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Saturday, January 01, 2011

Morro Bay, California (Rain)

We woke early this morning, dressed and ate breakfast. We then drove to Elder and Sister Shaw’s where they were waiting for us. The four of us drove to the west coast. We were able to find the Creek Canyon road, in which we first drove down when we went to Morro Bay the first time. Spring is starting to show although it was not as beautiful as it was first time we went this way. It still is a very pretty and enjoyable way to go.. It rained on us all day but it did not stop us from having a wonderful day. We first went for a walk to the beach at Morro Bay, we then took a ride up the East side of town in the residential homes and where you could get a wonderful view of the ocean. We next found a McDonald’s and got something to eat. From there we went to the wharf area and went to the shops to get out of the rain. The first store we went into we bought warm jackets and hats. It felt so good to have on warmer clothes for thou we had brought jackets it was to cooled and wet for just what we had. We spent some time just shopping but buying very little. This afternoon we drove north to where we could view the elephant seals. While there we visited with two park rangers that explained that in the early 1900’s these seals were thought to be almost extinct, then they found a small group of the elephant seals and through preservation programs there are over 200,000 that live along the west coast from Mexico to Alaska with 17,000 to 20,000 that resides on the west coast about 7 miles north of Hearst Castel. Some of the large bull seals may weigh 3 ton with the mother seals averaging 1,500 lb to 2,000 lb. After giving birth to one pup which weighs 7 to 8lb. The female will lose 25 to 30 lb per day in feeding the pup. She will nurse the pup for 28 days at which time the pup will average 300lb. The female milk is about 65% milk fats or about like Mayonnaise. At that time she will go into the water and head for Alaska to the feeding grounds. She will travel as far off the western coast as 2,000 miles and very deep so as to avoid the Orca (killer whale), where as the males will swim much closer to the western shore and only 6 to 8% of them will get past the Orca and survive. The pups will remain on the shore for about 3 weeks by them self for they don’t know how to swim. After 3 weeks they will begin to venture into the water and will soon swim off to Alaska and then will return next year to the same beach in which they were born. Although it was raining very hard while we were at the beach, we got some very good pictures and really enjoyed learning about the seals. We were there about an hour and all of us were wet when we got into the car. We came back to a Home Town Buffet and ate. I had Sister Shaw drive for about ½ hour while I took a nap. I then took over and drove on home. It was about 8PM when we got home. I got on the computer and typed this entry. Mae and I then took showers and went to bed. **GREAT DAY!**

Sunday, January 02, 2011

Shafter, California (rain)

We got up at 6:30 so that we could get to choir practice as we will be singing in our Ward Conference next week. We had time to prepare our nursery room. I set the tables for 16 because we don’t know who many will be in attendance this year. Being the first Sunday of course we had testimonies. They were very good and Spiritual and we enjoyed that. To our surprise we only had four children in nursery. Nathan’s father stayed in with him and then they left at one o’clock. Josh came and his mother stayed with him. Also we had the twins. Jonathon and Jeremiah and they were just as good as can be. When nersury ended Jeremiah didn’t want to leave with his sisters so he started to fuss, he didn’t want to leave nursery. We gave him his picture and told him to take it to his mother so that settled him down. It was really the best nursery we have had. It was raining hard as we left the church. When we got home we used the electric blanket and cuddled up on the bed and took a nap. We had slept for a while when Georgia called to wish Mae a late Happy Birthday. I entered this much of my journal and then we ate dinner. I helped Mae do up the dishes. Mae got on the computer and worked on her “Project Life” while I watched the three series of the MESSIAH. We then played a game of Rummy in which Mae beat me by quite a ways, so I challenged her to a game of “Knock” in which she won me four hands in a row. I finished this entry and we went to bed. I played three games of Solitary on the computer and lost all three. Tonight is not my night with games.

Monday, January 03, 2011

Shafter, California (Sunny but cool)

I woke at 1AM and didn’t get back to sleep until 4AM and that was in the recliner. Mae woke me at 7:30 and we cuddled in bed for a while and I went back to sleep. Mae got up at 9:30 and woke me at 10:30 for breakfast. She had prepared waffles with fruit and they were delicious. After breakfast I helped wash the dishes. I made almond milk and almond butter this morning. We took a walk going south through the pistachio grove and back. It is fun to walk together and visit. When we got back I repaired the toilet as the flush plug keeps leaking. I then took a nap in the recliner until dinner. After dinner I worked on getting a copy of the pictures that we had taken on our trip to the coast with the Shaw’s. I had just finished that when they came to have Family Home evening with us. We do have an enjoyable time when we are with them. It is almost 10 PM now and about time to go to bed.

