



# Happy Happenings



Thirty-first Edition

May 2001



## Lawson & Kelly:

Landon is about 1 month old now. He's been a good baby, all things considered! He gets up to eat in the night, but isn't usually too fussy (I think... need to ask Kelly for sure!). Overall he seems to be a pretty happy baby. Lots of sleeping still. I know Kelly can't wait till he's sleeping through the night!

We're going full swing on soccer. Tanner's team still tends to dominate every game they play. The last game was funny (at least if you were rooting for Tanner's team!) ... the other kids were much smaller and really didn't seem to care much about what happened to that round ball! One of them just walked around and followed (from a distance) the crowd! Cason's team does well, but doesn't have that advantage of being bigger than the other teams.

I'm coaching Cason's team and it's fun, but as with most things with kids, I wish I could get them to get more into the preparation part of it all. They just want to get out and play and it's hard to help them understand the importance of practicing and learning the skills before you try to go use them. Oh well, I guess by the time they're my age they'll figure that out! Isn't that how it works? I find myself often thinking about how my kids will know I was right once they grow up a little bit. Wonder if my parents

ever thought anything like that?!

They changed my calling at church a little. I was the cub scout committee chairman. Now I'm the cub master. I think that will be fun, but it's not exactly my personality so I may have to work at it a little. If it were just the kids, without their parents, I think I would feel more comfortable. Speaking of cub scouts, we just had our pinewood derby. Cason built his car all by himself except for having me cut out the main shape. I showed him how to polish the axles and a few things. He took 3rd place! He was pretty happy with that. I built a car for the 'open class' part of the racing. I spent a LOT of time on it, making sure everything was just right so it would be the fastest one! While I was working on it, Thayne asked about having his own car, so I helped him build one. I cut it out, he painted it, then I polished the axles, put the weight on and then the wheels. Well, as you might be imagining by now, the car I built for Thayne (in a lot less time) beat my car! As it turned out, Thayne's car was the very fastest one there! It beat the open class races, then just for fun, we raced it against the cub scout winner and it beat that one too! Way to go Thayne!



Landon & Thayne



Landon's first bath



## Mom & Cynn:

We had a perfectly wonderful Temple Anniversary. We had planned to go on a get-away to St. George. We had suckered for a promo where we listened to the pitch from a Vacation Company. We were promised 3 nights in a great place with a \$40.00 gift certificate for dinner at Red Lobster. Sounded like it would be worth it. We sent in the reservation thing telling them what date we wanted to go and they wrote back that we needed to submit \$30.00 for room tax. \$30!!!! Must be a pretty good room, right? Well, we didn't get any notice about WHERE in St. George our reservations were for. As the date came closer and closer, I got more and more nervous. Cynn finally called and found out where we were staying. Ready for this? Motel Super 8! Real luxury, huh? So we ended up cancelling and going to OUR motel. (And it's at least a Motel 16!) We went to the Summit! It was so much fun! We watched Conference tapes, did genealogy, and just had fun being together! For our anniversary we did go to Pocatello to Red Lobster, but otherwise we just "hung out". (We didn't get notice about which motel we were supposed to go to until after we got home. So much for doing that any more!)

On Wednesday that week we headed out for Wyoming. We got there Wednesday night and boy, were Jaxon, Jancy and Amberly ready for us! We had a great time. On Thursday we all went some distance up the Little Popo Agee river to 'the sink', and 'the rise', where the river sinks into holes in the canyon then comes back out a quarter of a mile down the canyon - but having more water than before - and having spent two hours to go that 1/4 mile - near Cander. It was so interesting. Then on Friday we helped level the dirt and plant early stuff in Lana's garden. We enjoyed being there. You should see Amberly with the baby chickens and the baby puppies. She LOVES them!

