

Dear Family;

May 31, 1993

Congratulations to Beverly and Stephanie on the new babies.

We just got back from our camping trip at Fort Stevens, Oregon. Fort Stevens is the furthest point north on the Oregon coast. It is at the mouth of the Columbia River. This trip was our annual camp out with several families from our ward. This year we invited Marylin, John and the rest of the Brenan family. Charlotte said that she wouldn't go if it was going to rain. The weather forecast was not particularly good. She went anyway. We set up camp in a light rain Friday night. It rained all night. The next morning I set up all the tarps so that we would be dry even if it did rain. Saturday we had gorgeous weather. It rained Saturday night, we had heavy showers Sunday afternoon, rain Sunday night and Monday morning. We had a great time anyway.

We took all the kids bikes. The bicycle trails were mostly flat. The kids rode bikes a lot. Charlotte and I both got into the act. Charlotte took a ride with some of the women down to the jetty. She says the seat on Hannah's bike is very hard. The kids enjoyed playing with friends. Sarah and Emily Brenan were inseparable. Charlotte and I were able to enjoy wandering from campsite to campsite without worrying about the children.

The last two months have been full of activities. Willis' last T-ball game was over last week. His team lost very few games. At this age they rotate the kids around so that each boy plays most, if not all, of the positions during the course of the game. Willis' offence is still in the development stage, but he had several remarkable defensive plays. During one inning he was playing catcher and a ball was hit deep into the outfield. The ball was relayed in by several fielders until it got to home plate. Willis caught the ball on the fly and put the tag on the runner just before he reached home. In another game Willis was playing short stop for the inning. The bases were loaded. A fast grounder came toward him. Willis picked up the ball and started to run toward third base for the force. Suddenly he whirled around and hammered the runner who was just behind him. He really liked being cheered by his team mates.

Hyrum has become quite a good speller and reader during the past year. He is still looking forward to school being out. Thirteen days and counting. Hyrum has really gotten into the reading "The Great Brain" series. He finished another book over our just concluded Memorial Day vacation. Hyrum was just ecstatic about catching five fish at the lake. We had two poles. He caught three fish faster than I could get the hooks baited. Willis had a great time reeling in a couple, but he didn't have the patience to get into fishing big time. Hyrum liked cleaning the fish, but barely ate any of it. Willis would eat the fish, but didn't want to clean them. A week ago the fourth grade classes at Hyrum's school went on a two day field trip to Bend, Oregon. They went through some caves, visited a high desert museum and slept in a school gym. The tour bus (coach) even had a bathroom in it. They had fund raisers through the year.



Last fall I gave the kids their annual father's blessing just before school started. During Hannah's blessing I was very impressed to bless her to play soccer "exceedingly well, which would surprise even herself." Hannah played well in the recreation league last fall. She has decided that she really wants to get into soccer big time. She went to try outs for the fall classic soccer league. The classic soccer league is very competitive. The try outs lasted four days and were for position only. It rained the whole time. Hannah made the team as a defender. This summer they will have practices and play in a few tournaments. Hannah also wanted to sign up for several soccer camps this summer. Her (just for fun) spring indoor soccer league just concluded last week. Hannah will graduate from 6th grade and into junior high in a couple of weeks. School is very important to her. She has gotten straight A's all year.

Sarah is also doing well in school, but has learned about people too. Sarah has had a particular teacher who does not relate well with certain students. Sarah is looking forward to high school, but not early morning seminary. Come to think of it, I'm not sure that I am ready for early morning seminary. The best part of Sarah's Memorable Day weekend having a bonfire on the beach at night with the other kids from our ward without adults. We gave them an 11:30 p.m. curfew and they were responsible. Sarah is planning to earn some money this summer by baby sitting.

Sarah has moved out of piano lessons and into voice lessons. She has a real talent at picking up the music and lyrics quickly. Her voice teacher, who is very good, has been amazed at her progress. She wants Sarah to try out for the Portland girls concert choir. I bought Charlotte "Les Miserables" last Christmas. Sarah bought the music and has learned quite a few of the songs. She can sing them from memory without a piano and has remarkable pitch clarity. She sang to us a wide variety of numbers (unprompted) for about an hour while riding in the car to Fort Stevens. It is so nice to see Sarah practice without being nagged. She seems to know most of the songs on the radio and sings around the house a lot.

Charlotte is still the "go mom." The kids always seem to need a ride somewhere. Charlotte chaperoned Hannah's class zoo trip. She helps in the school a lot. Charlotte also sewed each of the girls a swim suit, a graduation dress, several pants for the boys and the girls, plus a bride's maid dress for a ward member.

I finished building the first of two tiers in the fence/retaining wall. My back neighbor has been somewhat difficult about it. He is the worrier type. I have had to make some retrofit modifications to accommodate his concerns. I was fortunate to meet a man last week who is a golden contact for the missionaries. He lives in another stake. He is Catholic, but calls himself a seeker of truth. I walked him through some scriptures in the Bible. In less than an hour he agreed that we need continued revelation, prophets and apostles.

Love to you from Bryan, Charlotte, Sarah, Hannah, Hyrum & Willis.