Tuesday, January 04, 2011

Shafter, California

I think I could have stood another day off! It was hard getting up and going this morning. Elder Shaw and I worked on the home getting the stove set and started on the dishwasher. I needed some parts so Elder Shaw went to town for those. While he was gone I worked on some electrical outlets in the duplex. Lee came and asked if I would go with him to the Sherwood homes and remove some carpeting. We did that but also needed to remove tack strips and baseboard. I hadn’t brought tools for that so I had Lee call Elder Shaw and have him bring the needed tools. Lee then went back to other work and I stayed. When Elder Shaw got there we finished the job so that the tile layers could come and install tile in both houses. It was 4:30 PM when we finished and got back to the plant so we locked up and I came home. Mae, among many other things took some Sisters and they went into the Senior citizens lunching. She is also starting to do deep cleaning of the house in preparation to us going home. Mae had dinner about ready when I got home. I took a shower and shaved before we ate. After eating I took a nap. I started a game of Chess and then saved it while we read an article from the Ensign. It was President Eyring’s from the Priesthood session of General Conference. It left me wondering if I am serving properly on this mission. I finished the game of chess and won. Mae played a game of solitary while I brushed my teeth. I then finished this entry before we went to bed.

Wednesday, January 05, 2011

Shafter, California

Elder Shaw and I worked on installing the dishwasher. As we needed some material we decided to go to the Sherwood farm and get the set of stackable washer and dryer. After loading and securing it to the pickup we went to Home Depot. It took us a while but we found most everything we needed. It was almost noon when we returned to the home. We now have power on the home and so we were able to turn light on and use interior electrical outlets. That is sure a help. After lunch we got the dishwasher installed except for the securing the washer to the cabinet top and I had to go to Lee’s shop to cut a board for that. The tile company came this afternoon to install the tile baseboard. We had to move the refrigerator out for them to tile behind that. It was after 4PM when we cleaned up and locked things up. Mae had dinner about ready when I got home so I cleaned up and we ate as we watched a western movie. Mae is still having a lot of flam in her lungs and doesn’t seem to be getting over it. She doesn’t seem to be getting worse but it just isn’t clearing up.

Thursday, January 06, 2011

Shafter, California

I woke at 3AM and didn’t go back to sleep. When the alarm went off I was still very tired. I thought that I might go home early and take a nap but we found too many things that needed attention and just kept busy until after 4PM. We lost some time as today was the plants birthday celebration so that took an hour or more. Mae had the desert to furnish this month and then after that ended she went to Wasco and took dinner to Shirley West as she has had foot surgery. I was able to get some almond flour that was extra. It makes great almond milk. I got home before Mae did so I started dinner, roasted some almonds for and started a chess game. Mae finished up dinner when she got home. I made a batch of almond butter while she was preparing dinner. We watched a series of J.A.G. while we were eating dinner. I helped Mae do the dishes. I finished the chess game and because of a dumb move I lost the game. We read President Monson’s talk from the General Priesthood Session of General Conference before going to bed.

Friday, January 07, 2011

I woke up and got myself ready for work. Mae didn’t sleep the best last night and she isn’t feeling well. She did have my lunch ready for me so all I had to do is get it out of the fridge and put it in my lunch bag. I heated some frozen waffles and cooked me a couple of eggs. Mae got up but I convinced her that she should stay home and rest, not going to the school to help there. I went to work and Mae did go back to bed. We added a kitchen light and hooked the washroom ceiling fan up to the hallway ceiling fan so that both works off the same switch. Lee called and asked us to give him a hand at loading a stove, a washer and a dryer and taking them to the house that Sarah will be moving into tomorrow. We needed some parts to hook up the dryer so I went to Floyd’s for those parts. It was after noon when we finished then after lunch we finished hooking up the stackable washer and dryer and getting them into the Washroom. It was a very close fit but we made it. We installed the new light fixture into the kitchen and installed corbels on the counter top. I came home and found that Mae had stayed home and did take a nap and did slow down a little. She took the car in to have it serviced then she washed and vacuumed it. That way, the car is ready for the boys to take back home. Scott and Jeff got away about 3PM to bring the pickup to us. They have called us a couple of times as they travel. That is one of the good things about having cell phones. Mae and I went shopping after I got home from work. We met Bishop and Sister Brown in Costco while there. As we were driving to the restaurant Bryce call on Mae’s phone. He told Mae that Deanna’s sister --- had just pasted away after undergoing treatment for cancer. We then went to The Home Town restaurant to eat and while there met Recardo and Candi Orozco there so invited them to join us at our table. We had a very enjoyable time visiting with them. While we talked the conversion story of Brother and Sister Orozco came up. I found it very interesting. At a High Priest social several months ago they had told us that he had met Candi while he was delivering supplies to a store where she worked. He said that he was impressed with her and wanted to get to know her better. One day as he was delivering supplies she was in the cooler where he took the supplies. He told her that he wasn’t going to let her out until she kissed him. She said that she was too cold to stay longer so gave him a kiss and that started their romance. A few years after their marriage they felt that they needed religion in their home so they started going to various church’s. one day two Spanish speaking missionaries knocked on their door. Although he speaks Spanish he told them that his wife couldn’t and he wanted her to hear what they are saying. They said that they would have someone else come and two days later two English speaking missionaries came. He said (with experience now) that they were both “Greenies”. However the Spirit was there and they felt it. After the first discussion the missionaries ask if they could return and they said yes. When the missionaries ask when she said how about tomorrow. They continued the discussions on that kind of a schedule. When the missionaries ask them if they would attend church they said they would, however the next Sunday they had something come up and didn’t make it. The next Sunday they did attend and felt so good. However their son told them after meetings that they had to go to the store and buy dress clothes and ties. Candi said that no one had said anything to them about their dress. They had wore the best clothes they had but they weren’t what they now consider dress for church. There story was really interesting and it reminded me of Tonie and Leah. We were a couple of hours eating and then we left for home. on the way we listened to “The Brothers” on CD as we drove. We are sure enjoying that story and it really keeps you intrigued. It is now 11:30PM and the boys should get here sometime between 1 and 2AM. I guess we will o to sleep now.

