

We're Family Park Newsletter

Dedicated to the family of James & Amanda Dennison Issue 1, 2003

www.werefamily.org

Staff Memo

"LET'S MAKE A DEAL" by Martin Dennison

Any family member who has been to the park as seen what a great place we have to come to fellowship, retell old but not forgotten stories, and don't forget the important part (FOOD). Yes, a place to have a family reunion! There is not, to my knowledge, a grander place anywhere in which a group of people with so many last names can come to be a family! In this we can be proud.

Anyone that has built a house, restored an old car, or any major project knows that at the end of the project, the money gets tight and the pace of work slows down or simply stops. There are many parts of this major project that need to be finished. I do understand that many of our family members are not able to help, due to where they live, abilities, or health reasons. We can get the hands to finish these small parts of the project if we had the (here comes the "M" word) MONEY.

Now here is the deal (I/we) can make you. Money that you send in to finish the park will be applied toward membership certificates (for yourself, or to give memberships to other family members) and the hours worked on the projects will have a cash value applied to earning certificates. This all may sound confusing but I can keep it straight.

A few of the small projects that I would like to start with are: The museum area (about \$200.00); the closet in the apartment bathroom (about \$80.00); move the air conditioner to back wall (about 75.00); install handrails & door on the stairway (about\$60.00); and replace both blue wooden doors & install fans (about \$ 250.00 each). These are the top priorities, but there are many more projects to be done when the funds become available! If you wish to see these projects finished I/we need your help. So please help us help you!

You can send a check, made payable to We're Family Park Inc. to either; Martin Dennison, 3493 Conaway Rd. Peebles, OH 45660, or to Kathy Shaver, c/o Interstate Batteries of South WV, 201 Enterprise Dr. Gassaway, WV 26624.

If you have any questions or you are able to work on a project, e-mail Martin at: acylinder@in-touch.net or call (937)588-3493. I will try to work around your schedule.

I hope you will enjoy getting the newest generation of the We're Family Park newsletter. It is our goal to be informative as well as to provide insights into who the real people are that might have, up to this point, been only a name on our family tree.

I wanted to thank the staff of previous editions of the WFP newsletters for carrying it this far since it started back in 1992. It was from their experience, in viewing what worked and what didn't that gave us the courage to step out in faith and attempt once again to draw the family closer together by this form of communication.

This newsletter is and will always be very limited, but it is meant to give you a taste toward a healthy appetite in experiencing what our larger family life has to offer. Garywayne 02-2-4

"Family Riddle" #32

People sing my first name at Christmas, and no, my name is not Joy.

I have two children, which is enough, and each one of them is a boy.

I was born in North America, (not the U.S.), but that's alright, "Eh."

If you want drugs I'm the person, but only with a prescription, "OK?"

Who Am I ?

The answer to riddle will appear in the July issue.

No Sandwich with Meat by Garywayne 02-2-4

My oldest daughter started her normal complaining about being hungry, which was always about twenty-five minutes before it was time to eat. I started fixing a sandwich, while being distracted by other concerns, a peanut butter and jelly, instead of her regular sandwich with meat.

I knew she wouldn't be happy with something out of her normal routine, so I expected that when she saw her food, the complaints would not die. She started with "I hate things with jelly," to "it sure tastes funny." But she ate it anyway after hearing my, "Eat it or else!" deep sigh.

I said in expecting something different the bad taste was in her mind. I then licked out a spoonful of jelly and said she was lucky to be fed. She changed her complaining strategy to get away from the Smuckers, then shut up after wondering out loud if I was feeding her moldy bread.

As I sat alone in the kitchen and thought how I was being a bad parent, another child entered saying, "She complains a lot." and sat in a chair. "Twenty minutes ago my friend's angora hamster had a really big problem. It ran across the counter and got peanut butter matted in its hair."

"Auction News"
Jolene Shaver 10-3s

Don't forget our auction on Saturday afternoon, July 26, 2003. This has been a fun thing and is a good fundraiser for the Park. So get busy and make those Crafts and/or bring something to be auctioned off to make this the best fundraising event yet.

WFP Olympics 2002 by Janet Oliver 05-11

The object of having WFP Olympics 2002 was to get more of the younger generation interested in family reunions. In 2002 the Olympics did not get off to a good start due to the rains that fell on and off during the day. We did have several teams of chess players and playoffs. Shane Cogar, Rita and Tim's son was the master winner and received a gold medal with ribbon.

In the Jacks tournament the contestants were Elizabeth Hobbs, Patty Moore, Delores Stockman, Christina Dennison, and Doris Burns. Doris, who had been practicing for months, was the winner and won the gold metal and Uncle Sam pin. However, I heard that Christina requested a set of jacks for Christmas. Her thinking may have been, "You never know, 'Grandma Doris' may be slowing down by next year."

Due to the rains, the volleyball tournament had to be canceled. Jerry and Sharon Shaver offered their meadow that was already setup with the volleyball net secured in the ground for the competition. A large number of our energetic teens were eager to face off, but the rains came. After the grass was soaked, we were just sure some unlucky cousin would fall and break an ankle, so for the sake of safety, we had to cancel the game. All participants were very disappointed that they didn't get to play.

