

January, 2001

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27th  
edition

Happy Happenings

**Todd & Loreen:**

On December 3rd, Todd blessed Aubrey. She looked beautiful in the dress that Mom bought, and Todd gave her a very nice blessing. We missed everyone, especially thinking back to Brittney and Hannah's blessings and how many of you were there to share those special days with us.



On December 17th (our 7th anniversary), we spoke in church. We were given the topic of "Miracles." Afterward we were told that one of our Senators was in the congregation. His wife is a member and that's



only the second time since we've lived here that they have come. Obviously he must have known we were speaking and cancelled his appointment with the President.

We had a fabulous Christmas!! The girls were so fun. Todd had ten days off. It was great! We did a few little projects but mostly just enjoyed being together.

For New Year's we went to our friends' house in Schenectady, New York. We took our new ice cream maker and made Peppermint ice cream. It was some

of the best ice cream we've ever had (and we've had our share of ice cream!) We also took the homemade popcorn from Lana and it was great, too. When we got home we were snowed out! We parked on the street and carried the girls inside, then Todd shoveled and drove the van in. We got over a foot of snow.

We were asked to watch some friends' fish and house and walk the dog of some other friends twice a day. After waiting in 10 degree weather for the dog to go to the bathroom, we've decided Connecticut is a fish state! We love and miss you all.



Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

CHRISTIE JAN. 9  
STEVE JAN. 18  
CASON JAN. 19

MOM AND LYNN  
ON JAN 2!!





## NOSTALGIA CORNER

(or a Mother-in-law's ruminations)

In light of what has become known around the Ricks College campus as "*THE ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE TRANSITION*," Lynn and I have been indulging and a little nostalgia AND gratitude for that great institution. In the Fall 2000 issue of the Summit Magazine issued to Ricks College Alumni, an article reported the results of some interviews with alumni and others about what *they* thought of the changes. Some of the comments were pretty much what you'd expect: "I was upset at first but I've repented, knowing where the announcement originated" etc. But one comment was particularly salient.

One lady they interviewed--Eleanor--said, "I know the effect it has on young people who go there. They come away changed for the better. Some of them even find the one they'll marry when they are there." And I thought about the absolute correctness of that statement.

So this is a 'thank you' to Heavenly Father for Ricks College. (I can still use that name--I'm writing this December 7, 2000).

1. So, Larry, would you give Ricks College credit for helping you find your great wife? Yup, even though Larry never attended one class at Ricks, that's where he met Jill. What a miracle. He had to become *really* sick in Bolivia and be sent back to recover *exactly* at the time I was going to attend Mother's week at Ricks, to make it happen. Just an introduction to one of Lisa's roommates and there were Chocolate chip cookies for "Elder Burnett" and long talks and the rest is history.
2. And then there's Lisa. Even though she may have *thought* she knew where her life was headed, meeting Steve at Ricks turned on the fire and cancelled all that other stuff out. It was true love and it conquered! What kind of red car did you drive while you were at Ricks, Steve? Steve was there for Lisa when she became so ill that she had to leave and come home. That didn't stop him!

Now Greg and Greg, we surely don't want to say that meeting Leslie and Laura at Utah State wasn't wonderful. Because we love you and are *so* glad you were there at the right time. Especially the Greg who was taking "one more quarter" hoping to meet the right wife! I don't mean to slight you!

3. Boy, Lawson and Kelly really have an interesting history at Ricks. In the first place, Lawson was a student at Ricks before he ever even visited Rexburg Idaho or registering for classes! That's because I did it for him. Since he was coming home from his mission just as school would start, he asked Loreen and me to get him signed up for classes. (I hope he's forgiven us for putting him into a math class more advanced than he would have liked!) And even though Kelly had had *lots* of schooling and training, there she was at Ricks, just waiting for Lawson. We're so glad!
4. I'll never forget the first time I saw Loreen and Todd together. Of course, I had been hearing about him in letters and phone calls. But what a shock when I went to Ricks College for Mother's week to walk into the Snow building and see Loreen *sitting on his lap*. Who was this strange boy my daughter was with? Well, Lynn had told her she couldn't marry anyone she wasn't absolutely twitterpated over, and sure enough she had found the one! But what self-control! Two missions later and then the wedding bells. Still, Ricks was the starting place!

