

We're Family Park Newsletter

Dedicated to the family of James & Amanda Dennison Issue 15, December 2007

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We look forward to your presence at our next Family Reunion – July 26 & 27, 2008

CHRISTMAS IN PERSPECTIVE

written by Dale Inman

As Winter draws near and Fall is fading,
Excitement of the Christmas season
Begins and grows until
It is easy to forget the true reason.

Blessings abound when we gather together,
Friends and family are gifts – that's true.
Spending time with our loved ones
Balances out life's priorities, too.

Gifts may be bought or handmade,
They can be large or small.
But, the most important gift is Jesus.
He's the greatest one of all.



Alexandria Shea Cutlip

(06-5-6-3)

She was born on June 7, 2007. She weighed in at 7 lbs. and 11 oz. Her proud parents are (Karron) Renee' Lake and Terry Cutlip of Huntington, WV. She is the granddaughter of Donn and Karron Lake.



Shawnie Chyanne LaRay Nottingham

was born on July 2nd. She weighed in at 6lbs. 2 oz. She is the first granddaughter of Charles & Anita

(Shaver) Cook. They now have 5 grandchildren. Shawnie's mother is Ellen and her father is Anita's son Donnie Ray Nottingham II. Anita wants everyone to know something else about Shawnie, "She is a beauty."

Season's Greetings



In Search of History

written by Garywayne

In our family book titled "Carry Me Back" under the heading of "Falls Mill 1900 – 1907", there is a section that reads, ("It was also on Kanawha River that Grandpap (Calvin Dennison) conducted worship services under a cliff by the side of the road. It became known as "Sunday School" rock.") There is even an old-time picture of a Sunday school class from the Sunday School Rock Church hanging on the pavilion wall.

I thought it would be nice to have a picture of the location of this primitive church site since it is actually a part of the Dennison heritage. The expedition to find the site grew from Robert Shaver and I deciding to cut out part of a day from the reunion's workweek – into a caravan of 21 people. We found the store/post office mentioned in the "Carry Me Back" book, but we simply must have overlooked the spot our sites were set on - if it still exists.

I went to get a picture, but as you can see, it is a picture of our turning around point. There may not have been any real detectives among us, but the curiosity factor within several people, has prompted them not to completely abandon the search.

Doris "Jeanette" Austin Dennison (Feb.22, 1927 – July 6, 2007)

From our heart to yours, my family and I wish to share with you the gift of memories of Mom. I am Pat Dennison, married to Denny, Clifford and Jeanette's first-born son. I have been a part of the Dennison family for over 39 years. Jeanette was a remarkable lady who wore many hats. To Dad, family, and friends, she was Jeanette, to her children, she was Mom, and to her grandchildren and great-grands, she was Nana.

Jeanette had a kind, gentle heart and a wonderful ministry of Hospitality. She engaged herself in the ministry of Helps and was always feeding and sheltering people who came her way. She cared for family members, students, missionaries, and a host of others. Jeanette began her ministry of sharing when Dad enrolled as a student at Lee College. During those early days of living in Provident Hall, I have been told that Jeanette often made a pot of vegetable soup and a skillet of cornbread. She'd open her door and invite her neighbors to come in to dinner. No matter where she lived and no matter the circumstance, there was always room for one more at her table. I personally witnessed Jeanette making that big pot of vegetable soup and a skillet of cornbread. She left the house all by her self only to return later with an empty pot. She didn't say a word as to where she'd been. She simply cleaned the pot and put it away.

Jeanette loved shoes. Over the years, she bought a pair of shoes for most of her family. One day while we were out shopping, we were looking at shoes. I shared with Jeanette that when I was a little girl I wanted a pair of special boots for Christmas. My mom couldn't find my size so I didn't get my boots. After our visit, Denny and I returned to Connecticut so he could resume his studies at Yale University. Months went by. Then one day there was a knock on my door. It was the UPS man. He handed me a brown box from Jeanette. When I open it, there was no card or note, just a pair of nice leather boots. That was Mom!

