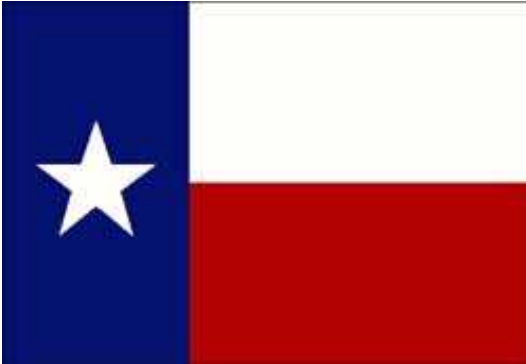


These Are The Days...

Volume 1 Edition 6

Greenville, Texas

July 2005



Before we begin this issue I should take a moment to point out that our family newsletter headquarters have been relocated to Greenville, Texas. We'll discuss this move more later, but for now lets just say "Howdy from Texas."



We start off in the month of May with some fantastic news. Jared got two on-site interviews. One was with L-3

here in Greenville, and the other was with Epic Systems out in Madison, Wisconsin. They were both scheduled for the same week so he left on the 9th for Texas and came back on the 10th. Then flew to Madison on the 11th and came back the 12th. Both interviews went well and resulted in job offers. We decided to go with Texas...obviously.

While Jared was gone the second time Noah came down with an ear infection. It was awful, as all ear infections are. I was all by myself and a bit frazzled so I

called Mom. She told me to call the Relief Society President and ask her if she knew someone who would be able to watch Tess while I took Noah to the doctor. I did that and it worked out really well, Tess stayed with the Primary President and we got Noah all taken care of.

On the 14th we drove to Rawlins and met Mom and Dad at Pizza Hut and traded cars, since we still had the Alero. It was a nice visit and it was very cool to see the Civic running again.



communications

We accepted the offer from L-3 on the 16th or so and headed for Utah. The drive took us eleven hours!

Between stopping to feed the baby and stopping where we had decent cell phone signal (since we were organizing the house hunting trip on the road) and the wimpy Civic it seemed to take forever. We left Noah with Grandma and Grandpa and then Jared, Tess and I flew to Texas early the next morning. The flight was okay and Tess did really well.

On the 19th, the morning after we got here, we had an appointment with a D.R. Horton guy in the area. We drove out and looked around and found a floor plan that we really liked and then a lot

that we really liked and then we started signing things. We bought a house!



It was very exciting, even if Jared looked a little ill afterwards. They bought us lunch from a really good Italian place here too and I joked that it was the most expensive lunch I'd ever had. We should close on the 28th of October, and since we are building from the ground up we get to pick everything.

After we did that we came to find an apartment...which didn't go as well as finding a house did. There aren't very many advertised apartment places in the area and there were only two that we could find online and neither had apartments that we could look at. So we went with the first one that we didn't get to see and we learned a lesson for sure. It is only for 6 months but we'll be counting down the whole time.



We came home on the 20th and that flight wasn't as nice as the first. Tess had a little trouble and I was exhausted. We

stayed and visited for a few days then headed back to Colorado on the 23rd.

On the 20th we also said Happy Birthday to Josh and Alisa. Since we stuck around on Sunday we got to go to Josh's birthday party. Happy Birthday to both of you!

On the 25th the kids and I had a little get together at Wendy's house. This was the second of such gatherings and it was a lot of fun again. Noah had fun in the backyard with the other kids and the sprinkler. I had to go and keep him out of the dirt about a million times but he had a lot of fun and got a bath as soon as we got home. Funny story...I laid Tess down on the floor in this room full of mothers and said, "I'll be right back," and went to check on Noah again. When I came back two little girls were feeding Tess oatmeal cookies. I jumped a bit and reminded them both that babies cannot have cookies. To which one of the little girls replied, "well it was Katie's idea." "I don't care whose idea it was, please don't feed the baby cookies." Tess was fine after I scooped a bunch of cookie out of her mouth...

