

## New Stake Presidency Sustained



Callings of major responsibility are always the result of equally major preparation. It is not a matter of an individual's actively and consciously preparing for a certain calling, but rather recognizing that the Lord provides a number of experiences and opportunities for growth, to fit the situation when the time comes. This preparation often involves moving, since the Lord needs to have the right people in the right place at the right time.

The sustaining of Paul Nicholson, Loran Anderson, and Arnold Garr as the new stake presidency on September 14 is a good example of preparation. Each member of the new presidency has served as a bishop, high councilor, and in numerous other teaching and administrative assignments. Each had to be moved here by the Lord so that they could serve together.

President Nicholson was born in Havana, Florida but moved away to go to school, to meet his wife Ann, and to be exposed to the Gospel by the missionaries. He could then return to Gadsden County, having been brought back by the faith of the Quincy Branch who fasted and prayed for more members.

President Anderson was born in Idaho Falls, met his wife Renee, went to undergraduate and graduate school in different states, and worked in still others. The Anderson family moved to Tallahassee from Kansas to become part of a

small ward that needed to grow.

President Garr was born in Ogden, Utah, married his wife Cherie and attended school locally, and then began to travel as an employee of the Church Education System. A stopover in Palmyra, New York, preceded the move to Tallahassee, where growth and strength were needed.

Revelation is also preparation. It is not uncommon for the Spirit to stir an individual prior to a calling, and it is not uncommon for others to recognize that and to find the Lord's choice to be the natural one.

Many people congratulated President Nicholson upon his new calling prior to the formal extension and announcement of that call. He had already been called by the Lord, and Elder Dean Larsen was the

Lord's mouthpiece and the one charged with learning whom the Lord had called. Because of this, it seemed only right when his name was announced. He too knew that the calling would be his and he already had his counselors selected.

President Anderson had been uneasy for several days, particularly when he learned for certain that the stake presidency was to be reorganized. The Spirit told him that he would somehow be part of the reorganization. That resulted in some sleepless nights but a renewed resolve to serve wherever he was called.

President Garr believed for several months that there was "something coming." Both he and Cherie felt that he had something of major importance to do and that they were in Tallahassee for a purpose. He was prompted to put his life completely in order and to work diligently at spiritual preparation. It was then that he was called.

**A**nd it came to pass that on that day the multitudes did gather together to hear the word of the Lord as it came forth from the mouth of His servants, and also from His special witness who had traveled from afar to be with the people.

And it came to pass, that as they were thus gathered, the Lord decreed that there should be a change in leadership, and there was weeping and wailing in the hearts of many, for behold, their leaders had walked uprightly before the Lord, and for the space of many years there had been peace in the land insomuch as the people harkened unto their counsel, and the people held much love in their hearts for these men of God.

And it came to pass that the Lord did make His will known unto the people.

And it came to pass that when the Lord revealed by the mouth of his servant, yea, even the servant who had traveled from a distant land, who should succeed these leaders who had walked uprightly before the Lord, the people did rejoice in their hearts, for the Spirit of the Lord was with them and they knew that it was right, and they knew in their hearts that these men would also walk uprightly before the Lord and that peace would continue in the land.

Have you identified the above photos? Answers are found on page 8.

## Portraits of the New Presidency and Their Families

### *The Nicholson Family*



*L to R: Paula Edmunds, Paul, (Cupid the dog), Allen, Ann, Mike, Vicky and Blair Burton*

Paul Nicholson is a fifth generation Floridian born in Havana, Florida on August 30, 1933.

He graduated from Quincy High and from the University of Florida with a degree in Entomology. The Army caught him for two years and he was stationed in Germany for a part of this period.

He worked for 12 years for a national pest control company and lived for various times in Phoenix, Nashville, Chattanooga, Birmingham, Atlanta, and Valdosta. He now owns his own pest control company and has been self-employed for the last 15 years. He served a term as County Commissioner for Gadsden County and was recently reelected to this position for another 4 year term. He enjoys deer hunting for a hobby.

President Nicholson's wife, Ann, was born in Jacksonville, Florida and also attended the University of Florida where her son Michael tells us she majored in "finding a husband." The couple met on a blind date and were married in 1959. They joined the Church together in 1966 and were sealed in the Salt Lake Temple in 1968. Both have served in numerous Church positions. The Nicholsons have four children:

Paula, 25, married Kent Edmunds in the Atlanta Temple in August. They live in Provo, Utah and are in their last semester at BYU. Paula served a mission in Costa Rica and Panama.

Vicky, 23, has been married for two years to Blair Burton and they live in New Port Richey, Florida. Vicky and Blair both graduated from BYU, Vicky with a degree in Elementary Education and Blair, Business Finance. Their most important accomplishment thus far is the production of the Nicholson's

first grandchild, Bethann Elise, born November 15. The Nicholson's are currently studying "Grandchild Spoiling Techniques."

Allen, 19, is currently serving in the Salt Lake City North Mission.

Michael, 18, is currently a high school senior when he has time from hunting and riding horses.

### *The Anderson Family*



*L to R: Logan, Perry, Lori, Tatiana Bryan, Lance, Renee, Erik Bryan, Larry, Cindy and Trevor Bryan*

Loran C. (Larry) Anderson was born February 7, 1936, in Idaho Falls, Idaho. As a teenager, the scouting program was his main interest. He and four brothers all became Eagle Scouts. He served as camp naturalist for a scout camp in the Teton Mountains for six summers during which he developed a checklist of over 1,000 species of wildflowers natural to that area. He always felt a personal closeness to Heavenly Father when seeing His handiwork outdoors in the great diversity of plants and the beauty of the mountains and deserts or when in the science laboratory studying plant structure under the microscope.

