
Happy Happenings

38th Edition - January 2002

The Sorensens

Hello Family,

We had a wonderful Christmas. It is so fun to see the excitement in the kids. It was great having Mom and Lynn. The kids were so excited to have Grandma and Grandpa here to sleep in their rooms and see our presents and our tree etc, etc.

Aaron has had tonsillitis several times this winter and so he is toying with the idea of getting them taken out.

We have about two months until the baby comes. I'm sure it will go pretty fast. The kids are looking forward to it.

The Coons

Hello, Everyone! Hope you all had a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

This is a turkey I made for Visiting Teaching. Each sister's name was on a

feather and when you went Visiting Teaching, you could "Pluck" out the feather with that sister's name on it. People really got into it and it was fun.



Brittney finally lost her first tooth on our anniversary, December 17. She was very excited ("Can I have an extra scoop of ice cream since I lost my tooth?").



Hannah and Aubrey as clowns.

We are in Arizona for Christmas. We decided to come without telling Todd's family, so we spent Christmas Eve night at Larry and Jill's and surprised Todd's family on Christmas morning. It was fun and Santa even found us here. It has been nice to see all of Todd's sisters and families, his mom and dad, Grandma and Grandpa, and some Aunts, Uncles, and cousins.



Brittney as a cat



Doctor Aubrey

We love and miss you all and hope all is well.

Love, Loreen, Todd, Brittney, Hannah, and Aubrey

The Burnetts

We had a fun holiday season. We gave the boys a little 4 wheeler for Christmas. Here they are on it.



They've had a lot of fun riding it around. We have a couple of empty lots behind

us that haven't been built on yet, so we've been using that as our track!

Here they are with their helmets and goggles.



The Friday after Christmas, we had a chance to go skiing with Larry, Jill and family at Brighton.



The ski crew

I took Cason and Tanner. They both decided to try snow boarding. Cason picked up on it and did well, but Tanner didn't have much fun. He ended up in the lodge with Jill and Tiffany for part of the afternoon. Cason went with Katelyn and I was able to take off with Larry and get in some good skiing. I was sure thankful

to Tiffany for taking care of Tanner for a while so I could go out with Larry.

Here's a nice picture of Kelly and Heather.



The next day, Mom, Lynn and Larry's family came up and we went sledding at a golf course at the base of the mountains in Ogden.



The sledding crew

We had fun, had some good wipeouts and some good fast runs. Later that night we watched what we had recorded on the camcorder and ran the good stuff forward and backward in slow motion. It was pretty funny!

What we were going to do for New Years was kind of up in the air, but we ended

up with Mom, Lynn and the Dyes at Mom's house. It ended up being a fun evening of games, puzzles and such.



New Years Eve crew

Landon has a couple of teeth now. He's been sick for a couple of weeks. In spite of that, he's still been pretty pleasant. He's such a good baby.

We've been working on a room in our basement for Cason for quite a while. We finally got it to the point that we moved his furniture in and let him start sleeping there a few nights ago. He LOVES having his own room and so far is taking very good care of it. Hope that lasts! We still need to get the closets done and the baseboard and other trim around, but it was sure nice to get it to the point that he could start using it.

I have the different family pictures that we took at Grandma Ethel's funeral. I scanned some of them and have them on the internet at www.konnections.com/lburnett/familypics Take a look at them and let me know if you want copies, enlargements, etc.

We hope everyone is well and that you all had enjoyable holidays.

Lawson, Kelly, Cason, Tanner, Thayne and Landon

The Whites

Happy 2002!

Do you remember December 1999? Yeah, when some of us were wondering if things really were going to cease to function properly with the turn of a century? We were all shopping for emergency storage items, backing up stuff on our computer and poised for something big? Well, what I'm wondering is: *Where did I lose two years*? Not only did the turn of the century glide right past but so did a lot more!

But, here we are, alive and comparatively well and happy. And I really am happy! Each day I find so much to be grateful for. Sometimes I feel so blessed that I wonder how it could realistically be any better. I remark to Lynn: "Is this just perfect, or what?" Of course sometimes the answer

turns out to be what. I'm certainly not ranking a fractured wrist or strep throat right up there at the top of my list of activities I want to repeat.

All in all, though, we are of all families, most blessed! My scripture for the month is: Joshua 24:15:

".....choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**" Cool, huh? There are many 'gods' being served in the world today but I'm so grateful that, for the most part, we are serving the Lord. It shows. It helps.

So here we are on the threshold of something big! Lynn retires January 31. Our lives will never be the same again. I'm so grateful to be looking forward with anticipation to having him as a constant 24-hour companion! For a while I really wondered how I would adjust and now I know it's going to be great. PLEASE pray for us! We need help to know what the Lord has in store for us. We continue to be ready to do His will, whatever that is. But we seem to be having 'stupid' (stupor of) thoughts.