Saturday, January 08, 2011

Shafter, California

Scott and Jeff arrived here at 3AM. They called us on the phone just as they arrived at our house. We of course got up to greet them and get them settled in bed. We then went back to bed also. I woke early thinking about Bryce’s phone call. Marcene was a little older than were Mae and I and was already married before we moved into the Mound Fort ward and met the Green family, so we really didn’t get to know her. Marcene and her husband did not remained active in the Church. I thought of Marge and Evan and them being there when Marcene passed through the veil. They would greet her with all the tenderness of loving parents. Then I thought that they also would be there to greet me when that time comes. Marge would have that beautiful smile that I know so well and Evan would have a twinkle in his eye and a warm hand shake and just three words, you found out. I will have to say, yes I did. I stayed in bed until 6:30AM before getting up and found that Mae had gotten up and was asleep in the recliner. I took the opportunity to have my morning prayer and to read in the scriptures. I then got the lap top and worked on my journal. Mae got up about 8AM but she had been up from 3AM to 5AM before she went to sleep in the recliner. Mae and I made a nice breakfast for the boys of waffles and egg omelets. I helped Mae with the dishes and then we took the boys around the farm. Mae then had a nice dinner and after doing up the dishes the four of us went into Bakersfield shopping for some speakers that Jeff wanted but really didn’t find what they wanted. After getting home we played some card games until the boys were tired and went to bed. I finished this entry while Mae straightened up the kitchen. We went to bed about 9:45PM.

Sunday, January 09, 2011

Shafter, California

Mae woke about 5:30 and I woke just after 6AM. Scott was up and Jeff soon got up. They got ready and Mae had breakfast ready. After breakfast we help them finish packing ant the left to return home about 6:45AM. We have sure enjoyed having them even if it was such a short time. Mae and I then showered and got ready for Church. After setting up our class room for the nursery we joined the choir for practice. This is only the 2nd practice for this number and we will sing today in our Ward Conference. Practice went quite well. Sacrament meeting went very well, the musical number, which was a combination of pages 79 and 32 of the Hymn Book, also went well. Bishop Lee Brown, President Carter and President Slaughter of the Stake Presidency spoke and gave very appropriate and inspiring talks. Our nursery went quite well although we had 9 children, our two assistance did not come but Sister Slade stayed with Josh for a little while, Brother Pablo stayed with his son Nathan and Peter Guyton stayed with the twins and he really helps us with all the children. We were tired by the time it ended and glad to go home. Mae’s back was hurting so she got on the Chee machine while I cooked us some scrambled eggs and heated some freezer waffles. After eating we lay back in the recliners to take a short nap but it was 2 ½ hours later that we woke. We put on the DVD “Bells of St. Mary” and watched it. We were interrupted by a call from Sister Bonnie Slate. She had told us, as we were leaving the church that she had lost her wedding ring. We didn’t remember seeing it in the nursery room and she looked in some other places. She left saying that she wasn’t sure that she had it on when she came this morning. She called to tell us that they had found it at home. She then visited with Mae for a few minutes. While we had the show stopped I wrote some of this entry. We also got us something to eat. I also called the boys and they are at Provo and the roads are good. We watched the rest of the show and really enjoyed it. Neither of us remembered seeing the show before but we now want to own it. It’s now after 10PM so we got ready and went to bed.

Monday, January 10, 2011

It looked like the sun might shine but that didn’t last long. It was quite cold all day. Elder Shaw and I worked on the finish of the east unit. We have that side ready to be painted so started on the west unit. Mae didn’t have enough other things to do so she cleaned and washed the pickup. Mae had dinner about ready when I got home. After eating I showered and shaved and then took a 15 minute nap. We went over to the Shaw’s and held F.H.E. with them. It was a very enjoyable evening and we got home at 9:15PM. Mae was fixing my lunch for tomorrow so I played a game of chess. I should have played something else for the computer beat me.

