

Stake News

September/October 1984

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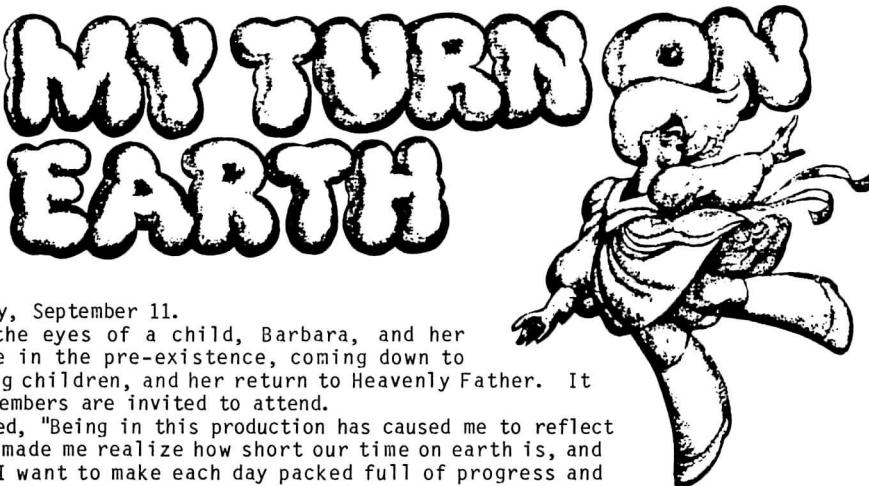
Vol. V No. 5

"My Turn On Earth" musical production will be November 9 and 10, Friday and Saturday, at the stake center. The cast includes "Barbara" Ann Cluff, "Gloria" Marcie Madsen, "Pam" Jackie Stone, "Charles" Tom Russell, and "John" Jim Haskins. Others will be involved as dancers. The play, directed by Linda Hall, Nyla Roberts and Jim Haskins, will also include a children's choir directed by Sherry Beasley. A crew of technicians for lights, sound, sets and props are busy preparing. Rehearsals began on Tuesday, September 11.

The musical looks at life through the eyes of a child, Barbara, and her "treasure hunt." It starts with her life in the pre-existence, coming down to earth, through childhood, marriage, having children, and her return to Heavenly Father. It dramatizes the plan of salvation, and non-members are invited to attend.

Ann Cluff, who plays Barbara, commented, "Being in this production has caused me to reflect on where I am and what my goals are. It's made me realize how short our time on earth is, and how we could be called back at any time. I want to make each day packed full of progress and growth."

Tickets will be available in each unit: Adults - \$ 2.00, Students - \$ 1.00, Family - \$10.00. Watch for more information.



Stake Conference Counsel

Stake President Richard L. Chapple was the first speaker at the Sunday morning session of stake conference. He stressed four areas:

1. One way we can achieve self-reliance is by governing our emotions and choosing to be happy. Quoting Lorenzo Snow, "We have been sent into the world to do good to others; and in doing good to others we do good to ourselves." (Conference Report, 6 April 1899). When we have a good outlook on life, we are in a position to lift up those around us. He quoted Proverbs, "Where there is no vision, the people perish, but he that keepeth the law, happy is he" and counseled us to have hope, and grasp the real and eternal purpose of life.

2. We need to learn to profit from adversity. One of the purposes of life is to know opposition, and as we are forced to seek the Lord through trials our faith becomes more perfect and our confidence increases. Through such experiences, our knowledge of the powers of heaven is augmented; indeed, our redemption cannot take place until we learn to deal with adversity. And we will never be happy until we learn to keep the commandments.

3. Tithing is important. While church leaders recognize the economic realities of raising a family today, that can never take away from the Lord's invitation to participate in tithing. "We're not interested in money. We're interested in faith and in members receiving blessings." He added that to do anything else with that 10 percent, even a worthy cause, would be presumptuous with the Lord's money.

4. Missionary opportunities happen every day. Many interested people will be placed within our sphere of influence; we need to pray as families to know which of our acquaintances are ready. We need to remember that conversion is not through missionaries or families but through the spirit. President Chapple closed by asking that each family write a letter at

the end of the year telling him about their missionary experiences in sharing the gospel with others.

President Paul Nicholson suggested that we need to reach out into the community and extend ourselves more. "People say that we Mormons take care of our own. That's a compliment, but also a condemnation," he said. We need to learn to take care of others as well.

Maureen Webb, released as stake Young Women president earlier in the conference, praised the youth of the stake and expressed appreciation to the people of the stake and the Lord, saying "Heavenly Father does not ask us to do things alone." She counseled us to "join our testimonies with our actions" and "wear the gospel in our every day routines."

President Charles Madsen compared each of us to the newly refurbished stake center; the beauty was always there, it just took something to bring it out. He encouraged us to be the best we can. He also commented that when the scriptures encourage us to seek knowledge, they mean the true knowledge of Jesus Christ, not the theories of men.

Mission President Floyd L. Packard encouraged us to so live that others would want what we have, and to pray each day that we would be sensitive to missionary opportunities that day. Sister Alice Packard asked us to consider how we are living up to the name of Christ we took upon ourselves in baptism.

