

Lawson & Kelly:

We
took
the

Cub Scouts to Dad's farm for our pack meeting in October. We ended up having about 70 people go. And Dad was visiting Loreen and Todd so we didn't even have him to help out! Dad's neighbor helped us out with it and we all had fun.

Cason and Tanner received awards at school for reading a certain amount through the summer. I'm sure thankful to Kelly for how well she keeps those guys going on school work. Cason's really in the homework now that he's in 4th grade! It seems like he's always working on school stuff. One of his big projects recently was a bug collection. He found some really cool ones including some of those huge moths from the Summit. He had one of those right in the middle of them all. He took it to school to turn it in and a boy accidentally dropped a book on it and broke the wings off of the big moth. It was a bummer, but thankfully his teacher still gave him full credit.

Tanner's really into reading now. He loves it. Lots of times when he comes home from school, he just sits down and starts reading.

He started his first "chapter book".

Thayne is loving preschool. He can write his name and still loves to color and draw.

Landon slept through the night for the first time the other night. He went from 9pm to 7:30am the next morning. He hasn't done quite that well since, but he usually just gets up once. He's at a fun stage. He can sit up and roll and scoot around, so he can't get into everything yet, but he can get around some. He's really a pretty happy baby and has a very fun little laugh. He loves his Mom and sometimes gets sad and cries if she walks by and doesn't stop to play. He also loves his brothers a lot. They can really get him laughing!

Kelly's been keeping her eyes open for a good deal on a piano for a long time. On Friday a friend called who knew of one for sale for \$300.00. We rented a U-Haul trailer and went to Salt Lake to pick it up. After Kelly polished it, it looks pretty good. Someday she'll probably refinish it, but at least she finally has a piano!

This last Saturday was the last for soccer this fall. We've had a lot of fun with it, but it will be nice to get our Saturdays back for a while!



Happy Birthday!

Lynn - Nov. 1

Loreen - Nov. 3

Rich - Nov. 21

Anthony - Nov. 21

Happy Anniversary

Lisa and Steve - Nov. 30



Leslie & Greg:

Things
are
rolling
right

along here at the Wilson's. I (Greg) just got back from having surgery on my back. I had a bulge in the disk between my lowest two vertebra. It all started in June or so when my sciatic nerve in my right leg started to hurt. At the time I had no idea it had anything to do with my back. It wasn't until I went in for a nasty stomach bug that I picked up in Turkey and asked the doctor about it that I realized that it was coming from my back. They sent me in for an MRI and that showed it real well. When I went to get an appointment with the American doctor they could not get me in for a long time so they sent me to the Southern Germany orthopedic hospital that isn't very far from here. They took one look at the MRI and said that the only way I would ever improve was surgery. I like the way they do things here; none of this 'lets go slow and see how it goes'- just- 'it's messed up so let's fix it.' The doctor says it is probably from an old injury and heaven knows I have had enough of them over the years. He said that within about three or four months I would be able to do anything that I was doing before. I'll keep you all posted since it sounds like others may follow me on this at some point (Lana).

Rich as usual is burning the candle at both ends. He has two jobs; he works at the post video store for several hours during school. They call it cooperative work experience. He also bags groceries in the commissary for tips after school and on Saturdays. He makes great money most of the time at that job. Despite all of that work he manages to squeeze in some time for a social life. He is finally realizing just how good he has had it in the military all of this time so he is going to apply for an ROTC scholarship to help him through college.

Amy just finished up volleyball last week. She is now working at Taco Bell again until soccer starts this spring. She once again has big plans for world travel this summer and so she has to find a way to finance them. She has a good friend here that will be going back to Michigan next summer so I think Amy may have to start

visiting there in the summers as well as Tennessee.

Brianna is busy with the school chorus and band-she plays the bells. She is enjoying Young Women where she is one of two beehives. She is doing well in school.

Jeff is back in cub scouts and so is dad again this year. Leslie went to help me with one meeting last year and almost required massive doses of Valium afterwards. A room full of wound-up eight-year-old boys is not her thing. He is doing well in school; he was elected to be the representative for his class this year. He has to go to a meeting every Tuesday after school.

We are leaving Germany next summer, we don't know where yet but we will be going. By that time I may be able to go to Afghanistan and chase Osama around.

September 11th changed everything around here. We are on force protection condition charlie. That means that there are lots of armed guards around and everyone has to show two forms of ID to get in the gate. A lot of cars get searched and we even have a camera that shows the underside of the car when you drive over it. It is much more time consuming to get in and out of the gates in the morning but everyone is patient. We had a very hard time getting Mom, Dad and Laura in that night. The Germans came and piled up flowers in front of all the gates. They are worried because, among other things, several of the hijackers lived in Germany for several years before they went to the U.S.

Leslie is still working at the High School as the Special Education aide. It is a lot more stressful for her this year since there are more students and there is a new teacher. He is not very good with most subjects so she has to help the students almost all of the time. She comes home and isn't good for much because she is so worn out. She would quit but she is afraid that the Special ED kids would all fail without her support.

We are planning on going to Amsterdam sometime soon probably over Thanksgiving. People who have been there say it is very impressive.



Mom & Lynn:

Hi Everyone, I'm sure you all know your Mom/Grandma fell while we were ushering for General Relief Society Conference and broke - shattered may be a better word - her wrist. You know, her right wrist - the one she does everything with. The Doctor put two three inch steel pins into the wrist to keep the bone fragments in place while they heal. Then he put posts into her hand bones and into her arm at about mid-point of her fore-arm with a piece of re-bar between them to keep her from moving any part of the wrist. It has been really painful for her. She has about three more weeks before the prized work of the steelworker' union comes off.

