

Happy Happenings

January 2007

90th Edition

Coons

Make sure you read this whole newsletter! Happy New Year to all! I can't believe it's 2007 but that happens every year so I just accept it and move on.



Here is a picture (left) of us and the Wilsons when we went to the Mesa Temple to see the Christmas lights.

Christmas was fantastic. Mom and Lynn came. It's the first time we have had anyone over for Christmas and we loved it. We really enjoyed church and had a fun Christmas Eve dinner (right) - food that Mary and



Joseph may have had like fish, cheese, figs, grape juice, flat bread, etc. We were going to have fondue at the Burnetts but Larry got strep throat so we stayed home.



Christmas day was lots of fun. The favorite thing for the kids was probably an electric car (picture at right). They drove it so much they wore out the batteries (and did that again for several days after). We also picked the six grapefruit that our new tree produced for us. We enjoyed them for Christmas breakfast.



We rang in the New Year at Todd's parents' house. We made Peppermint ice cream (our tradition) and had fun with the kids. They went to bed and we stayed up watching a movie. Brittney made me promise to wake her up at 11:30 so I did. I brought her into the living room to watch TV but she was so tired she went back to bed. I got her and Hannah up at 11:55 and she was really mad that I hadn't woken her up (she didn't remember anything!). We had fun the next day gathering pecans from the tree and making 8 dozen tamales!

Todd had the week off so Mom and Lynn helped us get the wood on our gates, clean the



Mom and Lynn

Well, we finally made it – we're on our mission!

We were set apart by our Stake President on the evening of December 31st. It was a great blessing – for both of us. Les and kids, and Gwen and Ed and kids were with us for the setting apart. Laura and Greg and kids were on their way – but didn't make it in time. All were with us for New Year's Eve celebration after. You know, we sure love each one of you!

We now have a couple of days of commuting and training behind us. We're liking the training but sure hating the long commute. I guess we hadn't really thought through the strain and stress that commute would place on us. Grandma feels she has to get up shortly after 4 to get ready to go in time for the devotional at 7:30. Then by the time we get home at night it is time for bed again. We've talked with several other missionaries who live in Utah County. By the time they have been on their mission several months most of them seem to have moved into an apartment in Salt Lake. Another part of the commute we find very disturbing is that we – especially Grandpa – are having more and more difficulty seeing to drive at night. I just don't see as well at night as I used to. It's very stressful to me. Then, winter driving is not much fun, either.

We haven't ridden the bus yet. We'll try that tomorrow. It won't get us there any quicker, but it will be cheaper – and probably less stressful. We're not sure what will evolve with the commute. Keep us

in your prayers.

We have had training in PAF (Personal Ancestral File) the last couple of days. We have been in training all the time so far. There were 25 or so new missionaries come the same time we did. We don't yet know what assignment we will have – we'll get our assignments on Friday. There are about 25 'zones', and we could be assigned to any one of them (except the "comfort zone"!). Only 5-6 of the zones deal directly with the public. We had no idea the wide variety of things we could potentially be doing. We could be helping patrons find their ancestors, maintaining computers and microfilm readers, training new missionaries, helping with administering the mission (400 full-time missionaries and 900 part-time), repairing books which are falling apart, etc. (Remember, there are about 25 zones – meaning they have divided up the work into that many kinds of jobs.)

We are encouraged to move our membership records to one of the two Branches for missionaries in Salt Lake. We attended there this past Sunday. We liked it – but haven't decided yet whether or not we will move our records and attend there all the time. We do love our ward here.

Please believe we're on a real mission. Keep us in your prayers. Please keep us in mind when ever you have family events – and invite us – knowing we probably won't be able to attend. Write us letters. Send us cards, etc. We love each of you! You are in our thoughts – EVERY DAY!

It is now past 10:30 – and we're still not in bed! Got to go.

Sorensens

December was a very busy month. A major being Rix' surgery. It went pretty well. We are thankful for everybody's prayers and for Mom and Lynn's help. I'm very glad that it's over. I'm sure you all know the story but if you don't, give us a call.

