

Sept. 9, 1993

Dear Family,

Last night we witnessed the baptism of a 16 year old friend of ours. His name is Pat Brady and he learned of the church through friends at school. We are good friends with the parents (we went camping with them this past weekend.) They are wonderful people and are very supportive of their children. Pat took the discussions with the permission of his parents, read the Book of Mormon and D & C and knew they were true and wanted to be baptized. His parents asked him to wait until he was 18. He has faithfully attended church every week and has continued reading his scriptures daily and his parents, particularly his dad, were impressed by his commitment. They consented to let him be baptized, although the mother who is Jewish very reluctantly acquiesced. It has been interesting for me to hear her feelings and understand her background a little better. She, in the first place, feels that it is very strange that we would proselyte and seek to convert others to our religion. I felt a lot of compassion for her at the baptism. I knew it was hard for her to see her son join a church that she didn't fully understand. I've been praying that she can feel more comfortable with Pat's choice and feel at peace within herself.

We have enjoyed the great outdoors this summer. Just this past weekend we camped at Waldo Lake, which is the second largest lake in Oregon. We had perfect weather, which is a miracle in Oregon. The Bradys (the family of the boy that was baptized) had some rafts and we enjoyed paddling out on the lake, building sand castles in a sandy beach and taking hikes along the shoreline. On the way home we stopped at the second largest waterfall in Oregon, called the Salt Creek Falls. These second size ranked spots had first rate views. We hiked down a trail that went to the bottom of these falls and soaked in the wonder of 5,000 gallons of water a minute plummeting down hundreds of feet in four seconds.

The only bad part of the trip was that the Brady's dog is getting old and isn't very tolerant of smaller children. The dog kept growling and nipping at Hyrum and Willis. At one point Willis ask the Bradys, "What kind of dog is this? Is he a double mint pincher?"

A week earlier we were hiking in the "Big Sky Country" and viewing with awe the majestic peaks in Glacier National Park. There is one hike in the park that goes from Logan Pass to Hidden Lake that alone was worth the 14 hour drive from Oregon. The views of the mountains and lakes are just incredible! We saw mountain goats, marmots, prairie dogs and the most exciting creature of all--a BEAR! Fortunately for my cautious soul, the view of the bear was from a high ridge that overlooked a river. The bear was swimming and bobbing up and down in the water.

Before the trip to Glacier we attended a Weight reunion that was held near Butte. Bryan's brother Willis lives near there and had rented a Girl Scout Camp for the reunion. Each family had their own cabin and then there was a lodge for meals and family activities. We had a great time! It reminded me of the Hall reunions up at Aspen Grove.

In July, Virginia and Barry invited us to join them at a Wood reunion that was held at Fort Worden in Washington State. They rented a home that used to be officer's quarters and we enjoyed a wonderful visit with them and had a ball playing on the beach with the cousins. The children collected rocks, shells and crabs. We visited a marine museum, played in sand caves, ran down a sandy hill below the caves, got to meet some of Barry's nice relatives, ate great food and just had a great time. We are really grateful to Barry and Virginia for inviting us!!

The children are settling in nicely at school. Sarah and Hannah are both playing soccer this fall. Hannah is on a Classic soccer team and they have been playing a lot of Sunday games. We have been out of town for most of these games but tonight they announced a game for this Sunday and she told them she couldn't come. The coach asked her why and she said, "For religious reasons." I was proud of her for having the courage to tell her coach. He made a comment about how she hasn't been around very much. All of the regular season games are on Saturdays and I'll be glad when these start at the end of this month. She'll have a chance to show her stuff at these games. I have a feeling that she will do very well.

Bryan turned the big 40 this past week. I've enjoyed teasing him because I know that I only have a few short weeks before I join the "over the hill" crowd too.

It's been great hearing from all of you this month!! I love reading about you and your families!!

Love, Charlotte and family

P.S. I'm putting each family's original letters in binders and I'll send them back to you at the end of 12 months.

P.S.S. !!ENJOY YOUR MOUNT HOOD SCRUMPTIOUSOUS!!

P.S.S.S. SARAH WEIGHT HAS VOLUNTEERED TO HEAD UP A HALL FAMILY REUNION FOR NEXT SUMMER. SHE HAS PICKED SUN RIVER OREGON FOR THE LOCATION (WHITE WATER RAFTING, GREAT BIKE TRIALS, SWIMMING, ETC.) WE ARE GOING TO LOOK INTO POSSIBLE ACCOMMODATIONS AND LET YOU KNOW MORE DETAILS LATER. LIZ AND HER FAMILY VACATIONED IN SUN RIVER THIS PAST SUMMER. WE WOULD LIKE TO PLAN FOR THE FIRST WEEK IN AUGUST. LET US KNOW IF THIS WOULD INTERFERE WITH RETURNING MISSIONARIES OR ANY OTHER PLANS YOU MIGHT HAVE. THANKS!!