

Happy Holidays Everyone:

January 4, 1993

Marilyn, John and the Brennan children stayed with us for a few days over Thanksgiving. We had a great time visiting over turkey. We took in two rounds of bowling the day after. I took Hannah, Hyrum, Willis, David & Gordon Brennan to Wonderland video arcade while Charlotte, Marilyn, a family friend, and John went shopping. Mark, little John, Sarah and Emily went ice skating. Tamara was away at school. Holidays are a wonderful time to renew family relationships. We were pleased to attend Nathan's missionary farewell earlier that month. Tamara has since received her mission call to the SLC, Temple Square Mission.

We had a lovely December. It snowed twice. I had to cancel a few work appointments. We also had one ice storm. It was dry Christmas week, but it snowed again the night before New Years Eve and New Years Eve. There were five inches on the ground. The children were ecstatic. I wasn't able to get the car up our steep road even with chains on. Charlotte and I enjoyed playing with the children during winter break. Hannah and I made a snowman with five balls. I had to use my ladder to get the last two balls on. The snowman was eleven feet tall. It rained all day yesterday and last night. The holiday disappeared with the snow and back to school seems official.

The Oregon ice storm of December 6, 1992 was so bad that church was canceled throughout the entire stake. We were disappointed because I had two non-member families who would have attended the First Presidency Christmas devotional. One of the families committed to going to church with us, but it didn't work out. They said that they would try again after the holidays. The mother is Jewish and the father is a Catholic. They dropped all religious matters shortly after getting married to avoid family conflicts. Their oldest is 15. Their two youngest girls are Sarah and Hannah's ages. Sarah and Erin are best friends, which is how we got to know them.

Charlotte and I enjoyed a private 15th wedding anniversary. We had plans to go stay in a hotel overlooking the beach on the Oregon coast, but snow required us to modify our plans. We stayed two nights at the Embassy Suits Hotel next to the mall. It worked out quite well. Neither of us cooked any meals. Friday and Saturday we finished our Christmas shopping without having to go home and wrap presents. Sunday morning we completed our Christmas cards. We also enjoyed being together without worrying about the kids. We paid a young married couple stay at our house and take care of domestic responsibilities. Charlotte says we should do this every year.

Sarah got an education by being my part time secretary for the week between Christmas and New Years. My regular secretary was in California on vacation. She got a taste at what the real world of business is like. Business was relatively slow, but

busy enough for a 14 year old girl with lots of ambition and a little bit of apprehension. She also enjoyed making five dollars an hour. Sarah said, "This sure beats baby sitting!"

Hannah had her 12th birthday December 9th and graduated from primary. Beehives is BIG time. You know that a girl is in transition to the teenage years when clothes become important. Charlotte made her a very nice new dress and a few other clothes. Hannah received a few toys and such, but Charlotte and I were surprised that she thought her best Christmas present was a brand new pair of Nike sneakers. Hannah went to a New Years Eve, slumber, birthday party and had a great time with her friends.

Hyrum was sick with a cold/flu combination the whole week before school let out for Christmas vacation. He's back to normal with the exception of a light lingering cough. His friends who live in our neighborhood went away for part of Christmas week so he got a double dose of being bored. Life is great again with friends and the snow. We were tempted to get him Nintendo for Christmas, but we didn't. It is just as well. All of his friends have either Nintendo or Sega Genesis. He gets enough practice as it is. Hyrum received a motorized Capsela kit for Christmas. He likes that kind of stuff. I also painted the winter sky on the ceiling in Hyrum and Willis' room from a stencil kit. It duplicates all the star constellations exactly. The clear paint glows in the dark.

Willis is old enough to develop his own circle of friends. He has one friend named Jonathan who lives on the back side of our block. None of his other school friends live within unsupervised walking distance. He has a friend over to our house after school or goes over to one of his long distance friends about once a week. He also enjoys going to cub scouts with Charlotte, the den leader's assistant, every Thursday.

Willis received a radio remote control car similar to the one Hyrum got two years ago. We were fortunate that the two cars are on different radio frequencies. Living at the top of a dead end street the boys don't have to worry very much about traffic. They are having a wonderful time driving the cars crazy.

We hope your Christmas was wonderful. Love,

Bryan, Charlotte, Sarah, Hannah, Hyrum & Willis