

We're Family Park Newsletter

Dedicated to the family of James & Amanda Dennison Issue 25, December 2011

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We look forward to your presence at our next Family Reunion – July 28 & 29, 2012

Modern Things

There are many, many new things
Invented day by day
A man can always live and learn
While traveling down life's way

Let's go back, just fifty years
And look up at the skies
If we could have seen an airplane
We wouldn't have believed our eyes

We didn't have our TV sets
And radios to play,
But now we see and hear from folks
Ten thousand miles away.

Let's think about the atom bomb
And a bout the H bomb too
These both were planned by minds of man
And these things both are new

There is one thing, I now will say
And I'm sure you will agree
That a bald-headed man with a permanent wave
I know we will never see.

written by Scott Shaver (05s)



Cooper Hammann

(2-2-4-1-1)

graduated from high school this past June 11th. He attended Laney High School in Wilmington, NC. He is the son of Sandra Dennison Hammann, daughter of Garywayne Cooper is enrolled at Cape Fear Community College in the nursing

program. He plans to transfer from there next year and continue his education to earn his degree and become a Physician's Assistant.



Dixie Rayne Criner

born June 9, 2011, at 5:31 pm at Women's and Children's Hospital Charleston WV. 5lbs. 5oz. 18 1/2 in.

Proud momma is Deanna (Nottingham) Criner (10-13-3). Deanna and Dixie are the daughter and grand daughter of Anita (Shaver) Cook. 10-13, Wilma Virginia Shaver's great grand daughter.

Editor: Garywayne; **Website Administer:** Ryan Shaver



Ladder Golf

by Garywayne Dennison

Reunions are for reviving old memories and getting to know other members of the family through fun and fellowship. This year I met Emily Metheny. She is a very friendly and outgoing young lady with a good sense of humor. Her mother Folondi Shaver and stepfather Ryan Shaver (10-8-2) should be very proud of her politeness and in making others feel at home.

I got the sense of who she was in playing ladder (hillbilly) golf. Since I don't want to brag about beating a 7 year old, I'll just say she was a very good teacher on how to play the game.



Merry Christmas.

May we look beyond our personal desires for the moment and consider all the years that our needs have been met, for then we shall surely realize how blessed we really are.



She's done it!

Garywayne's daughter Sarah Dennison (2-2-4-2) married David Hatfield on June 25th of 2011. It was an outdoor ceremony officiated, participated in, and witnessed by long time friends and family of the bride and groom. The reception was casual with a potluck, a bounce house, and cakes with Shrek and Fiona figurines on them. Dave and Sarah first met as children at church through youth group but were reintroduced in the fall of 2009 and we all know what followed. God has been at work throughout their entire relationship and is now teaching Dave and Sarah about His love and character through the covenant of marriage...prayers welcome!

50/50 Drawing

The largest single source of revenue during the reunion was made through the 50/50 cash drawing. The amount of \$364.00 was generated. The person holding the winning ticket was Patsy Shaver. She generously donated \$150.00 of her winnings back to The Park. I guess that really makes The Family Park the real winner. Way to go girl!!!

A portion from the book "Carry Me Back" on page 45 and 46

written by Marlin Burnell Dennison (2-2)



I have explained to my children how poor we were when we were growing up. I don't believe they understand completely. Two brothers and I have slept all winter with no glass in a window, just a blanket hung over the opening. The snow would filter in on the floor and bed deep enough to leave bare foot tracks on our way to the living room and fire. We had no heat at all in our bedroom. We would heat a blanket by the fire, wad it up to hold some of the heat, then run for the bed to cover up. We would quit shivering after the feather tick warmed up from body heat. I don't think that there is anything colder than a feather tick in a room cold enough to freeze ice on a bare bottom.

We grew most of what we ate, but I have seen times we only had meal from corn we grew the previous year to eat. We would have "mush" for supper and fried mush for breakfast. In season we would catch or dig out a groundhog. That gave us meat in our diet. We also caught squirrel, raccoon, possum, and rabbits to do until our Thanksgiving Day hog kill. In those days the neighbors would come in and help butcher for a mess of fresh meat. The people traded worked in those days. You helped the neighbor make hay, lay his corn by, and then he would do likewise for you. Thrashing time was always a great thrill for us kids. We were water boys or else kelp the chaff out of the way. We didn't mind the work because the neighborhood women always had a feast waiting on the table at dinnertime. The thrashing machine would move through the entire county, neighbor helping neighbor. I would like to see some of that yet, neighbor helping neighbor. Now days, people won't help unless they expect payment.

Dad, in later years, would raise capons to sell about Thanksgiving and Christmas. When he sold his capons at Pittsburgh or Baltimore he would pay his feed and grocery bill at the store at Riffle and receive a bonus of Christmas candy for paying the bill. That was our Christmas candy. We would also get an apple and an orange and on occasions get a new pair of jeans and shirt.

We wore knee high rubber boots. When it got warm enough in the spring, off came our boots to save for the coming winter. We went barefoot all summer and on different occasions were caught at school in a snow barefoot. Frost didn't bother us too much, but snow did. Our father would come after us with a sled filled with hay.

We had a mail carrier after we moved to Middle Fork. His name was Alden Engle. He wouldn't only carry the mail, but if you needed a bag of cow feed or a hundred pounds of sugar, he delivered that also with the mail.

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