

We're Family Park Newsletter

Dedicated to the family of James & Amanda Dennison Issue 8, July 2005

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We look forward to your presence at our next Family Reunion – July 30th and 31st



Elizabeth & Elvie Porter

Here is some good news. It is kind of a bitter-sweet story but it is good news. Most of you know my mom, Elizabeth Hobbs, has been engaged for a few months. Her fiancé, Elvie Porter, was diagnosed with cancer not long after he proposed. They had set the wedding date for May 28th. Elvie, being the good man he is had postponed the wedding saying that he didn't want to put mom through that again. Most of you know that she had seen my dad suffer through cancer 15-½ years ago. It took some time but Elvie finally realized that it was harder on Mom to be here in WV talking to him on the phone than it would be on her if she were there seeing him through this time of trial. After all, she is in love. When he came to that realization he came down from Ohio and swept her off her feet. He got here on Tuesday morning; they got their marriage licenses that afternoon and called the preacher that very day. They set up the wedding for Friday at 7:00 pm and were married on Friday, May 13, 2005. Buddy Lemon preformed the ceremony. The bride was beautiful and to my surprise she wasn't nervous at all. The handsome groom was a little shaky but I think Buddy was more nervous than either of them. As nervous as Buddy was he did a wonderful job. The wedding was wonderful.

Since there wasn't any time to plan a reception we thought we would have one later in the summer. We probably still will for the family members that couldn't come to the wedding but some of mom's cousins got busy Friday and put together a very nice reception. They had a big cake, punch, sandwiches, chips & dip, soft drinks and coffee. We had a wonderful celebration for the happy couple. I just don't know how they organized such a wonderful reception so quickly. We would like to thank Reta Cogar, Karen Durand, Kathy Shaver and Pat Morrison. We appreciate you girls more than we can say. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

The newlyweds are in Belleville, Ohio, for the time being. They will keep both homes and travel back and forth between the two. Right now he needs to be close to his doctors. They have put a deposit on a doublewide. Mom says it is fine but Elvie says that the trailer he lived in before isn't good enough for her to live in. God bless his heart. It sounds as though he might be in love. Written by Brenda Holmes

At The End Of The Day

At the end of the day,
When I lay down to rest.
I ask my conscience
"Have I done my best?"

Have I treated everyone,
The way God wants me to?
Showing kindness and caring
The whole day through.

Did I consider the feelings,
Of those around me?
Or did I open my mouth,
And say things selfishly?

Did I put others first,
And help to ease their way?
I ask myself these things,
At the end of the day.

M.J.H.
6/05/03

Jared Pinson



A Dedication to Mike Beasley

Written by Gail Beasley



As you walk by and admire the lovely flowerbeds throughout We're Family Park you may or may not know who is responsible for their existence. Although more than one person has contributed time, energy, and flowers over the years, the person who worked the hardest on this project was Mike Beasley. He spent many, many hours establishing and maintaining the flower beds that we enjoy so much. It was truly a labor of love! Mike was so proud to be a part of our family.

I was asked to think of a tribute to Mike for his dedication to the park by members of the We're Family Park board. Some ideas were planting a tree, making a new flowerbed, and putting a plaque in a flowerbed in remembrance. I wanted something that would add beauty to the park, last for years, and would represent all of Mike's hard work.

Cindy McCartan, Tilford's granddaughter, and I came up with the idea of an arbor. I found a pattern, the lumber and hardware were purchased, and my father, Pearl Coen, built the arbor. The arbor was assembled at the park with the help of family members in July 2004.

Mike had a passion for the park. He spent a lot of his vacation time working at the park, not only on the flowerbeds but on the pavilion and chapel as well. He would have been honored to have such a beautiful tribute. So the next time you look at the beautiful flowers or you walk through the arbor on your way to the chapel, remember to thank God for family members who have touched our lives with beauty and love.

"FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER"

I hope you have put it into your plans to attend our 2005 Family Reunion at WFP on July 30th and 31st. We're looking forward to seeing you there. As the generations grow older each year, everyone seems more precious to us. Since our last reunion in 2004, two family members have gone home to the Lord. This year's reunion seems very exciting as Janet Oliver, our Entertainment Director, says she has some good entertainment already lined up. Be prepared to join in on the fun and games at the Gareth Dennison recreation facility. Listed below is the itinerary for the weekend.

Saturday July 30, 2005

8 am Registration
10 am sharp Business meeting
Fellowship
Noon - lunch from Lena's kitchen
12:30 - 2:30 Games and fellowship
2:30 pm Annual fundraiser Auction
5:00 pm - Supper from Lena's Kitchen
Fellowship
7 - 10 pm Entertainment, hosted by Janet Oliver

Sunday July 31, 2005

10 am Devotion led by Ronsal Roberts, Pastor of the Burnsville Church that Ina June & Bill Knight attend, along with other family members.
Pictures will be taken after Devotions, but before a covered dish at noon is served. Bring your favorite dish and share in all the good food and desserts. If any questions about this, please contact our food director, Ina June Knight.

For those who can come, please join us July 25-29 for a workweek at our Family Park. We are working on finishing touches and any other work that needs done.

See you there - Robert Shaver, President of We're Family Park

Congratulations Graduates!

High School: Christopher Michael Beasley, Nikki Hawkins, Tammy Jackson, Lysie Rae Whisman 02-2-3-1-1 (Geraldine Dennison's great granddaughter)

College: Darrell A. Shaver 10-2-2-1. He has graduated from Marshall University, Huntington, WV, May 14, 2005. He has a Business Major.

Chuck Murphy graduated from Glenville State College in June. He graduated with honors and he has a Bachelor Of Arts Degree in Education. He is now qualified to teach history to the young, unsuspecting minds of our youth. Good luck Chuck. We admire you for having the guts to go into a classroom full of kids with no other adults to protect you.

Jonathan Moore, Patty and Bob's son, graduated from Lee University in May. His major is Communications. He plans to move to Atlanta in August and will be working at a large church there in the College and Career Ministries Dept. at Trinity Chapel.

Graduation Party – 2005

written by Garywayne Dennison

As the calendar page of May 2005 was ready to be flipped to a new month, it simply marked the end of the school year for many. It also proclaimed the start of a lifelong journey as others graduated from high school or college. My sister's (Linda) oldest granddaughter, Lysie Rae Whisman, is a bright spot in this family's future as she is planning on attending college this fall in the hopes of pursuing her dream.

To mark the momentous occasion of completing her first 12 years of formal education, my niece, Valerie and husband, Brady, organized a picnic style celebration. It was held at the home of the proud grandparents, Linda and Tony Wallace, on June 11th. Events, whether planned or not, included fishing, a female stalker, a yard game, swimming, eating, and of course, lots of fellowship.

One big attraction, mostly for the young at heart, was Tony's stocked fishing pond. I saw numerous 10 – 15 lb. catfish pulled out, admired, and then let go. It was mostly a catch and release day, but I did see a few slipped into the back of a truck which was parked nearby. I should have brought my pole and cooler!

I don't mean to brag, not too loudly anyway, but the only organized yard sport was Corn Hole. For those of you not familiar with the game, it is basically trying to throw bags of corn through a 6 inch hole, cut in a 2' x 4' piece of plywood. Since you are not likely to have heard of it on CNN (with me being so modest and all) I am the only one, individually or with a partner, who never lost a match all day.

The day was not all fun and games, however. One little girl learned the hard way not to pick up a miniature dog by its ears. She was bitten on the face, but luckily it was more of a warning than an attack. There were teeth marks and a lot of tears, but no punctures.

My sister has a fairly large, 4 foot deep above ground pool that was enjoyed by many of the children. Linda's youngest granddaughter, Averil, who is under 2, was also having a bad day, when she was told she could not get into the swimming pool. The real reason she couldn't play in the water was that her mother wasn't around to watch her. Linda tried to reason with Averil telling her that her diaper would make her too heavy and she would sink. Averil did a little reasoning for herself, and then took off her diaper and ran to the pool to be put in.