I'm teaching the Family History lessons each Sunday and it sure is fun! Seems like I'm really helping lots of people! I also go to their homes for one-on-one tutoring and believe me, some of them need it. But they're so enthusiastic, it's worth it. I helped an 85-yr old and her 79 yr old sister week before last. What a hoot! I don't think they'll be submitting lots of names for temple work but at least they're willing. I prayed before going to another couple's home. They told me that they had sent the computer out for repair and now they'd LOST their names! Wow "Heavenly Father, please help me know how to recover their data." And of course, it occurred to me - they just didn't know in which folder it was stored! So, I clicked "Open" and "Search" and up popped the path to their data file. I told Cawson that it's fun to be able to do something that easy and yet seem to those folks to have worked a miracle! (Cont. next page)

## Grandmoes (I can really relate!)

When I was very little  
All the Grandmas that I knew  
Walked around this world  
In ugly Grandma shoes.

You know the ones I speak of,  
those clunky black heeled kind.  
They just looked so very awful  
That it weighed upon my mind.

For I knew, when I grew old,  
I'd have to wear those shoes,  
I'd think of that, from time to time  
It seemed like such bad news.

I never was a rebel,  
Wore saddle shoes to school,  
And next came ballerinas  
Then sandals, pretty cool.

And then came spikes with pointed toes  
Then platforms, very tall.  
As each new fashion came along,  
I wore them, one and all.

But always, in the distance,  
Looming in my future, there,  
Was that awful pair of ugly shoes,  
The kind that Grandmas wear.

I eventually got married  
And then became a Mom  
Our kids grew up and left,  
And then their children came along.

I knew I was a Grandma  
And the time was drawing near  
When those clunky, black, old lace up  
shoes  
Was what I'd have to wear.

How would I do my gardening  
Or take my morning hike?  
I couldn't even think about  
How I'd ride my bike!

But fashions kept evolving  
And one day I realized  
That the shape of things to come  
Was changing, right before my eyes.

And now, when I go shopping  
What I see, fills me with glee  
For, in my jeans and Reeboks  
I'm as comfy as can be.

And I look at all these teenage girls  
And there, upon their feet  
Are clunky, black, old Grandma shoes,  
And they really think they're neat.





Several days after we got back, I (Greg) headed out for Turkey with my boss (General Salisbury) and five colonels. That trip was not nearly as fun. Since I was the lowest ranking guy, I had to make all of the arrangements and keep everything on schedule. After two days of continuous meetings and briefings I was more than ready to come home.

LESLIE - Greg always has to throw in a comment or two about the wildlife. He asked the tour guide at the archeological site about the local wildlife and when she didn't know anything, he asked a guy in a café at the gorge. They talked for about 20 minutes and were having one of those "outdoor guy talks" that I have seen Greg have with people in every country we've been to. It's good to know you can count on some things.

We all had a great time in Crete, but I also had an opportunity to go to Poland the weekend before we left. It was a shopping trip that people take from time to time to the pottery factories up there. We met at Patch Barracks (the main Army facility here in Stuttgart) at 9:30 pm and got on a bus and drove all night. It is about a 6 or 7 hour drive if you go straight through, but we stopped a couple of times and then had to wait at the border for a couple of hours. I don't know if that is because it was night or because of mad cow or hoof and mouth or what, but they did tell us not to bring any meat on the trip. We got to the first store at about 6:00 in the morning and the people were more than happy to open their doors for a busload of American women. They were certainly justified too, because those women went crazy. You can get some Polish pottery at the bazaars around here but if you go up there you can get it at great prices. I got a beautiful round platter just like the one that a friend of mine showed me in a catalog from the states for about \$200. I bought mine for about \$20. Even so, I didn't go crazy because I was a little overwhelmed when I saw some of these women spend \$400-\$500 at one store. I did find some Christmas dishes that I loved and since I have always wanted some, I got a whole set.

