

Mountainside Lodge  
Estes Park, Colorado  
June 22, 1985

We are having quite a time trying to decide which Lenhart Reunion this is so we are going to leave that blank, at least for now.

This is Lucy. We arrived in Estes Park two days ago to make some preparations for the reunion as well as some relaxing vacation time. Dave and Martha arrived this afternoon and put up the traditional signs, including the "Lenhart" one. As we waited for the lodge to get cleaned, we watched the kite flying skills of the Eshelmans. We were able to get into the lodge about 4 o'clock. At that time we collected all the food supplies in cold storage two places and dug in!

Martha L. speaking: Colorado is a long ways from Ashland Ohio. I left Wednesday afternoon and drove four and a half hours and was tired so got a motel for the night. I had not taken a map along and later realized I had not gone far enough for I had a big day to get to St. Joe. There was so much construction along the way which made driving more tiring. That was part of my problem the first afternoon for we had a long stretch where we could only go 5 to 15 miles per hour. I had a restful night with Aunt Norma and we went on down to Myrons the next morning. We again forgot maps and did some extra driving and saw parts of Kansas we didn't need to see. We came on to the park with Myrons on Saturday and had a similar problem which I will not ~~elaborate~~ describe. It wasn't serious but it made it later for us to arrive but we made it in time for dinner and after all that is what is or was important.

The weather is perfect and we have all survived the first night. Most have said they slept so-so. The visiting was lively last night and is getting off to a good start this morning. We have only two little ones around this year and they are pretty special especially to the grandmas.

Hallo. Jesse here. This lodge has been improved quite alot since we (our family) were here last time. That was six years ago. There is a real attractive carpet on the floor in the living room, dining room and the area between. It adds color and comfort as well as warmth to the area. The bathrooms have new porcelain fittings and furnishings and the beds seem to be improved. The entire lodge seems so clean. I believe the masonry has been cleaned and given a coat of sealer. Anyway it is more pleasant and comfortable than I remember it to have been in the past.

The group here has a really fine mood of congeniality and pleasantness.

We (Fern, Sue, and I) arrived at Denver about 12:30 p.m. Friday. Kurt arrived Denver about 45 minutes later. The four of us spent the afternoon looking up a place to stay in Denver and shopping and sight-seeing. We found a place called 19th Place about three or four blocks from the State Capitol where we rented two rooms. It was one of these 'bed and breakfast' places. It was very adequate and we appreciated becoming acquainted with that type of away from home accommodation.

Last evening after our meal Marty, Kurt, Kain, Lamar, and I walked up to the top of the knoll just beside the lodge. It was quite a challenge as we are not accustomed to the altitude as yet. See you later.

Martha L. again. We have quite a time getting anyone to write. They all want to read it however. We had our church service this morning with Jess in charge and Daryl as the "preacher". The singing went well and sounded good. It seemed to be appreciated by everyone that was there. This afternoon the group picture is to be taken. I don't think anyone is excited about it, but they all want a picture so... The new members seem to be fitting into the family well. Lamar is playing checkers with Uncle Ben and you can about guess who is playing chess.

We have enjoyed the wedding pictures of Estner and Barb and Uncle Ben's anniversary pictures

This is Al. 17 minutes to picture time. I've just showered after a fun but dusty volley-ball game. It was pretty evenly matched. It's been an interesting day--warm and dry Aunt Norma was the first one up this am and the two of us enjoyed a brief stroll. Didn't see any deer, but later saw lots of deer! It's a real delight to have more here than we had originally expected: Brubakers, Sam, Lucy, Winnie, and Phil; Engle, John and Ruth; Eshelman, Dave and Marty; Heise, Al, Maxine, Carol (with Daryl, Lois and Vaughn Climenhaga); Jess, Fern, Sue, ~~Kath~~, Keith, Susan and Laura; Martha, Myron and Mary Lady; Norma Lenhert, Sam L., Ben and Gladys L.; Ken and Violet Malone; Janice Staires; Lamar and Barb Witmer. Back from the photo ordeal. We went to a different location this time, up on a knoll north of the lodge with mountains in the background. The reunion isn't as much fun for Sam L. as usual. He had some reconstructive surgery on his feet in early June, then developed a phlebitis, and it was uncertain whether he would be able to come until he was dismissed from the hospital Sat. a.m. Consequently he is a bit disabled. Vaughn (3 next week) and Laura (almost two) are the only little ones here.