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

I woke about 3AM and didn’t sleep very well the rest of the night. I really hated to get up this morning but finally made it. Elder Shaw filled nail holes and caulked the base board on the east apartment while I corrected the location of an electrical out let, hung doors and trimmed out the windows in the west unit. I quite at 3:30PM so I could get water, fill my truck with gas and get home early. The Elders are coming for dinner at 5PM we think. They didn’t get here until 5:30PM as they were at an appointment that lasted longer than they had expected. Bob called while we were eating to let me know that Mark had passed away. They are not sure when he died but Barbara and Dean found him dead in his bed. They think it was from a heart attack. Bob said that he would let us know when he finds out any more. After the Elders left I helped Mae do the dishes. Mae and I then watched the movie “Bells of St. Mary”. Part way through the show Mae called Camille Smith to let her and Bishop Smith know about Mark. Bob had already called them and Bishop Smith called Barbara and Dean. The story is a little different than what Bob had got. The landlord is the one that found Mark. Mark had not come to her on the 5th to pay his rent. She went to his apartment and knocked a couple of days later but there was no answer. She left a note on his door so she went back and the note was still where she had placed it. She used her key and found him dead on the carpet in the front room. She called Marks son Steve who called Barbara and Dean. They are the ones that called Bob to let him know. I feel sorry and sad for him. I will need to get a hold of Steve to let him know about the guns Mark has buried in Bob’s back yard. Well it is now 10PM so we had better go to bed.

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

The sun came out this morning and remained out all day. It did warm up a little. We continued trimming the duplex and preparing to paint. Shortly after 2PM electrical power went off all over the area. We finial put tools away and prepared to go home when at 3:30 PM the power returned. We finished locking up and went home. I stopped on the way home and picked grape fruit and oranges from the trees at the Kimberlina homes. After getting home I showered and shaved while Mae finished preparing dinner. We watched the last half of “The Bells of St. Mary’s” as we ate. Mae called and visited with Sandi. While Mae was visiting with Sandi I capsulated more Phyt. Aloe. I then put one of our series of J.A.G. on and watched it. Mae then got on the computer and worked on her journal. I lay on the Chee machine. I then typed this entry and we got ready and went to bed.

Thursday, January 13, 2011

I slept pretty good last night but Mae woke early this morning and couldn’t go back to sleep. It was cold and foggy this morning. I think it is the cold and humidity that is giving me quite a lot of pain in my joints and bonds. I hurt quite a bit today and had to take some Aleve to help out. I did get the west unit trimmed out and with Elder Shaw’s help we were able to get the primer coat of paint on all the doors. It worked well to use a semi trailer to stand the doors in to let them dry. Before quitting work today we cleaned out the west unit and stored all the tools into the tool trailer. Mae was Visiting Teaching this afternoon and I got home before she did. She gave me a hair cut this evening. I made a batch of almond butter before I took a shower. After dinner we watched a J.A.G. series. I then filled out this journal entry and while I was at the computer Mae read an article from “Mormon Times”. I moved over to a recliner as Mae started to read a message from President Monson but I soon fell asleep. After finishing the article Mae got ready for bed and then woke me enough to get me to bed.

Friday, January 14, 2011

Shafter, California

I woke early and was afraid that if I went back to bed I would wake Mae so I lay in the recliner. I still couldn’t sleep so got back up and took some Tylenol PM and finally went to sleep in the recliner. Mae had woke earlier than I had and was afraid that she would wake me so she went into the other bedroom and slept there. I really didn’t feel like going to work today but did make it a few minutes late. I was surprised when Elder Shaw wasn’t out when I got there. I got started and unlocked the trailers.

Finally I thought I should check to see if everything was ok with the Shaw’s so I knocked on their door. Everything was ok; they had just been talking to one of their daughters on the phone. We worked on building the shelving for the clothes closets for the duplex. We worked until after 1PM and then quite so that we could go to the Temple. The Shaw’s picked us up about 2:30PM and we road with them to the Temple. As we got close to L.A. we found a Denney’s and had dinner. I paid for the dinner to make up for them driving. This evening we did Sealings session. Bishop and Sister Brown had already arrived at the Temple ahead of us. Brother Ricardo and Sister Candi Orozoco also arrived at the Temple about the same time we got there. It was a very enjoyable evening being with the other couples at the Temple and participating as proxies in ceremony for those that have now passed into the newt life. It was about 11:30PM when we got home. Sister Shaw drove home so Mae set in the front with her so they could visit. Elder Shaw and I set in the back seat and slept most of the way home.

