

THE REUNION OF 1988

Thirty-eight members of the Lenhert Family convened at Bear Trap Ranch near Colorado Springs during August 6-10 for The Reunion of 1988. Each played a significant role in the successful and enjoyable gathering.

Saturday afternoon was spent in "moving in" and in the evening "getting organized" (committees were organized and set their plans in motion). Martha Eshelman enjoyed playing in the sand box with the six of the youngest generation allowing the parents to move in without children under foot. After dark most of the group hiked to an overlook from which we could view Colorado Springs' city lights framed by ridges of the majestic Rocky Mountains.

Sunday morning was the time for our worship service, led by Chaplain Martha Lady. Communion was served, using bread prepared by Aunt Mary Eshelman. There was a choir led by Joanne Barrett, and Nancy Jo Lenhert served as pianist.

Following the morning service Dale Lenhert organized the official photographing session on the steps of the lodge.

The afternoon was spent in taking trail rides by some, rock climbing and rappelling by some others, and engaging in many conversations and parlor games during the rain. There was a late afternoon meeting instigated by John Engle and organized by the Exhibits Committee for those interested in genealogy/family history.

Martha Lady organized the evening program which focused on missionary activities and memorials. Tim Haldeman and Bob Barrett (both with guitars) led the group in songs. The program featured Mary Olive Lady who told of her activities in Zambia. Family members in mission/outreach activities who were not present at the reunion were mentioned, and description of their activities were presented. Al Heise described the work of Daryl and Lois Climenhaga, Bob and Joanne Barrett described the work of Linda and Robert Barrett, several volunteered information about Barbara and Lamar Witmer and Beth Lenhert, and David Eshelman gave mention of the work in which Cecii Eshelman is engaged.

As a part of that service memorials were given in remembrance of Uncle Paul Lenhert by Al Heise, and in remembrance of Uncle Ken Malone by Dale Lenhert.

Then some movies of early Lenhert gatherings were shown, courtesy of Joanne and Bob Barrett.

Monday was the "field trip" day. Seventeen of the Clan toured the NORAD facilities under Chyenne Mountain. Eleven persons went to either take a raft trip on the Arkansas River or watch the rafters and view the scenery. (Sue Engle got along especially well with "The Hunk" who served as their river guide!) The rest stayed at the ranch and took life a bit easy.

Monday evening we held a combination evening program. First came the talent program, organized by the Talent Program Committee, and chaired by Winnie Brubaker. Some of the features included the singing of "old family songs" by the trio of Ollie Lady, Ruth Engle, and Nancy Jo Lenhert (Martha Lady and David Eshelman got to "crying" when they sang "Babes in the Woods." "It's so sad," they cried! The trio got to laughing...so Nancy Jo coerced David into joining them to make up for the disturbance!)(G. Dale has a great photo of that event); piano playing by the younger musicians, including Trina Yiengst, John Aaron Lenhert and Josh Lady; a dramatic reading organized and narrated by Joyce Lady, and including Trina Yiengst, Joshua Lenhert, John Aaron Lenhert,

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- ✓ Mary Olive Lady
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Joshua Lady and David Lady; a men's chorus organized and led by Joanne Barrett; a juggling act by Bob Barrett; and the opening of the 1985 predictions.

Jess Heise and Carol Heise (both absent) won the "closest awards" with each being off by 3 units in their predictions. Carol Heise predicted seven births (correct) and 4 marriages (off by three). Jess Heise predicted 6 births (off by one) and 3 marriages (off by 2). The actual count was one marriage (Karen and Tim Haldeman) and seven births (Benjamin Beachy to Mike and Jane; Gavin Heise to Ken and Becky Heise; Isaac Witmer to Barb and Lamar; Sarah Heise to Keith and Susan; Nevin Climenhaga to Lois and Daryl; and Andrew Hoover and David Jesse Hoover to Esther and Bob Hoover). There should be some award to Esther and Bob for having two within three years!

The initiation rites were duly administered to Tim Haldeman by Jenny Engle. He completed a questionnaire about family members and while blind folded correctly selected his wife's foot from among five alternatives offered.

Following the talent program we viewed movies brought by Sam and Lucy Brubaker of the more recent Clan gatherings. The finale was the viewing of a video on hummingbirds brought by Sam Lenhart.

Some then went to view the stars and meteors from a higher point while others engaged in conversations and parlor games.

On Tuesday some went rock climbing and rappelling (probably the most popular activity this year) while some went on short or long hikes. Several used Myron and Mary Lady's trail bikes to ride in the area. There were also several volleyball games. In the afternoon a number of persons participated in the "ropes course" in which there is a high degree of reliance on cooperation and trust in others. The ranch personnel commented that it is unusual for adults to participate in these challenges, and were highly complimentary about our group.

