



# Happy Happenings

Fourteenth Edition

December 1999

Greg, Ces, Rich, Amy, Brianna, Jeff:

Guten Tag from Deutschland! It's been a while since you've heard from us. We are finally getting settled here. We got our household goods the second week of October, most of them, that is. The rest of them came a couple of weeks later. That was very frustrating, because without all of it there, it was hard to figure out where to put everything. It's pretty much in place now and I'm ready to stay put for a while. Our house is pretty big now that we have the door between the two apartments. I was able to paint a couple of the rooms while we were waiting for our things, so now it feels more like it's truly our home.

It's interesting living in a stairwell with 18 families. We have two doors, but were primarily using the B side door since it was closer to the kitchen and the family room. The door was really hard to close, though, and it would slam every time we went in or out. We had a few complaints from our neighbors on that side and then a very pointed note so now we use the A side door. Music carries very well through the floors, too, so that's something we have to be aware of. All in all, our neighbors are very nice and we've made some good friends.

Rich and Amy are finished with Cross Country now. They had a very good time, I think, even though it was hard. Rich went to the division championship race at SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe) in Belgium. He got a time of 19:20 on a 5K course, which was a vast improvement on his first time of 24 minutes plus. Amy wasn't eligible to go because she's in Junior high but she'll go next year if she decides to do Cross Country.

We just ended the first quarter of the

school year. Rich got all A's except a B in his honors English class, but that's a weighted class so it's like an A. Amy got mostly A's and Brianna was on the honor roll at her school. Jeff doesn't get letter grades yet, but he got all of the highest marks on his report card too. These are really good schools here, small enough to know everyone yet big enough to have good programs and extracurricular activities.

I've been working a lot here. In fact, the only day out of the last month that I haven't worked was Veterans Day. I've had some really fun jobs, too. I got to teach ROTC one week while the teachers were gone to a conference. Then the Chemistry teachers dad got sick and she flew back to the states, so I got to teach her class for two weeks. That was right at grading time so they had me come in on the teacher work day and do her grades and then they even had me come in for parent teacher conference. This week I am subbing for the computer teacher who is in the hospital. I don't have anything to do in this class but write e-mails and read, because the only instructions I got was "they know what to do." I actually like it better when I am teaching. I have really learned that I can do anything if I set my mind to it. I would really like to go back to school and get my teaching degree so that I would have my own classes.

We've been so busy trying to get settled that we haven't been sightseeing yet, besides the fact that our car hasn't been working right. You really don't want to break down on the Autobahn. We are going skiing in the Alps for Christmas, though. The Army has a hotel and ski resort in the south of Germany right on the Swiss border. The prices are very reasonable, \$125 for three days for: ski rental, ski lessons, and lift tickets. We are really looking forward to our

first outing in Europe as a family.

The list of those going to Bosnia in 2001 came out last month and Greg was on it. He'll leave in June and be gone for six months. Since it's so far away, it hardly seems real, this will be the longest that we've ever been separated, which is really good considering that he is in the Army. I know it will be hard and that we'll miss him.

We love and miss you all, we hope that some of you can come visit us while we are here. Kimberly said that she saw a round trip ticket to Frankfurt for \$450. I know that's a lot but maybe not as much as you'd expect. I think it's going to be hard for all of us to get home for a while. We hope that Rich and Amy will be able to come for EFY this coming summer, but if Greg is going to get to see some of Europe, it will have to be this summer because he'll be in Bosnia the next summer. We pray for you often and think of you all.

Love, The Wilsons



Here's a "Flash from the past." In Christmas 1984, Loreen and Lana were Wise Men, Les and Greg were Mary and Joseph, and Rich was the Baby Jesus!



*Steve, Lisa, Christie, Jared, Jenny, Cory:*

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!! We will be spending the weekend up in Idaho at the Pierson's. I hear it is cold up there - Steve wasn't going to tell me how cold. I guess he thought it might ruin my trip, but I'll be tough!

Cory will be receiving his Arrow of Light award in scouts this month. Way to go, Cory! He also had a little excitement. Not that we are trying to keep up with the Burnett's or anything, but Cory broke a bone in his right hand. He has a cool blue cast for a month. Can't wait till he can shower again!!

We are thankful for great lives, good health, the gospel, and family. We love you all!

*Lawson, Kelly, Cason, Tanner, Thayne:*

Cason will be starting junior jazz (basketball) pretty soon. He's excited about that. We found at that Rebecca Bierwolf (Mom and Lynn's neighbor girl) teaches violin lessons, so we have Cason taking lessons from her. So far that's going well and he enjoys her as a teacher.

We had a parent teacher conference with Tanner's preschool teacher. She said he's doing very well with everything. Only thing is he tends to be a little energetic... big surprise huh?! We had a mouse in our kitchen. We caught it in a mouse trap so it's gone now, but Tanner got really spooked by it! When he goes to bed, he comments that he's scared a mouse will get him in the night. He stayed at Mom's one night and even told her he was scared a mouse would get him. It's funny how uninhibited he can be in many situations, but a little mouse worries him!

