

Happy Happenings

Sorensen

We have had a great summer. We stayed busy with lots of stuff. Jaxon and Jancy took piano lessons this summer and that went well. We went to a Utah Rodeo once a month and we are finally done with that for the year. Jaxson,

Jancy and Broox did well. Broox even got to ride his horse for the last two rodeos. We went to a little rodeo once a week here all summer. That finished last Saturday. The kids did great.

We have had great company this summer. We had a good

time with Loreen and her kids after the reunion. We had a nice visit with Laura, Zach and Tanner. We had a quick visit with Mom and Lynn during the fair. Jaxon and Jancy each took a steer to the fair. They did fine in their class. Out of 90 steers Jancy got 9th in the carcass con-

test. For this, they do an ultrasound that tells the quality of the meat. Jancy got \$3.50 a pound for a 1300 steer and Jaxon got \$3.00 for his. They earned some good mission money and we were all glad when the week was over.

Coons

June and July sure were busy and fun for us. With the kids out of school, we started swim lessons and did them for 4 weeks. Now all of our kids can swim – YEAH! Aubrey and Caleb can even jump off the diving board and swim to the side. We feel like it's quite an accomplishment. The kids also had gymnastics classes and enjoyed that. We also had piano lessons. Brittney wants to play the oboe so we borrowed one and she had lessons for 5 weeks. Then the school who owned the oboe needed it back so now we are looking for one. Our neigh-

bor, Jonathan Horton, got 6th in the National Spelling Bee so we are pretty much famous. Really – he never did that well until he moved in next door to us!

We have some friends down the street, the Rosens. We have been taking them to church activities for a year and a half now. Their house burned down in March and the ward really stepped in to help. They are now meeting with the missionaries and coming to church with us! We hope and pray that they will feel the Spirit and choose to receive the blessings of the Gospel.

At the end of June I

flew to Utah and drove to BYU-Idaho with Jacinta. We went to Education Week with our other roommate, Kristie, and had SO MUCH FUN!! We learned a lot and had a great time. We are hoping to do it again sometime. We can take our daughters with us after they are 14 (in 5 years we will have 5 daughters over 14).

Todd and the kids met me at Mom and Lynn's and it was a great reunion. I'm not ever away from the kids like that and rarely away from Todd. Our van had had some trouble before we left and the repairman said we really shouldn't drive it too

far, so we decided to buy a new van. We found one in St. George so Todd and the kids drove the car to St. George and bought us a new van. It's a blue Sienna and we love it. We sure do hope it lasts a long, long time.

We spent a few days in Utah with Mom and Lynn, also at Todd's sister, Cody's house. We also visited with our friends in Provo, Doug and Kristine Baird. Then we drove to YEL-LOWSTONE! We stopped by BYU-Idaho so Todd and the kids could see all the changes. Todd and I met at Ricks so it was fun to be there

together again after 16 years. I'd love for the kids to go there, too, so now they have seen it and know it actually exists.

We were so happy to see everyone and let our kids spend time with their cousins, Aunts, Uncles, and Grandparents. It means so much to us!! Thanks for loving our kids and spending time with them. I know that it will mean a lot to them as they go through life to know that they have a strong, loving, faithful, and BIG family to support them. So THANKS! I'm glad we have reunions every year and do things like this newsletter to keep us connected and close as a family. We missed Jeremy, Rich, and Amberly.

Some reunion highlights – Thanks to Lisa for buying all the stuff for the Humanitarian kits. Hopefully the kids will realize that we do want to help people when we can.

The food was excellent!

I loved the cousin gift exchange. It was especially cute to see Meg and Hannah with the make-up, fingernail polish, and glitter. Hopefully Meg used most of it up and didn't take too much of it home. Anthony made some great balloon animals. It was so cute to see Dixon and Caleb "fixing" Mom and Lynn's van tire with Dixon's new tools that he got from Riley. Brittney loves the purse she got from the Burnetts.