It was a real eye-opener to go to a former east-block country. It's true that Germans have most of the money in Europe, but even so I didn't expect quite the contrast that I saw just going over the border. It even smells different, which I found was because they burn a high-sulfur content coal up there. Even the graffiti looked different, and I've seen graffiti in 3 or 4 different countries over here. It usually looks kind of artistic, especially all over the trains in Italy, but there it was just dirty black scrawls in a language with j's and z's in weird places. We saw a few boys sniffing paint or glue right on the side of the road and at every place we stopped there were boys just waiting to carry your packages for a dollar or two. I know that there are beautiful and interesting places to go in Poland, but this probably wasn't one.

As for news of the news of the family, time is rushing by and nothing seems to be able to slow it down. I registered Rich for his senior year the other day and I can't believe it! He is planning to take 3 AP classes next year. He is getting ready to take the SAT on Saturday. He took the PSAT a few months ago and he must have gotten brochures from 40 or 50 colleges since then. He is doing very well in school, still on the honor roll and has been invited to join the National Honor Society. (He was invited to join last year but didn't get his paper work in on time.) He is still playing soccer although he hasn't had time lately because he has been writing his 20 page term paper for honors English. Amy is also playing soccer in addition to being the freshman class president, National Junior Honor Society secretary, and keeping her grades up. She was this close to a 4.0 this last quarter. Brianna is still in Chorus this year, they get to do a lot of fun things, she went to Heidelberg for a "music in the schools" concert the other day, but they work really hard for their fun. They practice three days a week after school, sometimes more if they have a concert coming up. Here's another shocker: she has been going to Young Women once a month for the pre-camp meetings because she will be 12 this summer and can go to camp! Jeff recently got his Bear badge in cub scouts and his car did very well in the pinewood derby. He spends a lot of time with his friend, Houston. They are very compatible; both quiet, both like Pokemon, gameboy, and Playstation. We are trying to encourage him to play soccer in the fall. Greg is even thinking about helping to coach or something so that he will feel more comfortable. (on top of everything else he does, like being assistant den leader, bus monitor, and going every Tuesday to YM/YW, and every



Hi Everybody! The world travelers are finally back home. Les and the kids had their Spring Break 7-15 April so we decided that being here in Europe we better get out and do something. Last year we went to Italy with Grandma and Grandpa (Wilson). That was a great trip but unfortunately it didn't turn Grandpa into an Italian gourmet. He only survived on the Breakfast he got every morning in the Camp Darby Army Mess Hall. This year the weather has been a little dreary for about the last eight months so we decided to go somewhere warm if we could. I pulled out the map of U.S. military installations in Europe and noticed we have a small Naval Air Station on the Greek Island of Crete. I called the flight operation folks at Ramstein Air Base about two hours north of Stuttgart to see if they had any flights scheduled to go there. As it turned out they had several going and coming back so we decided to try and go. The way it works is you show up with your leave papers about two hours before the plane leaves and if they have extra space you can fly. Once you get to your destination then the real fun begins as you try and find a flight back. Luckily for us all that went pretty smoothly this time.

The first day we got to Crete we saw more sun than we had seen the last six months combined in Germany. Some other folks from the ward went so we sort of linked up with them once we got there. The Navy folks had recommended a place for us to stay on the beach but when we went it was really small and expensive. After we looked at it we were trying to decide if we should take it when the other folks came by and told us they had found a better place. The place we ended up staying was a small apartment with two bedrooms one bathroom and a small kitchen and two balconies, one of which faced the ocean. It was very nice so we stayed there the whole week.

Crete is a very big island with poor roads so we realized right off the bat that we wouldn't have time to do much so we just picked a few things. We spent several days on the beaches, the water was cold but you could swim if you were determined enough. We had a few rain showers but nothing serious. We spent one day going to the oldest ruins in Europe from the Minoan civilization. After we saw the ruins we went to a museum where we saw some artifacts from about 4000 BC and listened to Amy say, "Can we go yet?" as she paced the floor. On another day we went up in the mountains to see the largest gorge in Europe. It is about 10 miles long, you can hike through it from the mountains to the ocean but they weren't letting anyone go through it that day because of a flash flood threat. They have some big wild goats in the area but we didn't see any that day.