Throughout the reunion Ruth Engle, Knitter Extraordinaire, was observed coaching and discussing techniques with others.

In the evening we held the traditional business meeting, followed by a time of general sharing. The main items of business were regarding the next reunion, its place and time, and the continuation of the newsletter. President David Eshelman reported that there had been eight newsletters (in reflection there were actually nine), that there had been many expressions of appreciation for the newsletter, and there had been excellent cooperation, and that an additional (final) edition would be published if there were articles about Uncles George and Paul. Two problems persist; the availability of articles and the problem of obtaining changes of address as family members move. Sam Brubaker, in behalf of the family, presented a gift of appreciation (two candlesticks and a woven basket tray from Africa) to the Eshelmans for their leadership during the 1985-88 triennial. Martha immediately claimed ownership of them for their cottage in Colorado.

Expressions of appreciation were extended all around for the numerous contributions (as an example, Aunt Norma, who rode from Pennsylvania to Colorado with Martha Lady, expressed appreciation to Martha for the travel accommodations.) The evening session was concluded when Martha Lady led the group in prayer.

A late night viewing of the stars by some and viewing of the city lights by others were two popular activities. Also games and conversations.

NEW OFFICERS OF THE LENHART CLAN AND THE REUNION OF 1991

At the Tuesday evening business meeting the following were nominated by the Futures Committee (chaired by Al and Maxine Heise) and elected by the Lenherts assembled at Bear Trap Ranch as leaders for the 1988-1991 triennial:

Chair: Joanne Barrett
 Vice Chair: Bob Yienqst
 Secretary: Karen Haldeman

The Clan also approved the recommendation of the Futures Committee that the next Lenhart Family Reunion be held in late July or early August in 1991 and at Bear Trap Ranch (subject to executive committee discretion).

1988 PREDICTIONS OF MARRIAGES AND BIRTHS BY 1991...are in the hands of Karen Haldeman, secretary of the Clan.

LENHART FAMILY NEWSLETTER

The following volunteered to continue the publication of The Lenhart Family Newsletter:

Karen Haldeman ("I'll get the articles together.")
 John Engle ("I'll get the copy camera ready.")
 Bob Barrett ("I'll print the copy and mail the newsletters out.")

INITIATION OF NEW FAMILY MEMBERS...

It is with pleasure that we confirm that Tim Haldeman has been successfully initiated into the Lenhart Family. Actually he did very well (as have all who have preceded him) and is a most welcome addition to the family!

Although most of the persons joining the Lenhart Family have been initiated shortly after marriage, it has come to our attention that at least the following need to consummate the relationship by being initiated at the forthcoming Lenhart Reunion of 1991:

Donna Beachy Jane Beachy Becky Heise Melissa Heise Bob Hoover
 And now add Carolyn (McCowan) Eshelman who qualifies for initiation.
 Other predictions (future births and marriages) are less certain!

THE CHRISTIAN SERVICE (MISSIONARY) OFFERING

The tradition of sending the Sunday Morning offering to those of our family in mission service has been continued. The committee determined that there are eight of our family currently in full time service, and each will receive \$100.00 since the total collected was \$800.00. Those we encourage by this financial contribution, which is in addition to our prayers and verbal encouragements, are:

Linda Barrett, Operation Mobilization, currently in India
 Daryl Climenhaqa, Lois Climenhaqa, Brethren in Christ Missions, Zambia
 Cecil Eshelman, Covenant Players, USA, currently in Kentucky & Tennessee
 Mary Olive Lady, Brethren in Christ Missions, Zambia
 Beth Lenhart, Brethren in Christ Missions, Bronx, NYC
 Barbara Witmer, Lamar Witmer, Eastern Mennonite Board for Missions, Somalia

This act continues the tradition of the family in supporting those in full time mission service and enhances this tradition with the recognition that such services take various contemporary forms, as diverse as there are talents and avenues.

around the house with chores. He was retired the entire time that Mom was married to him, so they became best "buddies," always doing things together. You rarely saw one without the other. Whenever I would go to the house, he would always have a cheery smile and a hug, and comment on how glad he was to see me. During his last couple of years, he had health problems, but you would rarely ever hear him comment on his pain or discomfort. He was really a pleasant person to be around, all the time.

In his early years, I am told that whenever his family got another car, before they drove it, they would dedicate it to the Lord, and it would be used to help take others to church who didn't have a way. He read the Bible through each year for a number of years, and his life style was one of thinking of others first.

All of us who knew him miss him greatly.