The coffee is sending a fragrant aroma throughout the lodge--dinner is almost ready. Wish you could all join us. Just now there is a lot of discussion as we attempt to reconstruct the times and locations of our reunions.

Barb...Lamar and I left Monday morning from Lancaster and stopped to visit friends on the way (Elkhart, Chicago and Minneapolis). We also camped two nights in my parents' 6-man tent (we had plenty of room!) Lamar is enjoying meeting some people for the first time and renewing acquaintance with others. He and Daryl Climenhaga and Ken Malone are the new in-laws and will be initiated on Monday night. We are looking forward to that (or maybe I should speak for myself).

Lamar graduated from Eastern Mennonite Seminary in May. This fall we will be at Penn State for one semester to take a few classes. Early next year we expect to be a good bit closer to you than we now are--Northeast Kenya. We will be learning Somali and getting acclimated in expectation of going to Somalia later in the year. (We will be visiting with Barbara Thuma next week to hear about her time in Somalia).

The volleyball game was a lot of fun. We're not ready for the Olympics yet--more like a comedy show! We raised a lot of dust. Kurt and Lamar are going up the hill with their cameras, so I'll stop typing to join them.

Gladys writing: 7:50 Sun. evening. It is rather quiet just now, since many went to play tennis etc. The ever present chess game is in progress and the scrabble game is going on in the dining room, others are visiting. Don't know if anyone mentioned that there is 32 of us here counting the two wee ones. And they count a lot too. The weather is ideal, it clouded over just after dinner this noon, with a few drops, but then quit, and was nice for our pictures, except the wind came up in gusts at times, and we all had the wind blown look. Ken & Violet, Ben & I are sleeping in the down stairs bedrooms, and we enjoy our own bathroom, but it makes for a lot of stairs climbing. Ben is going the back way through the dining room so he can use the rails and is doing nicely.

Janis, Eilene's oldest is the only one of the family that came along with us. She drove half the time, which made it very pleasant. There are only three teenagers here, the smallest group yet, so it is much quieter than usual. We don't know just yet what we will be doing after leaving here, wanted to be gone for two weeks if possible. We left our home Wed. A.M. the 19th for Santa Paula for Janis's highschool graduation. Most of her class went to Disneyland for the night, and we left the next A.M.

with Janis sleeping much of the day, while I drove. I didn't mind, as for some reason I relax while driving on a trip, and don't have to contend with so much city traffic. We deviced the driving time evenly, (sorry) the rest of the trip, arriving at the Y at 3.30. The group that hiked up the hill just returned, looking very satisfied with themselves. We plan to have the new member initiation tomorrow evening. I hear the three are a bit worried. How worried, I don't know. Will add more later.

David E: John Engle, president of the clan, appointed a committee to consider (again) options regarding another reunion. Guess what? Yup. Can't deny the option... so the recommendations are to: 1. have another reunion in 3 years, and 2. to have a nominating committee seek out nominees for the committee to facilitate such an event. Hard to kill a good idea! That will be presented to the clan at the Tuesday evening business meeting. See what they do with it.

The plans for Monday include a "day in the park." Several plan a "hard hike" while others might be content to just stay at the picnic area. The hard hike list includes Keith H., (Sue is heavy with child) and will not join the group), John E., Ruth Anna E., David E., Martha E., Lamar W., and perhaps Sam B., Phil B. we'll see. Perhaps it would be a good idea to just loaf around for once! But the urge to "get to the peak" is hard to repress (for some of us).

Though the size of the group is smaller this year than at the last reunion, the spirit is good. As you know, there is a high level of congeniality in the group, and there is a spirit of sharing that is gratifying. Anyhow, I wish more of the clan could be with us to gain from the experiences.

Sorry about the poor typing... I am used to the "computer word processer" on which corrections are easy....

The weather has been its very best, as Colorado usually gives us. And those of us from the plains are enjoying the cool evenings (at least Martha and I). Our two sons, Cecil and Curtis, could not join us this time as their summer jobs conflict with this schedule of the reunion. Cecil is working with a church construction project which assists the elderly and those in poverty. Curtis is working with the utility in Little Rock, Ark (engineering). They

wish they could be with us. More later...  
Ben; I am enjoying the honor of being the oldest of the first generation that is able to attend the camp this year. My Family and our first grand child came together in our two door Phymouth. We had a pleasant trip. The Clan had picnic, which was rained out after we had our lunch. Part of the clan went on a hike, Those that went on a short hike came back to the park for the lunch. We expect to eat out for the meal tonight evening.