From time to time, when needed, Jeanette was there for each member of her family. We all experienced her special way of caring. Just to give you an example, one Sunday while I was at work at Bradley Hospital, Nana made a surprise birthday party for our four year old. She listened to what we had to say and paid attention to things important to us. Sometimes for no special reason, she'd leave a significant gift for us to find.

When Denny was 16 years old, he wrote a poem to his mother. I feel that it best expresses how he would like for her to be remembered.

Mother

Jeanette

Clifford

That gem of loveliness, beauty to behold
Is my cup o're flowing with precious love.

The feeling of her tender hand
Upon my weary brow,

The hours she has spent in prayer-
is spending even now
Gives me strength to face each day

It gives me strength to know
that the task is really small
When lighted by angelic glow

To the first sweetheart I ever had
the first that will ever be,

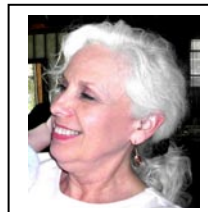
Oh, Lord, give the jewels in my crown
To deck the most precious jewel
that will ever be.

written by Denny Dennison 1962



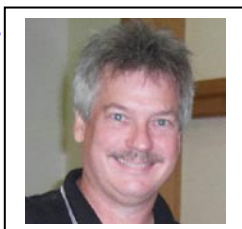
Doris

Denny



Jerry ->

<- Jim



Jeff ->



I am sure there must be something new and exciting or other information the family should be aware of between newsletter publications. It is best to let me know of these things right away before it becomes old news and overlooked. My hope is that each family would have a person that would be willing to pass along information to me so that every family can be represented in their uniqueness.

I'm by no means an extrovert, so I am usually the last to know anything unless other people make an effort to inform me. I am depending upon you to start the blessing process of everyone being informed of the happenings of this diverse and special group of people we call "We're Family." If you're not sure if something is newsletter worthy – send it to me. As editor, it is my job to take that burden off of your shoulders by making that decision.

Work Week Began July 21, 2007

By Robert Shaver



WFP President, Jerry Dennison asked me to co-ordinate the 2007 Work Week since he was unable to attend. The first responders were Dale Dennison, Jerry Shaver, Charles Cook, Tim Cogar and myself. The plans were to tie in the porch to the kitchen with a deck or wheel chair ramp. Holes for the supporting posts had to be dug. This was done by using a gasoline-powered drill that Dale Dennison had - making the job easier. Dale was a foreman who had experience and worked easily with us. The rest of us were retired, so by the time the poles were in the ground and concreted, we were tired. But our Foreman pushed us on to do the framing. We started the deck that same afternoon.

Saturday: Dale Inman, Gail Beasley and Gail's friend, John Angus (nick name is Mr. Beef), came and worked on the flowers. Tim Cogar and my sisters left Saturday morning for Tennessee, to attend Aunt Jeanette's funeral. This left just the three of us to do as much as we could. **Sunday:** Jerry and I put up the handrail. **Monday:** Jerry, Dale, and I drilled more holes and poured concrete for more posts to support the deck for the other end. Dale Dennison was also working on a project for the chapel. He had laid down forms for a walkway around the chapel and a retaining wall. **Tuesday:** We all worked on pouring the concrete. More help came when Garywayne Dennison and his Grandson Cooper arrived. Jerry Shaver started moving the brick job forward. Cooper and I put up the underpinning on the deck. Cooper is always a big help to us. **Thursday:** Tim and Reta Cogar started cleaning the inside of the pavilion along with Cookies (Charles) and Anita Cook's help. At different times during the week, Elizabeth Porter, Ina June Knight, and their daughters came to work in the kitchen getting the food lined up.

I am proud to say the deck and ramp were finished in time. Thanks to everyones help and those I might have left out. I think the Work Week was a success. By the time Friday afternoon came many of us headed out to find "Sunday School Rock." Garywayne can tell that story.

