

We're Family Park Newsletter

Dedicated to the family of James & Amanda Dennison Issue 10, March 2006

WWW.WEREFAMILY.ORG

We look forward to your presence at our next Family Reunion – July 29th and 30th



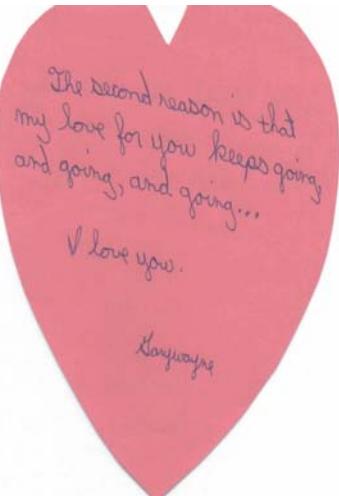
I have a collection of Valentine boxes that I've saved over the years. Every year my husband, Jess, would give me a pretty Valentine box of chocolates. After about 20 years or so, I told him to stop as I was running out of storage space. I really didn't need the chocolates but I didn't want to sound unappreciative. I needn't have worried though - he ate most of it!!

Marge Kinser

Ten years from now I plan to be rich
Which should be an easy task you know
For being married to you I'm already there
So I only need to keep status quo **Garywayne**



Born 2/2/2005 Mom - Nickie
granddaughter of Ralph & Debbie (02-5-3) Vance



MONEY

There's so many people living
God has given them good health
That would go to Hell forever,
Just to gain a little wealth.

Why do people hoard their money,
While through this old world they go
We can never take it with us,
To our home where we will go.

Use it now, but use it wisely,
Before we sleep beneath the sod.
We can never take it with us,
When we go to meet our God.

When I come to death's dark river,
This is true I do declare.
I would rather be a pauper,
Than a multi-millionair.

Written by Scott Shaver

1st Timothy 1-10

For the love of money is the root of all evil.

Microsoft's MVP Award



Jerry Dennison (11-4) is currently the Information Systems manager for O-I HealthCare in Rossville, GA. He has multiple programming language abilities. He has been developing custom database applications using MS Access since version 1.0. He is very active at the www.utteraccess.com website, where he is one of the forum administrators. He has been helping thousands of people worldwide through that website.

Jerry has recently been awarded a prestigious award from Microsoft. The MVP award (Most Valuable Professionals) was

established by Microsoft more than eleven years ago as a way to recognize amazing individuals for their outstanding contributions. The recipients are recognized, credible, and accessible individuals with expertise in one or more Microsoft(r) products who actively participate in online and offline communities to share their knowledge and expertise featuring Microsoft products. They share a passion for technology and a demonstrated willingness to help others. It is Microsoft's way of saying "Thank You" to an amazing group of individuals. Congratulations Jerry.

Jerry currently lives in Chattanooga, TN with his wife, Dianne, and their three dogs. He loves reading, golf, and watching science fiction and fantasy novels.

From the Editor's Desk

Just as parents have expectations that exceed their children's abilities, I have expectations for the newsletter that Ro and I adopted three years ago. I am most certainly bias when I say that the newsletter at least to this point, is a quality product. There is always room for improvement however, as seen by the subtle changes from issue to issue. I see the newsletter as being an interesting, historical, and informational form of communication that has the potential of getting our large scattered family the feeling of closeness. That can be achieved by sharing yourself and your knowledge of our family history that binds us together.

I must admit that the newsletter when it comes to historical perspective is very much on the light side. I am counting on our readers to tip the scales back in that area to achieve a healthy balance that makes for interesting reading. Please take part in the educational process of showcasing of what a great and diverse family we belong to. You have heard from me, and now I am looking forward to hearing from you.



We, the family of Byron and Jessie Dennison would like to thank We're Family Park for the usage of said park on December 17, 2005. The Christmas Dinner, the family gathering was a joy with 46 Members of Byron's Clan, missing 19. Mother's family can cook! And we did eat! Santa also came and gave presents to us all. We also had fun answering trivia questions about Christmas and the bible - 1611 Answers. Mother was also smiling and enjoying herself after her operation on Nov. 23. We love our mother. "God Bless the Family."

By Dale, Sharon, and Family



The annual work week will be July 24th through the 28th. No real skills needed, except willing hands. Personal tools and a favorite paint brush would be handy to have. Fun, fellowship, and a sense of pride are worthy wages.

HISTORY OF THE FOUNDING AND BUILDING OF WE'RE FAMILY PARK

Part I

"An Appreciation"

written by Janet Oliver

I appreciate what we as a family have. The "We're Family Park" means so much to me. Many people, especially Uncle Clifford, have sacrificed so much in sharing this wonderful idea and then made it a reality for all of us. Many of us wouldn't have known of James and Amanda's Christian walk and their faith and trust in God if it were not for a place for all of us to gather and talk of family. We learned that they raised their children, including my wonderful and loving mother to have faith, trust and love for God. I appreciate them for that. I remember them slightly, but would never have really known them but for the poems, writings, and paintings of Aunt Mildred, Aunt Leo, Aunt Loleta, the songs Lena and Aunt Virginia sang, and the loving stitches they put into each of the quilts they made. I loved Aunt Ozenna and Aunt Irene so much. They were both such an inspiration to me and always so loving.

I remember how Uncle Tilford used to sing those wonderful old hymns with Daddy, Burr Westfall, Kenneth Seals and Uncle Roy MacMillon. He would get so happy and hit his songbook on his hand and tears of worship would fall from his eyes. It is such a wonderful memory. Uncle Tilford had the most beautiful tenor voice and he loved to use it for the Glory of God. I thank God for Poppy and Mommy's influence in his life and for bringing him up in a Christian home.