Saturday, January 15, 2011

I slept in the recliner most of the night and at 6AM I got up to use the bathroom. I crawled back in bed for a few minutes when we decided that we needed to get up so we could get to the Primary’s brunch for all primary workers. On the way over to the brunch we called David and visited with him. The meeting was good and we enjoyed the brunch although there was a lot that we couldn’t eat. After the meeting Mae and I went to the Shafter Railroad museum. The Guyton’s soon came to the museum to tour it with us. We found it to be a very enjoyable tour. From there we went to the Insect Lore Bugseum and enjoyed that tour also. After the visit to the bug museum we parted with the Guyton’s. Mae and I stopped at a Sub-Way and bought a sandwich for lunch as it was now after 3PM. We came on home and I thought about taking a nap. Mae suggested that she go would for a walk while I took a nap. I decided I would go walking with her and then we would see about the nap. We enjoyed walking together and visiting while we walked. I sure love being with that girl! When we got home I did take a nap. We ate some leftovers and watched a J.A.G. series. Mae worked on her lesson for nursery tomorrow and I added to this entry. I also played a game of chess and the computer won again. We showered and soon went to bed.

Sunday, January 16, 2011

Shafter, California

I woke at 4:30AM and was unable to go back to sleep. I read my scriptures, said prayers and played some games on the computer. Mae woke at 6:30. After breakfast I took a few minutes nap before getting dressed for church. We attended choir practice although we are not sure if we will be singing on a program again before we leave. Sister Guyton spoke during the Sacrament program. This was the first time that she has spoke in Sacrament meeting and she did a pretty good job. We only had seven children in nursery and one little girl who was there for the first time became scarred and wet her pants so had to be taken out. We had Brenda, our assistant, with us but it seemed like we were very busy. We were tired by the time it finished and ready to come home. After some lunch we both lay down in recliners and took a nap. As we were driving home from church, Mae called Uncle Van. They were not home so she just left them a message to see if we might sleep at their place on the 19th of February as we return home. Uncle Van returned her call at 3:30PM to let us know that they would be happy for us to stay the night with them. I played a game of chess with the computer and it again beat me. I worked on my personal history, stopping long enough for dinner and then helped Mae with the Dishes. I went back to work and wrote more on my history. I called and talked to Mike for a while. I asked him if he thought it might be possible to get a family picture taken after Sacrament meeting, but it looks like it might be quite awkward to arrange for it because of the number of people that they are expecting to be there. It is now 9:30PM so we had better go to bed. It was another hour getting to bed and then Mae couldn’t sleep.

Monday, January 17, 2011

Shafter, California (Foggy? Smoggy? Heavy Due or Light Rain?)

As you can see from my weather note I am not quite sure what you would call this day except you sure didn’t see and sunlight. I let Mae sleep in as she didn’t sleep very well during the night. This morning Elder Shaw and I worked on preparing the duplex for paint. After lunch we put the finish coat of paint on the doors. After cleaning up the paint pump I took my pickup into have it serviced. I got home just after 4PM. I shaved and showered while Mae finished preparing dinner. After dinner I started this journal entry and then took a short nap. Elder and Sister Shaw came for F.H.E. and we had a very enjoyable evening. Mae lead a very good discussion on Charity and then after we had refreshments and played Knock. We made some plans for the four of us to go to San Diego possibly the 3rd 4th and 5th of February. It was 9:30PM before the Shaw’s left and then Mae finished making on order with Costco for some prints of various pictures of the farm. I then finished this enter and we went to bed.

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mae didn’t sleep very well last night but she still got up and got me off to work. Elder Shaw and I worked on painting the duplex. This evening we watched a couple of movies before going to bed.

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

I woke shortly after 1AM with my left knee really aching. I rubbed it with liniment but still had to take some Ibuprofen and slept the rest of the night in the recliner. I didn’t realize that Mae had got up because she couldn’t sleep and she slept in the other bedroom. I tried to get her to go back to sleep but she got me off to work. Today we finished spraying painting the duplex and are ready to paint the trim. We moved the doors that we had painted the other day and found that three doors had runs in them so we sanded them down and repainted them. This evening we had the Young Elders over for dinner. They are always enjoyable to visit with. As usual Mae had a very nice dinner. I helped with the dishes after the Elders left. I finished a chess game I started last night and it ended up with me having a king and a knight and the computer had a king and a rook. The computer won! I then read President Boyd K. Packer’s talk form last General Conference titled “Cleansing the Inner Vessel”. Mae and I talked about it and though about Kim and Jeanenne’s situation with their son and also thought about the heartache we have with our two sons’. Mae has been assembling all the materials she has saved from all the lessons she has prepared for the nursery for the past year. She has quite a book full.