Thayne is just coasting along... not much different from last month. He doesn't quit talking very often! He still hasn't decided to use the bathroom

instead of his diaper. Kelly and I were commenting how different we are as parents with him. With Cason and somewhat with Tanner, we were all worried about things like potty training happening when it was 'supposed' to and all. Now with Thayne, we're a lot more relaxed. It will happen when he's ready. We encourage him of course, and reward him when he does, but we're not pushing him as much. Not sure if that's good or bad?!

I (Lawson) got called to teach the 8-year-old primary class. This is the first time I've ever been in primary and I've really enjoyed it. I can't believe how fast the time passes. I hate to say that the adult classes were boring, but with the kids, you always seem to be actively doing something and the time just zips by. Kelly teaches the 7-year-old class, so we get to spend more than just sacrament time together now!

We're planning to go to Tena's (Kelly's sister) house in Kingman, Arizona for Thanksgiving. We're not excited to be away from all the people here in Utah we normally spend Thanksgiving with, but it will be nice to visit with Tena and Tom. We don't see Kelly's family members very often.



*Mom made us matching pajamas for Christmas every year, and here we are (except Larry) in 1977 showing them off. THANKS, MOM!*

*Lana, Aaron, Jaxon, Jancy, Amberly:*

Hello! We are all doing well. The weather has been great so we have been outside lots. All of the cows & calves are back & that keeps Aaron busy. We still go with him. I thought it would slow down with the new baby, but we still go with him. We see coyotes, pheasants, beaver (we have some beaver that moved in & built a big dam), geese, ducks, & lots of deer. We have seen some really big bucks & Aaron was wishing he had gotten a license so he could shoot one.

Amberly is 3 months old & is still perfect. She sucks her thumb lots & sleeps through the night. She finds her thumb in the night & goes back to sleep.

Jancy is quite the little girl. A lady in our branch gave us a toddler bed so we put it up for Jancy. The first night she slept in it she was up & walking around 3 different times & didn't want to go back to sleep. She would walk in & start talking to me & it would scare me because I thought she should be in her crib. We put her back in the crib & Amberly in the toddler bed. We all get better sleep. Jancy is potty-trained. Yeah!! She was great & I am so glad because with her strong, independent personality, I thought it would be really hard. She tells me when she needs to go or just goes by herself. She has to carry out her pee to show me & I am always afraid it's going to spill.

Jaxon is growing up. He is always coming up with things for he & Jancy to play, & for the most part they play well together. They ride stick horses & bikes or jump or play in the sand box. He likes to write & play with Hayden Rose.

I started doing the fall leaf wall quilt like Lisa's. Julie and 2 other ladies want to learn so we get together Mon. & Fri. & I try to show them what to do. The kids love it because they have lots of kids to play with. I am still in the Primary Presidency, but I am also in the nursery. So far it has been OK except the kids never get a break from me.



## My Gift

by Eugene Field



Nor crown, nor robe, nor spice I bring  
As offering unto Christ, my King.  
Yet have I brought a gift the Child  
May not despise, however small;  
For here I lay my heart today,  
And it is full of love to all.  
Take Thou the poor but loyal thing,  
My only tribute, Christ, my King!

### Todd, Coreen, Britt & Hannah:

Hi, everyone! We are doing well and hope you are all okay, too.

November was a pretty quiet month for us. I (Loreen) went grocery shopping with my friend, McKell, and her husband, Dave, watched our two girls and their two boys at our house. Dave said that he was amazed at the differences between boys and girls. Brittney said, "Let's play ball." Everyone was fine with that until the boys figured out that they had to dress up and go to a ball, not kick a ball around. Benson refused so Dave had to be the Prince which is something he's never done before. Benson found some wood so he wanted to build trusses. Dave asked the girls if they wanted to help and he said they looked at him like they didn't know what he was talking about (which they didn't).

Brittney wants to be a ballerina. She and Hannah practice (below) and have



pretty good form. She loves to make houses and beds and things in different places. As long as Hannah has a baby with her, she'll go along with whatever game Brittney chooses.

Hannah thinks she's 4 and that she can do whatever Brittney does. She can recognize 6 letters and write the letter "H" (or make it with food or toys) She loves to use the word "suddenly," like, "I was sitting on the chair and suddenly I fell off." She also says, "Isn't that AMAZING!" and "That's a problem" and "Now we got it figured out." She puts the silverware away. She LOVES babies and she's a great little mom. She's really into wearing dresses so that she can wrap the baby up in the skirt of the dress. She and Brittney love to wear each other's clothes, especially jammies. Here's a picture of Hannah with her black eye.



I have Grandmother's bookshelves, the ones that have a shelf, a corner shelf, and another shelf. I decided I wanted to refinish them because I really like them and they needed it. I sanded, stained and varnished them and they are beautiful! I'll try to get a picture in for next month.