Elder James O. Mason, Regional Representative, also spoke about missionary work. He cautioned that we may be too inclined to pre-judge our neighbor's reaction, and illustrated this tendency with a story about his grandparents who had been contacted separately, on different occasions, by the missionaries. They were each receptive but each insisted that their spouse was too devoted to another religion to be interested in the message. Each

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by Paul Nicholson
Second Counselor

Stake Presidency Message

BE YE DOERS

In the Book of James 1:22 we read, "Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only...." In that simple statement we are given the formula for success in our religion and all other aspects of our lives. The world is full of thinkers, talkers, and hearers, but it is the people that "do" that bring about great things. Ideas by great men are no good until someone puts them into action. Commandments are of no value until someone lives them.

Thinkers and talkers are a dime a dozen but a "doer" is a rare thing. It's the doer that we turn to - the "work horse" that is in demand in our Father's Kingdom.

We do not need to be original thinkers; we just need to do what we know to be right. We do not need to be great scholars; we only need to "do" our scripture study. The Saviour, the prophets, the Patriarch, and the Apostles have all been "doers of the word." That is all that is necessary to receive the blessings the Father has in store for us. By becoming a "doer" we will then be able to hear from the Saviour those precious words - "well done my good and faithful servant."



GIRL'S CAMP

by Barbara Young

August 14 to 17 was Stake Girls Camp, held at Camp Indian Springs, the YMCA Camp in Wakulla County. Sixty-five girls and twenty leaders were in attendance. Camp was a spiritual experience, as well as giving the girls training in essential outdoor survival skills.

The theme this year was "Make Your Vote Count in '84." This theme was based on a statement by Elder Wells that an election is going on every day; Heavenly Father casts a vote for us, Satan casts a vote against us, and we cast the deciding vote.

Each day there was a devotional in the morning and an activity in the evening. The first evening's activities were games. Sister Maureen Webb spoke the second evening on morality. The third evening Cleo Miller spoke on our ability to decide. On the third evening a testimony meeting was held and later the girls were awakened for a midnight victory party.

Girls Camp is a Church program which begins the first year a girl is in the Young Women program. One purpose of Girls Camp is to learn survival skills. The girls spent three hours each morning certifying that they could perform various skills such as lashing, building fires, and first aid. The fourth-year girls went on a canoe trip to apply what they had learned the previous three years.

After all that, time was still left for crafts, swimming, hiking, horseback riding, and general fun.



New Branch President

Larry G. Brock of Tallahassee was sustained as president of the Monticello Branch at a special fast and testimony meeting held September 30. In his opening remarks as he bore his testimony, he said his wife is involved too, because he can't do it without her support. After the meeting, the members of the Monticello Branch had the opportunity to witness the setting apart of their new branch president by the stake presidency with President Richard L. Chapple acting as voice.

Born in Marianna, Brother Brock was raised in the Church and has had a wide range of Church experience. Most recently he has served as High Priest group leader in Tallahassee First Ward. He was released in June as the Cairo branch president where he served for over three years while also serving on the stake high council. Professionally, he is a commercial artist and owner of Artco Signwriters and Artists. In his little remaining spare time, Brother Brock enjoys building furniture, reading, and painting.

His wife, Pat, has also served in a variety of callings in music, Primary, and Relief Society, and was recently released as the first counselor in the stake Relief Society presidency. Regarding her husband's call she explains, "It was really strange the way things were happening. When Larry was released as branch president in Cairo, we thought he'd be home with the kids while I continued in Relief Society. When I was released I was a little disappointed because I felt like I wasn't finished in my calling. Also, since the business burned down in May, business has been better than ever. Now I see why. Now it all comes together and we both understand. I have a strong testimony that the Lord takes care of things."

The Brocks have six children: Kelly, 13; Dax, 11; Dustin, 10; Amy, 6; Kimberly, 2; and Seth, 7 months. When Brother Brock called his family together to tell them of his call, the children were initially concerned about the amount of time it would require their dad to be away from home, but everyone decided they wanted their dad to do what the Lord wanted him to do. His wife, too, expressed doubts about the family's ability to cope, and he reminded her that they were "going to have to really be faithful in doing things like reading scriptures and holding family home evening."

President Brock succeeds Pratt Brantley who served as branch president for two and a half years. Upon being released, Brother Brantley felt some relief from the weight of such a calling but expressed a sincere desire to continue to serve in whatever capacity the Lord needed him.

President Brock stated, "The only thing wrong with the Monticello Branch is there aren't enough of us," and quickly added "but we'll remedy that." He plans to direct his efforts to missionary work and activation.

The deadline for submitting articles for the November/December Stake News will be November 13. Submissions can be mailed to Stake News at 2310 Oxford Rd., Tallahassee, FL, 32304, or they can be left in the Stake News/Public Communications box in the stake office.

RELIEF SOCIETY



L to R: A. Nicholson, R. Anderson, D. Hall, H. Whitfield

A new stake Relief Society presidency was sustained at stake conference.

President Renee Anderson was raised in Nevada, in a family that has been in the Church for five generations. She is a full-time homemaker and grandmother; her husband, Loran, is a high councilor and professor at Florida State University. The Andersons have two children, Perry and Cindy, and four grandchildren.

Sister Anderson has served as a branch Relief Society president and on many stake Relief Society boards. Most recently, she was the Visiting Teaching/Compassionate Service representative on the stake Relief Society board. Renee has also been active in the community including membership in Women for Responsible Legislation and the board of Big Bend Right to Life.

She hopes to "strengthen the testimonies of the sisters in the stake. They need to be aware of conditions in the world, and they need to pray and study the scriptures daily. We also hope to improve their self-esteem and their concept of a woman's role."