She struggles - tries really hard - to do as much as she can with her left hand. But there are lots of things she just can't do with only one hand, and especially if that one hand is her left hand. I've tried to learn how

to do some of the things she needs but can't do herself. Helping her to put on pantyhose is one of the things I am least good at. Of course there are lots of other things I struggle with - putting deodorant on, putting her bra on, allowing her to not write (probably why I'm writing this newsletter), steering clear of her arm so I won't bump it, etc, etc. Helping her, doing more of the housework, and keeping at my job is providing me some growing experiences too.

September 11 is having direct impacts on us. The realtor's log of prospective buyers coming to the house shows visits on Sept 6, 7, 10, and 11. There are NO entries after that. After consultation with our realtor we agreed to drop the asking price by \$10,000. If that doesn't bring in some interest we'll probably drop the realtor after the present contract. Not sure what we'll do.

Please know that we love each one of you. You are constantly in our prayers.

Todd & Loreen:

October was busy, busy for us. We worked on the family room in the basement. Todd took the youth on a temple trip to the Boston Temple. Then Jason and Jacinta (Jacinta was my friend from High School and roommate at Ricks) came to visit. We went to the Norman Rockwell Museum (fantastic!) and to Long Island to visit our other roommate, her husband, and their three daughters. We went to New York City and saw "Ground Zero." There was a definite stench in the air and the whole place is a sad sight, as you can imagine. They don't let you up close but you can feel and see the effects. The day they left, ~~my~~ Dad and Connie came for a couple of weeks. We enjoyed their visit and tried to show them the sights. They saw the Mark Twain House, NYC, Washington

DC, we all went through a session at the DC temple (they took the kids to the National Zoo while we were in the temple), Newport (the mansions in Rhode Island), Boston, and a road trip up north (Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine). It was nice to have them.

Todd sold the Mustang. It's sad to have it gone but we felt like it was time. Also, Aubrey had a little surgery on her eye to unblock her left tear duct. She had to go under a general anesthetic, but it went well. She is more interested in walking and takes about 10 steps.

We hope you enjoy the pictures of the girls. Here is a picture of Hannah's new haircut. We all really like it.





Lana & Aaron:

Hello, Family! We are doing well. The calves came back so Aaron is back to feeding night and morning. The cows will come back around the first of November.

The kids are doing well. Jaxon still loves school and Jancy likes her school and dance. Amberly likes to play with Jaxon and Jancy and help Mom. She also loves to go with her dad and help him work.

I got a new calling as second counselor in the Relief Society Presidency. This will be a big change because I've almost always been in Primary. I'll be over Homemaking, so if anyone has any good ideas, please send them.



Here are pictures of the kids: Jancy (top right) and Jaxon (bottom right) doing barrels. Jancy, Amberly, and the deer (left).





Eating Grapefruit, May 10, 2001



I was eating grapefruit today when it dawned on me! I now know why I eat grapefruit differently from most “normal” people. (Whatever normal is.)

First of all, think for a minute. How do YOU eat YOUR grapefruit? Well, if I were guessing, (and I am), you probably lift the sections out, either with the aid of a serrated knife or grapefruit spoon. Now, you may eat clockwise, counter clockwise, or maybe even randomly. (I’ve done that if I think one small section will be especially difficult to remove if it is left flopping around in it’s membrane all by itself. I dig into it while it still has the support of the sections on either side. See—I told you I was weird.) But, cutting right to the chase—what do you do when you’ve devoured all that luscious grapefruit meat? You know—what do you do to get all that wonderful juice?

Well, I realized that my approach to the juice is what has always puzzled me. Now, most of you probably pick up the mostly empty rind and *squeeze* the juice right onto your plate. You probably rotate the angle and really *mash* it till all that delicious juice makes a tempting puddle on your plate. Right? Then you carefully *lift* the plate to your lips, being careful not to tip or slosh and--*slurrppp* it--directly into your mouth. Makes sense. Gets the job done.

I’ve tried to do it that way. I really have. And I’ll bet all of you children have adopted this efficient method. Right? So *why can’t I ???*

Well, at first I thought about how dirty the grapefruit probably is. No telling where it came from and what it *wallowed* in before it got to my hands. So, I decided to wash the outside before even cutting it. There—sanitized! Now when I place it on the plate it won’t transfer all that dirt and all those germs to the future drinking surface. Well, that helped. But I STILL prefer taking my spoon, raking the juice free, and then *scooping* the juice out—much the same way I eat the actual grapefruit. Then, to get the very last drop, I squeeze alright. But—right into my spoon, emptying and refilling until the rind is dry as a bone!

And then it hit me! My mother *never* picked up her plate or bowl to partake of the contents directly. NEVER! It wasn’t polite! It wasn’t ladylike! It wasn’t couth! And those who did? Well, they probably just never were trained properly at home. But WE don’t eat like that.

So—there you have it. Another inhibition unearthed and explained. I don’t blame Mother. She taught me values which she held dear. Many of them dealing with morals and decency and loving the Lord! I credit my “goodly parents” with my preparation for the gospel!

I guess my point in recording this memory is to say to my posterity--it’s alright and good to teach etiquette, table manners and the “correct” way to conduct yourself. Heaven knows, the world is lacking in some of these skills. But think how the example you set with your prayer etiquette, your scripture study habits, your soft tone and refusal to react with harshness and impatience is likewise being engraved in the subconscious of your children. And how, years from now, they’ll react in a positive way because of that training and example.

So—the next time you eat grapefruit, resolve within yourself to follow the Lord’s admonition to parents to train up their children in the nourish and admonition of the Lord—with all kinds of values.

Leah White