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Shafter, California (Heavy Fog until noon)

I woke shortly before the alarm went off so I stayed up. Mae prepared a nice breakfast. The fog was really heavy this morning and it lasted until noon. We just got start painting when Lee came and ask us to help him bring the cabinet over. We stored them in the semi-trailer. We found that the one door that we had to repaint still didn’t turn out so we will have to strip it down and start over. I think it is this cold damp weather. We restarted painting the trim and found that it was too cold and the paint wouldn’t run smooth. We quit and cleaned up the duplex and will let the plumbers, tile layers, carpet layers, A/C and electricians do their finish. That will let us have heat in the buildings to finish the painting. We went out to the Sherwood homes and made a list of items needed to get those two houses ready for rent. The one house is in pretty good shape but the other house is in bad shape. I got home about 4:30PM. Mae had dinner in preparation but I had time to shave and shower before we ate dinner. After dinner I started helping Mae with the dishes but Mae felt that I should call and talk to Mike and relax. We did enjoy visiting with Mike for a few minutes. I put on the DVD by Richard L. Bushman, “Life and Times of Joseph Smith”. We met Brother Bushman at the L.A. Temple last Friday when we did Sealings. He was the sealer that we worked with. He seems to be a great historian and writer. I would like to read his book “Joseph Smith: Rough Stone Rolling”. I finished this entry and we did some preparation for going to Roy and Linda’s tomorrow afternoon, before we went to bed.

Friday, January 19, 2011

Mae didn’t sleep very well last night. I had also woke at 1AM but I was able to go back to sleep in the recliner and slept the rest of the night. I woke up with quite a bad cold. Mae did get up and get breakfast for us. I went to Delano to the Home Depot and bought several items to repair the two houses at the Sherwood farm. Elder Shaw worked on the doors from the houses. Because of my cold I called Roy and Linda. They were not home so I just left a message on their answering service, telling them that I had a cold and so we decided that we had better not come to their place this week end. Elder Shaw and I called it a day at 3 PM. I stopped at the dry cleaners in Wasco and got my suit. As I started for home I felt that I had better call Roy and Linda to see if they had gotten my message. They hadn’t but Linda said that they would like us to come anyway. I called Mae and she said that she had put things away but would again get them out. When I got home I showered and shaved. Mae had things ready when I finished and we got away shortly after 5PM. When we got to Roy and Linda’s we took things into their house and then the four of went to Sizzler’s for dinner. We had an enjoyable time visiting while we ate and then came back to their place and visited before we went to bed.

Saturday, January 22, 2011

Fresno, California

I woke at 6AM and decided to get in the hot tub. The first thing I notices was that the tub had been cleaned. That was sure nice for the last time we used it was quite dirty. After enjoying the hot tub for a while I came back to bed a cuddled with Mae. Mae then suggested that we go back to the hot tub which I quickly agreed. Before getting into the tub I picked two oranges from their tree which we ate while in the tub. That was sure enjoyable for Mae peeled the oranges and broke them into sections and fed them to me. I liked that. We enjoyed the rest of the day just being lazy, visiting, eating, taking a nap and playing Uno before going home. We were going to watch “The Bishops Wife” on VHS but again they could not get their TV system to play a VHS. Julianna’s husband Phil came over to see if he could figure out the problem, but was unable to. I also picked a box of their oranges to take home with us with us. In visiting with Roy we discussed the age of parents and grandparents and when they died. Before we left, Roy commented that he felt a little scarred to think of his own age now. We left their place about 6PM, stopping on the way home at a Sub-Way for something to eat. When we got back onto the freeway it was very thick fog. I would follow the fastest driver that I could, keeping a safe distant behind him but keeping view of his tail lights. We got home about 8:30PM and unpacked. I caught my journal up as I hadn’t taken my computer with us. We were tired and soon went to bed.

Sunday, January 23, 2011

I had gotten up a couple of times during the night and slept in the recliner the last part of the night. Mae got up at 6:30AM but let me sleep until 7AM. We ate breakfast before we got ready for Church. The fog was very heavy as we traveled to our church house. Meetings went well. We only had 7 total children but had some of them come in and out during the two hour class. After church we visit with Elder Bills and Elder Islas as Elder Bills will probably be transferred this next week. After that visit, some pictures and a good by we went out to the truck we ate some lunch. We then went to Manuel Macias home and visit with Manuel and his roommate Camella Leyva. After visiting for several minutes we concluded with singing two Hymns, “Oh My Father” and “God so Loved His Son”. We then had a closing prayer and left them. We started to go home but Mae asked if we could visit Sister West. We visited Brother and Sister West for well over an hour. After getting home I called and visited with David while Mae called Scott. It was enjoyable to visit with both of them. We then ate some dinner and then I helped Mae do the dishes. I worked on this entry while Mae worked on some primary material while we listened to the DVD of the series “The Brothers” for a while. I played the last of a chess game with the computer and was finally able to cause a draw on the game. We continued to listen to the story on DVD until we had came to the end of the 2nd disk so we decided that we had better go to bed.