Ann Nicholson, first counselor, was a seminary teacher last year and has been a moving force behind those winning Quincy road shows. Her husband, Paul Nicholson, is a counselor in the stake presidency. Sister Nicholson is involved with the local garden club and music theater, where she performs and serves on the board. The Nicholsons have four children.

Dena Hall is a Gainesville native who was raised in the Church. Prior to being called as the homemaking counselor she served as homemaking leader on the stake Relief Society board and in the Tallahassee Third Ward. Her husband, Rex, is employed in the Computing Center at the Florida State University. The Halls have four children.

Also serving on the stake Relief Society board are Nancy Whitfield, secretary; Barbara Johnson, homemaking leader; Gerry Morrow, Single Adult board member; and Elsie Peddie, Visiting Teaching/Compassionate Service representative.

A Fond Farewell

Here are some farewell remarks from the outgoing stake Relief Society presidency.

I have truly enjoyed the opportunity I have had to work with the women in our stake. As I visited your wards and branches and got to know you and your problems, it was very inspiring to see you, through your faith and work, make the Relief Society work for you.

I want you to know that I know the Church is true and that the Relief Society program is for each woman in our stake. May the Lord continue to bless you in your sincere efforts.

Love,
Donna Tucker
Former second counselor

What a blessing it is to serve our Father. In serving in the stake Relief Society these past years, it has been a wonderful opportunity to meet with all of you dear, wonderful sisters and to know that

through your lives, my testimony has been strengthened. Your sweetness and commitment to follow the Relief Society program, to serve the Lord with all your heart, has encouraged me to lengthen my stride, and to try to live up to the motto of "Charity Never Faileth." I love you all and will sorely miss our times together. I want you to know that I love our Father, and our brother Jesus Christ, that I know he is the Savior of the world, and I know, too, that we have a mother who has taught us much before this earth. This is a divine, and the only true church, and through our service in the auxiliaries we will all come to know ourselves, our strengths and weaknesses. May we all remember to love one another.

Sincerely,
Pat Brock
Former first counselor

I would like to express my love and appreciation to all the sisters of the stake. It has been one of the most wonderful honors and blessings of my life to have served as your stake Relief Society president. We have 16 great Relief Society presidencies and boards. It has been a pleasure to have been associated with such wonderful, faithful and dedicated sisters. We have enjoyed so much coming to the different units sharing friendship and love with you all. I hope we have helped you and touched your lives, as you have touched ours! May you all continue to strive to build your own personal testimonies, stay close to the Lord through prayer and listen to what the Lord would have us do by reading the scriptures daily. We love you!

May the Lord continue to bless you and your families always as you try to serve Him. May we also remember that "life is a gift" - and remember Psalms 27:1, "The Lord is the strength of my life."

With love,
Cherie Garr
Former president

Calendar

October

- 13 Relief Society Visiting Teaching Convention
- 14 Quitman Branch Conference
- 20 YM/YW Priest/Laurel Conference
- 23 Stake Priesthood Meeting and Seminar
- 26 Single Adult/Student Ward Halloween Dance
- 27 Halloween Costume Dance
- 29 Apalachicola Branch Conference
- 31 Halloween

November

- 2 Annual Bishops Social
- 3 Priesthood Preview
- 4 Tallahassee III Ward Conference
- 6 Election Day
- 9-10 "My Turn On Earth" (see article on page 1)
- 10 Auxiliary Leadership Meetings
- 11 Madison Branch Conference
- 13 Stake News Deadline
- 16 Single Adult Square Dance, Hayride, Bonfire
- 17 YM/YW Service Film Festival
- 18 Cairo Branch Conference
- 18 Stake Priesthood Meeting 5:00 pm
- 18-24 National Family Week
- 22 Thanksgiving Day
- 25 Tallahassee II Ward Conference
- 25 Single Adult Fireside

December

- 2 Special Stake Meeting (youth 12 and up and parents, youth leaders, and bishoprics)
- 7 Single Adult Dinner/Dance
- 25 Christmas
- 31 New Year's Eve Dance

Branch President's Corner

by Stan Webb
Bainbridge Branch President

FOR GOOSE'S SAKE

Goose got his nickname in either the eighth or ninth grade. Even though a sudden surge of adolescent growth had blessed him with a few more inches than the rest of us, it seemed to have robbed him of what little weight he had. He was all neck, knees and elbows with an Adams apple that bounced between his chin and chest like an epileptic elevator. This awkward appearance made him an easy target for abuse. And during one of these moments when we were all being less than kind to him, one of us dubbed him "Goose."

Admittedly, Goose asked for much of the kidding he received. I remember one fishing trip scheduled to leave the church at 5:30 a.m. At 6:30, still no Goose. At 7 o'clock we found him still sleeping soundly in bed. And he wasn't the least bit upset at having made us wait. Anyone else we would have choked. But not Goose. We had learned to expect it from him.

After we graduated from high school, Goose had not changed. We all got jobs building forest roads in southern Colorado. The morning it was his turn to take us the 115 miles up to the construction site, his car ran out of gas. "No problem," he said in his usual carefree way. "We can hitch back home, get my pick-up, come back here, siphon out a little gas and we'll be on the road again in no time." All went well until we were coming back with his pick-up and (you guessed it), he ran out of gas leaving us stranded twice in the same day. At the time I wondered why I ever chose to room with him at college.

