

Birthday greetings extended to prophet

Occasion celebrated with family

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deth G. Kapp brought a large, helium-filled balloon imprinted with the message: "Happy, happy birthday from the rising generation." It was tied to a basket of jelly beans in colors symbolizing the Young Women values.

During the reception, the prophet received a telegram from President Ronald Reagan which read: "Our very best wishes are with you on your special day. Nancy and I hope that the coming year brings happiness and good health. Happy birthday and God bless you."

President Benson's most extensive greeting came at the end of a meeting Aug. 3 at Hill Cumorah. After the closing hymn and prayer, thousands of members rose and sang "Happy Birthday" as he walked to his car.

BYU receives 10-year reaccréditation after full academic review

PROVO, UTAH

BYU has been reaccrédited by the Commission on Colleges of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges (NASC), announced BYU Pres. Jeffrey R. Holland.

BYU was first accrédited in 1923 by NASC and has received a major reaccréditation review every 10 years, said F. LaMond Tullis, BYU associate academic vice president and chairman of the university's accréditation self-study committee.

Various programs in BYU's 11 colleges and professional schools are accrédited by more than 20 specific organizations, but the NASC accréditation covers the whole university and is of major importance in maintaining BYU's status as a respected institution of higher learning.

On Friday, Aug. 1, attendants on President Benson's airplane flight to Washington, D.C., presented him a birthday cake, which was cut and served to everyone in the cabin. On his return flight to Salt Lake City, Aug. 4, he was given another cake, and fellow passengers sang "Happy Birthday" to him.

He was born Aug. 4, 1899, at Whitney, Idaho to George T. and Sarah Dunkley Benson. He and his wife, Flora, have six children and 34 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Remodeling scheduled for historical library, archives

Beginning Aug. 15 and continuing into early October, the Church Historical Department will remodel its library and archives in the Church Office Building at 50 E. North Temple St. in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The remodeling is part of a program announced in June to assure the preservation and protection of valuable materials in the library and archives and to provide efficient and professional service to Church members and researchers.

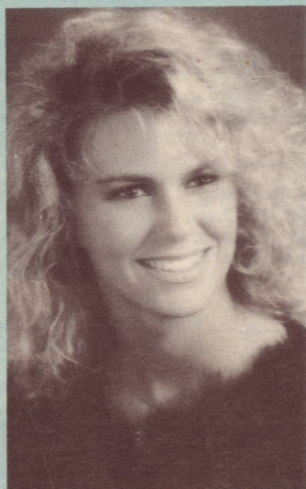
The remodeling process and its accompanying noise and dust will temporarily affect the ability of patrons to do research and the ability of the staff to provide efficient service, particularly to

those using manuscripts, diaries and Church records. The staff will try to assist approved researchers who have critical deadlines, who have traveled long distances, or who have other extraordinary reasons for working during the remodeling period. Other patrons may find it more convenient to delay their research until after the remodeling is completed.

Neither the Museum of Church History and Art at 45 N. West Temple, which is operated by the Museum Division of the Historical Department, nor the Genealogical Library at 35 N. West Temple, which is operated by the Genealogy Department, will be involved in the remodeling. Both will remain open to visitors.

Arizona woman honored as athlete of the year

TEMPE, ARIZ.



Gea Johnson

Gea Johnson recently found herself in the same category as former Heisman Trophy-winning football player Herschel Walker and world figure-skating champion Elaine Zayak.

Earlier this year, Gea, 18, a member of the Tempe 11th Ward, was named the Dial Female National High School Athlete of the Year. Walker and Zayak are among the previous winners of the Dial award, given annually to the top male and female athletes in the nation.

Gea received the award in Washington, D.C., after her selection by a nationwide panel of coaches, college recruiters and sportswriters, who based their decision on academic achievement and athletic accomplishment.

She participated on the U.S. track team in China and Hong Kong in the International Sports Exchange track meet in 1985, returning home as a gold medal winner in the hurdles and long



jump. An all-around track and field champion, she currently holds the nation's highest juniors score in the heptathlon — seven track and field events for women. She has been Arizona's heptathlon champion for the past two years, in addition to winning prestigious national competitions.

A straight-A student, she said she is obsessed with being the best person possible and has set her sights to compete with her sister, Mya, 17, in the 1988 Olympics.

Of the Dial Award, Gea told *The Arizona Republic*, "You get caught up in all the excitement of winning an award, and that's how you defeat the purpose. There is always someone better than you out there practicing right now.

"Everything is another step to attaining a final goal. Everything is part of the final picture."

Saints' preparedness lessens drought impact

Although the worst drought in history has affected LDS farmers and many others in the southeastern United States, personal preparedness has apparently kept local saints from drawing heavily on Church welfare resources so far.

Charles B. Wiggins, area storehouse manager at the Church Welfare Services complex in Tucker, Ga., said there has been no unusual draw on commodities, although government officials have predicted one of the worst disasters Southeastern agriculture has ever experienced.

That is evidence, Wiggins said, that Church members are relying on personal food storage and family resources to see

them through the drought.

Church-owned farms that supply bishop's regional storehouses in the area have fared reasonably well because of irrigation systems, rather than exclusive reliance on rainfall, Wiggins said.

Only the peach crop has suffered. Wiggins said a Church farm in the Ozarks normally produces peaches the size of grapefruits, but this year, they have been the size of golf balls.

That has not been an undue hardship, however, according to A. Leroy Middleton, regional representative for the Huntsville Alabama and Atlanta Georgia regions.

Elder Middleton said the farm had a

bumper crop of peaches last year, requiring emergency crews to get them canned before they spoiled. He said that was a blessing from the Lord in preparation for this season's dry weather.

Church members have participated with others in the Southeast in praying for rain.

President Robert M. Winston of the Atlanta Georgia Temple said workers for the past several weeks have prayed for moisture in all temple sessions in which they have officiated.

Residents of the Southeast have been grateful for the support received from throughout the country, Wiggins said.

More than 600 tons of hay, collected

from Church welfare farms throughout Utah, will be sent to the Southeast, a Church spokesman said Aug. 6.

"I brought the best hay on my farm," said Daro Hamilton of the Riverton, Utah, 9th Ward, at a railroad siding in Midvale, Utah, Aug. 5. "I wouldn't think of sending anybody anything but the best."

The hay has been gratefully received in the Southeast, where slaughterhouses have been packed with cattle that farmers cannot feed.

More than \$300 million in crops have been shriveled by the oppressive heat. Wiggins is optimistic, however, that temperatures will drop soon.