

# Happy Happenings

November 2004 - 69th Edition



The Sorensen's have had a good month. We had a good visit with Aaron's brother, Jason, who came up with two of his friends to go deer hunting. Jason and his friends all three got nice bucks. Jaxon got to skip a day of school. He thought that was pretty cool. One of Jason's friends had a brand new four-wheeler so Jaxon had a new idol for a few days.

We all went hunting with Aaron for a weekend in Dubois in the truck and trailer. We spent the night in the trailer which worked out well. The kids had Friday off school so Friday Aaron and Jaxon went hunting and found a nice elk and shot it. Then Jancy and Broox went back with them to pack it out.

I got released from the Relief Society presidency and got put in Scouts as the Wolf leader. It will be different but nice to have a change. Jaxon and I go to scouts in Riverton every Tuesday at 6:00. I pick up a few boys on the way.

Aaron is adjusting to his calling. Things are going well there.

We had a good visit with Mom and Lynn. They got to get in on all our Halloween fun. We helped Grandpa celebrate his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday by taking him swimming and scaring him to death by sending him down the water slides. He was a good sport.

We love you and look forward to seeing you at Thanksgiving!

The Coons family is doing well. Our weather is beautiful and we are loving it! The girls and I are progressing with our piano lessons! We are learning Christmas songs and it will be fun to be able to play them during the Christmas season.

We loved having Mom and Lynn here. It was a highly anticipated event because we have really missed them. We had a nice visit. It was fun having Leslie & family and Larry & family over for the evening on Saturday. They spent the day with Larry and Jill on Sunday but Mom came back to hear me teach a lesson in Relief Society.

For Halloween Brittney was Pippi Longstocking, Hannah was an Indian Princess (I sewed her costume which is quite an accomplishment for me!), Aubrey was a pumpkin (and a butterfly, fairy, and clown, depending on what time you saw her that day), and Caleb was supposed to be a cow but didn't want to put his costume on. We went trunk-or-treating, then to a big neighborhood Bar-B-Que. They provided hot dogs and root beer and everyone brought side dishes. There was lots of food and we were able to meet a lot of people from the neighborhood. We really do like this area.

Other miscellaneous things: time at the Library on Wednesdays. THREE hours! We all love our kitty, entertaining and cute. We planted tree so hopefully we'll get fruit in



Aubrey and Caleb and I go to story We voted and it only took Rosemary. She is very an orange tree and a grapefruit a few years. We love you all!

Send your newsletter entries to: [t.r.coons@worldnet.att.net](mailto:t.r.coons@worldnet.att.net)



Hello from the Dyes! I'll try to do a quick catch-up since I'm so lousy at regular communication! We loved seeing everyone in California for the reunion, having Brianna and Jeff stay for a while, and making the Arizona trip. It was fun to see Leslie's and Loreen's new houses and all the improvements to Larry's – thanks for the hospitality!

In September, Greg and I went on an 8-day vacation in the Caribbean, compliments of Mity Lite. We spent a day in Puerto Rico and then seven days on a cruise to five islands. It was so awesome! The cruise ship rose 200' above the sea and had rock climbing, in-line skating, miniature golf, basketball courts, a gym, two theaters, an ice rink, a spa, hot tubs, steam rooms, swimming pools, water slides for kids, restaurants, enormous dining rooms where each table has three waiters, a casino, boutiques, shops, art displays.... Our room attendant left towels folded into different animals (like the elephant below) each night.



The beaches are so gorgeous with white sand and clear, aqua-colored water. Every beach looked like the perfect postcard! This picture of St. Thomas shows the Atlantic Ocean on the right and the Caribbean on the left.



Some observations and highlights:

- The living conditions are way lower than we're accustomed to. Most homes are tiny, and are built of cinder block because the bugs and moisture and hurricanes destroy wood homes too easily. Home-owner's insurance costs more than a home and property put together, so, if a hurricane hits, buildings are usually just abandoned because the owners don't have enough money for repairs. Here's a picture of a place on St. Thomas that was hit by a hurricane 5 years ago, and a tourist shop on Barbados that was just hit by Hurricane Ivan this year.

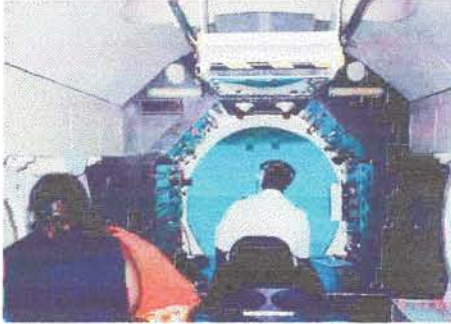


- The weather was mostly mild except for the day we hit a "tropical storm" on St. Marteen and could hardly walk! On the beach of St. Lucia, Greg got sunburned wearing 50 SPF sunscreen, so we spent a lot of our time doing driving tours and shopping!
- On Antigua (pronounced An tee ga), we had a really great taxi driver who gave us a five-hour tour of the island. When we asked about the religions on the island, he listed about six or eight and then said, "We even have The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints". We had a great talk and encouraged him to let "those boys who was alvus lookin' for some way to help" teach his family. Antigua didn't become independent of British Commonwealth until 1981! The taxi driver was so excited about their new gov'ment and all the things it was doing for the people. They really have a strong belief in family and spend huge efforts teaching children. Every school has uniforms and every child graduates from high school. After graduation, every child either goes to college or learns a trade. They hang people for murder



and whip people for minor offenses (including saying the f-word). The island only had one crime last year! I hope they can survive and thrive with their independence!