Now, when Lana appealed to Lynn about what she should possibly do with her life, he advised her to think of what made her happy. Turned out that going to Utah State and taking "horsey" classes allowed her to meet Aaron. So there's another point for the Aggies!

Well, I haven't even mentioned Gwen and Ed, who met at Ricks because I'm not sure of their story.

But, bottom line, Eleanor was certainly correct. They *do* come away changed for the better. And a *LOT* of them find the one they'll marry! Thank you, Heavenly Father for Ricks College and the part it's played in my life. I owe Ricks a lot! My great sons-in-law and daughters-in-law. Plus loads of wonderful grandchildren!



So, with such a wonderful year behind us, what can we expect in 2001? With increasing "maturity" (in other words, as I get older), I realize that there's no way to forecast! Just hang on for the ride! Some of the great things that happened in the year 2000 (not in any special order):

1. I joined a book club. We meet once a month in the home of one of the members and discuss a book chosen by that person. I have read diverse literature and have come to appreciate and understand viewpoints other than my own. I LOVE IT!
2. Lisa, Laura and I attended different temples in the area on a (loosely) monthly basis. I have enjoyed this so much. A spiritual time with two of my daughters followed (usually) by a fun lunch at one of their houses. A great tradition and one I hope we'll continue in 2001.
3. Lynn and I were called to be part-time service missionaries serving as ushers on Temple Square and the Conference Center. What a great opportunity! We are enjoying it SO much!
4. We have taken several fun trips:
  - May—Pennsylvania and Connecticut. Visited national historic sites and the Coons family in Newington.
  - September—Seattle, Washington. Visited several National Parks and my cousin Vic Smith and his wife Ev in Sequim.
  - September—Loma Linda, California. Visited the hospital there to investigate Proton radiation therapy. Visited Joshua Tree National Park.
  - September—Riverton Wyoming. I went to visit Lana & kids during deer hunt and got *snowed in!*
  - October—Newington, Connecticut. A new grandchild. How wonderful little Aubrey is!
  - December—Riverton, Wyoming. Christmas with the Sorensens! So many fun and *unique* experiences with great kids.
5. I served once again as Gospel Doctrine Teacher (making the 4<sup>th</sup> time for a total of about nine years). What a great calling. I was released when we were struggling with decisions regarding Lynn's cancer. In December I was called to be the Ward Family History Consultant. Lynn continued to serve in the High Priest Group leadership. The Group Leader says he can't do without Lynn.
6. We hosted two Family Reunions at the Summit. We love that place! We are relishing each and every visit since it looks likely that we will have to sell it to make ends meet when Lynn retires.
7. We had a great time with Leslie and kids and were able to accompany many of our family members to the film "The Testaments" at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. What a wonderful experience, witnessing once again to the truthfulness of the gospel and our Church.
8. Quite unexpectedly we "got" to paint and carpet our house. Yup, the swamp cooler flood in June caused a domino effect even extending to the basement. Oh well, we admit it needed to be done. But did it have to be a flood? Guess so.
9. We initiated a monthly family birthday celebration which makes it so much easier for Grandma and Grandpa. We attended Cason's baptism and Jared and Anthony's ordination. We also made it to Tanner's soccer game and to Cory and Anthony's band concert. We "sat" at least overnight with the L.E. Burnett Kids, the Dye kids, the Coons kids and the Sorensen kids. Let's see, anything else? Sorry if I missed something.
10. Last of all, one of the "great" things of the year 2000 was Lynn's successful (we trust) treatment of his prostate cancer.

Well, there are some of the things which have been going on in our lives. As you can tell, most of them include one or more of our family. You mean everything to us. We love you. We pray for you. We want to help you. We want to hear from you. Let's make 2001 a great FAMILY year!



The following is a description of the object shown in the sketch. It is a rectangular prism, or a cube, drawn in a three-dimensional perspective. The front face is shaded with diagonal lines sloping downwards from left to right. The top and right side faces are shaded with diagonal lines sloping upwards from left to right. The lines are drawn with a fine, consistent stroke, and the shading is achieved through a dense pattern of overlapping lines. The overall appearance is that of a technical or architectural drawing done with a pencil or fine pen.

The following text is a series of faint, illegible lines, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. It appears to be a list or a series of short paragraphs, but the characters are too light and blurry to be transcribed accurately. The text is located in the lower half of the page, below the sketch.