

Dear Family:

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April 25, 1990

Willis and I were lying on the hammock Easter Sunday when he looked up at me and said, "Hey dad! You've got spider webs in your nose!" Willis is a very active four year old who cannot hide how he feels or what he is thinking about. He cries with gusto when he gets hurt and laughs equally hard while enjoying that moment in time. Willis loves going to pre-school. He tells us all about it when he gets picked up. Willis is a fun little guy who thinks earth life is the greatest.

Hyrum is our seven year old inventor son. He is very interested in learning about how things work. Frequently, he will come up to us and say, "Do you want to see my new invention?" A recent example included four plastic knives scotch taped together, paper clips, a rubber band and a some snap together pieces of "Construx." It formed a miniature wind mill. I helped him cement the butt ends of the knives together for better rigidity and drill a hole through some sheet metal. He was amused by it for a couple of weeks. We got him a *make your own motor and speed boat set* for Christmas. He needed some help with the windings on the motor. It runs great in the bathtub. Hyrum is very creative and has a great imagination. Hyrum likes school.

Hannah is our nine year old. She also has a great imagination, but in a different way. She is wonderful with younger children and likes to make up pretend games and story situations. She is very good about making sure no one is left out of her pretend adventures. Hyrum, Willis and the other younger kids on the block like to play with her. That is good because Hannah doesn't have anyone in the neighborhood to play with who is her age. She has such a cheery disposition. Hannah recently performed limited baby sitting services for the next door neighbor. She says earning money is fun. Hannah is showing good progress in her piano lessons. Both girls are preparing for a piano recital this Sunday. Hannah is a fast learner in school and likes to read. When she gets into a book (the kind without pictures), she doesn't like to put it down. A couple of times she inadvertently stayed up until past mid-night reading because we forgot to check on her. (PUT THAT BOOK DOWN AND GO TO SLEEP!)

There are three girls in the neighborhood who are the same age as Sarah. Sarah lets Hannah be included in their activities, but sometimes its nice not to have a tag-along. At eleven years old, we are letting Sarah earn money baby sitting. She was already doing some baby sitting for the neighbor so we enrolled her in a course on baby sitting. The two Saturday seminar was offered through the City of Lake Oswego. Every Thursday evening Sarah has a gymnastics class. She is enjoying her class and is enrolled with two of the three girls on our block.

Charlotte and I have been exceptionally pleased to see Sarah show an ambitious and responsible attitude while completing a social studies project. Sarah and Julia (a neighbor who is also in Sarah's class) sewed puppets, costumes and drew several different scenes on butcher paper for the oral part of the assignment. The biographical report was on Sequoia, the Cherokee Indian who

formulated the first written language of any American Indian tribe. The written report was still a bit of a challenge, but she did a lot of it by herself. Nag, nag, nag. Sarah has recently started setting her alarm clock for 6:00 a.m., gets up by herself, showers and does her vision training without being asked. Will wonders never cease. Sarah is beginning to blossom into a young lady.

Palisades school, the one our kids attend, had a raw egg drop contest yesterday. The kids are suppose to devise a contraption that will protect the egg from breaking when it is dropped thirty feet off the ground. Naturally, we sent three entries. I think the real contest is for parents who have to come up with an idea that will satisfy their kids. Hannah's egg was encased in jello, placed in a large plastic baggy and stuffed down an old sock. We used less than half the water called for in the jello mix. Hannah had the only jello entry in the school and there was a lot of interest in it. Hyrum and Sarah's eggs were both packed in foam rubber and attached to home made parachutes. Hannah's egg did not have a parachute. When her jello-egg was dropped it hit the ground with a loud thud. No one thought her egg would make it, but when the sock was opened the egg had not cracked. We had three eggs that survived the drop.

We had several days had record warm temperatures during the first four weeks of spring. We took the family to the Rhododendron Gardens for family home evening last Monday. The kids enjoyed feeding the ducks and squirrels as much as the flowers. Willis got so excited that he stepped into the pond. Fortunately, the water only went up to his knees.

The warm sunny days have brought out the flowers, buds, leaves on the trees, lawn mowers and hey fever. The pollen counts in Portland have been the highest on record. This year Charlotte has been hit especially hard with hey fever. Now that the rains are back Charlotte is beginning to improve. Charlotte has been sewing up a storm. She made the nicest Easter dress for Sarah. She also made six pair of shorts, a couple of vests, shirts, another dress and an outfit for herself the past two weeks.

I have been working on our master bathroom. Two weeks ago I installed a bathroom vent fan. I took a skill saw to the sheetrock and opened up the wall and ceiling so that I could install the wiring. The fan will help to keep mildew from growing on the ceiling. Charlotte also pulled off all the wall paper in our bedroom and in the bath. I have been doing a major spackling job. Hiding all the blemishes from tearing off wall paper is just about like spackling the entire wall. The walls still have to be sanded. It will be another week before we are ready to paint. I also installed sheetrock around my work bench in the garage. I hope to put a new roof on our house sometime this summer.

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