

August 25, 1991

Dear Family

We had a quiet 4th of July, comparatively speaking. We attended the elder's quorum breakfast in the morning. Hannah and Sarah were over at friends' houses for sleep overs. They were gone by 6:30 p.m. We had two families from our ward over for a barbecue. Both families have young children. The locally purchased fireworks were OK for the younger kids. We had the usual problem of kids wanting the sun to turn off his light early. Once the fireworks got going, the kids ran out of gas quickly. We had too many fireworks considering how long we had to wait until dark.

Charlotte and I got away one weekend. We left our kids at home with a young couple from our ward. We went to look at a beach house. We signed up for a couple of days while Virginia and Barry were here. I worked half day on Friday July 12 and we drove over to the Oregon coast. We stayed in Seaside. We spoiled ourselves by sleeping in a motel and eating out. We found the clam chowder at "Doogers" as good or better than proclaimed. Saturday we drove to Cannon Beach and explored the fifty or more shops. We also walked the beach in front of "Haystacks" and Ecola State Park. We were on the beach while the tide was going out. I got splashed by a wave that came over the rocks while going after a star fish. My pants got soaked. I gave up the chase which pleased Charlotte. The views were beautiful. We took a few pictures. We really had a really good time.

When Barry and Virginia's family got here we did it all over again except this time the kids got into the act. The first day we had lovely weather, the second day it drizzled and the third day the weather was a bit breezy, but it was dry. On the second day we took a tour of Seaside and the aquarium. We also spent some time in the arcade downtown. We built one great big sand castle in the afternoon. The morning of the last day we had an exceptionally low tide. Low tide was around 7:30 a.m. so the kids were able to pick up about 45 sand dollars. Unfortunately, the sand dollars got left inside the beach house or were inadvertently thrown away while cleaning up. We took everyone to see "Haystacks" and had lunch at Ecola State Park. The weather was nice in the afternoon so most of us went down to the beach. It was a nice visit.

One day after Barry and Virginia's left, Mom and Dad Weight came. Charlotte and I took them out to dinner one night. We also took the family down to the boat locks and had a picnic lunch on the Willamette River. After lunch, we toured the Oregon City Museum. Mom and Dad were only here for the weekend, but we had a very nice visit. Charlotte's other sister Liz, Neil and family will be with us part of this coming week. We enjoyed seeing some family this summer without having to travel out of state.

Sarah has been "king of the baby sitters" this summer. \$\$!! She has been in high demand. Charlotte and I have found ourselves in competition with the outside market. We have to check her schedule so that we can go out without hiring a baby sitter ourselves. We pay her when there is a conflict. We also don't try to over burden her with baby sitting at our convenience. She does enough work for hire and needs free time with her friends. She has enough money to buy some clothes she wants for Jr. High in September. Sarah is a delightful girl who pushes her limits. She will be an official teenager September 5th.

In early August Hannah and Hyrum went to soccer camp. This is Hannah's first experience with soccer so we were surprised that she received the most points in her age group. Hannah won the purple ribbon for being the best all around performer. Hannah and Hyrum both won blue, red and white ribbons for different categories. Most of all they had fun. Hannah and Hyrum are both signed up for Fall soccer. Hannah has already started practice with her team. She is doing remarkably well for a late starter. Hannah enjoyed having her best friend who moved to Colorado last Christmas fly in and stay with us for a week. Charlotte went the extra mile (in the car) by taking all the kids to Sauvie Island beach, OMSI science museum, the zoo and the mall. They had a great time and are already talking about next year.

We had to pull Hyrum out of Fall soccer. He pulled a ligament in his right leg while jumping on the trampoline. They were breaking the rules. There were four kids jumping at the same time. Hyrum will be in a cast for another week. We have decided to sell the trampoline. We have had two accidents in our family on it. Hyrum has had less than the best summer ever due to his leg. He was not able to go the Sauvy Island last week because of the cast. We have also been discouraging a relationship with a neighbor boy of the same age. This boy is an only child who rationalizes that his occasional unacceptable behavior is not a problem. From our perspective his parents are quite liberal and do not provide proper guidance. His mother does not work, but seems to be easily manipulated. We explained to Hyrum that it is ok to play with the neighbor boy, but he is not a friend. Hyrum is not old enough to fully comprehend what that means. He does recognize that the neighbor boy is different by our standards. We let them play mostly at our house, but we can't keep him home all the time.

Willis can hardly wait for school to start. He is going into kindergarten. We got tired of telling him how many days until school starts that we finally made a "count down" chart. He has been crossing the days off since August 13. School starts the Tuesday after Labor Day.

Charlotte has had a full schedule of primary this summer. Both of her councilors moved just before that councilor would have had "sharing time." One councilor moved suddenly when her husband got a job transfer. Charlotte has been carrying the primary with very limited support for three months. Our former bishopric was somewhat slow to act because they new a change was coming. The new bishop was our scout master. Charlotte has her councilors now.

I cut down a large pine tree in our backyard when Charlotte was gone shopping two weeks ago. I also took out every shrub in the backyard. I finished getting the stump out yesterday. Our lot is on a bit of a slope. We want to have a garden and make our backyard more suitable for kid activities. We are going to build a retaining wall and level out the yard. I will start putting a new roof on the house on Labor Day. I ordered the roofing materials yesterday. Our house has had a lot of deferred maintenance. I will probably paint the house exterior in the spring. We have been slowly painting the interior.

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