



Happy Happenings

Twenty-first Edition

July 2000

LAWSON & KELLY:

Knock-knock jokes are all the rage at our house. They're often made up on the fly and are very silly! Thayne learned the 'phillip' one: *Knock-knock. Who's there? Phillip. Phillip who? Phillip my cup, I'm thirsty.* One morning he said this one to Kelly at breakfast... had his empty cup and everything! Kelly said he said knock-knock but then didn't remember for sure what to say. She had to remind him 'phillip' then he said 'oh yeah' and finished it!

A few weeks ago, Kelly heard something out our back door so she went to look out and see what it was. She was standing right by the back door, turned on the light and jumped! There was a racoon sitting there on top of the back porch railing! He climbed down and wandered off, but we thought it was pretty funny to have that visitor at our house! We don't normally see animals like that where we live.

Kelly and I got a chance to go to something fun recently. My boss at work bought 10 tickets to a musical gala and let some of us at work have them. They were \$100 per plate! They served a nice dinner and then had a musical program. It was fun even though I didn't recognize any of the music! The music was from the 30's and 40's.

Kids are out of school now and Kelly's enjoying the summer so far. She's glad to not have to get up quite as early! She's having the kids do homework type stuff and jobs each morning. Kelly's doing a 'work game' to help with jobs. She puts jobs and some fun things on little papers in a container and the boys take turns picking papers out and doing whatever it says. It makes it fun enough that they

enjoy it and ask to play the 'work game'!

Cason did well in school. He got 100% attendance and 98% in spelling. He did well in all of his subjects. He's a good boy to have around most of the time!

Tanner graduated from preschool. His teacher had a little ceremony for them. She had them sing some songs and do different things they had learned.

I've mentioned a few times over the past months that Thayne hasn't been interested in graduating from diapers to underwear. Kelly decided to just bite the bullet and train him anyway! He doesn't have accidents usually, but Kelly says it's because she's trained, not him!! She has to remember to have him go to the bathroom. If she doesn't, he doesn't ever come to her. In time I guess! Thayne had his first dental appointment and he didn't like it at all! He just cried and cried at having two strangers hands in his mouth! Thayne's learning about hot sauce. He's kind of changed over the last while. He used to be very sweet and cute. Now he's 2 and has a bit of an attitude! He's a little sassy and really knows how to stick out his tongue. When he does, he gets a drop of hot sauce! He just hates it! You'd think he'd learn, but that little tongue just keeps coming out!

Kelly's still keeping up with her jogging and reading. She read a couple of Anita Stansfield books this last week and enjoyed those. Kelly went to a women's conference here in Ogden a few weeks ago and Anita Stansfield spoke at it. Julie de Azevedo was also there and did a little concert. Kelly really enjoyed that - it was a whole Saturday. She probably wishes she had Saturdays like that a little more often!

I started an "Intro to music" class this last week. It's my very last class before finally getting my Computer Science degree! I'm excited to finally be almost done with that.



Happy Fourth of July!!

THE PIERSON'S:

Hi, all! I always wonder what I can say that won't bore everyone. Hopefully I don't! Our summer is off to a busy start. Cory finished his summer band class, and did real well learning to play the trumpet. He loves to play those songs good and loud! I wonder what the neighbors think about those sounds coming from our house!

Jenny started her college classes. She is finding out that she has to study! She started working at the restaurant, still babysits for that family, works on Laurel projects, and tries to do things with friends, so she stays real busy.

Jared has been trying to trick us all lately. He'll tell me that he wants to do a joke on dad, then he'll go find Steve. Jared will tell Steve to look at something, then say, "Ha ha, made you look!" Today he told me there was something in my ear, then when I reached up to see what it was, he said,

"Ha ha, fooled you!" What a kid! He finally started school last week. It is just in the morning, but it gives him somewhere to go. He loves the bus ride, and being with people.

Christie started two Institute classes at UVSC in the evenings. She wants to meet new people. She enjoys the teachers and learning about the scriptures.

In Young Women we challenged the girls (and leaders) to read the Book of Mormon this summer. We have it figured that if we read 7 pages a day, we will be finished before school starts. It has been a neat thing for me. I have enjoyed feeling the Spirit of the book as I have read it this time.

Steve is still trying to solve computer problems! I don't understand what he does, but I know he works hard! We love you all!!

