

Happy Happenings

December 2000 Twenty-sixth Edition

Mom & Lynn

We've had a great November. We feel very grateful that Lynn was able to receive what we think is the best treatment for his prostate cancer. He had a lot of help deciding! We studied options on the internet, leaflets, material from the American Cancer Society, and visited four different doctors with different viewpoints. Lynn had blessings, had his name put on several Temple prayer rolls, had the prayers of his family and his own prayers, and finally made the decision to have the Brachytherapy treatment. On Halloween day he had 34 hollow needles inserted into his prostate by a surgeon. Then the radiation specialists dropped about 150 pellets containing radioactive iodine along the path as the needles were withdrawn. (Who do you think got the Trick or Treat?) He had comparatively little difficulty with recovery and is doing pretty well. So, at this season of the year, we feel that we have a whole lot to be thankful for.

We're also thankful for all of you. It's surely humbling to know that you have 11 children and 10 children-in-law plus 37 wonderful grandchildren whom you love and who love you. How blessed we are! Please know and remember how much we think of you and pray for you all. We love to be with you and share in your lives! Let us know when important things are happening and we'll be there if at all possible.

We sure will be busy this December! We love our mission as ushers on Temple

Square! It's a real privilege and usually doesn't tax our time or effort very much at all. But during December, we have many assignments and they've made it plain that we're needed for every one of the events. It's a great time to be on Temple Square--there's such a "peace-on-earth" feeling and we truly see folks from all over the world. We have been told several times that the Prophets have said that those who come through the gates to the square all come for a purpose. They are guided. They are inspired. We need to greet them with smiles and friendliness and let the Spirit and missionaries take over. It's a wonderful blessing.

Another thing we have to be grateful for is that we just about have our house back in order from the June flood! And, we're sure the flood was a blessing in disguise. And boy, was it disguised! But we now have fresh paint and new carpet over much of the house and have an almost finished basement to boot! Amazing! I'm sure ready to get back to writing my history, doing picture albums and doing family history! I'm ready to invite Lisa and Laura to come and not expect them to help with decorating. And to be able to have Lawson or Aaron or Steve or Greg come and not give them a job to do. You've all been so helpful and we thank you!

Thanks, Loreen for doing our wonderful newsletter!



Todd
and
Loreen

Life is great for us. November was pretty uneventful. We had a nice Thanksgiving with our friends, the Crows. Todd took the week off and we painted the living room, did some other things around the house, and just had fun together. The day after Thanksgiving Todd played in the "Turkey bowl" (football with the ward) and was sore -very sore - for several days afterward.

We enjoyed going to a real Christmas tree farm to get our tree. The man gave us a hand saw and we went hiking around a mountainside. We found the perfect tree and cut it ourselves. We got it home and decorated and are really enjoying it. We love the Christmas season! It's so fun with kids! We finally had our first snow. It was really pretty but it melted the same day. Brittney went out and caught some in her mouth, but other than that, we didn't get out in it.

The kids are doing great. Hannah keeps us entertained by putting on layers and layers of dress-up clothes and all the barretts, clips and bows she can in her hair and making up fun stories and games. Aubrey is such a good baby. She usually just gets up once a night and is so pleasant when she's awake. We are blessing her on Dec. 3 and will miss you all. Brittney is learning to read and enjoying school. She'll go on her first field trip next week.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!!



Lana & Aaron
November was a good month. We are all doing well. Jaxon still likes to go riding all the time even though it has been minus ten degrees in the morning and gets up to 15 or 20. He's usually pretty cold when he gets home from being out with Dad. He's a good worker and likes to help. He is easily motivated by praise or stickers (or money - just kidding). He plays well with his sisters. He likes to color, draw, dance to cowboy music, and go swimming. We usually go swimming once a week.

Jancy is the dancer in the family. When she hears music on the TV or radio she has to put on dancing clothes and come out and dance. She has quite a few moves and shakes that might make a mother worry. She also likes to sing songs. Her favorite for the past four or five months is the "Table song." Remember the one we always sang before Thanksgiving dinner - "Hungry, hungry, we are hungry?" One night before bed she wanted a silly song and that was the only one that came to mind and she has loved it ever since. She likes to ride horses, too, but doesn't brave the cold as well as Jaxon. She still loves Hannah, our kitty, who we found out is a boy. Oops! Too late because the name has already stuck.

Amberly is getting quite independent. She is very good and usually keeps herself entertained pretty well. She communicates very well without using words. She still loves her thumb and has latched onto a feathery scarf thing that she found at our friends' house. She carries it everywhere which doesn't work too well because it drags behind her and Hannah loves it and chases it.