Years have passed. I have lost track of those friends who were too good for a nickname like Goose. But I have not lost touch with Goose. Every summer when our family goes on vacation out west, the first thing I do is call Goose. We make plans to go fishing, play a little tennis, get our families together for a picnic. But Goose is still Goose. Before the fishing trip or the tennis match, there is always something he could use a little help with -- a pile of junk that needs to be taken off before the neighbors call the police, a move to another house that should have taken place the week before, a car that has broken down on the freeway (maybe just out of gas).

Last September, as we were driving back home to Bainbridge, I started wondering what it was that drew me to him. Why did I keep such close ties with Goose when each encounter seemed to leave me with the short end of the stick? Since Mindy and the kids were sleeping and there were no radio stations to listen to between El Paso and San Antonio, I began to take inventory of all the "fine messes" Goose had gotten me into -- the night we drove 100 miles without headlights because he never got around to fixing his alternator, the time I lost my license because he got belligerent with the police.

After finishing my long list of aggravating, annoying and downright stupid stunts he had pulled, I expected to be madder than a hornet. But I wasn't. Somehow I felt all the closer to him. The things I had done for him were really insignificant. But his friendship has given real and lasting meaning to my past. In exchange for a few brief moments where I showed just a little patience and in payment for a few hurried acts of service, I have been rewarded a hundred fold. First, I have learned something about being patient: you can still have an enjoyable evening in watching the last half of a movie first. In fact, it's not being 45 minutes late for something that ruins an evening, but allowing yourself to be upset by some of Goose's actions. Secondly, I have learned something about service: cutting wood for someone else on a Saturday afternoon is far more rewarding

than watching a doubleheader on TV for yourself. Although doing things for others takes time and energy, it actually recharges us in other ways and makes us feel stronger, more alive -- actually increasing our capacity to enjoy those things we do just for ourselves. Lastly, it just makes us feel good about the whole world.

So the next time I am asked to do something for Goose's sake, I'll remember, it's really for myself.

New High Councilor



Bill Canova is the newest member of the stake high council. He was born in Ocala and raised in Jacksonville. He is a division director in the state Department of Insurance.

His wife, Barbara, is a counselor in the stake Primary presidency. They have four children: Chris, 22; Kevin, 18; Shannon, 16; and Shawn, 12.

To those who have known Brother Canova, it is no surprise that his new calling includes being first counselor in the stake Young Men presidency. He has recently served as ward Young Men president, and scoutmaster before that, and all to the delight of those he works with. His other callings include serving as cubmaster, counselor in a branch presidency, and advisor to Aaronic Priesthood quorums.

He has a love of the Gospel, an enthusiasm about life and a wacky sense of humor that can be infectious.

Young Women



L to R: A. Christiansen, C. Garr, P. Dransfield, K. Clark

A new stake Young Women presidency has been called.

Sister Cherie Garr is well known to members of the stake, having served for the past two years as stake Relief Society president. Her husband, Arnold, is director of the Institute of Religion in Tallahassee, and they have five children: Wendi, Natalie, Randy, Robbie, and their brand new baby boy Cory.

Prior to this call, first counselor Peggy Dransfield served as Primary president in the Tallahassee Third Ward. Her husband is a counselor in the mission presidency, and they have five children. Second counselor Ann Christiansen was also involved in Primary as a teacher in the Third Ward. Her husband serves in his ward Elders quorum and they have three children. Kathy Clark, secretary, is still teaching Sunday School in the Tallahassee First Ward. Her husband serves on the high council and is the stake Physical Facilities Representative. They have seven children.

Sister Garr commented, "We want to pass on the excitement to the Young Women of the stake. Spiritually, we want them to reach for their potential, and to feel secure about sharing their testimonies. Above all we want to get to know each of them personally."

Notes on Stake Conference

SATURDAY NIGHT ADULT SESSION

The theme of the Saturday night meeting at Stake Conference was "Perfecting the Saints Through Self-Reliance and Service." The speakers discussed how self-reliance and service are interrelated.

President Paul Nicholson was the first speaker. He emphasized that both spiritual and temporal self-sufficiency are important and are the same in the Lord's eyes.

Crawfordville branch president Robert Little stressed that when people are in need we should not rush to supply their immediate inadequacy, but teach them to help themselves. Such giving would be short-sighted and not lead to self-reliance. He warned that people can become dependent on others for either temporal or emotional needs and observed that self-reliance is important because it is tied to freedom itself.

Pat Brock, then first counselor in the stake Relief Society presidency, spoke of the need to be industrious and to be happy in providing the needs for our families. She spoke of her two-year-old child who is proud to help with little tasks saying, "I help, I work." Sister Brock reminded us that in serving others we must not neglect to serve our family members. "Heaven is not only a place but a condition, too," she pointed out.

Sister Cleo Miller, Tallahassee First Ward, bore her testimony about how service strengthened their family recently when children and parents each did their part to serve an ailing grandmother.

Elder James O. Mason, Regional Representative, quoted from a First Presidency statement. "Our primary purpose. . . (is that) the curse of idleness would be done away with, the evils of a dole abolished, and independence, industry, thrift and self-respect be once more established amongst all our people. The aim of the Church is to help the people help themselves. Work is to be re-enthroned as the ruling principle of the lives of our church membership." (In Conference Report, October 1936, p. 3).

Quoting Marion G. Romney from the June 1984 Ensign, Elder Mason stressed the danger of parents' permissiveness in giving their children too much without making them earn it. He reminded us that work ought to be looked upon as one of the greatest blessings we have, and that work is proper and honorable. He also stressed the eternal implications of independence; according to Marion G. Romney, "a man cannot be an agent unto himself if he is not self-reliant." And also, "The key to making self-reliance spiritual is in using our freedom to comply with God's commandments."

