



Happy Happenings

Mom & Lynn

We have just returned from a *great* trip! We left home on Monday, May 16. One thing you may not know about is that we have a hobby! I collect stamps from National Parks and National Monuments. As we visit around the country and see beautiful scenery and historic places which the government has declared as “National” sites, I take my little National Park Passport and collect a stamp from the visitor’s center which has the name of the park and the date we visited. It’s fun and I have quite a few. So, before each trip we take, I look ahead to see if there are National Parks on the way. And sure enough! Utah and Arizona are *full* of them! In fact, we passed by many of them because we didn’t have time to stop.

As we left, we traveled over to Price and down to Arches National Park. (Stamp # 1)

We spent a few hours there in the park. It’s beautiful! Even though we’ve been there several times, we always enjoy it. We also went *way* out of our way to visit the Navajo Nations Four Corners Monument—the only place in the United States where four states intersect at one point: Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado. You can actually have a foot or hand in four states at once. (I’m afraid it was a bit of a disappointment. Our advice—don’t bother!) As we headed south, it was amazing to be able to see Shiprock Peak over in New Mexico.

Now, in planning the trip we couldn’t figure out how to avoid staying overnight on the Navajo Indian Reservation. We were a little nervous about staying in Chinle Arizona, but actually, it was fine! We had made reservations at a Best Western and we were glad that

we could stay right next to Canyon De Chelly National Monument—a beautiful red rock canyon rich in Indian history and full of natural beauty. (Stamp # 2)

From there we stopped at Hubble Trading Post National Historic Site—one of the early points of commerce with the Indians (Stamp # 3) On to the Painted Desert and Petrified Forest National Park. WOW! What a beautiful sight. Acres and acres of beautiful colored rock formations. PLUS petrified logs everywhere! At the visitor’s center we learned that even though petrified wood can be found in all 50 states, ancient conditions made it so that this area has more than any other. (Stamps # 4 & 5)

We then drove through beautiful mountainous roads in the Tonto National Forest,



through Globe, Az and got to Coons’ house in Gilbert Tuesday night. We had a great time with them, picking peaches and making fresh peach pies (yum) for Brittney and Larry’s birthday celebration which we had Wednesday night. Looking at their beautiful yard and garden and *irrigating!* Yup, Todd turned the water in from the ditch at noon on Thursday and soon we surveyed “Coons Lake”. Reminded me a lot of Lewiston and I couldn’t help myself—I had to get out and wade!



Mom, Heather, Larry, Jill, Grandma Adams



Debbie, Rick, Ruth

(Mom & Lynn cont.)

Leslie and Debbie



?, Jennifer, Debbie, Doe, Becky



Jeff, Mom, Becky, Aubrey, Leslie, Hanah

When we left for Wilson's on Friday there was still lots of water. We arrived just in time to tell Greg and Jeff goodbye before they left for Father and Son's camp. Leslie, Brianna, Amy, Jeff and Lynn and I went out and had a *wonderful* Mexican dinner! And then on Saturday we had a "tender mercy" (see Elder Bednar's April Conf. talk). Leslie and family have recently renewed their dedication to getting a year's supply, even though it will only come at some sacrifice. Not only sacrifice in money—but room to put it! They have built shelves and have squeezed out as much space as they can—but it'll still be tight. Especially with 6 people in a 3 bedroom home. Lynn and I have also been trying to update our supply. Well—whatdayathink??? The Commissary had a case-lot sale! So, we got ourselves down there and got some grub! \$4.50 for a case of 12 cans of Del Monte beans, corn etc. Plus other good deals. We came right home and cleaned out all the shelves and organized the storage. We loved it. Sunday, after Church and a wonderful meal cooked by Greg, we headed back to Mesa. We had such a good time at the Burnetts. Larry took the week off so we were together a lot. I got up in the mornings and went walking around their neighborhood while Larry did his regular raquetball and basketball. Then we got to work. Monday we did his friend's lawn. Now, not just mowing and edging! We got down and dug out clumps of some undesirable grass growing all over! WORK! 108°! It was great and I love working with my son! We were also able to be with the girls and their friends. What fun! Heather was radiant

as she graduated from Seminary and then from Mesa High (with her honors cords!) We were so glad to be able to share this time with them.

Back to Loreen's, we attended Aubrey's play at the end of the class she's been attending. What a cutie! We spent time making skirts and shorts for the girls, picking citrus fruit, gardening and eating fresh stuff from the garden, as well as reading stories and playing with 4 sweet kids.

On Monday, we prepared for the "cousin party". Sarah mentioned how much she'd like to get all the cousins together, which of course wasn't feasible. But I talked to Loreen and we agreed that if we could get the ones there in Arizona to come for a get-together, that'd be quite a feat! So we did! Becky and her husband, Bob, Debbie, her son, Aaron, her daughter, Jennifer and husband, Doe and her husband, Rick and 2 grandchildren, and Ruth and a son, Nathan, all came. So, with Larry, Jill, Tiff and Heather, Leslie, Amy and Jeff, Loreen, Tood, Brittney, Hannah, Aubrey and Caleb plus Lynn and me, we had quite a group. It was good to see them and find out what's going on in their lives.