President Anderson attended Utah State University where he received his Bachelor's Degree and graduated as Valedictorian of the College of Agriculture. After receiving his Master's Degree at Utah State, he served as Second Lieutenant in the Army for 6 months and later retired from the Army Reserve as a Major. He received his Ph.D. in botany at Claremont Graduate School in southern California, and has since taught at Michigan State University and Kansas State University, in addition to serving in several national professional societies. In 1974, President Anderson accepted a position at F.S.U. where he is now Professor of Botany and Curator of the Herbarium in the Department of Biological Science.

President Anderson and his wife, Renee, lived in the same ward in Idaho Falls and had their first date when he was 17 and she was 15. They dated others through the years, and were

*Continued on Page 8*

## New Branch Presidents



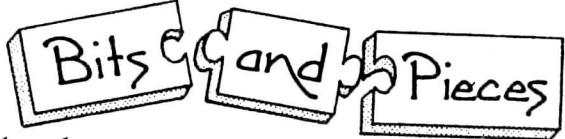
### Perry

Allen D. Malone was called on August 17 to serve as president of the Perry Branch with counselors Alan Gunter and Mike Brown. He succeeds Franklin Murray who served for 2 years.

President Malone was born in Port St. Joe, Florida just before World War II. His family moved to Tampa following the war where he graduated from high school and attended the University of South Florida. Interest in communications began through Army training and led to work with General Telephone. In 1967 he was hired by Stromberg Carlson and traveled to many places in the United States to install telephone equipment. As his older daughter began school his travel caused difficulties, prompting him to take an assignment in Atlanta. In 1977, he transferred to St. Louis but he disliked the winters and asked to be transferred south. The Malones moved to Miami in 1979 where he served as operations manager until the company was sold in 1986. Because of family in the North Florida and Perry area, the Malones took the opportunity of the company's sale to move to Shady Grove last February where they had purchased land in 1981.

President Malone converted to the Church and was baptized in June 1966. Previous callings have included ward clerk, executive secretary, elders quorum first counselor, Cub Scout master, Scoutmaster, Young Men president, and second counselor in the branch presidency. His wife, the former Donna Fay McKuhen, is currently serving as first counselor in the Perry Branch Relief Society. Their children are Janet Marie, 21, and Mary Lou, 10.

President Malone recognizes that the Perry Branch has many fine people and feels that they have the chance to grow and become a ward. "We need dedication to achieve our goals for member activation and baptisms. I would like to see our older members make a temple trip; we have several sisters who have never had the chance to go. There is so much room for growth here that we only can expand."



Did you know...

...that the first chapel in Tallahassee was located on Williams and Gadsden Streets and the building is now owned and operated by the Red Cross?

...that Plains, Georgia, was once in our Stake boundaries and that Jay Lybert was once Jimmy Carter's stake president?

*If you have information or photos pertaining to the history of your ward or branch or the stake, contact your ward/branch historian or your bishop or branch president.*

### Monticello

Brother C.L. Fordham of Tallahassee First Ward was sustained on September 21 as President of the Monticello Branch, with Jim Abbott as his first counselor. President Fordham replaces Larry Brock, also of Tallahassee First Ward, who served for approximately 2 years.

President Fordham was born in Dublin, Georgia in August 1939. He is a convert to the Church and was baptized in Sarasota, Florida in 1957.

He attended public school through high school, did undergraduate studies at the University of South Florida in Tampa, and received his law degree from the FSU Law School.

President Fordham works as a prosecutor. He is chief assistant to the State Attorney in the Second Judicial Circuit, which covers the Church's stake boundaries in Florida.

Some of his previous jobs have included: deputy General Counsel to Governor Ruben Askew, Director of State-wide Career Criminal Prosecutor and service for twelve years as director of the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association. Early in his career he worked as a detective for the Sarasota Police Department.

He is currently a member of the Leon County Republican Committee.

He came to this area to open an office for Governor Rubin Askew and to attend the FSU Law School.

Brother Fordham is married to the former Carole Jeanne Hobbs, who was baptized in 1959 by Brother Fordham, whom she was dating at the time. They have three children: Carla Lea Moller, Mark Scott, and Debra Marie. Two grandchildren were added this year: Steven Scott Fordham born in April, and Brandon William Moller born in September.

A few of President Fordham's callings have been: bishop, elders quorum president, Young Men president, Seminary teacher, high councilor, Regional Welfare Director, counselor and president in the Stake Sunday School presidency, and counselor in the first stake presidency of the Tallahassee Florida Stake.

The Monticello Branch is building a new chapel. The land has been cleared and work is scheduled to begin by the first of the year. President Fordham wants to see an increase in members, an increase in spirituality, get all church positions filled, and be ready for the new chapel.

President Fordham feels that he and Sister Fordham have reached a comfortable point in life. They have raised three special children, which they feel is their greatest achievement. Now is a time for reflection, to continue and enjoy life.

