

Dear Family:

Sunday, August 23, 1992

Charlotte and I had a marvelous weekend together in the San Juan Islands in late June. We went up to finalize our vacation plans. We viewed the campgrounds and made reservations where we could. While there we learned that without the reservations we might not have had a place to stay. The campgrounds are very much in demand and fill up rapidly. We found this out on the first night of the family vacation. We didn't have reservations that night and got the last spot in a KOA campground on the main land.

After we got back home, Virginia, called to inform us that they would come and see us in July. They learned we would be in the San Juan Islands and they agreed to meet us there. We were fortunate to get reservations for them. The cousins got reacquainted for three days. We rented paddle boats at the lake, had wonderful campfires, went swimming and saw the sites. Some of the highlights included: driving to the top of Constitution Mountain and looking out over all the islands, skipping rocks and watching fabulous sunsets from the northwestern shore of Orcas Island and seeing lots of deer. Charlotte, the kids and I also saw 20 killer whales and a family of 10 wild turkeys before the Woods came. It was a great trip. We would like to go again.

Charlotte spent a week in Utah when Nancy, Doug and family went through the Provo Temple. She said that it was a wonder experience to see them sealed together as a family. This was the first time Mom & Dad Hall and all their 7 children were in the temple together. Congratulations Nancy and Doug!

We were pleased that Tracy Jr. (Charlotte's brother) and five of their nine children stopped by. They stayed with us one night while on their way home from visiting grandparents in Tacoma, WA. We took them to the City of Portland Rose Garden and had a good time visiting that evening. They continued on their journey back to Utah after church this morning.

Uncle David and Aunt Karen bought plane tickets for Sarah and Hannah to fly to Utah. They spend 6 days with Emily and Barbara. The girls were thrilled and we just spoke to them on the phone. They are having a wonderful time! This house has been unusually quiet without them. Thank you David and Karen for having them.

Willis, Hyrum and Hannah finished four weeks of swimming lessons. Hyrum and Willis improved immensely and like the water, but they weren't able to pass their classes. They do have more confidence than last year, however. Hannah improved her swimming technique and completed the water safety class.

My business has slowed way down. The engineer I hired in February quit and found a new job. His last day was July 31st. It was just as well. I have sufficient work for myself, but not enough to hire his replacement. I have cut down on the size of my yellow page advertisements and took out two additional phone numbers. The phone numbers forward calls to my office. I am hoping that the increased number of local phone numbers will increase the number of inquiry phone calls from other parts of

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town. I am doing slide presentations (marketing) in real estate offices again.

I had an interesting experience while doing an inspection last week. I saw some movement while inspecting the back part of an attic. It turned out to be an eight foot long boa constrictor. The house had been vacant for two or three weeks. I scooped up the snake and went downstairs. The realtor screamed and ran out of the house. I was able to calm her down and put the snake in a closet. After the job was finished, I put the snake in the trunk of my car and drove home. Charlotte was very good about it, but was very firm. This was not going to be a pet. Two days later the kids took the lid off the box while I was at work. Reportedly, one of the neighbor boys kept tapping on the box. The snake bit him on the hand. We called a doctor and a reptile farm and they assured us that it was nothing to worry about as long as the wound didn't swell. The first councilor in our bishopric is a contractor. He just happened to be working on the house next door when the snake bite incident occurred. He heard the screaming and came right over. His son wanted the snake for a pet, so I gave it to him. It is his problem now!

I received a new church calling three weeks ago. I was called to be the new ward mission leader. I taught in the High Priest's quorum two weeks ago and in Relief Society today. I have been teaching a lesson on the keystone of our religion, "The Book of Mormon Another Witness of Jesus Christ." At the end of the lesson I give each person a stone. The stone is a token of the "every member a missionary" gospel covenant. If the ward members will carry the stone with them, then they are much more likely to look for missionary opportunities. I have a lot of faith that this ward is catching missionary fever. We have had either a missionary farewell or homecoming every Sunday since early June. I teach the elder's quorum next week.

We had stake conference last weekend. Our stake of twelve wards was divided. The new stake center for the other stake will not be completed until January. Attendance at the general meeting was held in the gymnasium of a local college.

Sarah wanted to celebrate her birthday early as many of her friends are vacationing around Labor Day. She had her party last week. She and her friends played some hilarious games. One game was a hot dog scavenger hunt. They went to different houses, dressed as bums, begging for a paper plate, bun, mayonnaise, hot dog (which had to be heated for 1 min. at the next house), ketchup, mustard, relish and onions. They were only allowed to get or do one thing at each house. They went out in 2 teams and the losing team had to eat the other team's hot dog.

That's all for now! Hope all is well with all of you!

Love: Bryan, Charlotte, Sarah, Hannah, Hyrum and Willis.