I thank God for Uncle Clifford, and his love of family and wonderful testimony. The Park he spearheaded in memory of his parents shows us how much he loves us. I didn't know Uncle Wayford well, but I know he was a good Christian man and raised his family knowing and serving God.

I love our family reunions each year and look forward to seeing all of my cousins. I love the visiting and laughing and sometimes crying when we fellowship with one another. I love the fact that we are of many denominations. We come together at that time of year just loving one another. The worship service is just wonderful. We have the privilege of worshiping God with our extended family. No matter how many different denominations are represented there, I feel that God is there. It proves that we are worshiping the One God and not a denomination. God inhabits the Praise we offer up to him. I would not want our reunion to be changed in any way. The service on Sunday morning is the ultimate in Blessings. The singing is so wonderful and when I stand up there and look back on the beautiful faces of "The Family" I can see God's blessings pouring down on them. It's a glorious sight.

Another thing I love and really look forward to each year is the Saturday evening entertainment. I want to tell you, the feedback I get from that is great. I have so much fun hosting this event. It's phenomenal how much talent we have in our Family. The singing, dancing, and story telling is just great. The good part of this event is that it is secular and spiritual. Everyone can enjoy the park whether they are Christian or not. I hope this event never ends. The auction is so much fun too. It's a wonderful way to raise funds to operate the park. It also gives some of us the chance to donate and show off the works of art we make.

Another wonderful and beautiful thing about "We're Family Park" is the grounds. I cannot name a family owned facility like this one. We have everything at our fingertips. The gazebo from Virginia's branch is so nice. It's a great place for the performers to practice. They love it. The Chapel, from Tilford's branch is lovely and such a blessing to all who take that little stroll to it. The tennis and volleyball court is wonderful for the younger cousins to enjoy. The kitchen, from Lena's branch is so nice and useful. All of us have enjoyed it from the first cup of coffee or soft drink in the morning of the first day of the reunion until the last drink to kill our thirst before we depart and say our good-by's until next year. Let me not forget to mention the delicious foods we enjoy prepared by the wonderful and talented cooks in our great family. Oh, I tell you I love it, love it all.

There is so much to say about this beautiful facility. I'm so grateful that there is a place that my children and grandchildren can go to and learn about me, and the culture I was raised in. I'm thankful for my Christian Heritage. I want to thank Uncle Clifford once again for his vision, and to thank all of those family members who unselfishly gave their time and effort in constructing the pavilion, the other structures, and for keeping the grounds in beautiful condition. It's a wonderful legacy to leave behind as we leave this earth and go to be with Poppy and Mommy and the others of the family who have gone on to be with the Lord.



One winter, about ten years ago, my family and I were living in Cincinnati. We were browsing in the mall one day and I happened to see a winter coat that I fell in love with. I tried it on and it fit perfectly and it was beautiful. It was a brushed suede, about thigh length with a hood and fur-lined. Upon looking at the price tag I realized it was way out of our budget. Although I was in need of a coat, it was obviously not going to be this one. Soon after this it was Christmas time. My grandmother gave us money as a gift that year, so we were able to go get our own gifts. I was out spending that money as soon as I cashed that check. I spent it all on me, buying myself new Nike shoes and some clothes. When I asked my husband, Ken, what he was getting with his money, he said he hadn't decided yet. And then one day...he came home with that beautiful coat that I had seen at the mall! It had been on clearance due to it being the end of the season, and still the price of it took his whole check. What an example of true love! We have since moved to the coast of North Carolina, and do not have nearly the same amount of cold weather we had in Ohio. But each year it does get cold enough at least once where I need to pull out that winter coat and every time I think about how it was bought for me so unselfishly by someone who loves me.

written by **Sandra Hammann**

David Ray Shaver

September 8, 1947 - February 13, 2006

Today my beloved brother, David R Shaver, went home to be with the Lord. He will be greatly missed by us all. His laughter, smile, jokes and the loving concerns that he always showed to us will also be missed.

submitted by **Robert Shaver**

The Absence of Grief

written by **Garywayne Dennison**

I was sorry to hear about David's passing. Even though the news of death temporarily shocks our senses about our own mortality, most people easily brush their fears and thoughts aside since death is a part of the cycle of life. The grieving process and the emotional trauma, however, will linger longer for those personally touched, as it should be.

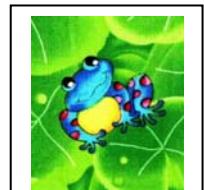
I did not know David, I had never spoken with him, nor do I even know what he looked like. I had only heard of his illness two days before his death by way of a random phone call. My lack of emotion is a strong indicator to me that "the family" is not grasping the concepts I'm trying to get across as editor of our newsletter. I want to have a face, a story, or at least something implanted in my mind about other family members. When the inevitable day comes, as it did, on February 13th, I want to have memories that create sorrow over a connection that has been broken. The sense of loss puts value on that which is no more.

I have made many attempts to draw people into sharing their lives and being connected with the rest of the family. David, like so many others, never did respond. I am basically a person who never speaks unless spoken to, therefore, I have not communicated with most of you one-on-one unless you started the conversation.

If someday you should hear that I went to visit David, I want you to know that it would make me glad that you knew who I was, especially through the things I have written. Please help people like me get to know you by sharing yourself with us. The Bible says in Psalm 103, "As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more." (vs. 15, 16) The beauty of that flower, however, can be captured by words and our imagination if we let it. Please let it.

Just for Fun One of the pictures in the newsletter definitely has a flaw in it.
Can you find it?

What did the baby light bulb say to its mom? **I love you watts and watts!**



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