The place was very nice but somewhat trashy and unkempt. We remarked that if you could move all of the Greeks out and replace them with Germans the place would be spotless. It was beautiful, anyway. You wouldn't want to let any of the locals hear you say that because during WWII the Germans conducted an airborne invasion and held Crete for most of the war. They are still pretty upset about that; the war museum went into it in great detail calling the Germans all kinds of bad names, etc. Their worst hard feelings of course are toward the Turks. The Turks controlled Crete for some time before the Greeks won a major battle and kicked them out in 1912. The museum called them demons in some displays.

One day we went to the nearest city (Chania) and saw a war museum and did a little shopping and hit a nice restaurant with not that great of food. The food down there was different. The famous Gyro (lamb, goat etc.) wrapped in fresh pita bread with the special sour cream and yogurt sauce was good the first time around but got old fast. Greek pizza was different, I think it was made out of goat cheese. The baklava was good for one taste but I can't hang with it for more than one or two small bites. The great thing we did find to eat was oranges. They grow tons of them and they were right in the middle of the harvest. They sold them everywhere including the roadsides. On one occasion we found some guys with a pickup truck completely overloaded with a blown tire. We stopped and got a big bag full for about a dollar. Whenever you would stop to get some they would weigh your bag and if you have 2.1 kilograms they would start shoving more in until they rounded you up another kilo. They were all more than happy to take dollars but we exchanged money at the banks so we knew what rate we were getting.

When we left Crete the sun was shining and when we got back to Germany it had just stopped snowing. We have had one nice afternoon since we have been back.

We're also having "Cabs" during the week. This week they came to our house and I demonstrated different filing systems. I had several notebook filing styles as well as the four-color folder-box system I use. We had 10 people over on Thursday and 2 on Friday. Again, they seemed to really get a lot out of it. Next week we'll be going to the Family History Center to start using PAF. Lawson has arranged for me to borrow a projector, so every Sunday I show them a WP Presentations slide show made to demonstrate whatever I'm teaching. I can show them PAF and tell them how to use it but they can't really learn without doing-so we're going to do it together at the FHC. Thanks, Carry for going with me that first time. I'm still working there every Friday and enjoying it. We have a big-screen TV hooked to one of the computers, so I can demonstrate and they can practice it on their computer! Great!!!!

I love you all. I sure did enjoy having Christie spend a few days with us week before last. How 'bout each of you grandkids planning on coming for a few days this summer? I know you're busy with sports and all, but save some time for this!

**Lisa & Steve:**



**Todd & Loreen:**

Hello from the Piersons! We are all doing well. Steve is back to working at home with a company he and two other guys started a while ago. He stays busy, but doesn't seem to be as stressed. It is nice for me to have home again!

Christie spent a few days with Grandma and Grandpa and enjoyed the time there. She is job looking again - no fun! She stays busy with Tyler when he is in town.

Jared is 19 now (or 14 or whatever!!) His birthday was fun. We asked him where he wanted to go on his mission, and he said Russia. Thankfully that won't happen!! He got a new basketball for his birthday and loves shooting it. He usually talks Tyler or Cory into shooting with him.

Jenny is into college finals this week! She has three in one day. Hopefully that will go well. She is excited for these classes to be over so she can read her novels!! She won't know what to do with just her High School classes! Actually she has quite a list of things she wants to do!

Cory has started his summer lawn mowing job (in between snow and rain storms!). Steve has to help him with the edging, but so far it's going well. Jared gets to follow Steve around on two lawns now!!

I finished a jean quilt, and some other little projects. Seem like most of my time goes to helping the family keep up with all their projects, and keeping up on the young women program. Never a dull moment! Life is good! Love you all!



We really enjoyed the month of April. We thawed out and even had a couple of days in the high 80's. Our tulips, daffodils and pansies are beautiful and we are awaiting lilacs, lillies, peonies, and other things. Spring in New England is so beautiful with every shade of pink, purple, yellow, orange, red and green.

