

We're Family Park Newsletter

Dedicated to the family of James & Amanda Dennison Issue 16, March 2008

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



Candy Hearts Package

written by Christina Dennison

If anyone has ever known a teenage girl,
They know that they are a little boy-crazy.
When I was thirteen, I was that way too,
Though at my age, the memory's kind of hazy.

My friend and I had many ideas concerning love,
But very unsure about them - if the truth be told.
One thought, however, was placed into action,
As puppy love turned my friend's shyness to bold.

As Valentine's Day sweets showed up at the stores,
My friend and I bought some candy hearts for Tim.
She picked out the ones containing the right words,
Which were messages of love to be sent to him.

We did not put a return address onto the package,
Since the idea of a secret admirer was safe, but fun.
It was placed by the back door for my dad to mail,
For the post office was on his way when out for a run.

"Always put a return address label on a package,
For people often move." My dad was known to say.
He told us that is what he did on that one to Tim,
Oh how those words threw us into a world of dismay!

Once we realized that our lives were officially over,
My dad restored our sanity by saying he was just kidding.
It made me thankful that my father had a sense of humor,
But I'll think twice next time I want him to do my bidding.

Dennison/Crawford Wedding



David and I finally became husband and wife on a cold and windy morning - October 28, 2007. The leaves had all turned colors and we were dressed in camo on the fishing dock at David's private campsite in Adams County, Ohio. The water was blue and the fish were smacking the surface as the ceremony was taking place. After we finished saying our vows, everyone threw fish food into the pond instead of the traditional rice on top of our heads. It was a very simple service, but it will always be an unforgettable, special day for me.

written by Jackie (Crawford) Dennison (2-2-6s2)



The outhouse is a dwindling site but Dale gives new meaning to the term **"Outside John."**

Auction Items



Wanda's Jelly



Fudge



It may have taken awhile, but “The Shaver Sisters” made their appearance in Nashville on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry and they received a standing ovation after singing the Lord’s Prayer. For more information, ask the girls for details.

From left to right:

Anita, Reta, Karen, and Wilma.



A Composer/Singer Among Us

written by Garywayne Dennison

Having a 10 –year-old grandchild under my charge at the reunion did not give me the freedom that I was giving him. Thus I missed out on the opportunity to enjoy most of the entertainment for Reunion 2007. I did, however, get to experience the singing of Katie Inman. She sang a song which she had composed titled “Emotional Struggle.”

I’m by no means a singer and do not know enough about music to be a credible critic, but I do know what I like. Katie’s singing and talent was a real joy to have witnessed. Her mother (Dale) says, “Katie does a good job and has a powerful voice. She may live in a city, but she is all country at heart. It must have something to do with her upbringing. She is happiest when she's in the country.”

Entertainment 2007

Janet Oliver 11-5

There seemed to be more people at the 2007 WFP Family Reunion than in the past few years. It was an enjoyable event. The entertainment portion, as usual, was a great success and a lot of fun. There were so many entertaining us - we enjoyed a few newcomers in the way of young people. I love the little children as well as the adults, but the youngsters are so brave in getting up front and holding the microphone to sing. It is so precious to witness this because I know they are going to become more accustomed to this and just get better each year. We also enjoyed our regular entertainers. A big thank you to all of you who entertained us. Please make plans to attend the reunion this July and think about blessing everyone during “Entertainment 2008.” I will look forward to seeing everyone then.



2007 Raffle

Little did Dale Shaver know that when he donated the beautifully crafted chest that he built for the 2006 Reunion raffle, that it would be such a blessing for the Park’s financial well-being. Dale’s wood working skills are truly a work of art.

Uncle Clifford held the winning ticket in the 2006 drawing. After the death of his beloved wife Jeanette, Uncle Clifford felt that he should start letting go of earthly things. One decision he made in that



process was to donate the chest back to the reunion’s raffling process in order to bless someone else with a future heirloom while raising money for the Jeanette Dennison Memorial Fund. Dale Denison was the lucky winner of last year’s raffle while “The Fund” was increased by \$277.

Tummy Roll

by Robert Shaver

Before our marriage, Gareth Dennison and I lived with Pearl and Wanda Coen for a while. Pearl was driving a 1947 Plymouth to work at that time. Something was always going wrong with it. One evening while returning home from work, it heated up. He stopped, raised the hood, and struck a match to see what the problem might be. When he removed the radiator cap. . . "BOOM," it exploded in his face. He walked into the house with his entire face and head looking like a blackened cinder. His eyebrows, lashes, and hair were scorched - he was a funny sight. Although Gareth asked him what happened, he didn’t need an answer, because it was plain for all to see. We had a good chuckle, but Gareth fell to the floor rolling with laughter.

October 2007 was a busy month at the Park. Jerry Shaver headed up a team, consisting of Tim and Reta Cogar, Eric Davis, Anita Cook and Clifford Dennison. We made a good showing on the JEANETTE DENNISON MEMORIAL WALK AND GARDEN. Jerry will continue working on it in the Spring and have it completed by our July Reunion.

This year we constructed the concrete walk (including the wheel chair ramp) leading from the Pavilion to the Entryway, lined the edges with boarder stones and purchased the sand and brick getting it ready to finish when warm weather arrives. We also prepared the center garden, getting it ready to plant flowers and shrubs come Spring.