THE WILSONS:

Hi, everybody. This is going to be very short because I am swamped. I am here at BYU and loving it. People tell me that I am insane because I am taking 14 credits in summer term which translates to about 28 in a normal semester, but I only have summer to work with so I do what I must. I have two math classes and two education classes and a religion class. Some people might say that I don't have to take the religion class because I could get that through independent study, but I have always wanted to come to BYU in part because of the wonderful religious education that you can get from people who have insights that you could never hope to have. I am so grateful to be here and I am learning a lot. It takes all of my time just to keep up, though. One of the only reasons that this is even possible for me is that Laura very generously offered to take Brianna and Jeff with her and her kids on their trip to Arkansas. They have been gone for over a week now and it sounds like they are having a

My Days are Filled with Labor by Agnes Palmer

*I'll dream my dream by the fireside
In the morn I'll sing a song.
I'll meet each task
With a smile, and ask
Only to be strong.
My thoughts shall rise in the
morning
Like the lark on joyful wing.
I'll sing good cheer
And year by year
I pray I may be strong.*

*My dream is of sweet contentment
By the side of a rippling brook;
Of flowers that sway in the sunshine
And the joy of an open book.
My dream is of lazy hours
With a moon swinging low in the sky
Of love and gladness and romance
With no thought of time hast'ning
by.*



*My days are filled with labor;
I have no time for care.
I must be strong and ready
Another's load to share.
I have no time to idle;
I cannot pause, I know.
But in the still of evening
By the firelight's golden glow.
I'll snatch a moment's dreaming
And who will ever know?*

*Tasks are often heavy And days are
often drear
But all day long
Like a low sweet song
The sound of my dream I hear.
So I'll dream my dream by the
fireside
Of flowers and sun and song
And at each new task
May I smile and ask
Only to be strong.*

wonderful time. They went to the Grand Canyon, Carlsbad Caverns, San Antonio, Sea World, and they will be going to New Orleans. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to see these things and for them to be with their cousins and I am very grateful to Laura for being so thoughtful as to include them.

Amy is at EFY at Ricks (now BYU Idaho) right now. We were really excited that she got this chance to go and we are really looking forward to hearing all about it when she gets back. She will be taking a trip to Tennessee to see her old friends there in July, so she won't be able to come to the family reunion. She is really having a busy summer.

Rich is in Germany with his dad, looking for a job and hanging out with

his friends. The last time I talked to them Greg was pretty sure that he had a job at a bakery on post, plus he can bag groceries at the commissary, so hopefully the next time I talk to them there will be more working than hanging out. We all miss each other very much and this does seem like a strange way for a family to behave, but I want everyone to know that Greg and I both prayed diligently before we made these decisions and both felt like it was the right thing to do, (although, even at the time Greg wondered why.) Our efforts have certainly been blessed, with everything working out so that it all is possible, so it really seems to have been the right decision. We love you all and miss you, wherever you are. Love, Leslie and all the Wilsons scattered abroad.

MOM & LYNN:

Hi from your Parents! What a great summer we're having. Thanks to all who helped get the cabin and grounds in order. Gwen, Ed, Blaine, Krista, Kylie, Dallin & Preston, Lawson, Kelly, Cason, Tanner & Thayne, Jeremy, Anthony, Ondylyn and Zachary all helped SO much and it looks great. It's super to be able to go and just "hang out" by the stream. AND the carpet makes such an improvement. It's a REAL cabin now!

The White Family Reunion went very well. Attendance was down but all the brothers and sisters except the ones on missions were there and I think they enjoyed it very much. They told stories of their childhood and we looked at old pictures. Ed hosted "Do You Know Your Family", a Jeopardy-style and it was a big hit. We had twister for 200. Kelly did several cute activities with the kids. We played board games and family bingo. The grown-ups sat by the stream and talked. The kids played IN the stream, or in the wading pool. The four-wheelers were going almost constantly. Lynn gave out some super gag prizes to people nominated by the crowd. And Lawson got a lot of it on video! It was great. We sure do thank Lawson and Kelly for supporting us in putting on a great party. Everyone commented on how super it was and how good it was of Lawson and Gwen (and families) to help so much. They all said they had a very good time. Thanks so much, for helping! On Sunday we had a testimony meeting and it was very touching. There was lots of good food, not many bugs, no rain, very little strong wind. Nobody got hurt or sunburned or mad. Now, what more could you ask for? We belong to a great family by marriage and they totally accept all of us.

Lynn is still thinking and praying about what to do about his cancer. He is looking into Proton Radiation therapy administered at Loma Linda Hospital in California. Larry, or anyone else, do you know anything about that hospital

and its reputation? Or about Proton radiation? After fasting and praying we were leaning toward surgery even though it's so icky and the side-effects so awful. But when Lynn heard about this he got very excited and encouraged. So, he's going to make contact with them and maybe go for a consultation. Keep praying! We appreciate your thoughts and prayers!