- On Barbados we became official "Atlantis Submariners". We de-barked ship early, spent big bucks, and had an adventure of a lifetime! It was so cool to see the submarine slowly rise out of the water, blow the water out of all its ballasts like a giant whale, and then open up for its passengers. We were early enough in the day that the sub was only filled to about 20% capacity so we got to switch sides and look out lots of portholes. We "experienced the magical world of the Caribbean reef with coral formation, sponge gardens, colorful fish, exotic marine life, and an imposing shipwreck, the Lord Willoughby". Wow! It was way cool!!!



Jeremy's going to BYU and living at home. He's had some really tough classes this semester and spends a lot of time on homework. His seventh annual haunted house made the front page of the local paper! It was open Oct 23 (in the pouring rain and freezing cold!) and Oct 30. We had about 25 teenagers help with it for each night it was open and had over 500 people come through!



Anthony was a raging hit at EFY with the miniature accordion he purchased in Mexico! He's taken Driver's Ed and is working really hard on his grades so we'll pay for his insurance (if he ever earns his Eagle, that is). He was the Sophomore Student of the Month for service in September. Anthony is now the tallest member of our family!!!

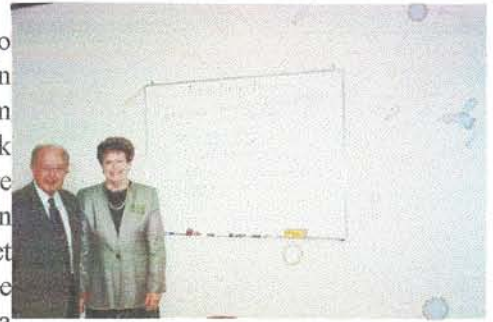
Ondynyn's a teenager now and is much taller than I am. She's learning a really pretty piano duet with her friend for the Christmas recital. She had a fun 13<sup>th</sup> birthday party and went ice skating with friends.



Zachary is so excited to get his new fort in the attic of the shed we're building. He has secret entries, spy gear, and lots of great plans. He's also doing a 'genius club' project on medieval weaponry and is really getting into building a model castle, trebuchet, catapult, battering ram, belfry, mangonel... Zac turned 10 on Oct. 11, had a fun party, and went miniature golfing. He wasn't even overly disappointed when I dropped his cake down the patio steps and ruined it (he doesn't like cake very much).



(written by Lynn) Hi, Tribe! Guess what! Were back home! It seems so long ago no, it seems like only yesterday. Time is so confusing. We were in Dallas for such a short time but it was a year and a half. We are gone from Dallas now and it seems we may never go back and yet, even if we did go back it wouldn't be the same. We were gone from you for so long but you were always with us in our hearts and in our minds. Many of you, especially those in your teen years, have changed so much and yet you are still the same sweet grandchildren we have known and loved so long. We've been gone from the house for so long but it seems pretty much the same. Maybe just maybe were getting a little glimpse of what eternity is like (note, I said is; I didn't say will be.)



Here are a couple of mission pictures. The one above is a farewell note and the one below is the office staff.



As all of you know by now, our trip home took some time. First, we stopped at Clarendon in the Texas panhandle. Both sets of Grandmas grandparents and one set of her great grandparents are buried in the cemetery there, along with other relatives. We were able to find the grave sites and spend a few minutes reflecting on the heritage they left us. Several years ago we had both become quite well acquainted with Wallace Garner and Adaline Love Smith partly because of a little journal that Grandma found in her mothers things. It was a sweet time for both of us especially for Grandma.

We made a little detour to Palo Duro Canyon which I had never seen. A pretty dramatic canyon. We then went to Carlsbad Caverns -- again, something I had never seen. What a big hole in the ground! But how grand and at the same time intricate.

On to Arizona. We spent a great few days with the Wilson's, Coons, and Burnet~~ts~~ What a treat! It was so good to be with family again. Thanks for being you, thanks for being good family members, thanks for your time with us, thanks for your love and support!

Then, after a very long day driving from Arizona, we arrived at the Piersons front door where a big Welcome Home sign swayed in the breeze and where the Piersons, Dyes, and the Adams jumped up and down to greet us. We had just a short visit then, but over the next couple of days we had a better visit with each. What a treat! How good it is to have family like you are! Thanks!

On Saturday morning we headed off to Wyoming to visit the Soren~~sons~~ Many times especially at first we both kept looking around trying to find Amberly. It was so good to be with that family again, but we did, and do, miss Amberly so much. We stayed there over Monday and celebrated my birthday by going swimming at the hot pools in Thermopolis.

Then, on Thursday we went for dinner with David, Shauna and family. Tracy came along. It was so good to be with them and to renew our relationship with all of them.

That means we have visited with all the family except Gaylene, Joe and girls. Joe is on a work assignment in China. Gaylene and the girls went with him. They plan to be back just before Christmas. Were anxious to see them.

We love all of you! We thank you for your love, for your goodness to each other and to us. We love you lots. Please note the new e-mail address: [lynnleahwhite@comcast.net](mailto:lynnleahwhite@comcast.net)

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*As I was going through our files, I found EVERY ISSUE of 'Happy Happenings'. I couldn't help being 'Agnes' (my mother who couldn't seem to stay on track while cleaning house) and so I stopped right there and read some of them. I read, in particular, February 2002 about when we were inspired to move to Saratoga Springs. And, as I read, I had a boost to my spirit! I could vividly remember the feelings I had at that time. My testimony was renewed that we were led here! So, thanks, Loreen, for faithfully producing such a wonderful newsletter since October 1998. We just passed the 6th anniversary and I think you need a trophy! (Talk to Jaxon and Jancy--they've got lots!)*

*Love, Mom*