We built a fountain pool, surrounded by a flagstone covered concrete slab. We ran a water line from a pump in the pool to the top of the bank by the road. The water is arranged so that it comes out of a big rock, flows over the rock into a basin and over a series of waterfalls and through a stream back into the pool. The pump also provides the force that operates the fountain. The pool is only twenty inches deep but will be enclosed by a wrought iron, 20" high, fence to make it toddler safe. The pool area will also be landscaped with flowers and shrubs. I would label the work as not only an engineering marvel, but a work of art.

We had plenty of suggestions about how to design and do the work. Everybody who came by offered his or her suggestions. Jerry aptly described our situation as, "Too many chiefs and not enough Indians".

See you at Homecoming 2008. Give us your comments and opinions - but Jerry says, "Please don't suggest any changes". He has had his fill of tearing down and redoing.

Letter From the Editor (Garywayne.ohio@gmail.com)



Cherished Moments

In the big picture of things, there is very little I remember about my childhood. I recently heard a brief talk on how it was important for parents to help their children have positive experiences to offset the negative ones that will surely invade their lives at some point. One example given for setting memories in stone was: When you take your child to the beach, go over and ask their group of friends, "Who wants ice cream?" Do it while waving a \$20 bill over your head. When the kids get wound up, give the money to your child and say, "Go get your friends some ice cream." No matter how frustrating it might have been for the child in the car to get to the beach, the visual aid of the money flapping in the wind would be a guaranteed memory maker. I believe it would be.

I was told by one of my cousins (by marriage) that when she was a child, the grandkids painted their grandfather's toenails a bright red while he was taking a nap on the couch. After he "woke up" he made a big deal about how he wouldn't be able to take his shoes off in public for a month. She said in looking back, it was probably a set up for the grandchildren's entertainment, but it also worked to promote fond memories of visiting their grandparents that have lasted a lifetime.

My cousin Carolyn remembers fondly when Grandpa Tilford would sneak cornbread and buttermilk out of grandma's kitchen. He then would share the stolen goodies with her hiding behind the barn. She didn't even like buttermilk, except when chosen to be the favorite grandchild of the hour.

Here is one memory that I do have. I had never known my dad to be an affectionate person while I was growing up. So getting a hug from him was something unheard of. Sometimes however, after getting home very late from visiting relatives when I was in the seven-year-old range, I would pretend I was asleep and wouldn't wake up. I was too heavy for my mom to carry, so my dad would have to carry me in and place me on my bed. It wasn't really a fatherly hug, but it was the closest I ever got to it. Because I do not recall very many childhood memories concerning my dad, I am glad I have several of those even if I had to create them.

I would like to hear from you about cherished moments with parents or other relatives, and what made them so special. A collection of one-paragraph memories from several people would make a nice article.

In the future: A new regular feature is going to debut in the July issue. Think computers.

Staff: Garywayne Dennison (editor), Ro Dennison (proof reader), Jane Dennison (distribution), and Ryan Shaver (website coordinator).

A Group Activity for Christmas

written by Garywayne



Giving presents to one another at a family Christmas gathering can place a lot of pressure on people. Over the years, our family has tried various ideas to reduce the stress and financial burden of participating in such a group activity. This past Christmas we launched yet another new idea – an ornament exchange. Participants stood in a large circle, each holding the ornament they brought. A story was read with the LEFT and RIGHT (in abundance). Each time one of those words were read, the ornament you were holding was passed in that direction. The one that you are holding when the story ended was your exchange gift.

The whole process could have gone a little smoother, but not having experience to guide us just made things more interesting. My mother had extra ornaments in her purse to supply the last-minute needs of a grandchild or two. It was an activity that even the little ones could participate in.

We gather at my sister's house for dinner and to celebrate family every Christmas Eve. Linda and Tony always have a large tree that is fully decorated. Rumor was that the beautiful evergreen in the family room had one less item hanging on it by the time the ornament exchange ended. I was sure that they would not miss it, so I didn't point any fingers.

Chance & Victoria



Meeting cousins for the first time at a reunion can be fun.

Paxton Cash Dennison

(2-3-2-1-1)



Born to John and Misty on December 31st at 2:57 p.m. He weighed 9 lbs 4 oz. and measured 20 inches long. Grandparents are Dale & Sharon Dennison

Wyatt Dennison at 20 months



A picture of his first snowman. Of course he did have some help from his mother Amber and Grandpa Dale.

Pins & Needles

by Robert Shaver

One winter Uncle Clifford came to see us and spent the night. It was really cold and there was no heat in the back bedroom where he was to sleep. The bed had all these quilts piled on it so he would be warm. After jumping in the bed, he immediately started calling, "Virginia, Virginia, Virginia"! She ran to the bedroom to find him sitting up in bed. He said something was sticking him. They both looked the bed over and found straight pins scattered around in the bed. Mom had been working on a quilt and she stuck the pins in the bed so she wouldn't lose them. After we had a good laugh, we went back to our own beds for a good nights sleep.

Gabriella Faith Jarrell:

There is some good news from Imogene's family. Ruth (5-3-5) now has a granddaughter. Her son Wesley Jarrell (5-3-5-1) is the proud daddy and the proud mommy is Ashley Facemire. Our beautiful new family member is Gabriella Faith Jarrell. (5-3-5-1-1) Welcome little one to our big, wonderful family. We are very honored and proud to have you join us. Gabriella weighed 6 lbs. and 10 ounces and was 19 inches long. She was born on Feb. 19th 2008.