## Calls:

Allen Nicholson (Quincy)  
Utah Salt Lake City North



## Cairo Sister Receives Scholarship

by Anne Walker  
Cairo Public Communications Director

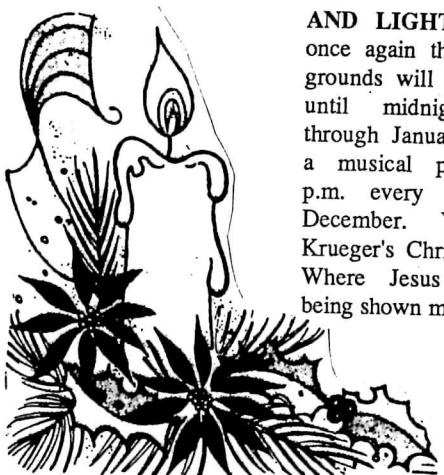
Southwest Georgia might seem an unlikely locale for a Yakima Indian Tribe scholarship recipient to be living, but Gloria Goedel Humphries, wife of Harold Humphries, and mother of Nikki, Jason, Christie, Andrea, Harold, Jr., and Oscar, is just that!

Sister Humphries traveled to Yakima, Washington this past summer to attend a banquet at which she and other tribal members were honored for scholastic achievement. While there, Sister Humphries was interviewed on television which she admits was very "frightening".

When her youngest child started school last year, she decided it was time to continue her pursuit of a degree in Early Childhood Education. Yakima tribe scholarships were established to aid any member of the tribe who wished to further his or her education and funds are derived from the sale of timber on tribal lands. Once accepted, however, the recipient must show by grades and attendance that a serious effort is being made. Sister Humphries has maintained an A average at Thomas College and will transfer to Valdosta State College at the end of the present quarter.

She cites her mother as the example which she and her five brothers and sisters have followed. All six of the Goedel siblings plus their mother are enrolled in college courses throughout the United States.

In addition to her duties as a full-time homemaker, mother and college student, Sister Humphries serves as the Cairo Branch organist and pinch-hits wherever needed.



BRING  
YOUR  
FRIENDS!

**THE FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND LIGHTS** is well underway once again this year. The church grounds will be lighted from dusk until midnight every evening through January 4. There will be a musical performance at 7:00 p.m. every Sunday evening in December. Videos, such as Mr. Krueger's Christmas, The Gift, and Where Jesus Walked, are also being shown most evenings.

## Sharing the Gospel

When missionaries seek help in proclaiming the gospel, members often think it requires them to go out and "knock doors." Some people enjoy this experience, finding it quite rewarding and challenging. Others don't, and still others would like to go out and "field teach" but can't because of work, family responsibilities, or other obligations that require their time.

There are, however, many other things that members can do to help the missionaries with the challenge to proclaim the gospel. First, pray and then contact the missionaries and offer to help.

Some suggestions (compiled by Tallahassee First Ward missionaries):

1. Marking copies of the Book of Mormon (one book takes less than 30 minutes!)
2. Making cards (Thank you, Have a Great Day, Thinking of You, invitations, inspirational sayings)
3. Baking (cookies, cakes, casseroles, breads, etc. Lollipops??!!)
4. Making Anti-Smoking Kits (Proven to be very effective - haven't had one fail yet!!)
5. Donating inexpensive little toys, balloons, stickers, candy, etc. (for the little children of the families the missionaries are working with)
6. Marking the missionary tracts (with phone numbers and missionary names)
7. Dropping off some of the items listed
8. Inviting a friend to church, a fireside, or institute (and let the missionaries know they are coming with you!)
9. Making copies of your, and your children's, testimonies or conversion stories
10. Offering to sit in on a discussion, taught at an investigator's home or in your own home
11. Offering to give one of our investigators a ride to church
12. Always including the missionaries in your prayers
13. Fellowshiping and Friendshipping. This is a great way to develop new friends and a Christ-like love!

## New Buildings: Barometer of Growth

by Bill Clark  
Stake Physical Facilities Representative

The Tallahassee Second and Third Wards have received approval to jointly build a new chapel, "The Sage". This new building is being constructed on 6.56 acres located east of Thomasville Road, just north of Killearn Estates. Workers began clearing the land in November. The contract for construction was awarded to Carlisle Construction Company of Tallahassee. Groundbreaking ceremonies are tentatively scheduled for December 22, with completion expected during the summer of 1987.

The Sage is designed as a multi-ward facility to provide sufficient space, ease of construction, energy efficiency, and flexible teaching stations to serve three wards. Four wards could be housed with the loss of only one teaching station. The central core of the chapel/cultural center provides easy access to all offices and classrooms.