Elder Mason explained that as we achieve self-reliance, we can turn around and render service. "We fill our buckets not to hoard, but to share. We try to have, so that we can give."

Elder Mason said we should acknowledge that some people cannot provide for themselves, and we should be glad to help them. But he noted that some who appear to be incapacitated want to pay back in some way, and we should provide them opportunities for service.

He encouraged us as a stake to become independent for fast offerings; that is, to give generous fast offerings so that our contributions will provide the welfare needs for the stake. He reminded us that our needs pale beside those of saints in other, less developed parts of the world.

He talked about self-respect declaring that it is impossible to have low self-esteem when we realize our potential as gods in embryo. He reminded us that discouragement is one of Satan's most successful tools. He encouraged us to be thankful for our blessings and to be happy, not because we are deluding

ourselves, but because we are children of God.

In his concluding remarks, Elder Mason called on us to seek first the kingdom of God, to seek for riches that we may do good with them. He emphasized that if we are prepared we have nothing to fear; we will be able to withstand whatever is placed before us.

Scouting News



A new national Boy Scout program is being introduced: Varsity Scouting. The Varsity program is for boys 14 or older and was developed in response to the needs of high-school aged scouts who are seeking greater challenges than offered by traditional scouting.

Varsity Scouting presents a fresh, exciting alternative. It recognizes that the older boys have different needs, and gives them more responsibility.

"This is a time in their lives when their values are being determined," explains newly-called Varsity leader Joe Torgeson. "They are being influenced by their peers and being exposed to activities that may distract from their schoolwork and cause them to acquire bad habits. The idea is to provide them with good male role models and an organization whose emphasis is on positive values."

Varsity Scouting is an official Boy Scout program, but the terminology is totally different, reminiscent of sports. The group is called a team, and the adult leader is a coach. The boy leader is the captain, and the team is divided into squads with squad leaders. The team can decide to wear the new brown varsity T-shirts or retain their regular uniform with orange tabs.

The program was pioneered and tested by the Church for two years before being implemented by the Boy Scouts of America nationwide. At present, only the Tallahassee wards have enough varsity-aged boys to have a varsity team in our stake.

There are five major areas of emphasis:

1. Advancement - since the boys are older and many of them came up through the ranks, advancement will be at a higher level.

2. High adventure - they will not go camping for camping's sake, but go on camping trips and participate in a variety of challenging activities like mountaineering or river rafting. One varsity team recently went snorkeling on the coast.

3. Personal development - individualized programs will enhance both physical and spiritual development.

4. Service - like all scouts, they will participate in service projects; like everything in Varsity Scouting, these will be more adult projects and the scouts will have more responsibility for them.

5. Special programs and events - team members will attend and participate in activities designed to appeal to 14-16 year olds. Various sports activities are especially popular among this age group.

The Varsity Scouting Program can be enjoyed by all boys regardless of their previous scouting experience. One of the challenges will be to integrate boys who are new to scouting or have become disinterested with those who have been active and pursuing advancement. The program anticipated this problem, and they offer a varsity scouting letter to those who may not be far along on the advancement ladder, but are active for a year and complete requirements in each of the five areas of emphasis.

John Taylor, 15, is a varsity scout from Tallahassee First Ward who is excited about the program. "I have been really looking forward to this. It's really geared to our age group; it gets us away from the younger kids and the adult leaders leave more up to us. I don't know if I would have ever quit scouts, but I was getting slow in my advancement; this has really got me up again."



The View from the Pews

As I have had the opportunity to visit many wards and branches in the stake, I have noticed a seeming lack of respect for our meetinghouses. After the Sunday meetings, as the smiling faces disappear and the sounds of conversation fade away, the feelings of reverence and worship suddenly evaporate. The remaining scene is one of disorder and clutter.

Surely we don't enjoy disorder in our homes and we especially wouldn't appreciate visitors leaving a mess for us to clean. This same respect should be shown in the Lord's house. It would only take a minute for each of us to clean up after ourselves. Look around before you leave. If you have had to rearrange chairs, put them back in order. If children have wriggled chairs out of place, straighten them up. Return hymn books to the bench pocket or place them on chairs. After you are finished with the printed program, take it home or dispose of it properly. Sometimes our children's artwork makes its way under our seat, or even under someone else's; look carefully. If paper towels fill the restroom wastebasket, see that they don't begin overflowing to the floor. A meeting that succeeds another must contend with the lack of consideration of those who met before them.

Could you imagine arriving on Sunday morning to find our meetinghouse in the condition we left it in the previous week? Many people do not realize that it is not the custodian's responsibility to set up for or clean up after various auxiliary meetings and activities. Let's keep in mind that they still have rugs to vacuum, windows to wash, and plenty of other chores to do.

Let each of us take that moment to review our surroundings before leaving and see that the condition of our meetinghouse is inviting to the spirit of the Lord.

Bainbridge

by Jan Mulford
Bainbridge Branch
Public Communications Director

On Sunday, August 19, the members of the Bainbridge Branch met in our new chapel for the first time. We have had three baptisms in the new chapel with more scheduled.

The men are still working on the sprinkler system for the lawn. Members have planted hundreds of plants with many yet to be planted.

