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Dear Family,

February 6, 1990

A lot of this is old news, but then again, it might be new news since it has been a long time since the Bryan Weight family has written. This letter has some potential of being long.

We enjoyed the news letters and cards we received over Christmas. It was great hearing what's going on with some of the nieces and nephews. We are pleased that Daniel and Tracy are serving the Lord on their missions.

The weekend after Thanksgiving I did a real estate inspection of an old mining town. The town has a population of eight persons and located way up in the mountains. Electricity for the town runs off of an old hydro electric generator. The setting is in a deep valley with tall timber as far as you can see. There is a roaring river that flows through the middle of the town. There is a large bridge that crosses the river made out of log poles. There is another river higher up that flows into the one running through the town. It has several waterfalls that cascade into deep blue-green pools.

It looked just like something right out of the 1880s. The mining camp has numerous shanties, an old store, storage buildings, an ore processing mill and a giant lodge. Heating is supplied solely by woodburning stoves. The lodge is three stories high and there are enough beds to sleep 21 persons. Our family had the lodge for the entire weekend. The kitchen had most of the modern conveniences of home, including a refrigerator. The mammoth fireplace was very picturesque and so were the views out every window. I can't remember a time that was more peaceful even though I worked two of the three days we were there. (We pulled the kids out of school one day.) It had snowed over Thanksgiving so the kids got their wish. We let them play in it even though it started raining while we were there. The town is private property and is now snowed in for the winter. Access is by special invitation only. We hope to be invited back sometime next summer.

In early December we asked a member of our ward who is carpet layer by trade to come over and stretch our living room carpet. When he indicated that they weren't really worth the effort because of their poor condition, we pulled the carpet back. We found the hardwood floor underneath in generally good condition. We decided to go with the hardwoods. Before we pulled up the carpet we had the living room and dining room painted. The color is a soft white with a light mauve tint. The ceilings are whiter still and the trim is darker. It looks very nice. The painter worked at it for four days without a break. He finished 2 days before Christmas. We had a very nice Christmas, but we won't have a project like that going on so close to the holidays again. We got ambitious and painted the girls room upstairs by ourselves. We found a carpet remnant to cover their tile floor.

Sarah has experienced some reading difficulties so Charlotte took her to an optometrist who specializes in vision disabilities for testing. Homework that required a significant amount of reading has been very difficult for her. In addition, Sarah's comprehension scores have been extremely low. The teacher and school principal also had noticed some of her reading difficulties. The pamphlet Ellen sent on vision problems was helpful. Sarah has good eye sight, but poor vision. Her eyes are not working together as they should. We have been working with her at home 30 minutes a day in a vision training program. Sarah sees the optometrist once every three weeks. The program will go for 5 to 6 months. She a very bright girl and we are relieved to find out what her problem is. Like Ellen's son Sean, this is something that is completely correctable for Sarah. We have noticed an improvement already.

Charlotte and I started a new bunch of Merrie Miss and Blazer B boys and girls at the first of the year. What an active group! Sarah has already instructed us on how we ought to teach the class, since she's a member of it. "Don't be so serious. Don't get mad. Let us have fun. . . etc." She is doing a good job of raising her parents. I have recently been called as the ward executive secretary so we expect a change soon. I have enjoyed working with the boys in scouting.

Sarah is taking a gymnastics class with two other girls on our block. The class is fairly rigorous. The girls in the advanced classes compete on a state level. It is like a swim club only they are actively pursuing gymnastics. Sarah is in the beginners course. They want her to be able to do the splits before moving up. Sarah practices at home all the time. As long as she is motivated, we will let her continue.

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February 20, 1990

Dear Family, Bryan's secretary is ill today so I'm over at his office waiting for a client to come for a report. Willis is at a friend's house and I'm kind of enjoying the quiet.

Happy Birthday Mom! It was great talking with you and Dad a few days back. We hope you are not still buried under all that snow. Our children missed one day of school last week and had several late start days due to snow. They have had so much fun in the snow and it reminded me of younger days when I used to go over to the hill across from Larsen's home and sled until I was so tired that I could hardly walk home.

On Sunday, Willis slipped from a chair at church and knocked out one of his front teeth when he fell against the chalk tray. Bryan pushed the tooth back in and it seemed to be doing fine until he crashed sleigh riding and knocked it out again. We didn't find the tooth that time and figured it was a lost cause anyway. Hyrum's front tooth is loose from natural causes and he is anxious to have his to give to the tooth fairy. There is a

certain prestige that comes with toothless grins when you are in the first grade.

The cookies from Liz were delicious and such a wonderful surprise! Can you imagine how many triple batches she had to make to provide such a fun treat for all of us?! Sarah says they were wonderfully decorated and tasted good. She wonders if you put a little lemon in them. I remember that Mom's sugar cookie recipe calls for lemon extract.

Wasn't it great to have a letter from a missionary included in that last family letter! It just kind of opened a whole new world for us and made us excited about missionary work again.

I have wanted to share with the family my feelings about temple worship and temple ordinances. Many negative things have been said about part of the temple ceremony and I want you to know that I feel the statements have been made in error. Uncle Wendell has looked at things in a temporally nature and has dismissed the fact that these actions are symbolic of spiritual punishment and are not concerned with earthly symbols of death. They symbolize a separation from the head who is God our Father, next the Son, (scriptures refer to Him as being in the bosom of the Father, and finally a separation even from the Holy Spirit. You'll notice that as we accept and live these sacred covenant we will gradually arrive to a point in our lives that we will be in such harmony with our Father that no spiritually punishment need even be stated. During the temple open house formerly endowed apostates stood by the temple grounds passing out literature and quoting from the temple ceremony about these "gruesome" gestures that are performed in the temple. These apostates are very alive, even though they have broken sacred covenants, and they will die natural physical deaths. Pres. Harold B. Lee addressed us as missionaries in the Salt Lake Temple solemn assembly room and he said over and over again "Remember all these actions are symbolic and spiritual in nature." I feel that it is really unfortunate that doubts concerning these ordinances have been planted in many of our minds and I pray that we might humbly seek the Lord's council concerning these sacred things and not lean on our own or other's judgments. I'm a simple minded person and certainly can't lay any claim on great intelligence but the Lord has opened my eyes and helped me understand in small ways what these covenants signify to me and to Him. I know one thing of certainty, and that is that these covenants are beautiful to our Father in Heaven and that He treasures these bonds that draw us nigh unto him. I fear that we and perhaps even our children might to have some extent been negatively affected by the erroneous thoughts that have been voiced and I hope and pray that we might take opportunity to clear our minds of doubt and seek to instruct our children about the beauties of the House of the Lord.

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