Tubing down the river was fun. And Mom got in and had fun even though it was so cold. Heather was the bravest because she actually washed her hair with

shampoo. It was nice that we didn't know about the leeches until later so that we could enjoy the water and have fun.

Thanks, Mom, for getting together the scrapbooks of past years. It was great to see where we had gone and who was there. It's just nice to see that we have put forth the effort over the years to be together.

Thanks for everyone's patience as we drove slowly around to see Yellowstone. It was nice to be together and experience it as family.

We did have a buffalo in the road just a few feet in front of our van for a couple of minutes! We decided not to initiate our new van by trying to make him move so we just waited.

I'm glad that we had "down" time at camp to play games and just be together. It's a good time for the kids to get to know each other better.

Lawson, thanks so much for sending out the CD with pictures! It was such a fun time that we all want to remember.

After Yellowstone we went to the Sorensen's and stayed for a few days. The weather was great and the kids had a fun time playing together with the kittens in the blue house, the tree house, and everywhere. This is

the second year we have gone there in the summer and they have had kittens both times. The kids loved riding horses (especially Aubrey). Lana and I deep cleaned her kitchen and painted the porch and part of the house. We had a great time!

Then we went to Jacinta's house. They took us to a water park, Cherry Hill. From there we went to Salt Lake. I wanted the kids to be a Temple Square again. We also toured the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. We stopped by the Baird's in Provo again for a few hours. Then we went back to the Pierson's.

On Saturday Lisa kept the kids and Mom and Lynn and I went to the Genealogy Library with their class. We think we may have found a lead on Charles and Sarah Palmer in England. On Sunday we went to Laura's and had a great time eating homemade pretzels and other yummy food. Then we watched "Pride and Prejudice" and no one was allowed unless they agreed not to have any "inappropriate reactions to emotional scenes" as Laura put it.

Sarah and her boys came to Mom's on Monday. We had a great visit and they decided to stay the rest of the day because

some of the families came for FHE. On Tuesday we went to the Sorensen's rodeo in Ogden. It was great and we really enjoyed seeing Jancy, Jaxon and Broox ride. They did a wonderful job. On Wednesday we went to Dad's. I asked him for pictures of George and Ethel and their parents if he had them. He pulled out a box of GREAT pictures. I offered to put them in a book for him so he let me take them (after awhile). So that is my next project. We had a good visit with them and went home on Friday. I was gone for 3 ½ weeks! But at least I missed some of the Arizona heat.

We went to Todd's parents' house for his cousin's "Welcome Home" from his mission in Russia. The kids started school on August 9th. Aubrey is in morning Kindergarten, Hannah is in 4th, and Brittney is in 6th. They all love their teachers. Aubrey is thrilled about Kindergarten. Poor Caleb is the only kid home now, but we have been having fun.

That's all! If there's anything else, that's just too bad. That's the longest newsletter entry I've ever written but it was for 2 ½ months. We sure love you all and we're so glad we got to see you.

Pierson

Hi, everyone! We are doing well - sad that the summer is almost over, though! Cory worked full-time, then quit a week ago to have some surgery. The doc took his tonsils and ade-

noids out, cleaned out and opened up all his sinus cavities, and repaired a deviated septum - wow! He is still recovering, but has done remarkably well, and is looking forward to being able to breath!!

Jenny is on two week vacation to Washington. She has a friend that moved to Seattle, so she is staying with her and seeing the sites. She was so excited to be able to go somewhere!!

The rest of us are great - same 'ol exciting lives! It was good to be with everyone at the reunion! Love to all!

Arizona Burnetts

Hello All!
Since the rest of the family is busy, my dad asked me, Katelyn, to write this month's newsletter. It seems like we're never on top of things when it comes to the newsletter, but maybe now that school's back in, we can get in the hang of things. Well, our family is doing great. It is still as hot as ever down here in AZ, but I guess you grow accustomed to it after living here your whole life. Hopefully within the next couple of months it will cool down a bit. After the family reunion we had to adjust back to the heat, I still miss the weather up there!