Comments from First Timers



What did you like about coming to the reunion or to "We're Family Park?"

Chance Hammann 02-2-4-1-2 (on right): It was FUN. I liked meeting family that I hadn't met before. The Game Room was great, and the "river" going through the park was fun to play in.

Antonio Waits 02-5-3-2-3: I liked everything about the reunion in West Virginia. The people were nice and the creek was fun to play in. It was great traveling in the back of a truck on the highway because it is against the law to do that in Ohio. Riding in my cousin's thing (he calls the Mule) on the mountain was exciting. I'm glad that I came this year.

Anniversary Celebrated

by Gene Dennison



"How time flies when you are having fun! Helen and Eugene, 2-6 and 2-6S, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 31st in Lambertville, NJ. The celebration was arranged by Jane, 2-6-1, and Jim, 2-6-2, and included an evening cruise on the Delaware River with family and friends. Dinner was served by son Jon, 2-6-3 and his daughters, Rebecca, 2-6-3-1, and Victoria, 2-6-3-2 (remember them from the reunion?). Eugene and Helen have lived in Lambertville for 23 years and before that were in Brunswick, Georgia; Corvallis, Oregon and Hopewell, NJ. What a special day!"



Meet the New Dennison's

A new beginning, one family
Greg, Shannon, Samantha, Alicia and Logan

Greg and Shannon were married in a small and intimate ceremony at the Burns Chapel in Peebles, Ohio on Saturday, October 13, 2007. Along with traditional vows and an exchange of rings to each other, they exchanged vows and engraved necklaces to their children. The new family all took part in a sand ceremony representing their blending as one family. It was a beautiful and special day for them all.

They reside at 3369 Reaver Ave. Grove City, Ohio 43123

Lena's Branch

submitted by Brenda Holmes

My nephew John Squires got married on May 19th this year to Jennifer Lewis. It was a very nice ceremony at Shaver's Fork Community Church. The reception was held at the Flatwoods Community Building. John is Susan & Raymond's son, Elizabeth's grandson, Lena's great-grandson. They both work at Wal-Mart in Summersville, WV and are attending Glenville State College. They live in Clay, WV.

There is a prayer request from June, one of her grandsons-in-law had/has to go back to Iraq. He and his unit need all the prayer we can give them. His name is Bryon Norman. His wife is Bridget, in-laws are Donna & George Butler, grandmother-in-law is June. We need to lift them all up in our prayers.

Rick Hawkins married Amy Gower on August 11th. Rick is David's son, Imogene's grandson. They were married at Wesleyan Chapel at Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, WV. The reception was at the V F W in Buckhannon. Rick works for a branch of Weyerhaeuser, and Amy is an RN at Stonewall Jackson Hospital in Weston WV. The newlyweds live near Buckhannon, WV.

Imogene has a new great grandson. Kaden Darius Cox joined our wonderful family on August 8th this year. He was born to Darius and Nikki Cox. He weighed in at 8 pounds, and was 21 1/2 inches long. He was born in Buckhannon. Nikki is Roy & Alice Hawkins' daughter.

Shelly Hawkins, Roy & Alice's younger daughter started college at Fairmont, WV this fall. Shelly is studying to be a nurse. I believe she will be a good nurse. She is smart, ambitious and kind hearted. All of which are good qualities for a nurse to have.

A Time For Reflection

Now that the Christmas season is upon us, there is no better time than to reflect on the blessings that came our way through the past year. Getting things is nice, but either you use them up and they're gone or they require time, effort, and expense to maintain. When a child's face lights up because they are glad to see you, when someone lets you know that they appreciate your friendship, or when you receive even the smallest of gifts as a way of letting you know you are being thought of; these are the blessings worth cherishing. Let us reflect on the things that made us feel special this year, and then see what we can do to others to keep the cycle going. May time with your family this season be so special that it can simply only be described as a Merry Christmas.