We love you lots. We're really looking forward to the reunion. We'll miss Loreen, Todd, Brittney, Hannah, Greg, Richie, and I guess, Amy. I also hear by the grapevine that we'll miss Larry, Jill, Tiff, Heather and Katelyn. We're sad but we understand that things come up. And NO, we're not one bit mad that you won't be there! You have been great supporters and we know you'd be there if you could. We'll sure be glad to have Leslie, Brianna and Jeff as unexpected attendees! We should have a great time! See you at the CABIN!

Just as this paper goes to press we have an update from Mom on the latest catastrophes and miracles:

Lynn replaced the pump on the swamp cooler Wednesday night. Here's something to watch out for: the water tube was draped down so that the fan blade CUT it. I turned it on high cool Thursday morning in great anticipation. I had the day outlined: Mow the lawn, weed the garden, weed the flower beds, work in the pond. Lots to do after being gone a week for Lynn's family reunion. But not to worry--it's all stuff I really like to do. BUT, I *knew* I'd be sweating and would need the swamp cooler. Like the three bears, I went for a walk. No, I went to Smith's for tickets to "Stadium of Fire." When I got back, I heard a crackling sound. It was the under-the-counter radio in the kitchen. Sputtering from the water dripping in it. I looked around and wow, dirty brown water in all over the kitchen. The plexiglass on the light fixture was FULL of water. I ran up to turn off the

swamp cooler and found more water coming from every opening, light switches, cracks around the door to our bedroom. NIGHTMARE. The corner of our bedroom ceiling was drooping under the weight. I called Lynn in tears, and he had me turn off the water which supplies the cooler. Duh! I went to SLC and got him and we began the chore of clean-up. We used the Bissell and sucked up a lot of water before we realized how really serious it was. So Lynn called our insurance people and then called a disaster rescue service. They came and pulled up the carpet in our bedroom, the hall and Loreen's room and cut out the pad. Then they put the big fan under it to dry it out. Looking back, it wasn't nearly as bad as it could have been. Plus--we have insurance and will only have to pay the \$250 deductible. Lots of people don't even have houses or swamp coolers! We feel fortunate that I was only gone an hour or so. It could've been REALLY bad. Right now, we're considering replacing the carpet. It's 13 years old and looking a little rough. We'll see.

SO....An update on Laura's adventures. Laura, Jeremy, Anthony, Ondylyn and Zachary, plus Brianna and Jeffrey are on an EXTENDED trip! They've been doing very well and having a great time with very little mishap. We pray for them EVERY prayer! And Heavenly Father is surely watching out for them! Witness: The latest in their saga. I talked to Laura on Thursday June 29 and she updated me on all they had been doing. She said the most popular thing they'd done was swim in the Gulf and they were going to try to go in one more time before heading inland. Several hours later she called with this report. They went to the beach at Biloxi Mississippi. She told the kids they could just change into their suits in the back of the van and GUESS who was first in the water? Right--the boys. Laura was keeping the engine going so she could have air conditioning, and a lady came up to the

van. She said that there had been shark sightings there and that Laura probably didn't want her kids in the water. The lady told of a man who had been attacked and injured by sharks several weeks ago. OH--that explained why there was no one in the water! As Laura went out to call the boys in she heard a blood-curdling cry from Anthony. He had been stung by a Man 'O War jellyfish. They said it was a biggie, probably 10 inches in diameter. He was REALLY hurt and she called 911 (thank heavens for cell phones.) They sent an ambulance and took him to the hospital. Now, I'm not being gross, just repeating what several people, including the hospital staff, have said. The best antidote for the poison would've been a guy's urine! BUT, it has to be more or less continuous, (hard to get enough guys with enough pee), so they used vinegar and meat tenderizer! In the emergency room! Thank Heavens (literally) he's O.K.

I'm sure we would all like to hear more of their adventures. How 'bout it for August Newsletter, Laura????

Happy Birthday



Heather

July 3rd

Leslie

July 22nd

THE COONS FAMILY:

Life is great for us. The other day Brittney said, "Mom, you're getting pregnant!" She's right, but I feel really well as long as I get enough sleep.

We've done some fun Family Home Evening things lately like to go "Dunky Donuts" and set up our tent to make sure it's okay to take camping next week. The tent leaks water and the air mattress leaks air, so we'll see how the camping trip goes! We have also enjoyed The Bronx Zoo and the Mystic Aquarium (the girls and I with other moms and kids).

Our garden is starting to give us some peas. We have lots of beautiful flowers blooming and we really enjoy them!

Todd is less busy at work finally, so that is a very nice change! Here is a picture of the girls having a picnic in the yard. We love you all!