As I watched the movie "Pearl Harbor", I thought of my Daddy--your Grandfather or Great-Grandfather, Edgar Lawson Palmer.

Here's a picture of him in his Army-Air Force uniform during World War II. Handsome isn't he?



We love you all, Grandma

Just a note from
Grandpa/Dad/Lynn:

Hi! I'm going to retire as of the end of January. You know, of course, that we are planning to make

ourselves available for missionary service, and you're probably saying, "Well, da!" about me starting this note saying I'm retiring. But, think about it - I have been either going to school or going to work for over sixty years! That's a long time! This is a major change in my life. A change I have looked forward to - but nevertheless, a major change.

In addition to a change in what I do, January is also the last month I will work for money. Now, we'll have to get by on less money. Hope we can make it work.

Grandma/Mom has been asking for a long time "Can you really find something to do with your time? Can I really put up with you around all the time? Twice as much husband and half as much money - Is this really what I want for the rest of whatever?" Well, we're about to find out. As excited as I am about retiring I am also getting a bit scared as the time comes close.

Just know - every one of you, that your are loved deeply by one guy who is passing a major milestone in his life!!

Love, Grandpa

Loreen has asked Lynn and me to contribute a chapter in our life story to the newsletter each month.

I thought that this month it would be really special to put in one of her papers (since Lawson is doing the newsletter--she'd never put it in herself.) Loreen is working towards her degree and takes a couple of home study courses each semester. She is making good grades and occasionally sends me one of her papers.

I thought this one was especially good and would like to share it with the family.

Causes and Effects of Rain

I once heard a four-year-old boy ask, "Is the rain God's tears?" He was told that it is not and went off to play, seeming content with the answer. Had he been a bit older, he may have been more interested in what really causes rain.

As air masses pass over warm bodies of water or wet land surfaces, they acquire moisture. The moisture, or water vapor, is carried upward into the air mass by turbulence and convection. The lifting required to cool and condense this water vapor results from several processes. The lifting associated with the convergence of the trade winds results in a band of rains near the equator which moves northward or southward with the seasons. In higher latitudes much of the lifting is associated with moving cyclones. Lifting on a smaller scale is associated with convection in air that is heated by a warm underlying surface, giving rise to showers and thunderstorms. The heaviest rainfall over short periods of time usually comes from such storms. Air may also be lifted by being forced to rise over a land barrier, with the result that the exposed windward slopes have increased amounts of rain while the sheltered slopes have little rain.

Precipitation occurs when particles of water are large enough to fall to the ground. The chief difference between a cloud drop and a rain drop is size. A typical rain drop has a volume that is more than a million times that of a cloud drop. Thus, it takes many cloud droplets to make up a single raindrop. Raindrops can be produced by the collision and merging of cloud droplets. Large droplets fall faster than collide with and merge with smaller ones. When two rain droplets merge, "coalescence" has taken place. As a result of coalescence, the large drops can grow fairly rapidly and fall to the ground. As a result, the earth and those who live here receive the moisture required to sustain life.

Friday, September 14, 2001 was a rainy day that had particular impact on my life. It was the day set aside by President George W. Bush as a day of prayer and remembrance for those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11. The weather before and after that day was beautiful which allowed the workers to proceed with their duties. But it seemed fitting that it should rain on Friday. Rain stimulates somber reflection and causes people to naturally feel more sober and serious. They stay inside more and thus are more likely to be with family or friends. That is what was needed on that day as the nation, even the world, united to mourn the dead and pray for their families. It was a time of healing and faith that was necessary to allow us to cope with what had happened and to strengthen us for what was ahead.

The rain also had a positive physical effect. What a blessing that the rain settled and dampened the choking dust, smoke, and asbestos. As it turned out, the only survivors were pulled from the rubble on Wednesday, but on Friday we still had hope that someone would be found. I even had the thought that maybe the rain had given some trapped victim a life-sustaining drink.

The next week as I looked back on that time, I could tell that I had truly been in shock and mourning over the events that had taken place. I could feel that the heavy weight of mourning and sadness had lifted as I listened to the song "Be Still, My Soul" (a song I had listened to several times the week of the attacks) and remembered how easily I had been moved to tears by a song, a statement, a story, a flag, and so many other things. I still felt sad and worried but it made me realize how the events had affected me. The day of prayer and remembrance really had helped me and the weather was part of that.

I have since been to "Ground Zero" and felt and seen for myself the aftermath of the attacks. The stench in the air and the dust on the streets of lower Manhattan are only part of the evidence of gloom that prevails. I saw the bent beams of what's left of the twin towers and the weary and cautious faces of those responsible for restoring the area and the safety of the people.

Is the rain God's tears? Well, we know what causes rain, but it seemed like on that day the rain was everyone's tears and that God was mourning with us. I'm sure it saddens Him to see the wickedness and suffering of His people. The fact that it rained that day made me feel that He "mourn[s] with those that mourn" and "comfort[s] those that stand in need of comfort."