then put in some new parts that aren't supposed to wear out – at least not for a long time. Then put her leg back together again. What a painful surgery this is! Much more painful than the surgery she had in July. She is now getting around a bit with a walker or with crutches, but we both have to be very careful with that leg. She is on the road to recovery. I am convinced she will begin to be glad for her new knee by Christmas time (What a Christmas present don't you think?)

Of course, we had to have a complication, didn't we? On Sunday, September 29, while in the hospital, Grandma noticed a pounding in her chest. She pointed it out to me and to some of the nursing staff. We finally got to her surgeon who said "Call in the cardiologist (heart doctor)". He came in and after lots of tests, etc. said she had 'atrial fibrillation' (the heart beat goes crazy – but is not a heart attack). They got the heart calmed down but continued to monitor her heart. On Tuesday she had another bunch of those crazy heart beats. It is my guess that the trauma to her body plus all the medications they were giving her triggered the funny heart beats. We sure hope she doesn't have any more trouble. They did enough tests of her heart and other things that we are pretty darn sure that her heart is in very good shape. We're glad for that.

Well, Family, Grandma sends her love to everyone of you!! So do I!!

Hello, Family! We are all doing well. Aaron has been hunting for deer & elk a few times. He likes it more & more every year. He is up by Dubois hunting now. He pulled our camper up there & left it & then takes the horses up & rides all over. He is with a guy named Shawn from church. Hopefully they will find what they want. The kids & I are going up tomorrow so Jaxon will have a chance to go hunting with Dad. I think more than anything they like being out & riding their horses all over the mountain.

Jaxon is doing well in school. They are just learning to read this year & he is doing pretty good. It's fun to hear him reading. The weather has still been nice enough to play outside when he gets home, so he likes to play for awhile. He rode a shape at a kids rodeo two weeks ago. He didn't really like it but held one long time & was glad afterward he did it.

Jancy is going to preschool at the High School on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She is lots older than most of the kids, so they focus more on learning colors stuff but at least it's something different than staying home. Jancy did

well on Grandma this summer. At a kids' rodeo they had in Pavillion she got high points for her age group. We just hope Grandma holds out for a few more years (NOT you, Mom, Grandma the horse even though you both have bad knees. I hope yours don't kill you off.) Jancy is such a good helper & a good sister. She is so good with Broox & Amberly. Her favorite thing of late is checking the garden (which froze) & checking for apples off the apple tree. Jancy had a B-day and turned five. It was a fun day.

Amberly is going to preschool, too. She likes to go & has fun with the teacher & kids. Amberly got her own horse. Since Jancy has a "Grandma" Amberly wanted a "Grandpa" (Don't worry, Lynn. He's pretty young & in good health.). He is good for Amberly. He goes nice & slow & listens to her pretty well. Amberly has no fear. Amberly loves to dress up & put on "dancing music" & dance. It can't be a boy singer or "Cowboy" music. She has to have a girl singer singing dancing music. She'll get out & dance & dance. She's fun to watch. Amberly has been trying to stop sucking her thumb. It has been hard, but she's strong & doing well.

As you can see from the picture Broox is cute as a bug's ear and growing like a weed. He's

7 months now. He still has no teeth, which is just fine by me. He rolls all over the floor & is making some attempts at moving forward. He loves to be held & is so fun to hold, so I spend a lot of time holding him.

I did an Enrichment night on decorating cakes & showed how to put together & do some decorations on an ice cream cake. The ladies were amazed & impressed which shows how backwards things can be here. Lots of them had never heard of Baskin Robbins & since there isn't one in a 200 mile radius I didn't feel I was taking too much business away from them. Next month we are making jerky & summer sausage. While the girls are in preschool 3 other moms & I have been going to the church there in Shoshoni & working on projects & talking & taking care of our kids. Two of the other moms have babies, too. It has been nice to have something to do while I wait & it's nice to have some people around my age & circumstances to talk to. One of the ladies is curious about our church so lots of our conversations go there, which is good.