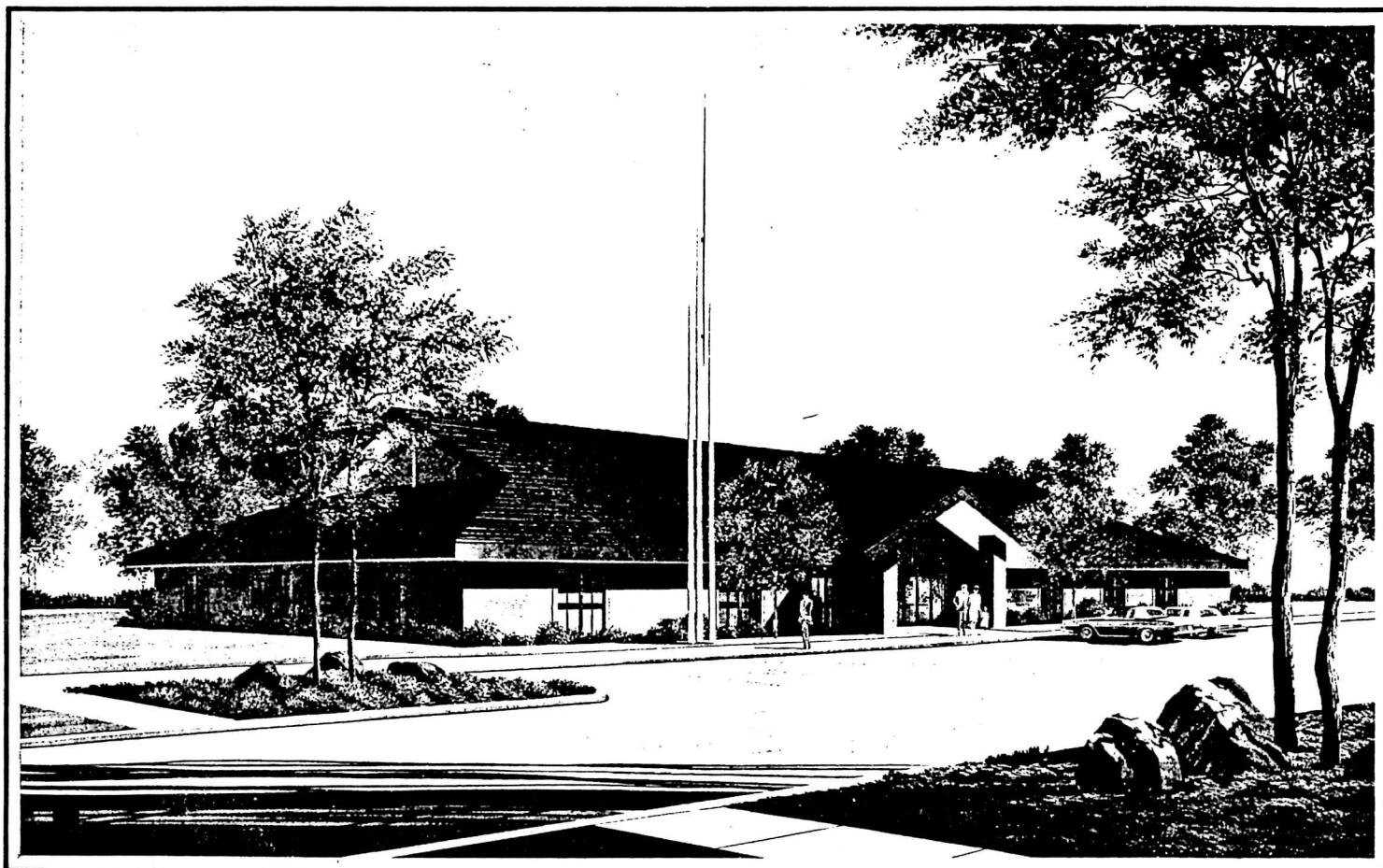
The building is enclosed in an envelope of super insulation, windows are coated with an insulating glazing, and entrances are doubled with a vestibule between, which leads to easier control

of the interior environment regardless of exterior climatic conditions. Lighting is designed to enhance the aesthetics of the interior, to produce special effects, and more especially to help create a spiritual atmosphere for all who enter.

Also in Tallahassee, the expansion of the Stake center is scheduled to begin in December or January. It will consist of the addition of a stake suite, comprising a new stake president's office, high council room, clerks offices, and new genealogy and ward libraries. The existing offices and libraries will be converted to classrooms.

Elsewhere in the stake are four new buildings in various stages. Moultrie is in the process of constructing a two-phase meetinghouse with a planned completion date of February 1987. Cairo and Crawfordville received approval to add the chapel phase with construction expected to begin in the next couple of months, and Monticello has made application to build a one-phase building.

*"The Sage"*





## Relief Society

by Laura Allen

Sister Renee Anderson tells of a time, while raising her children, when her health was failing, requiring that she receive absolute bed rest to prolong her life. At this time her main concern was that her life be extended long enough to complete raising her children. In order to have enough strength to have teaching moments with her family, Sister Anderson had to stay in bed all day, resting until her family came home in the evening. At that time her husband and children gathered around her bed and she instructed them in methods of cooking, cleaning, and caring for each other, as well as participating in gospel instruction. Sister Anderson recalls that these were precious moments to her family which brought each member closer to the others in such a way as would not have been possible had visiting teachers or others come in and taken over all the chores for the family.

In considering Sister Anderson's experience, perhaps we should re-evaluate the kind of assistance that we give to others. Is it sometimes easier to do a job ourselves, feel good about our charity, and go away leaving families with a task completed but with few more skills than they had before in coping with their situation? With a little creativity we may be able to sit down with sisters we are called to serve and share with them methods of dividing duties, instructing families, and using all available resources within the family. Sometimes families don't realize the wealth of resources they have available to them in each other.

### Scout Camporee a Success

by Printess M. McCreless  
Stake Young Men President

The Tallahassee Florida Stake held its first Stake Scout Camporee on September 26-27. Over 130 scouters participated in this special event.

The camporee was held at Seminole State Park in Donalsonville, Georgia. The park staff organized programs in wildlife management, star gazing through a powerful telescope and gun and hunter safety. Activities were organized by the camporee committee that included waterfront safety, canoeing, campsite preparation and inspection, and a marathon competition.

After registration Friday evening the scouts were treated to a great meal and then began the activities. Taps was at midnight (give or take a few hours) and Saturday morning activities began bright and early. Saturday was filled with fun, games, learning opportunities and ended with a marathon race around the park.