Monday, January 24, 2011

Shafter, California (very foggy this morning)

Mae didn’t sleep very well last night so I tried to let her sleep in. She got up and got my breakfast before I talked her into going back to bed for a while. I don’t think she stayed in bed very long after I left for work. Elder Shaw and I worked on the Sherwood homes today and still have quite a lot to do between the two homes there. I got home at 5PM and Mae had dinner ready after I shaved and showered. Mae is talking to Jeff and his children so I am writing this part of my journal. We ate dinner in front of the TV as we watched “The Guns of Navarone”. It was 9:25PM when the show finished. I made a note in my journal of stories to write and then finished todays entry before we went to bed.

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Heavy Foggy

We were late getting up this morning but Mae still made me a nice breakfast. It was very foggy this morning so I had to drive slow getting to work. Lee, Elder Shaw and I met and discussed a shed that the State is requiring for the chlorine that is used to treat the well water to be stored in. Lee is going to buy a prefab shed and we will set it up tomorrow. Elder Shaw and I worked on the Sherwood houses today getting the west house finished except for sealing about ½ of the tile floor. Mae went to the Carrington Nursing home today and helped out there. We had Elder Bills and Elder Manning at our place for dinner this evening. I made almond butter and almond milk this evening plus I washed the dishes for Mae this evening. I worked on my journal and some of my stories this evening. It is now after 9PM so I had better close this and go to bed. Good night!

January 26, 2011

Shafter, California (foggy)

It was very foggy this morning and stayed most of the day. Elder Shaw and I worked on the Sherwood homes this morning. I felt that we needed to remove the old sheetrock mud from the cracked areas. After scraping a small area I told Elder Shaw that I thought that we could do it using his small router. Elder Shaw didn’t think that would be necessary to clean out the cracks and he didn’t think I could do it with the router. I cleaned the first crack with a 1 ½ inch chisel and it took me over an hour time besides a lot of work. The 2nd crack I used the router and did it in about 15 minutes with more dust but a lot less work. It did upset me to have Elder Shaw question me. This afternoon we went into the plant and started assembling a tin shed by the well to house the chlorine supply. This is at the demands of the State. The kit was manufactured in China and is more like a Chinese puzzle. One part was assembled backwards so I started to reassemble it. Elder Shaw again questioned me as to my ability to modify it and thought we could just install it upside down and get it to work. Again that upset me. Without his help I disassembled the lock and reassembled it correctly and it worked great. We didn’t get very far with the project as we spent a lot of time trying to determine the plans and part numbers. When I got home I thanked Mae for the note in my lunch box and one of the cookies that she had given me. I asked Mae about the receipt and she said that she couldn’t do it because our blender is not like Sister Shaw’s. I said that I thought we could and when Mae questioned me I spoke cross to the. I then had to apologize to her and told her about Elder Shaw’s questioning me. He had already set me on edge. Mae told me that maybe I should be a little more humble. Maybe so! Mae had a nice dinner of baked sweet potatoes, fried fish and spaghetti squash. It was all very delicious. This evening we spent most of the time planning on a trip to San Diego. I filled out my journal, played a game of Solitary before we went to bed.

Thursday, January 27, 2011

Shafter, California

I woke at 1:30AM and slept the rest of the night in the recliner. Mae woke me at 6AM and I got ready for work. Elder Shaw and I worked on the shed for the chlorine storage and finished it about 2:30PM. We then went to the huller office and measured the windows for blinds. I came home getting there about 4PM. Mae had me take a nap and that sure felt good. After dinner I shaved and showered and then we watched a DVD. The show was “The War Wagon” with John Wayne and Kirk Douglas. Although we have seen it several times it is still a good movie. While we were watching the show Brother Martinez, the Ward Executive Secretary came and said that Bishop Brown would like me to speak in Sacrament meeting on the 13th of February. Mae started chuckling about me having to speak, so I told her that she had to speak also. Brother Martinez spoke up and said, “Yes! Bishop Brown wants both of you to speak and our topic to speak on is Continued Courtship after Marriage”. After Brother Martinez left we watched the remainder of the show. I then worked on my journal before we got ready for bed.

Friday, January 28, 2011

Shafter, California (foggy until after noon)

We slept until 6AM and then got going. Mae fixed egg omelets for breakfast and they were sure good. Elder Shaw and I worked on the Sherwood house until noon. Mae volunteered at the grade school and worked until 11AM. We attended the plant lunch that was held today. We then came home and got things ready to go to L.A. We road to L.A. with the Shaw’s and will stay at the Temple housing this evening. We stopped at a Sizzler and ate dinner just before getting to L.A. We got our apartment and went to the Temple getting there in time to attend the Stake Temple meeting in the chapel. Elder Shaw wasn’t feeling the best so they didn’t go through the temple session with us. It was a good thing for them as we didn’t get out to the Temple and to the apartment until almost mid-night. We did really enjoy the session and was impressed with the number of members from our Stake that attended.

