

Weight Family Letter--January 1, 1995

Dear Family,

We just took down the tree and all the Christmas trimmings. It's kind of sad to pack them away. It makes the house look really bare!

I am glad to move out of the busyness of the holidays. We attended band, orchestra and choral concerts. We had voice recitals, Girl Choir concerts, ward Christmas parties, school parties and so forth. It was nice to have the children out of school the 6 days before Christmas so we could slow down a little and relax some before Christmas Day came.

Christmas Eve we had our traditional family home evening where we read the accounts in Matthew and Luke. We had a fire in the fireplace and had a really nice evening together. We let the children open the gifts from the grandparents and the aunts and uncles. Christmas morning we opened the other gifts and ran off to catch our 9 am Sacrament meeting. I sang in the choir this year and really enjoyed the Christmas music we sang. After church we came home and enjoyed turkey dinner. We usually have our big dinner on Christmas Eve but Sarah had brought home pizzas from work so we had those and served up the big meal on Christmas day.

Sarah is working at Papa Aldos about 15 hours a week. She's earning money for her trip to Italy this summer. She says she enjoys the job and is learning a lot about working with different people. She sang a solo in Relief Society the week before Christmas. The most exciting news from Sarah is that her good friend, Erin Brady, was baptized yesterday. She's the one that Sarah invited to go to camp and EFY. It was a beautiful baptismal service and we are really happy for her! We're proud of Sarah for being such a good friend and a good example for others. Sarah saved some money and bought a drum set. Now we have drums, clarinet, guitar, piano and violin to go along with all the singing.

Hannah celebrated her 14th birthday on December 9th. Mom fretted over what to get her because she really didn't want anything for her birthday or for Christmas. We finally found something to give her for both events but it is really hard to shop for someone who doesn't have many material desires. For Christmas she gave me a certificate for one day of shopping (she hates to go to the mall or any store) so I'll be able to drag her out and get her some clothing items. She also went through some old pictures and found three with both her and me in them. One was when she was a baby, another when she was about 5 and the third of her 14th birthday. She framed them with popsicle sticks and put copies of journal entries from about the time of each picture. It was so sweet it made me cry.



Hyrum wants to move from the clarinet to the saxophone. The band teacher will let them try out in January or February. The boys got Dr. Drinklab for Christmas from Hannah and they are having a ball playing with mixtures. He sang with his school choir at some malls and at the zoo. He sang some songs with the primary children for probably the last time for which he is glad! He's ready to move on to the Young Men's program in a few months. We gave him a rocket kit for Christmas which he put together and has been going over to the school playground to send off. He gave me a certificate for Christmas for infinity hugs. I love it!

Willis is excited to try out the new rollerblades he got for Christmas. Our cousins in Hood River are on rollerblading teams (I guess they call it hockey) and when we visited them at Thanksgiving time he watched one of the games and thought rollerblading looked like a lot of fun. He was a shepherd in the Primary Christmas program and he looked so tall on stage that for a few minutes I didn't realize it was really him. Sarah picked up the camera to take a picture of him and I thought, "Who is that?" Then I realized that it was Willis! He's just getting too big!!

A new ward mission leader still has not been called for our ward so Bryan is still doing double duty--trying to cover the ward mission needs and serving in the stake mission presidency. Work wise, he had the best December ever. It's been a great blessing not to feel pinched financially like we usually do this time of year.

I've been sewing pajamas and sweatshirts the past few weeks. Hannah and Bryan both gave me gift certificates to fabric stores for Christmas so I can keep on collecting fabric!!

Thanks for all your cards and letters. We really have enjoyed them!

Love,

Bryan, Charlotte, Sarah, Hannah, Hyrum and Willis

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

*Hannah's play ran this past week and she did a terrific job! She got her braces off the day before the play and she has saved enough money for contacts lenses.*