Each scout was given a special patch designed for this camporee. The Monticello scouts won first place in the campsite competition and the Varsity scouts won the marathon.

A special thanks to Richard Johnston of Bainbridge, and the camporee committee that put together this experience for the scouts. We are looking forward to this as an annual event.

## Young Women

by Diane Meresse and Teresa Bliss

The Young Women of the Tallahassee Stake have been "coloring their world special" this year. In keeping with the 1986 camp theme, the girls decorated their cabins, made beautiful crafts and learned skills to carry throughout their lives.

We were blessed to have Janice Tucker, Lennae Speck and Paula Nicholson as our guest speakers this year and they truly brought their sweet spirits along with oodles of advice for the girls.

Our heartfelt thanks go to those priesthood leaders who supported us and spent the evenings with us and to all the counselors, instructors and special area leaders who made camp a success.

Camp was preceded by the annual certification canoe trip down the Cold Water River (aptly named, I might add), and our thanks again to Brother (now President) Loran Anderson for this expertise in nature and to Dianne Futch for arranging the trip.

There will be many new activities and ideas planned for camp next year and we look forward to many changes as well as maintaining much of the traditional learning experiences usually involved with camp.

Thank you all for a fun and exciting summer!

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The previous Stake Young Women presidency—Cherie Garr, Peggy Dransfield, Donna Douglas and Teresa Bliss—express their gratitude and appreciation to all of the unit leaders and the young women throughout the stake. We have enjoyed serving with you these past several years and have grown to love all of you. It has been a wonderful experience to share with you in the many activities and goals of the young women program. We hope we have helped you in your goal to draw closer to Heavenly Father and in being a follower of Jesus Christ. We hope you will continually work towards these eternal means.

**WANTED**

**DESCENDANTS**

Blessing records of your ancestors in the  
**SOUTHERN STATES MISSION**  
from 1893-1925  
are available in the Genealogy Library

**AT NO COST TO YOU**

You may check these records for  
birthdate, birthplace, and parents' names

## Cairo

by Anne Walker  
Cairo Public Communications Director

Sister Florence Ewing's friends in the Tallahassee Stake will be happy to learn that she has returned from California and is once again living in Cairo.

The Branch held a Court of Honor on September 10th. Larry Murkerson who is working toward Eagle Scout received merit badges in rowing and environmental science. Greg Taylor, who was advanced to tenderfoot, received merit badges in swimming and rowing. Paul Fleming was advanced to first class and Jason Humphries, James Bynum, Michael Baggett and Lonnie Newton were advanced to tenderfoot.

Dana Butler and Patricia Walden were selected as finalists to participate in the Grady County Junior Miss pageant.



## Tallahassee II

On September 26 & 27 the Second Ward Blazer Scouts attended the First Tallahassee Florida Stake Camporee at Lake Seminole State Park in Georgia where they earned their swimming skill award and worked on the cooking and camping skill awards. Highlights of the weekend included the Prisoner of War game, swimming, canoeing, a scavenger hunt, and learning about alligators.

For some of the boys it was their first cooking experience, as well as camping, revealing some admissions:

Jason Leishman burned the bacon, but got better. He enjoyed the talk on the edible plants for animals. Sleeping, he said, was "bumpy."

Micah West: "I built the fire that burned the bacon. We saw a good movie on safety."

Jason Mork made a big pot of grits--first too much water--had to add more grits--too many--had to add more water. "We had lots of grits--no butter, but they were good!" He enjoyed learning about the history of Lake Seminole.

Shaun King liked the wildlife and being outdoors with nature.

John Hewett (patrol leader) liked cooking french fries. "I burned the bacon but I cooked good hamburgers. The most fun--I was boss--was telling everyone what to do!"

The campout was a great experience for our eleven-year-old scouts leading to a first place ribbon for our Raccoon Patrol on the Compass course. We are proud of the entire group who expanded their experience in self-reliance and working together.

## Crawfordville



Crawfordville Youth on Temple Trip

by Fran Council  
Crawfordville Public Communications Director

Crawfordville is still energetically working towards raising the funds for their new chapel addition. The Elders Quorum sponsored a fish fry involving the Branch and the general public, then the Young Women assisted with a salad bar dinner for the branch, and there was also a very successful daddy/daughter cake bake and auction.

In addition to the fund-raising for the chapel, the Young Women provided a pancake breakfast in conjunction with the Young Men's car wash, each to raise money for their temple trip. The Crawfordville Branch youth voted to make their trip with Branch President Bob Little, Stan and Marsha Tucker and Annette Allen. A person staying at the motel asked if our youth were Mormons. He said he could tell by their high standards of dress and behavior and that he wanted to compliment them.

President Little asked everyone in the Branch if they had a friend. When all said yes, he surprised them at the door by providing everyone with a Book of Mormon to be marked and given to that friend. There was also a missionary fireside featuring President and Sister Floyd Packard.

Father's Day provided a very moving experience this year. A last minute cancellation by the sacrament meeting speaker gave fathers and grandfathers a chance to tell what was special to them about being a father. It was an experience from the heart no one there will forget.

Members of the Branch would like to express their love for Presidents Chapple and Madsen and offer their support for the new Stake Presidency.

## Portraits, from Page 2

married in the Idaho Falls Temple four years later in 1957.