Well, I guess we'll start off with my Dad. He is keeping busy with work, and all of his wedding videos. It's nice to see him at home a lot more, and I can tell he's a lot happier

since he's started this new job. He will be traveling a lot in the next 2 months to various places everywhere, but hopefully after that things will settle back down. He just got finished reading the Book of Mormon for a program in the YW and YM called STOMP and it was a great accomplishment!

My mom has been back to work at the school for about 2 weeks now. She is doing the same stuff that she has been doing the past couple years, and she loves it. I honestly think it's the perfect job for her because not only does it keep her busy during the day, but there are many benefits to it. She is still an advisor in the Laurel Class, and continues to do so much for our family! Her birthday is next week, and we'll see what she asks for! She also finished the Book of Mormon with my dad and me.

Since Tiff graduated recently, she's just

been hanging out. She still lives in her own home, and I think she really likes it. It's far enough to feel like she's on her own, but close enough to come over when ever she wants to. We take advantage every time she is here, since she isn't over very often anymore. She still works at the bank, and is thinking about going to grad school to be a pharmacist. (My dad talked her into it...he said that industry is in great need so she's considering it.)

Heather is going on to her 2nd year of college. She just transferred over from Chandler-Gilbert Community College to Mesa Community College because Chandler-Gilbert didn't have some of the classes she wanted. We think she'll like that better because it's closer to home, and has more to offer. She also recently just got a job at the school where my mom works. She is

going to be a teacher's aid in a classroom. We're not sure which grade yet, somewhere between K-3. She hopes it will help her in her major and trying to decide what she wants to do when she is older.

Well, I am starting my senior year tomorrow. I'm pretty excited, but I think I have a lot in store for me. I don't have a full schedule, but right after school I will go to work. I still have the same job as a nanny, and I love it. It's taught me a lot about being a "parent" and other various things. I'm also doing student council which requires a lot of time and effort. We've already done a lot this summer, but throughout the year will do much, much more. I'm excited because it will get me really involved in the school and will help me get the service hours I need. I will start applying to colleges soon. I'm thinking about either ASU or NAU but we will see as the year goes on.

White

What a dream come true—to have such a wonderful reunion! The only way it could have been any better would've been to have Rich there, since Jeremy and Amberly are away on a mission for Heavenly Father! We thank each and every one for all you did to create a little bit of heaven on earth for your aging parents and grandparents! I thought it was perfect! Even when it rained in our tent, it didn't rain on the humanitarian stuff! That was a tender mercy.

So, back to life! We thank all of you for your good advice. You were so nice to express your thoughts and feelings and to tell us to go ahead and spend your inheritance! It meant so much to us to have you insist that you'd rather we use what we have earned here on the earth to make our senior years a little more comfortable. That was very unselfish! Thank you!

So—we proceeded to do just that! We went directly to the Summit from the reunion. Lawson, Kelly and kids spent Saturday night with us and we all went to Malad for church on Sunday. Then they left for home and we went back to the cabin. We began to pray about and discuss what we should do with the Summit

property. By midnight we had come to the conclusion that we would sell 5 acres! On Monday we went to the county court house to check recent land sale prices and immediately we had prospective buyers. By Tuesday we had a couple commit to buy (though they didn't make it soon enough) and by Wednesday we had earnest money from a different buyer. A week later and it was done! The buyer's names are Lynn and Joyce Stewart and they live in Deweyville, Utah. They are real go-getters! They have already cut in a road from the east. SO—we now have neighbors, but I don't think it'll bother us much.

We immediately put the money into CDs of varying denominations so we can get at it if we find a trailer we think will be nice. We used part of it plus trading in the van to buy a 2004 Volkswagen Touareg SUV. It'll pull 7300 pounds which we figure ought to be enough for us. Which means we're doing what you advised! And happy about it!