This is John E. Engle, official president, and I can't type very well without my computer either. We are delighted to have gotten to the Reunion even if it was at the last minute. As it turned out, Sam and Lucy, and Al and many others have pitched in to do the organizational things. Today was lovely with a "difficult" hike with all of us. Wish you could come along with Myron, Mary, Martha, and me to discuss "Lenhert Farm Business" at a restaurant downtown. I think you are up to date on our family's happenings so I will leave space for other good family members to report on the reunion.

Al--Many of us are about ready to leave for our evening meal away. Our host and hostess, Howard and Genevieve Duven, a lovely couple from Spokane, recommended the Sundek Restaurant--an unpretentious appearing spot on the left as we go down to "stes Park. Our 6 have a reservation there in about 20 minutes (6:30) We are all nursing various degrees of fatigue after last eve's volley ball, today's hike, etc. Aunt Norma at 76 displays an amazing amount of vigor, outdoing a lot of the younger ones.

David: Well, we did the hike. All (circa) 10 miles of it. But, to be sure, some went beyond the "object" which was a lake...and went up to a higher snow bank to slide down (with the aid of garbage bags). What a wild ride. The seven who went "the whole way" were Keith, David, Martha, Kurt, Lamar, Phil and Winnie; those who departed from the lake (did not slide on the snow bank) were John, Ruth Anna, Barb, Daryl C. And a new word was coined for bumping down the snow bank..."boingy, boingey, boingie." Ask David and Keith.

4.

The big credit for a good day hike goes to Keith; the awards for stamina go to Phil and Winnie who kept up with the more experienced...but also to us "old timers" (going on 50, you know) who should know that it is time to slow down (but don't).

Tonight was "eat out" night...so Martha and I took Ken and Violet down the hill to eat. And a good day comes to an end with initiation of the new inlaws (or outlaws, whichever they be called). More later....

25u Martha L. now....This is the last full day of the reunion. Several of the family are leaving or have left today. Winnie will soon be on her way to Florida for her summer project but someone will have to describe that for you for I don't know all the details. Kurt also leaves today. Sam and Lucy took them to the airport so they will be gone much of today.

The three new members of the family were good sports last evening. Ken was excused from the last part when Daryl and LaMar had to say "chubby bunny" with marshmallows in their mouth. Their wives stood behind them feeding them one at a time and each time they had to make their little statement. LaMar had a system and would carefully deposit each one in his cheek and he soon looked like a chipmunk. Daryl was bending over in laughter and gave up. The first part they had a list of questions about the Lenhert family they had to find the answers for. There was a place for 25 names and they had to have all these names as sources. It was a learning experience for everyone and of course there were differences of opinions in some cases.

Sam L. is doing well. He seems to be getting along better now with his walking than he was before. He states he is also feeling better. He has had to make a few trips to the hospital since he has been here for blood tests. We are all glad he was able to attend the reunion.

Gladys: It's very quiet here now, but of course the chess game is in progress with John & Darrel sparing. A group went hiking, and a car went shopping in Estes Park, with our Janis driving our car. Needless she received a few instructions before leaving! Curt Heise will soon be on his way to Daytona, and Winnie this afternoon. That always takes a little out of the reunion when people leave early, but duty calls. The rest of us will be leaving in the morning. We have to vacate by 10 A.M. This is the first time I haven't been ready to go home. I guess because we have been here for a shorter time. Of course we plan to do a little sight seeing before the home stretch, perhaps to Yellowstone, but haven't really decided yet. Tonight will be our business meeting, and Sam B. says it will be short. (a few chuckles were heard after that remark) We are getting better! We enjoyed the chubby bunny bit so much last night. When I asked Ben how many marshmallows he thought he could put in his mouth he said he would take out his teeth, meaning he would have more room. ~~Ben~~ <sup>LaMar</sup> did some mouth stretching exercises before, which was fun to watch. He and Daryl are such good additions to the family. Ken fits in so beautifully too. He seems to really be enjoying himself, and remarked he was glad he came. The tempo is picking up now as the hickers are back, it's way too soon for the shoppers. Good smells are beginning to come from the kitchen. I wasn't hungry before.