Renee completed 2 years at Utah State University and one year at Kansas State University majoring in Family and Child Development. The Andersons have two children, and Renee admits to 5-1/2 grandchildren (which is medically unusual, but the Lord will provide).

Cindy Bryan, 28, works in an insurance office and is the mother of three children--Tatiana, 9, Erik, 7, and Trevor, 3. Since President Anderson has been traveling with stake assignments for a number of years, Trevor tends to believe his grandpa goes to a different church than the rest of the family (but they're working on that!).

Perry, 26, works as an office manager for his father-in-law's insurance office. He and his wife Lori have two boys--Logan, 3, and Lance, 1. They are expecting their third baby in March.

## The Garr Family



L to R: Wendi, Randy, Arnie, Robbie, Natalie, Cherie, Cory

Arnold K. Garr was born in Ogden, Utah June 14, 1944, and attended high school there where he served a year as student body president. At the age of 19, he interrupted his schooling to serve a mission in Finland for 2-1/2 years. He received his B.A. in History from Weber State and an M.A. and Ph.D. from BYU, the latter being one of his most recent accomplishments. He also served in the Air Force Reserve for 6 years.

A history buff at heart, President Garr's aim was to become a history teacher until someone approached him about working for the Church Educational System. He decided to give it a try and has taught with the Seminary & Institute program for 17 years. The Garris came to Tallahassee 5 years ago to accept the position as Director of Seminaries and Institutes in Northern Florida and South Georgia. President Garr also supervises other directors in central and south Florida.

President Garr and his wife, Cherie, were married in the Salt Lake Temple in 1967. Born in Ogden, Cherie also attended

Weber State College where she met her husband at a dance shortly after he returned from his mission. She received a degree in Education and was selected Homecoming Queen in 1966. She taught high school Physical Education for four years and advised a girl's marching drill team, the Royal Aires.

The Garris have five children:

Wendi, 14, was the Valedictorian for two years in middle school, and is now a straight-A student in the 9th grade. She plays clarinet in the high school band and serves as first counselor in her Mia Maid class.

Natalie, 9, is a straight-A student in the third grade. She has been a Brownie for 2 years and likes crafts, pottery, and cheerleading.

Randy, 5, started kindergarten this year. He likes Gobots, going to the park, and having dad play with him.

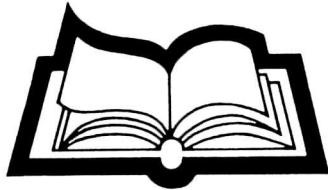
Robbie, 4, attends pre-school one day a week. He loves it when dad plays "tickle monster."

Cory, 2, is just learning to talk. He loves it when dad comes home.

*The stake presidency in its infancy -- photos on page 1 are (Left to Right): Arnie Garr, age 13 months; Paul Nicholson, age 21; Larry Anderson, age 6*

## Book Review

by Suzanne Meik  
Seventies Bookstore Representative



A new book by Paul Dunn is entitled *Variable Clouds, Occasional Rain, with a Promise of Sunshine*. Elder Dunn describes how to sail out a storm, read the barometer of change and make the most of sunny days in life. Convinced that we can be happy despite frustrations and setbacks, he first explains how to trade despair for optimism and then enlarges upon the qualities needed for personal perfection. Extending love to others, the warming trend, is the third theme of the book. The last section suggests how to bring things eternal within reach, for that is where we find the promise of sunshine. With a shower of stories and examples, this is a "weather report" everyone will enjoy reading. Also available in 3 audio cassettes.

Carol Lynn Pearson's new book *Thoughts of the Heart* is really a journal that contains lined journal pages for you to write on interspersed with poems and quotations from the writings of Sister Pearson. Now when you pause to reflect upon life, you can draw inspiration from the words of Mormondom's most popular poet.

Winter, Spring, Summer, Autumn. Just as there are seasons in time, there are also seasons in a woman's life. Anita Canfield, author of the Self-Esteem series, has written about this in *A Woman for All Seasons*. The winter of life is a time of preparation. Then comes spring, the season of awakening and renewal. The heat of summer causes refinement as challenges bring spiritual maturity. Autumn is the season to re-evaluate and become more Christlike. This book is for any woman, in any season of life.

## An Interview with Richard Chapple



*Now that you have been released as Stake President, what would you say were some of the highlights of the last 9 1/2 years in the stake?*

I think the most important things that happened, and this will not be in any order, are the growth of the stake and the shrinking of the stake size with the

creation of Panama City, Dothan and Lake City, Columbus, and Gainesville stakes. That growth really helped a lot in administration. Another real plus was in setting up Cairo, Crawfordville and Monticello even though there have certainly been some growing pains.

We have more people praying and reading the scriptures today. That's one thing we really emphasized; it's part of a basic kind of personal gospel involvement.

I think the ward conference program was something very useful and good.

*Is that something that your presidency established?*

It sort of evolved over time. Originally, when Jay Lybbert was stake president, Elder Boyd Packer visited the stake and pointed out that stake conference was really the visiting authority's meeting. He decided what happened and when. The parallel was the ward conference where we could go in and do the teaching that was necessary. I believe that has proved to be very useful. Also, there was real emphasis on the priesthood structure-- what quorums do, what families do, and the mission of the Church.

The Student Ward was a very good thing in terms of the number of missionaries it produced, the number of people who were baptized and the number of members who had the opportunity to serve in areas that they normally wouldn't have a chance to serve.