Grandpa and AnaMarie got home on the 27th and we were very excited to see them when we went home for Nate and Ashley's wedding.

We got all the arrangements made for the move and things worked out nicely. Jared didn't start until the 6th of June but we had to be out of our apartment on the 31st of May. The plans went as follows, they were coming to pack us on the 30th and loading us into the truck and leaving on the 31st. So we rented what we thought would be a minivan to drive to Utah after our stuff was gone. We needed a van since we were taking the cat to live in Grandma's backyard with Frankie. Anyways, we let them ship our car and we were going to fly from Utah to Texas after the wedding and things.

So on the 30th at about eleven o' clock they finally showed up to pack us. They packed and packed and had most of it



done and called it a day at about six that evening. We had to break into

a couple of the boxes to get my temple recommend and the blessing dress for Tess, but other than that the whole thing went very smoothly. We spent a very restless night in the sea of boxes, since Noah was having a little stress over the whole moving thing. They came very early the next morning to load the truck and go.

Jared got a ride to the airport to pick up the rental car and it turned out that they didn't have a minivan so they upgraded us to an SUV for free. We got to drive home in a Ford Expedition. It was huge!

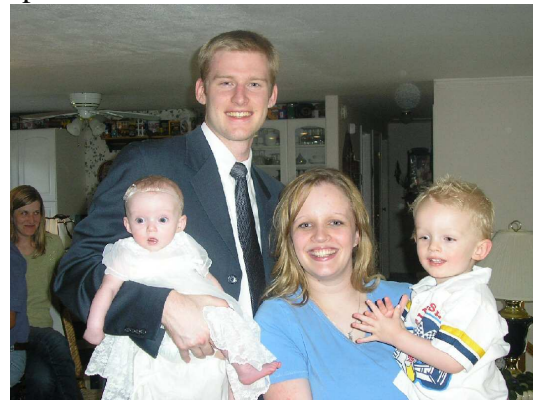


We cleaned as they emptied and had most of the stuff cleaned by the time they were done. I went to Jed and Ashley's to feed the baby while Jared took care of the walk-through and turning in keys and stuff. He got the gunboat-tank-cruiser loaded and then we said our goodbyes and headed to Utah. The drive was nice and we made good time in the gas sucking bus. We had tons of space! We laughed a lot when I could sit comfortably between the car seats in the back and entertain the kids. We got there at about ten I think and Jared's dad

took him to return the car the next morning.

Now June was a phenomenally busy month so get ready...

We got to have the baby blessing on the 1st of June and it was really nice. We had it at Mom and Dad's house and we were pleased with how many people were able to come at such short notice. Jared did really well and the whole thing was very special for all of us.



Nate and Ashley were married on the 2nd of June and we were thrilled to be there. They had their wedding brunch at the Wight House in Bountiful, so I got to scope out the digs for Brandon's wedding while we were there. Not to mention that we got Noah fitted for his tux. Anyway, the brunch was really nice



though I must say that I thought that the highlight of the afternoon was Noah gagging himself to the point of barfing with a piece of bacon. Moving right along...

The whole day was really nice

and they were very cute. When we were sitting there right after they came in to the ceremony Jared leaned over and said, “Nate has the same look on his face now as I did when we signed for the house.”

Later that same night Brandon’s Ashley had her bridal shower. It was a lot of fun and we enjoyed it. The best part was when Ashley’s niece, upon learning that we were moving here, said, “I hope you make friends.” Ashley got a lot of cool stuff and I have decided that I need to have another bridal shower...

Nate and Ashley’s reception was the next day at a house in Heber. The place was huge and the reception was really nice. Noah suffered a little cosmetic at the reception damage but he’s over it now.