Although on the muddy side, the horseshoe tournament was able to be worked in with Albert Prince winning all three games to become the reigning champ of 2002. On the unofficial side, our youngest horseshoe thrower was four year old Ty Burns (Jim Burns grandson.), that was until Grandpa Jim told him not to be running and grabbing the horseshoes that were lying on the ground. I must say Ty was obedient as he left the area by running down the hill and then jumped and stood in the middle of the creek until someone with a "Why me, Lord?" face pulled him out.

The children who signed up for the Three Legged Race were probably the most disappointed of everyone participating in the tournaments. Until the rain came, we had the potato sacks ready to be filled with the legs of children paired up with their favorite cousin wanting to run. To pacify the children we had lots of cookies to choose from as a consolation.

I Need Your Help by Martin Dennison 02-2-5

I was selected to issue & keep track of WFP membership certificates at last years reunion,.but I have not started the process as of this date due to a lack of information, and here it is just months away from our next reunion. I agreed to do this service for my family because I have the passion, desire, and the ability to perform this duty. The information I need your help with is as follows: Are you a member of (WFP Inc.)? How many certificates do you own? How many certificates have you bought or earned that you have not received? Are you an Active member? Without this information I cannot serve our family in this important function! Please ask any and all family members that you come in contact with these important questions. Send information to me at 3493 Conaway Rd. Peebles, OH 45660 or e-mail: acylinder@in-touch.net Please help me help you!



"THE LIFE AND TIME OF ROBERT J. SHAVER"

written by Robert Shaver

Born: October 19, 1938

Nickname: Bob

I was born the second child of Vaughn and Virginia Shaver in a log cabin on Exchange Road in Braxton county West Virginia. Moving shortly afterwards to Perkins Fork helps to explain why I have two birth certificates, one says born in Exchange and the other in Riffle, West Virginia. We moved to the end of the hollow when I was 3 years old, just above what is known as "We're Family Park".

We burned wood and coal for heat and cooking. At my young age, I helped to bring it in even if it was only two sticks of wood at a time or one lump of coal. I was taught to feed the pigs and chickens as well as get the eggs. At age four I even helped to cut the wood.

I started school when I was five. I went to a one-room schoolhouse called Scotts Fork Elementary. Even at that age I walked uphill 1 1/2 miles to attend school, both ways. Sometimes I went barefooted until the frost came or until we could afford to buy new shoes. I went there eight years before going on to Gassaway High School.

Springtime found me digging May apple roots and in the fall I picked walnuts and hulled them to dry for sale. That helped to pay for my school clothes, shoes, etc. My hands looked like squirrel paws from the hard work.

Uncle Clifford gave me my first hourly job when I was eight, 8 cents an hour. He planted 20 acres of cane. I thinned the cane stocks and was water boy. Later on, I made money working for local farmers. My Father and I cut timber regularly with a crosscut saw. During this time is when I learned to pray. I would pray that he would get tired so I could take a break.

All my life I went to the "Sunrise Methodist Church".

I enjoyed going to Grandpa and Grandma Dennison's and the Shaver grandparents. Both Grandmas' were great cooks. Grandma Dennison did a lot of crocheting and knitting while Grandma Shaver did quilts. Both chewed tobacco. Grandpa Dennison cut stone and farmed. Grandpa Shaver split out shakes from timber with handmade tools. I did spend a lot of time with both sets of grandparents. Memories with them are priceless.

At age 15, Uncle Clifford and Aunt Jeanette took me to Ohio for the summer to Ray and Imogene Hawkins. Ray found work for me at "Gerwings White Barn Market" in Ashland. My first day was in the strawberry field picking strawberries. After two hours they made me foreman of the field. You see, they bused kids to the field from Cleveland, Ohio. The kids would put leaves in the bottom of the basket with the berries on top, very clever but it was cheating. My job was to make sure they didn't do that before I gave them a ticket for their pickings. The tickets were turned in at the end of the day for cash. From there I did various jobs in the fields until summer ended and I went home with \$450 in my pocket, which was not bad for a 15 year old kid back in 1954. I purchased a milk cow, gave my Mother some of the money, and bought school clothes with the rest of it.

The following spring 1955, Daddy and I cut timber for two weeks. I told him, "There has to be something easier than this!" Uncle Tilford and my cousin Gareth came in from Delaware and told us we could find work there. Daddy and I cultivated all our garden potatoes, corn etc. in a week and went to Flatwoods (once named Shaverville after my forefathers), bought a train ticket to Wilmington, Delaware. We stayed with Idell and Phil Malin there. Uncle Tiflord, Gareth, Phil, and Pearl Coen all worked for Kenneth Crossin & Sons, Landenburg, PA. I found a job as a carpenter's helper with Gareth, working with Phil and Pearl building houses. Daddy and Uncle Tilford worked in the sawmill. After Daddy returned home, I stayed on with Wanda and Pearl when the twins were only a few months old.