Tuesday morning we were out the door. The only stamp I got was for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. (Stamp # 6) That's a *strange* place. No paved roads or buildings will ever be built in the 2 million acres of the park. Probably because of the many dinosaur bones and fossils and things they're finding there. So—here we are home again. Lots of good memories made! We thank all of you in Arizona for making our stay so wonderful. We love you all and are

Todd & Loreen

The month of May was busy for the Coons family. Todd and Brittney finished up the softball season. Hannah finished ballet and had a performance. Aubrey finished her class and did a performance. Mom and Lynn were here so they got to go to it.

While they were here we enjoyed picking citrus and peaches at our neighbor's, taking care of the neighbor's animals and swimming in her pool while she was out of town, taking care of stuff around the house, attending Heather's graduation, and lots of other stuff.

We did have Becky, Debbie, Doe, and Ruth over along with some spouses, children and grandchildren, and the Wilsons and the Burnetts. It was a pleasant evening and good to be in touch again after so long (probably 8 or 9 years). We loved having Mom and Lynn here and are grateful for all their unselfishness and thoughtfulness.

Our 12-year-old neighbor just got 22nd place in the national spelling bee. There were 273 competitors.

The kids are out of school. We are going to do Spanish lessons again and Aubrey will be involved this time.

We are also doing a tumbling class for Brittney and Hannah and a music class for Aubrey. It's only once a week. We'll continue with piano. We'll try to get a session of swim lessons in sometime this summer. I hope I can do a session with Caleb again because he learned to swim about 6

feet under water last year and I would love to see him progress some more.

We can't wait for the family reunion. I'm going to put all the previous information in this newsletter in case there are any questions. Basically, we don't want it to be overly structured because we just want people to enjoy being together. We have tried to plan a few meaningful and unifying activities. If you have any suggestions, let Leslie or me know. We'll see you there!

Brittney says: I'm going to need to get braces soon. Softball was very fun and I loved having Dad as my coach. I learned about base running because I didn't know about it before. I learned to bat better and made some points. In school I did a report about Arkansas, which is the only diamond-producing state in the USA. The biggest diamond found there weighed 40 carats!! When Grandma and Grandpa were here we made three pairs of shorts and a skirt for me. In activity days I was in charge of the activity for the group. We made Thank You cards for our school teachers. Mom and I are playing the duet "Heart and Soul" on the piano. I had my tenth birthday on the 18th. The Burnetts came over for a party since Larry's birthday is on the 19th. We had fresh peach pie for dessert. I'm going to have a party at Skateland because I won a \$75 gift certificate for a birthday party (actually I won two of them but I can only use one).

Aubrey says: I am learning my letters. I would like to see you all soon at the family reunion. In my acting class I

learned some sign language. I like to ride bikes with Caleb and Dad. My garden is doing so well. I have eaten tomatoes and carrots and I have beautiful flowers. I slept with Brittney last night. Rosemary, our cat, is very good. I like to spend time with her. She is very cute and lovable and furry. We call her Rosie sometimes. Dad caught three gophers in the garden in the last two days. We irrigated today. I'm excited for my birthday in September.



Veggies from our garden



Hannah ready for fresh peach pie with homemade whipped cream



Skirts Mom and I made from material from Lisa

Aaron & Lana

Sorensen highlights: Dixon had his first birthday and learned to walk. The kids had fun during their last week of school with field trips and a movie and the theatre in town. We went to Utah for Memorial Day, camped out with the Burnetts at the Summit, spent some time with Aaron's mom, visited Amberly's headstone and released doves. Aaron took the boys camping out for the fathers and sons. Jaxon, Jancy and Brrox are taking swimming lessons for two weeks and they all really like it. They've started their rodeos on Tuesday nights. We're looking forward to seeing everyone at the family reunion.



Cory running the hurdles

Lawson & Kelly

We had a family fun run/walk. There were several hundred people in it and Cason came in 3rd place! I was very near the end of the pack with the stroller with Landon, Meguire and a neighbor girl!

We had a nice mother's day. At least Kelly said it was nice and that's all that matters!

We had the carpet installed in our basement. Yeah!! There is still quite a bit to do to finish everything up, but it sure is nice having carpet! Of course now we don't have any money to buy furniture or anything.

I was lucky to get invited to a reserved showing of Star Wars Episode 3 on opening day. It was good to finally get some closure to that saga after so many years!

We had a big scouting encampment for our whole council. It was at the Weber County fairgrounds. There were about 8000 people there. They had Vaughn Featherstone come speak and they had a lot of fun activities. Our camping area was on the grass inside the race track so we were really roughing it!

Landon graduated from preschool. Way to go Landon! He is so shy he

didn't even want to sit up on the stage with the other kids and he hardly sang or did anything. Hope he grows out of that.