We flew to Texas on the 4th. Flying with two kids isn’t as fun as it looks. After we got the bags all picked up and loaded onto one of those red carts at the airport Jared left me and the kids and all the crap at the door and went to get the rental car. Both of the kids were quite unhappy and about a million people asked me if I needed some help or if they could get me anything. I made it until the 4th person before I burst into tears. Jared finally made it back and we



got the car loaded and drove straight to the apartment to sign the lease and get the keys.

So it wasn’t until then that we got to see this place and boy were we thrilled. What really did it for me was the salmon colored seashell sink...

They delivered our stuff the next morning and we got the kids room unpacked that day. We stayed at the hotel that night and Jared started work the next morning, the 6th.

Jared loves his new job! He is working on a project with some guys from New Zealand and has had a really good time with them so far. It seems to be a really good place to work, and he is really enjoying it. He is close enough to come home for lunch and heard something about the guys playing golf at a nearby country club every other Monday. He had to be there really early on the 6th so we decided that we would hold on to the rental car one more day and take it back later that night.

Noah’s birthday was on the 6th, but we decided to postpone the birthday festivities until we had had time to settle in and get unpacked. While discussing that idea we decided to wrap Noah’s birthday, my birthday and father’s day into one big celebration and we called it Happy Birth-Father’s Days and it happened on the 25th of June, but more on that later.



We went to dinner on the 6th at Applebee’s, since we knew they would sing to Noah. Dinner was good and Noah was thrilled with the balloons that they brought when they sang to him, but wasn’t much interested in the ice cream.

Fran and Gordon got married on the 11th and while we were not able to attend I hear that the whole thing was really nice.

We are thrilled for them and wish them the best.

On the 12th we attended our first meeting in our new ward. The people are really nice and quite funny. Noah did well in the nursery and I actually laughed during gospel doctrine...Unfortunately our house is about two blocks from the county line that divides the wards so we'll be in a different ward in a few months. They all gave us a lot of grief for that...

On the 17th we flew home for Brandon and Ashley's wedding. That flight



wasn't so bad and we were thrilled to be there. We tried Noah's tux on him as soon as we got there to make sure that it was all good and he looked sooo cute.

The wedding was on the 18th and it was beautiful...like I mentioned before they got married at the Wight House in Bountiful in their rooftop garden. Uncle Mike married them and he did a really



good job. Noah got to be a ring bearer, which he had never done before so Jared

got to stand at the front and hold him. It was a good thing that he did because Noah tried to throw the little ring pillow into the pond a couple of times. Brandon and Ashley were both adorably smiley and I bawled a couple of times. They are a really cute couple and we are very excited for them both.

The brunch and the reception were both really nice and we had a good time visiting with everybody. We got to show off the baby a lot, and I think everybody got to hold her. Noah and other little kids had a good time with the balloons that Uncle Mike brought. He looked really cute in his tux and we took a million pictures of the whole affair.



After Brandon and Ashley were sent off I fed Tess in the Bride's Room and we got changed and gathered and headed for the airport to come home. The trip was quite short and I wasn't really thrilled to go home again so soon but perhaps we'll do it again someday...

The flight home was awful. No doubt about it. We were all really tired and Noah just about died. He screamed and carried on for about forty-five minutes and I was really glad that we were at the back of the plane.

Nate's Ashley celebrated her birthday on the 18th we called to wish her a happy birthday and informed her that all festivities for the month of June had been postponed this year...so she'd be getting a late gift.

Father's Day was the 19th but like I said we have taken the liberty of postponing it this year.

On the 21st Amanda and Riley Adams from the ward came over to play. She and I had a nice visit and Noah and Riley are going to learn to play nicely together. They are also new to the area and it sounds like they are glad to know someone of similar circumstances too. She said that they would be happy to trade babysitting so that we all could get a chance to go out once in a while and even volunteered their truck and trailer when we need help moving.