We had a great Christmas. We had a visit from the Dyes who brought with them a nice surprise. Thanks guys for the visit.

We had a good Christmas break. One day we drove to Jackson Hole to look at the elk. One day Aaron and Jaxon moved the cows 12 miles to a pasture. And lots of other fun stuff. We all had fun ringing in the new year. Everybody stayed up till midnight except Dix who went to sleep at 11:30.



The following newsletter entries were extracted by bribery Saturday, January 6. Grandma threatened no chocolate cake till each kid wrote a little for the newsletter. So-family, feel privileged to get these 'sweet' words from the young Dyes and Wilsons.



(Written by Brianna)

Brianna is now in Utah. She is starting school the 15th with the new semester at American Fork High School. If you can't see you can't hear either. (A random comment made to Grandma while Brianna was writing this-Grandma's going deaf and has to look at your mouth to understand what you're saying. You can figure why Bri wrote this in her newsletter entry-Grandma can't!) She (Brianna) also got bangs and Amy thought you should all know. (Laura had just cut her hair.) Grandma Wilson's ward is very nice. Brianna is living in Jenny / guest room at Wilson's house. She also enjoys writing in the 3rd person.

Jeff writes:

¡Hola, Mi familiar! ¿Como Estas? This is Jeff writing for the Wilsons-Bri/Amy Sue. Things are good amongst us. As you should know, but you may not, we now live with my dad's parents. That's going well, but we definitely miss Grandma y Grandpa. I've been off the Anasazi trail for about a month now, and life is definitely wonderful/amazing. Dad is in the process of moving to his trashy trailer, and Rich is in Korea. Yup.



I didn't force Leslie to write the following; She just ate her cake and it inspired her!

Rich is going to be an FDO (Fire direction officer)-the one who does the calculations for the big guns-and a platoon leader. He says he has a big apartment with lots of furniture and that he's making friends. He is going to the field in the cold and snow for 23 days.

RICH'S E-MAIL ADDRESS IS:

richard.s.wilson@us.army.mil

Greg has been working really hard. He had to paint every room and move by himself. I packed up as many things as I could while I was there, but he has had a lot to do at home as well as his job as branch chief. He is getting his retirement papers done which is also a lot of work.

We have had some sad news in our family. Paisley (our dog) stayed with a family in Sierra Vista over Christmas and escaped one day and was run over by a car. We are all really sad. She was 9 years old and we had had her since she was 6 weeks old.

I am busy getting all of the administrative business of moving done. Things like doctors and dentists and orthodontists as well as school records and other stuff. After the kids get in school I will be able to start working on some things I've been wanting to do. I'll probably also volunteer at the schools tutoring math or something.

Amy Sue:

Hey fam, this is Amy. Life is good for me. I'm just going to school and getting ready for my mission. I've started on my papers and I'll be able to turn them in soon. After this semester I can apply for my program (Clinical Lab Science). Then I'll only have one more year of classes and six months at the hospital. So I have it all planned out and I'm excited about it! Christmas was wonderful. I hope everyone is great. I love you!

The Utah Burnetts

December was a nice month for us. We enjoyed the family Christmas get together at Laura's house. Then we went to Mom and Lynn's and spent the night there. The kids weren't happy about having to go to ALL of church at a strange ward! But they did it anyway and I don't think they'll have any long term emotional problems from it.

The holidays were really great. We had a nice Christmas Eve at home. We went through the Christmas story, reading the scriptures and singing songs. Cason just wanted to go to bed so the time would pass quickly! We've always been lucky that our kids don't wake up terribly early Christmas morning. I'm not sure what the time was but I think it was around 8am when we went out to see what Santa left us. Everyone was excited and happy with their gifts. We got a Nintendo Wii game system for the family and that's been a lot of fun. We typically end up with some fighting or problems during the day on Christmas, but we went all the way through with everyone staying happy and nice with each other. We usually have Chinese take out for Christmas Eve dinner, but didn't since it was on Sunday. So we found a Chinese place that was open on Christmas day. We had a really nice meal and once again didn't have any problems with the kids. It was very nice!