The open house for our new chapel was Sunday and Monday, September 23 and 24. We appreciate our missionary couple, Elder and Sister Clark, and all the members who worked to make this a success.

At this time the Young Women are busy making posters for our various church activities.

The Relief Society is looking forward to making ceramic Christmas ornaments at homemaking meeting this month.

We are hoping to send a whole bunch of folks to the temple in November when Brother and Sister White will receive their endowments and be sealed for time and all eternity. Some of us other folks may go to the temple for our endowments, too.

The single folks had a banana split social and film on September 22 (usually our activity is at 7pm on the third Saturday but this month we had stake conference).

Our branch president and his sweet family have very recently returned from a trip to Utah. Welcome home to the Webb family.



Spotlight

In every small branch there are a few families that help make up the backbone of the unit. In Crawfordville, the Kerns family is one of these.

Bob Kerns was serving in the U.S. Air Force when he met Eiko in Misawa, Japan. They were married in Okinawa in 1971, and joined the church together there in May 1972. He explains, "We met some friends..."

Bob is a Senior Customer Service Representative for Xerox Corporation in Tallahassee but they live in Crawfordville and have for 11 years. "It's like this," he says, "I love water, and if a little bit of salt is in it, so much the better. Here I have the forests, streams, the gulf. I guess 'quality of life' is what they call it."

Quality of life is important to a family that puts family first. There are three children: Jyo, 11; Kenji, 8; Mariko, 7. They often travel with Brother Kerns throughout the stake on assignments, and have impressed many of us with their special spirits. The Kerns' formula for raising children is simple: lots and lots of attention. And time. And love. They spend a lot of time one on one--dad likes to take the children fishing--and as a family. A favorite pastime is to load the entire crowd into an old pickup and go "boony bumping."

Fran Council, Eiko's visiting teaching companion, offers further insights. "They involve their children in decision making and are not dictatorial. And they have such a good attitude. It's not like, 'you have to go work in the garden.' It's more, 'C'mon, we're going to have fun working in the garden.'"

Brother Kerns notes that children and spouses thrive on praise, and noticing the good is as important as punishing bad behavior. When there are offenses, they are discussed, and often the offender suggests his own penalty.

Sister Council relates a story that shows what the Kerns children are being taught. They were riding their bicycles, quite a ways from home, when one of the children's bikes started literally falling apart. Without hesitating the three children knelt and prayed that the bike would get them home safely. It did--and promptly fell apart in the driveway.

If family comes first, then church comes second, and both parents have served in many capacities. Bob is currently a high councilor and chairman of the stake activities committee; he has also served as scoutmaster, Primary teacher, ward and branch mission leader, and branch president. Eiko has served as Primary president, Primary teacher, Homemaking leader and Cultural Refinement instructor.

Both Eiko and Bob enjoy listening to fine music; their stereo is legend in the stake. Eiko also enjoys reading, cooking, knitting and gardening. Bob is constantly using his carpentry skills to remodel the house and build furniture. He also enjoys fishing and photography.

WANTED

Christmas poems, stories, artwork, etc. Share some of your family traditions or memorable Christmases. Send contributions to STAKE NEWS, 2310 Oxford Road, Tallahassee, FL, 32304.

Reverence



by Colleen Porter

Teaching children reverence is one of the most difficult challenges faced by members of the church today. It is also one of the most important things we can do.

I have three young children and it was years before I was able to sit through an entire sacrament meeting. I can understand the frustration experienced by parents who sit in the foyer, wrestling with a rebellious child, and wondering if they might gain more spirituality by staying home and reading the scriptures.

There is no magic formula that will make every child be reverent. But experienced mothers have found a few ideas that help.

Advance preparation can make the difference between a hectic and happy Sunday morning. Packing diaper bags, laying out clothes, preparing breakfast and many other tasks can be done the night before. Get up before the children and turn on some calm, uplifting music. Then smile, whether you want to or not.

Dress young children in clothes that are Sunday-special, and they will remember what day it is. By the time a boy is a deacon, it may be too late to teach him to be comfortable in a tie; they need to start much earlier.

Being on time to meetings is essential; a child is uncomfortable at having to walk into primary late; the upset feeling can last all morning.

Choosing where to sit in Sacrament meeting is a crucial decision and depends on the number and ages of your children. Parents who need to take small children out of the meeting periodically should sit on the aisle near the back to minimize the disturbance of others. However, older children benefit from sitting near the front where they can easily watch the speakers and choir. If your spouse can't sit with you, and help is essential, arrange in advance for one of the Young Women (who have specifically been asked to help), a single sister, or older couple to assist.

It's important to bring something to occupy young children, so that church is a pleasant experience. Books, church magazines, soft toys, "quiet books" and crayons can all make sacrament meeting happier for everyone. Avoid toys that make noise or make the child excited. Toddlers generally cry because they are tired, and bringing a favorite blanket or cuddly toy can lure them to sleep.

Every parent knows the terror of a child who starts fussing. Will he stop crying, or should I take him out? Once in the foyer, a parent really has an opportunity to teach the child. Sit him on your lap and don't let go; don't let him crawl around or run up and down the halls; don't talk to your friends or become otherwise distracted. If you are consistent, the child will learn that it's nicer in the meeting with his crayons than in the foyer.

But it isn't reverence if a child is merely quiet. As children grow older they need to learn to pay attention to the meeting. Depending on the child's age, require a greater degree of participation in the meeting. Gradually, through the years, impose restrictions like the following: no books until after the sacrament, no reading materials but church books, children must listen to the first speaker before getting out their books. Discuss the talks in the car on the way home, and children will learn that you think the talks were worth listening to.