So on the 25th we celebrated Happy Birth-Father's Day. After everyone was showered and dressed we opened



presents and played with a few things. Noah had a really good time with all of his toys and he got some really cute clothes too. We got him an Elmo that has a bunch of

different animal parts that you can hook on to it and then it says things like, "it's an Elmo-phant;" we also bought one of those Sit n' Spin things that we used to see when we were kids. Tess got him a Mr. Potatohead and he's has a good time identifying all the various parts.

Grandma and Grandpa Crookston sent a really cute dinosaur outfit that Noah has already worn several times. Grandma and Grandpa Sowerby took the cake however with the Mega Blocks racetrack. Noah loved it! He ignored just about everything else as soon as that was opened and he came all to pieces when we had to put it away at the end of the day. Thanks to everybody for all the great gifts, we all had a really good day and Noah was thrilled with everything that came his way. Thanks to Grandma Glo and Grandma Ida for the birthday money, we picked out some really cute clothes for him. Since he insists on growing out of everything that we buy him. He also enjoyed the apple and orange that Grandma Ida gave him too. Thanks again to everyone.

After everything was all opened we had lunch and headed to Terrell, about 40 minutes away, to shop at the outlet stores. I planned the trip just to go to the Old Navy outlet there and I managed to spend most of my birthday money at that store. Jared also got a really nice shirt for work with his father's day cash. We had a good time and the kids were good for the drive and everything.



Later that night we went to dinner at a Mexican place here called Ta Molly's. It was better than I thought it would be and we will definitely be going back. Jared laughed at me really bad because I tried guacamole for the first time in my whole life and it was actually pretty good. I didn't like it enough to want to eat it out of a jar with a spoon but it was great on the quesadilla thing that I had.

On the 28th we had orientation at the design center. We left Noah at Riley's house and headed to Plano, which is an hour and a half from our apartment. The whole thing was a bit overwhelming and I left the place in quite a knot. There are about a million things that we have to form an opinion about and stuff I had never even thought about, like how many different colors of grout there are...

Noah and Riley had a really good time while we were there and we were thrilled to hear that they played well together. Riley was exhausted and Noah was still running circles around him. It was ten o'clock when we got there and we planned on just running in and grabbing the kid and going. We ended up talking to Tim and Amanda for an hour and a half. We really enjoyed the visit and are looking forward to their friendship. They invited us to go with them to her mom's in Houston for the 4th of July and we are really excited about the trip.

We also want to send out our congratulations to Al and Shelley, who were married on the 25th.



On the 29th we got Tess' ears pierced! She did really well and she looks

really cute. Now I can buy cute baby earrings instead of cute baby head squishers. We figured now was a good time to do it since she's teething and therefore is really ornery anyways...

EXCiting NOah NEWS

Noah says "I love you." It is so cute. He runs around telling everyone that he loves them. He says it over and over again as fast as he can.

He has also gotten really good about saying "please," although it sometimes sounds like "cheese," and "thank you." He also says "you're welcome," which he'll say to you when he brings you stuff whether you wanted it or not. And sometimes they are all combined into one word that sounds something like "thank-you're-welcome."

He has gotten to be quite the conversationalist. He uses a few sentences like, "More juice please;" "Watch Wiggles TV."



He is really good at getting Tess to laugh. I just have to point her in his

direction and say, "there's your silly brother," and he becomes an instant ham.

Tess is Terrific!

Tess has done so many new things that I am not sure that I will remember all of them, but here goes.

She discovered her hands and arms and has developed coordination enough to



get things into her mouth. She also started chewing on her feet too.

I mentioned that she had started teething and while she is ornery as ever we have yet to see one of those little sharp baby teeth.

We started her on solid foods on the 25th of June and she has done really well. She hasn't had the problems that Noah had when we started him on solids yet and we are excited to give her a bigger variety of things to eat.



She developed a case of heat rash and got cradle cap right after we moved here. We got some powder stuff for her neck and I started scrubbing her head religiously. Call me crazy but I swear she has gotten more hair since I started scrubbing her head.

I guess that wraps up this issue...Y'all take care now.