For New Years weekend we went down to visit Dad and Connie in Kanab. The weather was bad getting down there and it was pretty chilly at his house, but no snow. We trimmed horse hooves and worked on the dog (wolf) run for Sonic. Todd and Loreen started that project when they were there before Thanksgiving and we finished it up while we were there. It was a lot of work and Connie is very happy to have it done. She wanted it done so badly because Dad is going in for knee replacement surgery soon (it was scheduled for Jan. 15 but has been postponed because his blood is low), so she will have to tend to all the animals and she's a little nervous with Sonic! Connie and Kelly were both real troopers and helped a ton with the wolf run. Ben (Melanie's husband) also came out a couple of the days and helped. We also had a lot of fun riding 4 wheelers and hunting jack rabbits.

I think it would be nice of us to keep Connie and Dad in our thoughts and prayers especially over the next while. Dad is very slow and weak; takes a lot of naps and such. And that doesn't have anything to do with his knee problems. Now he's going in for knee surgery and I really worry about his ability to recover from it. He doesn't even have strength or energy to get through normal daily activities right now and recovering from that surgery is going to require a lot more than normal. I know it's going to be a tremendous strain on Connie and I know she would appreciate calls from us to support her through this.

We had an Eagle court of honor for 4 boys in our ward. We had some people bring a real Eagle. Here are a couple of pictures of Tanner and Cason with the Eagle ready to eat them.



Tanner and Thayne are starting Roy recreation basketball. They have been practicing and will start games this next week. They're both excited for that. Cason, Tanner and I will be starting hunter's safety classes this next Saturday also. They think they want to be mighty hunters!



Zachary:

1. *Dad-He's collecting things as usual.*
2. *Mom-Is doing primary singing time things.*
3. *Anthony-Snowboards and does back flips.*
4. *Andy-Practices music and hangs out with friends.*
5. *Zac-I am getting a bunny and I'm working on the cage.*
6. *Isabella-Is foreign and plays on the computer.*

Andy:

The Dye family is doing really well. We went to the Sorensen's house for Christmas and had a really fun time. We got to sled behind horses and the boys all went shooting. I practiced driving with my Dad and I read the Driver's handbook all in one day. The day after we got back, I went and got my driver's permit. Now I just have to sign up for driver's ed.

The weekend after Christmas we went up to our cabin with about 30 teenage kids and played games and went snowboarding and played games. We had a really fun time there.

We have kids from the high school over at our house almost every day. Our house is now officially the party house.

My Dad spends most of his time at work or working on coins and puzzles. My Mom works on Primary stuff and buys food and things for parties. She's also a chauffeur for our friends. Anthony has a pass to Canyons so he goes snowboarding a lot. I practice the violin and piano and drums and do homework. Zac plays lots of games on the computer and rides his bike. He also does lots of bunny stuff.

Family Reunion News:

The reunion is going to be at the Dye Family cabin in Scofield this year. Leslie and Laura are in charge of it. Loreen and Lana are in charge of the Humanitarian project (call them if you have ideas). We have two options for dates and we need everyone's input now so we can all save the dates. Jeremy is reporting his mission on Sun. July 8. We can have the reunion Sun., July 8 (evening) to Wed., July 11 or we can have it Wed., July 11 (evening) to Sat., July 14. Please call Laura or Leslie BY FEBRUARY 14 if you have a preference.

Christmas Gift Exchange:

<u>Giver</u>	<u>Receiver</u>
Brianna	Broox
Anthony	Thayne
Ondy	Dixon
Zachary	Jaxon
Cason	Brianna
Tanner	Riley
Thayne	Hannah
Landon	Zachary
Meg	Ondylyn
Brittney	Rix
Hannah	Landon
Aubrey	Tanner
Caleb	Meg
Jaxon	Brittney
Jancy	Anthony
Broox	Cason
Dixon	Aubrey
Rix	Caleb
Riley	Jancy