In being left to make my own decisions, one of my first was to join the National Guard with only 6 months active duty. Oh Boy!!! It took time to learn to make good decisions. On returning to Delaware I was informed I was no longer needed at my old job site. In fact, my whole Delaware family were heading for greener pastures. I had decided to stay in Newark a while longer. I found a boarding house and lived there until the following year when my brothers Dale, Averal, and cousin Fountain Shaver and later another cousin, Bill Luzader came, which we then found an apartment. We did our own cooking and cleaning of sorts. I lived with them until I met Janice, then it was bye-bye boys!!! (See next issue for hot and steamy details.)

Hard work, ups and downs and three children, boy, boy, and at last a girl - later we moved away from Delaware. We both worked and had high goals. We had the chance to buy a 100-acre farm in West Virginia and took it. We thought we could earn a living farming. But that didn't work out so buying into Interstate Battery System after many prayers was our right choice. I have owned my own company 29 years and with the help of my oldest son, Barry, we are able to semi retire. Janice and I spend half of our time in Panama City Beach, Florida and the other half in West Virginia with our children and ten grandchildren. Still owning the company for at least one more year, we do come back to check on things.

I love working with my hands, building things out of wood. I built half of the house in Florida and a townhouse here in West Virginia, where we stayed while our new house was being built here by the Ohio River. Needless to say hunting for whitetail deer is my love. I have hunted for other things and have been successful like, caribou, mule deer, antelope, and wild boar. Haven't found the patience to fish, yet have lived by the Ohio River and the Gulf of Mexico many years. I have traveled some in a motor home, enjoy boating, and took a few cruises. Enjoyed life in general. The Lord has been good to me and my family, for which I thank Him daily.

WFP Meetings - JULY 2002

Part One. Part two will be in July's issue. This information is based on minutes by Dale Inman, acting secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT - The organization is still in the red from last year. We still owe Dale Shaver \$475 for purchasing building supplies from 84 Lumber for the Park. The electric bill was misread by the electric company and we were charged for two months. Jolene paid \$165 to the electric company. This means the electric bill has been paid ahead for at least the next year. Uncle Clifford has paid the property insurance (\$360) out of his own funds. As of June 30, 2002, we have under \$500 (\$416.82) in the checking account, and must maintain a balance of \$500 in order to avoid paying penalties each month.

Jolene Shaver resigned her position as Treasurer. Kathy Shaver was nominated, and accepted the position.

TRUST FUND - Uncle Clifford and Aunt Jeanette have pledged \$50,000 to be placed in a Trust Fund if the family would match this amount. As of November/December, over \$15,000 has been placed in the Trust Fund from a Merle Lynch transfer (half of it in 2001 and the balance in 2002). At one point it increased in value to over \$16,000, but with the decline in the stock market, it has decreased to approximately \$14,000.

The Trust Fund has been set up to provide monies for the perpetual maintenance of WFP, Inc. We need you to get creative in funding this account. Uncle Clifford nominated James Eugene Dennison as chairman of the WFP, Inc., Trust Fund. "Gene" Dennison was unanimously elected.

NEWSLETTER - The newsletter for We're Family Park, Inc., is in need of current mailing addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses. Uncle Clifford indicated that stamped mail requires money, time, and energy. This is the reason for setting up the web site to provide access to this information in a less costly fashion. In looking to the future, we are fostering/promoting e-mail in favor of stamped mail. The web site is designed to put our entire heritage on there along with current news and our newsletter, making it availability 24/7. It was suggested that perhaps it might be possible to send stamped mail to those members who request a hard copy. Money for postage would come out of the general fund, if available. Each nuclear family should nominate someone to gather and forward information to the newsletter committee. (Robert Shaver, Janet Oliver, or Garywayne Dennison). March 1st, July 1st, and December 1st are scheduled publication dates.

CERTIFICATES - Martin Dennison volunteered, was nominated, and then was voted in to oversee the project of keeping track of the names of members who have donated money or hours toward receiving certificates.

NAMING OF ROAD - A motion was made to name the road in front of the pavilion. A discussion ensued which ended up in a need to get ideas for a name to be voted on next year. Please send names to Martin Dennison or Robert Shaver.

PUBLIC WATER LINE - Robert announced that the public water district was canvassing the area for interest in tying into a public water line. Signing does not mean that we are committed to tying into the water line at this time, but it would allow the opportunity to tie into the water line in the future if the need should arise. This topic was brought up for discussion only. Janet Oliver made a motion to add the Park to the list for possible future use. Jolene Shaver seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

WEDDING AT THE PARK - Ruth Ann Cogar from Shiloh Fellowship Church has requested to be able to use the Park for an October 5, 2002, wedding. A liability waiver is needed. The question of charging a deposit was brought up, as well as perhaps a flat maintenance fee. It was decided that a list of rules and regulations need to be developed and submitted prior to agreeing to the use of the Park for functions. Mike Beasley is to come up with this list. Update: The Wines wedding took place. The Park / Pavilion was kept in clean condition. They were so appreciative that they donated a new coffee maker, speakers, and gave the treasurer a \$250 check.

WFP Staff: Garywayne Dennison, Janet Oliver, & Robert Shaver