We had a fun time at the Summit over Memorial Day weekend. Lana and kids were there for a couple of the days. Cason, Tanner, Jaxon and I took packs and hiked up into the mountains and spent the first night up there. The boys wanted to hike up a mountain that was straight up! Then we pitched our tents and had a fire and hot chocolate and all. The next morning we had breakfast and then hiked back down. Later that day we found a couple of geocaches that were around the area. The kids had fun with that. Lana left on Sunday and some of our other friends came up for Sunday afternoon and Monday. Some of us went for a 4-wheeler ride Monday to the top of the mountain. We started up one trail but ran into too much snow and had to go a different way. The picture on page 5 is from the top looking down toward Devil's Creek reservoir. With that picture on my computer I can zoom in and see the reservoir just a little to the left of the middle of the picture. The picture is taken at about 8000 feet, so about 2500 feet higher than the Summit.



Family fun run/walk



4-wheeling in the snow

We had a really fun ward campout at our stake camp this last weekend. We really love our ward. There are lots of nice people. We had lots of fun activities including a zip line.

Family Reunion 2005

The family reunion this year will be at the Summit. Here is a tentative schedule:

- Fri., July 1 Arrive anytime. Bring your own lunch. Dinner together.
- Sat., July 2 Lava Hot Springs? Small fireworks display.
- Sun., July 3 Go to church in Malad 9:00 - 12:00, Work on the Humanitarian Project.
- Mon., July 4 Parade in Malad 10:00. Fireworks.
- Tues., July 5 Breakfast together. Break camp. We are going to the Ogden temple in the afternoon. We understand that some people won't be able to make it and that is okay. Come if you can and would like to.

There is a Welch Festival in Malad on the 1st and 2nd which is an option we may consider. It includes craft booths, a quilting guild, a bedrace down main street, programs, etc.

- * We'll do all the meals together. Each family will be in charge of a breakfast **and** lunch **or** a dinner (meals include drinks). Also, bring snacks to share.
- * Mom and Lynn won't do a meal; they will provide all the paper products.
- * There are cooking utensils at the Summit, including charcoal, dutch ovens, a Propane stove, griddles, etc.
- * I think everyone should give Mom and Lynn \$20 per family for utilities, cleaning supplies, and other things they will have to purchase to make this possible.
- * We'll be camping out so everyone is in charge of bringing their own tent, sleeping bags, etc.
- * Lisa and Laura are in charge of the Humanitarian Project. Please give them \$30 per couple and \$10 per older cousin to cover costs for this year and put toward next year's project.

Cousin Gift Exchange:

<u>Giver</u>	<u>Receiver</u>
Brianna	Zachary
Jeff	Brittney
Anthony	Thayne
Ondylyn	Tanner
Zachary	Broox
Cason	Anthony
Tanner	Ondylyn
Thayne	Aubrey
Landon	Jancy
Meguire	Hannah
Brittney	Dixon
Hannah	Meguire
Aubrey	Brianna
Caleb	Jaxon
Jaxon	Caleb
Jancy	Cason
Broox	Landon
Dixon	Jeff



	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Friday	--	--	Lisa
Saturday	Lana	Lawson	Leslie
Sunday	Lawson	Loreen	Laura
Monday	Loreen	Lana	Larry
Tuesday	Leftovers		

Birthdays and Anniversaries

January

2 Lynn & Leah's Anniv. 1987
7 Connie 1953
9 Christie 1981
18 Steve 1958
19 Cason 1992

February

10 Cory 1989
13 Greg W. 1960
12 Meguire 2003
22 Lisa 1960
24 Broox 2002

March

15 Larry & Jill's Anniv. 1980
21 Landon 2001
25 Aaron 1972

April

3 Mom & Lynn's Temple An-
niv. 1987
9 Jeff 1992
9 Jaxon 1996
19 Jared 1982

May

18 Brittney 1995
19 Larry 1958
21 Dixon 2004
28 Jeremy 1986
30 Dad 1938
30 Amy 1986

June

17 Katelyn 1989
20 Brianna 1989
26 Tiffany 1984
29 Hannah 1997

July

3 Heather 1987
22 Leslie 1963

August

3 Lawson & Kelly's Anniv. 1990
6 Thayne 1997
9 Amberly 1999
11 Lana 1973
11 Lana & Aaron's Anniv. 1994
15 Caleb 2002
20 Leslie & Greg's Anniv. 1982
22 Jill 1960
23 Laura & Greg's Anniv. 1985
24 Kelly 1966

September

12 Tanner 1994
14 Greg D. 1959
18 Lawson 1968
22 Jancy 1997
26 Aubrey 2000

October

3 Ondelyn 1991
4 Laura 1966
11 Zachary 1994
18 Todd 1971
21 Dave Tangren 1980

November

1 Lynn 1934
3 Loreen 1970
21 Rich 1983
21 Anthony 1988
30 Lisa & Steve's Anniv. 1979

December

7 Leah 1939
7 Melanie 1983
14 Jenny 1983
17 Todd & Loreen's Anniv. 1993