Another bright spot was all the building--Quincy, Apalachicola, Bainbridge, Cairo, Thomasville, Tallahassee, Crawfordville, Madison, Perry, and Monticello. Some flowers ought to be thrown in the direction of Bill Clark and John Morgan who have worked hard refurbishing the stake center--the color scheme, carpeting, sound system, pews, landscaping, and the filling-in of the ditch.

The Festival of Music and Lights is one of the best things that took place in those ten years. Of course, that was largely attributable to Max Sweat and some others for generating the idea. I know a lot people put in a lot of time to get it to work. It's one of the best things we've done in terms of PR and letting the community know what we are.

Another very good development was the genealogical library. It's one of the best and most efficient outside of the center stakes of the Church.

The new building here in Tallahassee with three wards now and in all likelihood, will be four wards late next year. Within the next year it should be really exciting to watch the Church grow.

One thing that has impressed me over the years is the people who have lived here and gone to church here. They have been a real blessing, both those who have moved in and those who have been baptized here. It was always my impression that you could tell when the Lord was serious about growth and moving ahead because of the move-ins.

I think we've seen Church leadership improve and expand over the last decade. Everything from the stake level to ward, quorum, relief society organization, has grown significantly. Leadership is like training a horse to work right and follow commands. Our leadership is better trained leading to better performance. The stake's a comparatively young stake, but I think the people have really picked up and done very well without having a lot of people move in with Church experience from somewhere else.

Another thing I really feel good about is the performance of temple work. The stake's never missed its goal even from the beginning when we got the Washington assignment. People have built a real tradition down here of temple participation which, very frankly, has been the envy of many closer stakes. You can go back to Mark Peddie. There is a healthy orientation toward the temple which has led to the number of saints who have gone to serve in the temple.

I feel good about what we might call an emerging missionary tradition. I don't believe we had it historically in the stake with every young man growing up with the idea that he needed to serve a mission. But, it's coming. Many of our missionaries, in the early years of the stake, were Student Ward people--converts who later went on a mission.

Another very positive thing has been improving the scouting program. We're light years ahead from where we started. The Church held a camp about three years ago at Rock Eagle in Georgia to train Church scouts--primary presidents, scout masters, troop committees, etc. and give them a week experience in the wild. It was tremendously effective. We should give credit to President Nicholson; he came back from that camp enthused about the program and ran with it.

There's been steady growth in Seminary and our youth program is better than it was years ago. We have gotten down to much more substance with the kids; the youth temple excursions, for example, were one way of trying to give them a spiritual experience. Many of the activities had that same kind of focus. One of the best things that happened to the Young Women program was Maureen Webb. And it just kept building from there. We have a much more spiritually rewarding, effective young women program than we've ever had before.

We have been fortunate in the quality of stake organization people over the years. When I remember back who was working in Young Women, Primary, Relief Society, Young Men, we really had super people! And they made the difference.

The Stake News was sort of my baby when it got started way back when and I feel super about it; the Childers have done a marvelous job with it.

One of the best things accomplished over the years was a lot of traveling so we knew the people. You could walk into a ward or branch and pretty well be able to name everybody. They knew who you were which was important because there were so many units and so much distance. It was a little hard for them to feel a part of things. But if they knew their leadership, it made a difference. I'm really glad that we went as often as we did.

Those seem to be the highlights for me. It's hard to put that into a capsule.

I quickly learned that there was an endowment in the office. I wouldn't take credit for anything that went right because it was just the endowment. And I wondered when that mantle and setting apart go, what's it going to be like? Over the years I basically stopped preparing and I just tried to read the scriptures, keep the journal up, pray regularly and the spirit just did the rest. It doesn't mean that everything done was a gem because it wasn't. Nonetheless, the spirit did the rest. I've noticed that things don't flow in the same way. There was a time that all I had to do was start talking and it would just come whether it was in a meeting, talking with someone, praying, giving a blessing. I've noticed that that isn't there to the same degree at all. I've been called on to pray a couple of times and it just didn't flow. Nothing horribly wrong but you could tell something just wasn't there.

*How do you feel your Church service affected your family time?*

Tuesdays were a total washout. I got hardly anything done at work on Tuesday. Sundays were a washout. Weekends you felt you had to be at certain places to represent certain things, which I don't regret at all. I found Monday an absolute necessity, a haven. There were times when we had Monday and maybe Friday. It ate into family time a whole lot but I don't think we lost a step. It sure wasn't because of me; the spirit compensated. There was some real growth in all of us during those years. The tradeoff was eminently worth it. It's how you define sacrifice - it is but it isn't. And that's really how it turned out. The family time was minimized, there's no doubt about it, but I got so I didn't really notice it, and the family did too. Suzi took a lot of slack. I don't think she realized how much she took or how much there was to take up. There were many, many more blessings than liabilities.

*What are some of the blessings you received to do your job in the Church or blessings you received as a result of your service?*

Health was a very real one. I use my voice in what I do for a living and what I do for the Church. When I get a cold it always goes right to my head. I was really free of that. I was never out of commission even when I was sick. I can't remember when I missed. I was able to respond on Saturday, or Sunday, whatever was needed, and then go back home to bed.

There were some problems with vehicles not working right before or after but never during.

Another blessing was sleep. I got to the point that I found myself praying a lot that I'd be able to get the rest needed to keep going. The Lord always took care of me. I'd wake up alert and feeling good.

I believe the experience my family had because of the calling-general authorities in the house, for example, kneeling down with us and blessing the house and the family--caused them to grow and they never got to the point where they resented living in a fish bowl.