Aaron keeps busy feeding 750 calves twice a day and keeping track of 400 cows that are out on pasture. His mom asked him to make a log bed for his sister, Darcie. It has turned into quite a project and brings back log house memories. It's a fun family project. We go to the shop and turn up the heater. We work and the kids drive the Barbie jeep, ride bikes, pull each other in a wagon, or help us work. It's fun.

We had a sadness in our family a couple of weeks ago when Aaron ran over Jane, one of our favorite dogs. So he is on the "perfect dog" quest again.

I have been working on church projects. I did the day-after-Thanksgiving shopping by myself this year. It's safer in Riverton than Utah. There were some people, but I was able to walk right in and get what I wanted. Also, it was nice to only have two stores to go to. We love you all and hope you have a Merry Christmas!

Lisa & Steve Happy Thanksgiving, family! We are thankful for such a great family! We are also thankful that our big tree made it through another snow storm with all the leaves still on. The tree was still covered with leaves the day we got eight inches. Steve, Cory, and I spent hours out there with big coats with hoods and umbrellas trying to bump the snow off the leaves and branches. That tree knows that we love it, because it hung in there! Once the snow stopped, we prayed for a big wind to blow the leaves off, and we got it. All of one night and the next day the wind blew like crazy - and most all the leaves were gone!

We are all doing well. The kids are getting excited for Christmas. It's hard to believe it is here again. Not too long ago we were talking about the beginning of the year 2000 - now it will be 2001!!

Cory finished his BYU Power Word which means he has 10 merit badges which means he gets to pick out a new game for the Sega Dreamcast!! Yea! Love you all!!

**Lawson
and
Kelly**



How 'bout this picture! (Mom) pulled out of one of my albums? Pretty good looking bunch--huh? This is at Zachary's blessing. I'll be publishing historical pictures from time to time.

Sorry we missed last month. We were going to announce that Kelly is pregnant in the newsletter last month. But things got busy and we didn't get anything submitted to Loreen. Most of you know by now, but in case you don't, Kelly is pregnant! She's due on March 27th which means she's a little more than halfway along now. We had the 20 week ultrasound a few weeks ago, but Kelly had decided she didn't want to know if it was a boy or a girl, so we didn't find out. A couple of things the ultrasound technician said make us think it's probably a boy, but we don't know for sure. Kelly really wants to have one little girl. I think if this one's not, we should probably just adopt! We'll need another bedroom with this addition, so we'll be starting to work on getting at least one room done in our basement.

We've been carrying the contract for the people that bought our house in Ogden. The last months, payments started coming late and then just didn't come at all. We ended up having the house signed back over to us a while ago. We're fixing up a few things to get it ready to try to sell again. In the meantime, we're having to make 2 house payments and man, that's not easy! We don't have an extra \$700.00 in our budget each month! Thank goodness we had sold a litter of puppies recently so we have some money in savings from that and a few other things happening should help us make it through.

Cason is doing well in school. His teacher appreciates how he always has a smile on his face. The theme for the Reflection's Contest at school this year is "It would be really strange if..." Cason drew a picture of a house with a dog watching TV and a dog fixing the roof with a pet human chained up to the doghouse!

Tanner enjoys school and his teacher says he's the best kid! We went to his SEP and his teacher said his strengths were that he's always on task, follows directions, good listener and so forth. We asked her if she could help him bring all that good stuff home with him! Tanner really is a joy to have around. Tanner's entry in the Reflection's Contest was "It would be strange if cars had legs!" He made a pretty good drawing of a car with legs! Tanner's learning to read and write quite well. He can really write his name, as evidenced by the fact that it's written all over our house! He's written it on his bookshelf in his room and on toys and walls all around the house!

Tayne's coming up with some funny words here and there as he grows and learns. The other day he asked Kelly to 'keep an eye watch on my blanket' while he went to the bathroom! He's a fun little guy to have. Everybody thinks he's cute and offers to take him home. Sometimes we feel like letting them, but not too often!

Goodnight, Dear Heart
by Agnes Palmer

*Goodnight, dear heart.
The day has gone to rest.
Shadows fall softly. - Night broods -
A bird upon her nest.
Her soft comfort stills
My aching heart.
And, in heaven's far reach,
A single star fills
My hungry soul with peace.
Goodnight, dear heart!
For the long, still hours God watches
Over those who care.
And in the infinity of His love
He hears love's prayer; -
Sending peace - A promise
of completion.*

