

**Happy Birthday!**



Pamela Yvonne Oxendine celebrated her 18th birthday December 14, 1982. She is the daughter of Delton and Lena Oxendine of Wilmington, N.C.

**The Cummings**

Furman and Debbie Cummings believe the Midwest is a great place to rear children. So steadfast are they in that conviction they moved their family from Utah back to Kansas.

The Cummings and their two children came to Parsons in June from Ogdin, Utah.

"We feel like Parsons is home already," Mrs. Cummings said.

"We've just been here since June, and we feel we've made more friends in just two months here than we did in all the years we were in Utah," she added.

The Cummings live at 2731 Stevens.

He is the director of the respiratory therapy program at Labette Community College. Mrs. Cummings is a registered nurse at Katy Memorial Hospital.

The two Cummings wanted to move back to the Midwest so "we

could get the kids back to where our roots are," Mrs. Cummings said. "We were both raised on farms and couldn't see raising them in the city."

They are happy to be in Kansas where, "strangers will speak to you on the street. That's amazing," Cummings said with a smile.

Not that people are not friendly in Utah, it's just that in the Midwest it is a "genuine warmth," she said.

Both of the Cummings were reared on farms. He grew up on a tobacco farm in North Carolina and has seven brothers and a sister. Mrs. Cummings is a corn farmer's daughter from Iowa.

The name Furman means "wonderer," Mrs. Cummings said, and that fits him exactly. He was the only member of his family to move from out of his native state.

Cummings joined the Air Force upon graduating from high school and was a medic stationed at the Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base

near Kansas City. He met Mrs. Cummings while working in a hospital in Kansas City following his discharge.

She was just about to join the Air Force so she could "see the country." But before signing the papers, "I talked her out of joining," Cummings said.

They were married in Kansas City and then they moved to Utah where he was an instructor in the respiratory program at Weber State College in Ogdin. While living in Utah, they had their two children, Joshua, who is now 8 years old, and Justin, who is 6.

The location of Utah — near California, Las Vegas, and the mountains — appealed to the Cummings family along with the pleasant climate. Mrs. Cummings conceded they will miss their frequent skiing trips, but, "something was missing," Mrs. Cummings said.

That "something" was the "genuine warmth and friendliness" of the Midwestern people, she said.



**FAMILY AFFAIR** — Furman and Debbie Cummings believe the Midwest is an ideal place to rear their two children, Joshua, left, and Justin. Furman is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Brency Cummings of Pembroke.

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