One blessing I enjoyed so much was going to conference every six months. That was super! Attendent to that would be the association with the brethren. Ever since I was a little kid I've had a real reverence for them. Every time I had a chance I wanted to be with them, to meet with them, to be taught by them.

A tremendous blessing was sitting down one to one with

people. I think of all the things I enjoyed that was probably number one. Just getting to know people.

Another blessing was dedicating buildings which was really a neat experience which I never had before.

One blessing was setting apart missionaries. The Lord loves misisonaries in a special way more than the rest of us. There is a special endowment there.

*What are you doing now in Second Ward?*

Teaching seminary, and I would like to continue. Of course, that's not my decision, but I really love those kids. Also, I have been called as teacher development director in the ward and as stake public communications director.

*Is teaching seminary as important as being stake president?*

Yes. We don't need what we perceive as promotions. I love seminary. I have a super class and they're really fun. I'm as content as I can be.

*What are your hopes for the future?*

I would like to teach seminary for a few years. One thing we need in that program is longevity and consistency. I really want the kids to turn out ok and have the kinds of experiences they need. Any parent could identify with that. I hope they keep the temple trips, and I hope they keep other things because it was so good for those kids. I find the future of the children weighs heavily on my mind, more so than before.

I would like to get more involved in missionary work. My prior schedule was such that I could never be at Church with people we were fellowshiping. Now I can sit with them and go to class with them. I feel a real need to do more of my personal genealogy. Eventually, I'd love to go on a mission. I've always thought that it would be fun to serve with Suzi. I'm not asking for a job but if we were able to serve as mission president somewhere while we still had some children in the nest, that would be such a great experience for the kids. I'm not campaigning for the hassles of a mission president either but that would be fun.

*Is there anything the members can do to help the new stake presidency?*

You feel sustained by their confidence and prayers and so that's critical. The biggest favor they could do for them would be to get them out into their wards and branches, interviewing, giving firesides, visiting sacrament meetings, and speaking. The more they are out with the people the better. I hope the bishops, branch presidents, activities chairmen, elders quorum people will dream up something for them to come to do. I really think that's important. They did for us. We were out a lot and it was important. It's the best thing they could do for them; get them out functioning in front of the people.

*Any parting counsel?*

If people will pray and study, those are the two most important things they can do. What matters is to personally and privately generate a relationship with your maker. It isn't what you do in public. As a derivative of that, reading the Book of Mormon as families, if possible, and pray as families for someone to teach.

## Stake Conference

The Tallahassee Florida Stake Conference was held September 13 and 14. Elder Dean L. Larsen, Senior President of the First Quorum of the Seventy, presided at all sessions. Regional Representative James O. Mason was also in attendance.

Welfare was the theme of Saturday evening's session. President Paul Nicholson spoke on how welfare principles help perfect the Saints. He emphasized that the principles of welfare--love, service, work, self-reliance, consecration and stewardship--can perfect us only if we apply them to our lives. Lip service alone is not enough.

Dallas Watson, Bishop of the Thomasville Ward, spoke on how welfare principles strengthen us spiritually. He said that the temporal affects the spiritual and neglecting a principle such as self-reliance causes both temporal and spiritual suffering.

Kay Abbott of the Monticello Branch listed five rules for giving: 1) give liberally; 2) give in proportion to need; 3) give with love; 4) give from your own storehouse; and 5) give wherever you are.

A Church-produced video entitled "Applying Welfare Principles in Our Lives" followed. It taught that the welfare principles of work, self-reliance and provident living, and giving bring us closer to our Father in Heaven.

Elder Mason said that welfare principles were given to Adam and whenever the Gospel has been upon the earth these principles have been here also. He said the Church has been instructed to become totally independent of the world temporally and totally dependent on the Lord spiritually.

Elder Larsen counseled that qualifying for the highest blessings requires not only certain overt behaviors, but also developing qualities of character. He said two principles, work and living within our means, develop god-like attributes within us. Development of god-like traits, he said, must be in the Lord's way--the poor shall be exalted and the rich shall be made low. Although poor will always be among us, some are given "enough and to spare" so they may experience the blessings of giving.

During Sunday's session, Richard Chapple, Charles Madsen, and Paul Nicholson were released from the Stake Presidency with an "enthusiastic" vote of thanks for their long and faithful service in the Tallahassee Stake. Sustained in the new Stake Presidency was W. Paul Nicholson, Stake President; Loran C. Anderson, First Counselor; and Arnold K. Garr, Second Counselor. Presidents Chapple and Madsen and their wives expressed their gratitude and love, and testified how much their lives have been enriched during the past nine years. The new Stake Presidency and their wives expressed their testimonies, humility and willingness to serve in their new capacity.

Elder Mason followed by quoting the Savior who said to the Nephites, "What manner of men ought ye to be. . . even as I am." He commended President Chapple as Stake President for helping to bring the Stake closer to the Savior, and striving to become even as He is. He said this will also be the goal of President Nicholson.

Elder Larsen outlined how members of the Church accept changes in leadership as a natural course of events, with no campaigning or lobbying for position, but trust in the Spirit to confirm callings. He said with the remarkable commitment of time involved it must seem remarkable to people outside the Church that people accept callings with such gratitude. Elder Larsen acknowledged the great service of Presidents Chapple and Madsen concluding that although their release will be a relief in some ways, they will miss the duties and opportunities of service offered to Church leaders.



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