

Bryan Weight Family Letter, February 1996

Dear Family,

The weather here has been very unusual. First we had hurricane force winds, then we had a big snow storm followed by an ice storm on one morning which turned to sunny 50 degree temperatures on the same day. And then came the floods. Everyone was all concerned about the flooding of the Willamette River (which was bad) and then everyone was taken totally by surprise by the flooding of the Tualatin and subsequently Lake Oswego. Lake Oswego has never flooded before. It is a man made lake fed with head gates at the Tualatin and a dam with outlets into the Willamette. In past years they have always been able to control flooding on the lake by releasing water at the Willamette end. This time, however, the quick rise in the Tualatin surprised the experts and the river spilled over the head gates and the outlets couldn't release the water faster than it was coming in.

We helped with the desperate sandbagging effort. If anyone had known this was going to happen we would have sandbagged two days earlier. We were all just sitting around watching them build a barrier at the Portland Wall and little did we know that we needed such walls around homes on the canals that feed the Lake. I hauled sandbags in our van on two days. The first day worked fine, but the second day the floods had covered several bridges and closed all but one road (which had only one lane open). It took Hannah and I 45 minutes to drive our van full of sand bags 2 miles because of the traffic congestion. A bridge on the road that is our access to town has a big sink hole and repairs are going to take a long time. The two detours are winding through neighborhoods or going all the way around the north side of the lake.

We helped friends move furniture out of their homes. Sandbagging didn't help a lot of people because the ground water level was so high. I watched the level of the water in two homes fill the basements and come within an inch of the main floor. It just made you cry because there was absolutely nothing you could do about it. One home was spared but the other ended up with 3 inches of filthy smelling water over their hardwood floors.

We helped families try to rescue possessions after the flood. Two families had scrapbooks that got wet and we spent hours peeling off photos, documents and etc. to try to save them. Hannah helped separate one couple's saturated love letters. My friend said that Hannah was awfully quiet over there in the corner while she tried to separate pages without tearing them. I tried to bleed some juicy information from her about them but she just smiled and claimed she didn't read them!

Sarah helped a friend move furniture out and when they couldn't do any more they boated around his house in an inflatable raft. They were laughing and having a great time but all I could think about was how filthy the water was and how I hoped they didn't splash any on themselves!!

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I went with a group of friends to bleach down the basement of the Bishop's house. He has a beautiful home on the Willamette. One night his wife suggested that they pull things up from the basement just in case it flooded and he said "Nah, it won't flood." The next morning they had 4 1/2 feet of water in the basement. The day we worked (their son was getting married in two days) the men hauled off loads of ruined stuff to the dump and we washed down the basement. We joked that at least her house smelled of Clorox for the company that was arriving instead of river water!

Sarah just left with four fellow Lakeridge Choir friends for State Choir. (Her picture was in yesterday's local newspaper.) I can tell they are going to have a ball the next few days!! She will spend 3 days at the University of Oregon with other singers from around the state. On Sunday the choir, orchestra and band will perform together. I'm going to go down for the concert.

Hannah and Hyrum made the honor roll. Hannah had three A+ grades!! Sarah made the honor roll in her elective classes. We jerked her driving and working privileges hoping that maybe she'll have more time to cozy up with her math and chemistry books!! It will probably just give her more time to play her guitar and sing!! She's already figured out the **minimum** GPA and the **minimum** SAT score she can get in order to gain admittance to the University of Oregon. Maybe she can sing her way into college!!

Bryan is super busy! He works almost every night until midnight. It's getting a little old and he's (and me too!!) about ready for a break. I was going to steal him away this weekend for a Valentine's retreat and end it with Sarah's concert in Eugene but he was **too busy**!! He called his secretary and had her block out some time in March so that we can have a break!! (Gripe, Gripe!)

Willis had an exciting time at the Pinewood Derby race. Every year our Bishop's son's car is the fastest but this year Willis' car came out on top! He made it basically all by himself with only minimal help from Bryan. The morning before the race we weighed it and it was 1 ounce too heavy. Bryan and he had drilled holes in the back of the car to insert tubular weights and then Willis had glued the weights in. We had a heck of a time chipping out one of the weights and fixing up the hole that was left! Willis spent a lot of time sanding the wheels and making sure they spun around fast. We don't give out 1st place or such prizes in our ward. We try to keep it as non-competitive as possible. We give each boy an award such as Best Design, Sleekest Car and etc. Willis got the Speed Demon award.

That's about all from here. Congratulations to Steven and Kelly on their marriage!! Wish we could have been there!

Love, Bryan, Charlotte and family