It was a great day to be outside, and from my observation, nearly 50 family and friends came together to wish Lysie their best for her future.



Staff Members: Garywayne & Ro Dennison, Robert & Janice Shaver
With special thanks to Dale Inman as proofreader

“My Coffee Has Wings”

written by Janice Shaver

After being married to Bob several years and three children later, we took a two-week summer vacation to visit with Bob's family when they lived in the old house up in the holler. Now I dearly loved my mother-in-law "Virginia", still do. But some things up there in that house with no screen doors or screens on the windows, no plumbing, and only a light bulb for a light in some of the rooms were difficult for me to handle.

"Mom" was an expert at getting the cook wood stove going, and what food she would make!! Before anyone ate, we took turns chasing the hundreds of flies off the food that was on the table. It was not a pleasant thought that the outhouse was just a stones throw from the kitchen door. Actually using it was even scarier for it looked like it was ready to fall in.

After serving all the family one day, Mom poured herself a cup of coffee and sat down at the make shift table and bench to enjoy it. I wanted to make her feel that I was comfortable, too, so I sat down with a cup of coffee of my own. I hated the taste of coffee and still do, so it was diluted with a good helping of sugar and milk. Bob was sitting next to me with his cup.

Now the Shaver's household was always a noisy one with so many kids around and our three joining in made it even more so, but there still was a peace about that situation. We chatted for a while and than I decided my coffee would taste even worse cold, so I had better take a drink of it. As soon as I did, I realized as it was going down, that a fly was too. I didn't know if I should try and bring it up or take another swallow and wash it down. Even though those creatures are small, it doesn't take them long to travel a stones throw away. I looked at Bob for help and though he couldn't read my mind, he knew something was wrong. I choose the latter and washed it down, but could not drink another drop.

Forty-two years have gone by, but I remember that like it was yesterday. From then on, I checked everything before I put it in my mouth. If you never have been up in the holler when they lived there, I am so sorry because you really missed out on so much. What a great family to be married into. I just love them.

Memo

written by Garywayne Dennison

I am most certainly not a visionary, but I have a vision for what I want this newsletter to be. Since I am an introvert, my vision cannot become a reality without the help of others. I want the newsletter to have very little focus on business related matters so that there is more room for getting to know one another.

I want to highlight weddings, births, special occasions, and the lives of those that are no longer with us. Every family member is special and we would like to hear your version as to why. This newsletter is for your information, education, and a five-minute spotlight on individuals. Please help us to make it so.

Entertainment 2005

written by Janet Oliver

"I've Got So Much To Thank Him For" is the theme for the entertainment portion of the reunion this year. As in last year's talent and entertainment segment we will be seeing and hearing many of our people singing, dancing, signing and miming, and some story telling. Some of this is religious and some secular. We have a group of performers this year that we have never heard before. They are soooooo good and they are from a church in our community that many of our relatives attend and some of them play in the group. This is all the information I'm going to give you at this time. If you want to see and hear them you'll have to attend "Evening Of Entertainment 2005" at the reunion on Saturday, July 30 at 7:00 pm.

We will also be hearing from the Hobbs Sisters, June and Elizabeth, Karen, Sarah and Sharon, Wilma, Rita, and Anita. Hopefully, we will get to hear Jackie Stockman; she hasn't been able to be with us for a few years. I for one am hopefully anticipating seeing and hearing those wonderfully talented players and singers from North Carolina, the descendants from Tilford. We also have talent from Dwaine's family. Oh, there are so very many.

We have so many talented people in our huge family and I haven't the room here to mention them all. If I've missed anyone please check in with me, by email, cmoliver@mrtc.com, or see me the day of reunion. Please, I encourage each and everyone to use your talent. We want to see you and hear you. Please contact me. I love all of you.