(This next stuff has changed already!) In the meantime, we wrote to Elder Didier who is the South West Area President. We told him we would like to serve a six month mission and felt very at-

tracted to the Mesa Family History Center (thanks, Larry!) We'll see if he thinks it will work to issue a call for us to come there on a mission. It's really meant to be a part-time mission for those who live in that area. We've really struggled and prayed about what we should be doing to serve the Lord. We always want to do His will!

It sure occurs to us that maybe our mission for the next little bit will be to stay with Lana's family while Rix has another surgery. I'll let her tell you about that.

We went to Lynn's siblings reunion at Tropic reservoir. We camped in our tent and got a little wet but had a good time. So good, in fact that we couldn't stop. The next night we camped in Kodachrome Basin State Park. It was so beautiful! We decided to take Highway 12—an All-American Scenic

By-Way to Capitol Reef National Park. What a wonderful drive! Through Grand Staircase Escalante National Park, Petrified Forest State Park, Anasazi Ruins State Park. It was great! We stayed in Capitol Reef one night and then decided we just *had* to stay another. We hiked and saw petroglyphs and enjoyed our camp. We even loved being in the tent! Only thing we had too little of was food! We didn't go prepared for so many days. But we sure loved it. And we loved our freedom to just keep staying!

We love you all. We pray so much for Jeremy on his mission. I hope all of us realize what a blessing it is to have a relative serving the Lord on a mission! We pray for Rich too! Serving our country to keep it strong. Heck, we pray for all of you—you each have concerns and goals and fears as well as successes and triumphs and happiness! WE LOVE YOU! I repeat—your parents and grandparents love each and every one of you!



Staircase

Utah Burnetts

We've had a fun, busy summer. Kelly was involved with a camp for the Laurels in our ward and she really enjoyed that. It was the same week as the Varsity Scout camp for Cason and me. Mom and Lynn took care of our kids for us.

At our Varsity Camp we had lots of fun activities. We went water skiing and then river rafting one day. I also went down part of the river in a kayak and only tipped over 3 times! Another day some of us (including myself) went on a 50 mile bike ride around Bear Lake. That was fun but pretty hard since none of us were really in shape for it.

After that week of camping we got home in time to pack up and head to Canada. We spent a few days at a beautiful campground called Indian Graves which is West of Calgary. We were able to take our ATVs and we had a lot of fun riding up there. (picture below)



Kelly's Mom has been talking about a gazebo for several years so we started working on that while we were there also (pic at right). We hope to get a roof on it next year!

From there we headed out (a little late) to head to Island Park for our family reunion. We had a great

time and enjoyed seeing everyone. After leaving the campground we drove over by the Island Park reservoir and rode our ATVs for a few hours. Then we headed home but decided to stop and spend the night at the Summit with Mom and Lynn. Then on Sunday we went to church in Malad and then went home.

Tanner and Thayne watched a special on Discovery about cannibalism. Thayne was pretty freaked out and slept on the floor by our bed for a few nights. Tanner just thought it was fun to keep reminding Thayne about it and trying to scare him and Landon and Meguire! Kelly and I were in the kitchen and Meg came out and told us that Tanner had told her there were 'camels' in the basement that were going to eat her! After giving Tanner a well deserved kick in the pants we had to convince Meg that 'camels' were nice and they didn't

eat people!

Kelly had another camp—ward girl's camp. She had a good time at that camp also. She said the girl's got along well. They had a hike planned for one of the days. They set off with a plan but took a wrong turn and a 5 mile hike turned into 8 or so miles and some very tired girls!

A friend of mine came with me and the boys to a fun fishing trip at Lost Creek. It's about an hour away from our house. We took a canoe and had a good time.



The boys were able to fish some and play around in the water.



I caught the biggest fish ever! Actually Thayne caught a pretty nice sized fish but I didn't get a picture.

Tanner was very happy to be invited to go to Sorensen's house with Laura and Zach. He had a great time. After the Weber County Fair and rodeo we brought Zach back to spend a few days with us.



(since the back page is empty I'll put some reunion pics there)