Our church is virtually unique in inviting little



people to attend our sacrament service. We must learn to tolerate their presence while requiring reverence. Sacrament meeting will never be as silent as the temple or institute, but if efforts are made they can still be worshipful.

And every parent of small children should never forget that a child is like a sunbeam, here today and then just gone.

♦♦♦ INSTITUTE

It's not too late to start going to Institute. You can still take advantage of one of the following classes offered:

Religion 211, **New Testament**, is held Wednesdays at 7:30 pm at the Institute and Tuesdays/Thursdays at 12:20 at the FSU Student Union Room 352. Two credits can be earned for REL 211 and the cost is \$3.00 for college students of all ages and their spouses and young adults under 26. Cost for non-college adults 26 and over will be \$15.00.

Horizons In Thought is a monthly lecture series for marrieds. Visiting lecturers will give insights into the Gospel of Jesus Christ derived from their personal or professional experience.

About 70 people attended the first class held September 21. Ron Zeidner, CES Regional Coordinator, Jacksonville, spoke about our "Quest for Exaltation." "He talked about living a more celestial life," said Mary McCreless of Tallahassee Third Ward, "and gave us some good things to think about that perhaps we hadn't thought about before."

Remaining classes are as follows:

October 12	Richard L. Chapple Stake President
November 16	Elwon Lance CES Area Director U.S. South/Caribbean
December 7	Pres. and Sis. Floyd L. Packard Mission President and his wife

All lectures will be held at the Tallahassee Institute at 7:30 pm. Refreshments will be served following each lecture. Registration is \$3.00 per couple (if not already registered for another Institute class). One-half credit will be earned for this class.

"It's good to be learning," said Sister McCreless. "I feel like I don't progress when I don't go to Institute."

New Members

We welcome the following new members who were baptized in our stake during August:

Bainbridge: Joseph Kirksey

Tallahassee I: Charles Baxter Jr., Kimberly Burnett, Rickey Spain, Matthew Spooner

Tallahassee III: Emmanuel Gatien, Susanne Maybin, Patricia Trent

Thomasville: Natalie Francis

Valdosta: William Fuller

Stake News "Subscriptions"

We would be happy to send the Stake News directly to any out-of-stake address as a "subscription" for the cost of mailing. Write or call the Stake News at 2310 Oxford Road, Tallahassee, FL, 32304, 575-2117.

A Gift for Loved Ones

Here's an idea for a Christmas present designed to please any grandparent, especially those living far away. Compile a "family yearbook" that tells what your family has been up to in 1984.

A family yearbook can include all sorts of things. It's really best to save items throughout the year, but it's not too late to get started. If you are a journal-keeper, reading over your journal for the past year will give you some ideas of where to start. Many of the makings of a family yearbook are probably lying around your house, like samples of the children's artwork and school papers.

Did Billy speak at sacrament meeting for the first time or was Janie baptized? Include a copy of the program. Did Sam win a scholarship? Put in a copy of the award certificate.

Wasn't your garden fun this summer? Maybe Mom could write a paragraph or two about what you grew and what insect battles were fought, your eight-year old could write his own version, and the three-year old could illustrate with crayons.

One useful technique is to interview your children on tape, so grandma and grandpa hear the children's voices, or transcribe the interview for them. Such conversations may not seem like much, but are precious to grandparents and other relatives. Here's an example of an interview one sister had with her daughter.

Mom: What is your favorite food?

Child: Candy.

M: What do you like for dinner the best?

C: I don't like veggies.

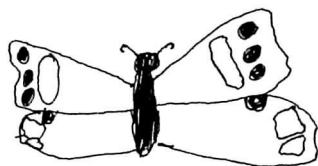
M: What's the most important thing in the world?

C: Not to touch things at people's houses.

M: What do you want to be when you grow up?

C: A Bishop!

Entries in your family yearbook need not be confined to the printed word. One sister made a quilt one year; she also made a few miniature squares out of the scraps for inclusion in the family yearbook. Artwork and photographs are also great. Do you write poetry or do calligraphy? Include samples. Or try making your children's handprints.



*I collected alot of ins=ets
this year*

(by Phillip Porter)

The idea of the yearbook is to give readers an idea of what things were really like for your family. Include a recipe or two for your favorite dishes this year. One sister did this and then, since they had little girls and had recently moved to a rural wooded area, added the following to the page of recipes:

SQUIRREL SALAD

Crush two cups pine needles

Add 1/2 cup dry leaves and 1 cup fresh acorns; mix well.

Garnish with a handful of red berries.

Serve in a red plastic bucket.

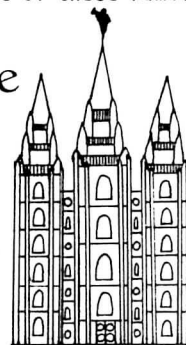
What did the children wear for Halloween? Include both a photograph and crayon self-portraits. Was Johnny in the school band? Include the sheet music for that song he played over and over. What were some memorable family home evenings this year? Where did you go on vacation? Include postcards. What were the birthday parties like? Staple a balloon or part of a crepe paper streamer to the page. Were any family members mentioned in newspaper articles or letters to the editor? Include a copy.

Since you are compiling memories to last, the usual cautions of genealogical work apply. Use bond paper and permanent inks that will survive the years.

And don't forget to make copies of these family memories for yourself.