It is now 7:40 P.M., and the business meeting is over, and to my surprise, Sam was right, it was brief--It didn't seem to be a real Lenhert meeting. Guess we are getting mellow or something. David has been designated as the new president, Myron, vice-president, and A. Norma secretary for the following three years, and oh yes, it was voted unanimously to have another in '88. John Engle was elected as the official Historian. We enjoyed a very impressive communion at the close, with sliced bread, and the common cup, but with lemonade. David gave a very good "acceptance speech" just before the communion. Keith and Sue Heise are leaving shortly, which makes five less. I feel like the reunion is over too quickly, I guess it is because it is one day less. We plan to go to Yellowstone Park since Janis has never been there.

8:53 a.m. Wednesday. Jesse here. Myrons just left with Aunt Norma and Martha. Most of the group have gotten up and are packing, eating breakfast, and preparing to leave. It is chilly! Just a few minutes ago we looked out and saw snow falling!! Howard, the manager of Mountainside, said he did not think it was common for it to snow here in June. We are packed, and plan to leave in about an hour. Sam Lennert, Sue Heise, Fern and myself plan to fly from Denver by Piedmont leaving at 12:15. Als will be on the same plane. To fly non-stop to Dayton takes about 2 1/2 hours.

It has been a good reunion. It seems that all who attended feel good about their having been here. Mountainside Lodge offers so many advantages - climate, a location which offers a wide variety of activities, and central location all help to make it a nearly ideal location for an occasion such as our family reunion. The members of the family who were not able to be with us were mentioned often and with warmth and appreciation.

8:50 A.M. Maxine here. After our brief snow early this morning, the sun is now shining (off and on). Our carload will be leaving for Denver in about 40 minutes to get our flight to Dayton. This has been another great reunion -- with good fellowship and sharing. The pictures have just arrived; the group picture is very good, as are the individual ones. The Lord is so good. We thank Him for the Lennert Family and for this reunion!

8:45 A.M. This is Sam B. Things are much quieter now, and the dust is beginning to settle. Lucy, Phil, and I will leave about 9:30, and take Violet and Ken with us. We plan to take 5 1/2 hours to drive across trail ridge road, sightseeing the high country, then on to Denver to get them to the plane by about 3 PM. Our drive back east will be more relaxed and with much less stuff. Winnie is by now (we presume), at boot camp in Florida training for her time in the Philippines this summer. This has indeed been a mountaintop experience, and we leave here with renewed vigor for the weeks ahead.

Without a doubt, the three new inlaws are delightful additions to the family. Besides their many other gifts and talents, Lamar and Daryl are very good pingpong players - I think that they did not meet in the tournament, but that would be a good match. Daryl emerged the champion of the tournament.

9:45 AM Someone always needs to have the last word, maybe it will be me! Love, John.

July 1 in Arcanum. I decided it would be good to read over this letter and make a few additions that are important enough to be included.

There are 33 of us rather than the 32 mentioned on page 2. I paid special attention to that when figuring the amount of food needed, whether I needed to buy more cups, etc. Talking about food, the food that Aunt Gladys smelled (P. 4) was the broccoli-cheese soup that Maxine made for lunch Tues. Everyone had a hand in the food - I really should say meals! We tried to keep them simple. Maxine and Fern were great help in planning. As with anything, a lot is learned the first time. That doesn't mean I am planning on a 2nd time!

There were several comments about the initiation. Winnie was put in charge of that and enlisted help from several sources. There were 3 parts to it: Knowledge (questionaire), Cleansing (faking breaking an egg on their heads for an egg shampoo. There was an interesting mix of facial expressions as the "egg" ran down. Winnie had Uncle Ken and since his hair was sparse on top, the sensation she wanted didn't work. Janis and Marty did the others.), third was Elocution and that is where the marshmallows and "chubby Bunny" came in. Most of us laughed so hard it hurt! Lamar reached the 5th level of elocution and Daryl 4th (that many marshmallows!) We ate most of the rest of the marsh. Tues. eve. when we had a fire in the fireplace - the first since 5 yrs. ago.

A few times on Tues. eve during the business meeting (or was it Mon.eve. during initiation?) the discussion got lively and it was explained to the initiates that that is the Gish showing. Nobody mentioned that the movie of previous reunions was shown Sun. eve. That allowed help on some of the 20 questions, as well as opportunity to see and recall those who have gone on or were not able to attend this reunion. It was good to be together, and we're counting on at least 50 in 1988!!