Todd played flag football in our ward's annual "Turkey Trot" and has been sore (VERY sore) for several days, but he had fun so it was worth it.

I cooked my first Turkey all by myself for Thanksgiving. I also did stuffing and yams which I've never done. It all turned out well. We had some friends over and had a good time.

We are very excited for the Christmas season. We will miss you all, but hope you have a GREAT Christmas!!

### Mom & Lynn:

Hi. Yall!!! Your Mom wants me (Lynn, Grandpa, Whoever) to write the newsletter item this month. And it's the very last hour to get it done. Here goes. There isn't much chance that this will be nearly the quality of the last few your Mom has done. Isn't she great?!

We've just come through the Thanksgiving season. What a sweet, loving time we have had!! Laura, Greg and kids, Lana and kids (Aaron couldn't get away from work), David, Shauna and kids, and Gwen, Ed and kids were all here for Thanksgiving Day. (That makes 28 of us here for Thanksgiving.) Then Lisa, Steve and kids dropped in for an hour or so today on their way home from Rexburg, and Lawson, Kelly and kids wrapped it up with a pop visit tonight. We (your Mom and I) have overdosed on love. It has been great!! The only thing which could have made it better would have been for all of us to have been together at the same time (but probably not here - the house was about to its capacity).

I'm not sure how many of you know - Gaylene and Joe have been trying for years to have children. They have tried everything. They finally decided to try to adopt. They have been working through an agency which brings babies in from Korea. (The agency has been around for a long time, and has a very good name in the business.) Well, a couple of months ago they received word that they had a baby for them - a girl born on July 14. She was born at term, but rather small, 5 plus pounds, reportedly in good health. They still had lots of paperwork rigamarole to go through, and they were told it would take somewhere between 2 - 4 months to complete it all. Well, she called this afternoon to say the baby will be delivered to them in Omaha (they live in Lincoln Nebraska, so it's only an hour drive for them) on Friday (I think that is December 3, isn't it?) They are naming her Bailey, keeping her Korean name of



Yo Rim as a middle name, Steinbach. Those two are about as excited as any two people could be. I'm sooo glad for them. They will finally have a baby! And another plus, the agency reports that the chances for adopting a girl is not very great, there are far more adoptable boys than girls. This leaves the possibility open for them to apply to adopt a boy in the future.

David and Shauna are in a quandry. David isn't happy where he is (Melaluca). They have sold their home in Idaho Falls (felt a prompting to do so - and it sold very quickly) and are renting a small home. Anyway, he has kinda wanted to come back to the Church to work. They made a position for him - pretty much just what he wanted. But he couldn't feel this is what the Lord wants him to do. So he said 'no' with a great deal of anguish. Now he is trying to figure out what it is the Lord does want him to do (I know that feeling too).

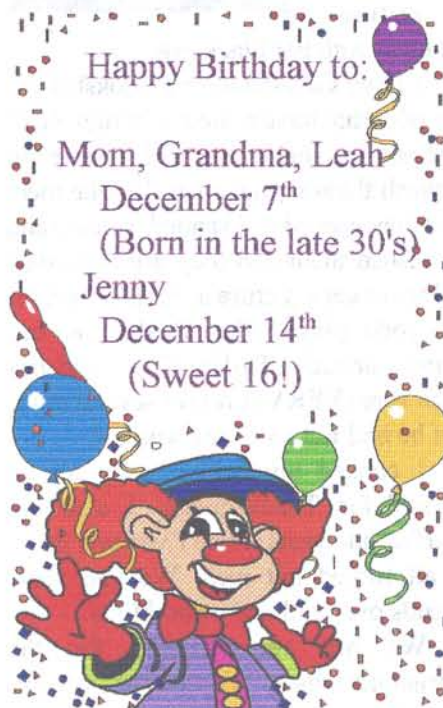
At this Thanksgiving season my heart has turned more than ever to all the blessings I have, of which I am aware. It is amazing how deep a debt of gratitude I owe to the Lord - and to so many people. I am so very grateful for each of you! You are my family! Family means so much to me! Thank you - everyone of you! I love you! One of the speakers in Sacrament Meeting this morning suggested writing to people who have had a special impact on my life. Since then I have thought a lot about doing that. One problem is that I would spend every day for the next several months writing letters! Another problem is that a number of these people have already gone on - my parents, and grandparents as examples. Just, for now, Know how much I value you and the fact that we are in the same family - ours!!

## *At Age 74*

*by Agnes Palmer*

*Will the earth spin off its' axis?  
It's whirling 'round so fast.  
I hardly see the new year in  
Then find that it is past!*

*When I was just a little lass  
It seemed the time would never pass  
I always tho't it was a year  
From Fall 'til Christmas bells I'd hear.*



Todd and Loreen will celebrate  
their 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on  
December 17<sup>th</sup>!