Saturday, January 29, 2011

Los Angeles, California

We slept in until 8:30AM and just enjoyed it. The Shaw’s went to a Temple session this morning. After we ate breakfast we went to the Temple and did initiatory ordnances. I tried to memorize the wording of the ordnances because I have a feeling that we may soon be called to work in the Temple when we get home. It is a beautiful day today with the sky clear and the sun shining. As we left the Temple we met a Brother Brown coming to the Temple. He told me that the most beautiful sight I would see would be to see my wife in the temple. I asked him about his wife. He told me that he was 96 years old. He had been married to his 1st wife for 44 years when she died. His 2nd wife he had lived with her 18 years when she died and he has now lived with his 3rd wife 7 years and she is in the hospital now. I asked him if when he was a young man if he ever even thought that he would live that long. He said he would never have even thought about that. I told him that he has had lots of good experiences and that is why he is now Brown and we are still Browning. To that he laughed and wished a good day and we parted. After finishing at the Temple we went to the Visitor’s Center for a few minutes. We then went back to the apartment and packed our things. We net the Shaw’s and were soon on our way home. We stopped at a Home Town Buffet for lunch and then came on home. I slept most of the way home. Mae told me that as we came down the Grape Vine it suddenly looked as though we were coming into the smoke of a forest fire. It was just the smog that has the Central Valley closed in. Not only did the sun disappear but the tempter dropped 23 degrees. We got home just a little before 5PM. I saw that Bob had tried to call three times so I returned his call. He had just wanted to talk. We attended the Saturday Evening Stake Conference meeting and really enjoyed the Spirit and the messages given by our Stake Presidency. We had stopped at Lasson’s on the way to conference to pick-up a few items. It doesn’t take many things before you have quite a bill. After returning home we decided that just some fruit and toast would be enough for this evening. We ate that as we watched another of the J.A.G. series. We do enjoy that series. It was late when we got to bed but it has been a wonderful day.

Sunday, January 30, 2011

Shafter, California (Rained)

I woke at 6:20AM and felt bad when I realized that it was almost time to get up. It has been cold in the house and the furnace went on often during the night. Mae went into the wash room and noticed that the outside door was open a few inches. We guess that it must have been slightly a gar since Friday evening. Today our Ward and the Delano Ward attended Stake Conference each in our own Chapels. This was done as our Stake has out grown our Stake building. I believe that 58 Stake Conference in Northern California were held today and were presided over by President Henry B. Eyring of the First Presidency from the Salt Lake Conference Center in Salt Lake City and brought into the assigned buildings by closed satellite network. At 10 AM each conference building was presided over by local Stake officers and then at 10:15 AM the closed satellite network broadcasted the program from S.L.C. Utah. That portion of the meeting was conducted by President Ronald A. Rusband, President of the Seventy. He spoke, follow by the General Primary President and she was followed by President Boyd K. Packer of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, with the final Speaker being President Eyring. It was a great conference. Our ward held a Linger Longer following the conference but we didn’t stay as there was nothing that I could eat because of my special diet. We came home and then after eating lunch I lay down in the recliner and took a nap. Mae got on the computer and worked on her talk for the 13th of February. After I woke I helped Mae set up tabled for dinner this evening and then I worked on my journal and my talk. Brother Jay Payne came at 6:30PM and the four Elders came shortly after that. Mae had a nice dinner already and we enjoyed the time with the Elder’s. Jay will be leaving on a business trip in the morning so he left soon after the Elders. Sandy called and we visit with her and that was very enjoyable. I helped Mae do up the dishes and clean up. Scott called and we visited with them for a while. It was after 10PM when I finished this entry and we got ready for bed.

Monday, January 31, 2011

Shafter, California \*\*\* Fairly nice day \*\*\*

I woke at 2:30AM and slept the rest of the night in the recliner. I woke again just before 6 so got up. Mae was soon up also. We are still debating on whether we should go to San Diego or not. Elder Shaw and I worked on the Sherwood home. I thought that we would get started painting doors but instead we spent much of the day installing a new kitchen sink and changing the plumbing to it. It was 4:30PM before we left the house and then I took elder Shaw hoe as his truck is in for repairs from the damage that was done to it Friday when the shop borrowed it to haul pipes with it. It seems that the load was not tied on the rack properly and when they stepped on the breaks the pipes slid of the front of the rack and landed on the hood. I got home just after 5pm and Mae told me that we were to go back to Shaw’s for F.H.E. and dinner. Sister Shaw had a nice chicken salad with all the trimmings. We then watched the movie “The Ultimate Gift” with James Garner. Although we have seen it before it was worth watching again. It is a very good show. We have decided to go to San Diego and the Shaw’s want to go with us. We will go in their pickup so will miss the train ride. It is 10:20PM so we are late going to bed.