I have been jogging a mile and a half several times a week. I'm very happy about that because it has been since before I was pregnant with Hannah that I have felt strong enough to do that. Todd is very supportive and keeps the kids. The Young Men are keeping Todd pretty busy but he enjoys it.

Brittney had 10 days off school. We played a lot and went to the aquarium and the beach. There is a nice beach only 45 minutes away so we plan to go there several times this summer.

We spent Easter weekend on Long Island with Neil and Kristie Hansen (my old roommate) and their three girls. Needless to say, the six girls had a wonderful time. You can see The Sound out the window on one side of their house and Oyster Bay on the other. I went jogging on the beach with Kristie one morning and with Todd another. We went to Sands Point where they have two castles. We went on a trail to The Sound and let the kids play. The whole weekend was great and relaxing!

Aubrey got her first two teeth four days apart and learned how to clap.

We are doing really well. Love you all!!!



Lana  
&  
Aaron



*Hello, Family! On April ninth, Jaxon had his fifth birthday. He was pretty excited. The week before we took him in for his kindergarten screening and he had so much fun he thinks he's ready for school now.*

*Jancy is such a sweet girl. She entertains herself pretty well and helps with Amberly lots. They will go from the sandbox to the trampoline to the swings. It is nice when they play well together.*

*Amberly is in heaven because she loves baby animals and Sally, our dog, had five puppies at the end of March. At first Aaron set the rule at "You can't touch them until they have their eyes open." Then one day he softened to "You can hold them once" and then it was over, trying to keep them from holding them. They finally do have their eyes open and are starting to walk around. There is one that is so much the runt and Jancy picked that as her favorite. There is a tri-colored one Jaxon picked as his favorite and they have fun playing with them.*

*We also decided to get some chickens. We have always talked about getting some, just for fun, but I never had much desire. Now with the kids I knew they would love them so we went and got 12 baby chickens. We brought them home and put them in a box and had the kids leave them alone for awhile. The next time I went out there were only 11 chicks. I thought maybe the kids had been playing with them and dropped one and it had gotten lost somewhere in the back room. I went out awhile later and Hannah was in the box eating one of them. So we put her out and told the kids not to let her in. The next day the back door was left open and one of the outside cats was in the box and had taken care of four more. So within 24 hours we had half our chicken herd. I moved them out to the camper where there is much less traffic and the other six are still doing well.*

*We had a pinewood derby tonight and since there are so few scouts in our troop they let all the little kids do a car, too, so our kids were pretty excited. They took first place but there were only four cars entered.*

*Aaron (well, actually the cows) are almost done calving. There are just about 35 left out of 150 heifers and about 400 cows. The farming has started and he always seems busy with something. He's still Elders Quorum President and that keeps him busy, too.*

*We planted peas while Mom and Lynn were visiting. They helped lots leveling out the garden from Aaron plowing it. I'm just planting about half the garden this year. It is too much for me with the kids and my back. I got an epidural steroid injection in my back last month and am going in for another one. It has helped some and that is nice.*





Wednesday on shepherding visits with the Bishopric.) I'm still teaching seminary and loving it, working full time as a LI (Learning Impaired) aide at the high school, and right now co-sponsoring the school science fair. We really stay busy. I said that I would pray and follow the promptings I received about going back to school this summer, and after praying a lot and being a little stubborn about it, I am going to do just that, so I won't be coming this summer. Rich and Amy will be coming for the month of July. They will go to EFY, Rich at BYU, Amy at BYU-Idaho. Then Rich will go to a drivers course and get his license, even though he won't be able to drive over here until he is 18, and Amy will go visit her friend in Tennessee. The rest of us will really miss seeing all of you, so we hope that some of you can come visit us. We can promise to show you some cool stuff!

Love,

The Wilsons



<b>BRITTNEY</b>	<b>MAY 18</b>
<b>LARRY</b>	<b>MAY 19</b>
<b>JEREMY</b>	<b>MAY 28</b>
<b>DAD</b>	<b>MAY 30</b>
<b>AMY</b>	<b>MAY 30</b>