General Conference

Remember when we were lucky to view one session of General Conference on TV, and later to receive additional sessions in the chapel by audio broadcast only? How fortunate we are to be able to both view and hear all sessions of Conference twice a year and receive counsel and inspiration from the prophet and general authorities.



As we think about the counsel received at conference October 6 and 7, here are some reflections from the April 1984 General Conference.

Elder Marvin J. Ashton: "We must constantly remember it is not our situation or problems that make us unhappy; it is our failure to properly resolve them."

Elder Neal A. Maxwell: "Longing for a heavenly home is real, especially in view of how this life is designed. After all, when we rejoice in beautiful scenery, great art, and great music, it is but the flexing of instincts acquired in another place and another time."

Elder John K. Carmack: "The Lord Jesus Christ has a personal interest in each one of us, and if we seek him, he brings to us the peace which passeth all understanding."

Elder Yoshihiko Kikuchi: "Suffering can make saints of people as they learn patience, long-suffering, and self-mastery."

Bishop J. Richard Clarke: "The Mormon standard of integrity should be the highest standard in all the world, for we are the covenant people of God."

Devin G. Durrant: "Every one of us, as we think about a mission, can find a number of reasons why we shouldn't go. The key is to look for reasons to go."

Elder Bruce R. McConkie: "Prayer changes our lives. Through it we draw near to the Lord, and he reaches out his finger and touches us, so we never again are the same."

Elder Gene R. Cook: "My challenge is to learn how to bring about a home here on earth similar to the celestial one I left."

Elder David B. Haight: "Our concern is that many married couples don't take their marriages seriously enough--to work at them, protect them, nurture them, cultivate them day in and day out."

President Ezra Taft Benson: "First, we need to strengthen families. We must recognize that... no nation will rise above the caliber of its homes."

President Gordon B. Hinckley: "Have the strength to look above small things that could lead to argument and trouble, be forgiving one to another, 'look to God and live.'"



Book Previews

by Suzanne Meik
Seventies Bookstore Representative

Those of you who eagerly await the next Yorgason brothers book will be doubly happy because they have two new books: Ride The Laughing Wind - a true story and an adventure story. Judged by some as the best Yorgason Indian story yet, it is a book about life and the forces that draw us toward choices and toward destinies that are reached decision upon decision. Brother Brigham's Gold will be released in October.

To keep up with the Trivial Pursuit games currently popular, two such games have been produced for the LDS market: "Celestial Pursuit: The Ultimate In LDS Trivia" and "Jots and Tittles: Trivia Game For LDS." For instance, do you know who translated the Book of Mormon into Italian? Or what LDS book published by the Church contains mostly works of non-Mormon authors? Or how about which Church college was destroyed by an earthquake in 1931 and never was rebuilt? For the answers, inquire at the bookstore.

Two books have recently been reprinted: Hugh Nibley's Nibley On The Timely And The Timeless and Ardeth Kapp's Echoes From My Prairie -- the Young Women General President tells about her growing-up years on the Canadian prairie.

Planting, Preserving, Preparing

by Lois Davis
Home Production and Storage
Resource Specialist
Tallahassee First Ward



In these months of more dormant gardens, when less time is taken with planting, harvesting, and putting produce up, here are some ideas to consider for the few cold months.

1. Inventory - what do you have? What do you need? The stake has a new computer program that will make an accurate assessment of your family's needs. Information on this will be made available to your local leaders. There are many books available containing the same information in the stake and public libraries or through the Seventies Bookstore. Essentials in Home Production and Storage is one inexpensive guide that no home should be without.
2. Set goals.
3. Put together a two-week emergency storage including food that needs no cooking.
4. Can or freeze meat and poultry when the prices are lowest.
5. Give food storage gifts, such as a can of powdered milk to new parents (or even to old parents!).
6. Make quilts.
7. Learn to make soap.
8. Plant fruit trees and bushes.
9. Give homemade bread and jam at Christmas.
10. Share what you've learned with others. The principle of self-sufficiency is one beauty of the gospel that has attracted many.

For those of you who have non-instant powdered milk, here is a hint from Elaine Salisbury, Tallahassee First Ward Relief Society president, on how to mix it without messing up your blender. Simply start the blender with half the water in it and add all the powder; mix. Pour this into the pitcher. Then "rinse" the blender with the other half of the water and add this to the pitcher.

STAKE CONFERENCE from Page 1

secretly took discussions for several weeks and were happily surprised to learn of the other's interest when the truth came out. Elder Mason assured us that even those who never convert will still remain friends if we share the gospel with them out of love. He reminded us of our noble birthright and potential, saying that through obeying the commandments we can become like God.

Before closing, Elder Mason spoke about the great young people of the Church, complimenting them on their diligence in living the commandments in a difficult time. He reminded us that our young people have been held back until this time because of "their nobility and ability to live in the twilight" before Christ comes.

It seems that no matter how hard we try, we still aren't pros at this newsletter business and things get botched.

Correction: We neglected to thank Carol Bliss and J.T. Little for photographs that appeared in the last issue.

Apologies to Dudley F. Dixon, Melton Covington, and Marion Gray whose pictures were in the May/June issue. These high councilors appeared in the above order, left to right, on page 3. The photos were inadvertently reversed.

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Trendsetters Barber Style: Regular haircut \$3.75. 2052 North Monroe (next to Barnaby's). 9-6 Tues.-Fri. and 9-5 on Sat. Call 385-4883 for more information.

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