A POSTLUDE

By David Eshelman

After the Reunion of 1988 Martha and I lingered in the Bear Trap Ranch area for awhile. Martha coaxed me to climb St. Peter's Dome to view the beauties of nature and the city below. We watched as the last of the Lenherts descended Gold Camp Road, through the tunnels and around the curves. We began our extended conversations about the conversations and events of the reunion. What had taken place? What had become obviously important to those attending the reunion?

It was as though we had just concluded a summer Christian retreat or camp meeting, where the emphasis was upon things spiritual and personal growth. The first and overriding development and emphasis of the reunion was the evolution of our spiritual lives.

The spirit of concern for and appreciation of each other was another development. There were many conversations in which there was sharing and caring that resulted in mutually supportive relationships.

The third conclusion about the reunion was the overall spirit of unity and consideration of others. Any selfish rivalry that might have existed eluded our observations.

Another observation about the reunion was the diversity of activities which members of the family appreciated...the traditional parlor games, several trail rides, the volley ball games, the raft trip on the Arkansas River, the tour through MORAD, and perhaps the most popular this year the rock climbing/rappelling and ropes course. But the activities were permeated with supportive conversations.

It seemed that beginning with the reunion of 1982, and continuing through the reunion of 1985, and heightened in the reunion of 1988, the family who have been together at these reunions have evolved from relationships of competition into a spirit of cooperative adventure. Those who witnessed the rock climbing events, and especially the climbs of Trina Yienqst, Phil Brubaker and John Aaron Lenhart, must have visual memories of the spirit of cooperative adventure alive in the Lenhart family.

And so may it ever be.

REMEMBERING TWO DADS

By G. Dale Lenhart

I have been fortunate, for I have known two Dads, and I sure have deep feelings for these two men's lives.

Uncle George Lenhart

I am so fortunate to have grown up in a Christian home that was full of love, not only love for Christ, but love for each other. I remember Mom and Dad often showing genuine and proper affection in front of us kids. We never doubted that they loved each other and us very much. Dad was a very strong, quiet man. He had our utmost respect, and could guide us in making proper decisions without saying much. He would just point out a few facts and tell us that he knew we would make the right choice.

One of my earliest recollections of him was back on the farm in Kansas when I was probably 5 or 6 years old. One evening he sent me out to get the cows to bring them in for milking, and on the way back, they decided they didn't want to go to the barn, but instead chose to go another way. Well, that was too much for me, so I just ran and told Dad and expected him to come right away and help. He wanted me to learn to stick with the task, so he sent me back out to complete the task alone. I tried again, and came back crying, asking for his help. No! Stick with it! It wasn't until I had showed him that I wouldn't give up, and had chased the cows all around the countryside, that he came and helped me get them to the barn. That was a valuable lesson and an incident I never forgot.

Another time, when I was having a particularly hard time of making an adjustment to our recent move to Pennsylvania, I remember him coming to our school, showing his caring in his quiet way, and promising to work with me that evening on a project that particularly interested me. His time was critically balanced between his dedication to his work at Messiah College and his family. When we needed him, he would take the time to spend with us.

Late one evening, when I was in my late teens, several of us boys at the school thought it might be neat to pull a prank with a number of cars which were left unlocked. We got caught by the Dean of Students, and I know Dad found out what we had done, but he never said a word about it. He just knew when to speak and when not to, for the maximum effect.

Sunday afternoons were always his time for taking a nap, and how he looked forward to it. (I never could understand that until recently!) However, I can remember on a number of occasions he would suggest to Mom that they go visit someone who was ill or in the hospital, giving up his nap time.

I have the utmost respect for all he stood for. His love for Christ, for his family, for his fellowman, guided his quiet but powerful testimony. Even though he has been gone from this life for 21 years, his guidance is still with me, as I can face situations. I often think of what Dad would do or say.

Uncle Ken Malone

Almost nine years ago, I had the privilege of getting a new Dad, Kenneth Malone. I didn't get to know Ken as well, not having grown up in the same household, but in the few years I knew him, I learned great respect for him and his love for Christ and my Mother.

He was a very helpful, gentle and kind person, always seeing what he could do to better make Mom happy. He was always doing dishes after meals or helping

SPECIAL APPRECIATION TO...

Mary Lady for helping assign rooms so that we could all be in the lodge.

John Lenhart, Nancy Jo Lenhart, Al Heise, G. Dale Lenhart, and David Eshelman (and probably others) for financing the "snacks" (fruit, cookies, etc.).

Aunt Mary Eshelman (absent, but present in the spirit) for the communion bread and a special batch of the "Aunt Mary Lenhart" type toffee candy.

Martha Lady for her spiritual leadership in arranging for the Sunday Morning Worship Service, the Sunday Evening "Christian Service" Meeting (missions), and the daily devotions.

Mary Olive Lady for her report on her missions activities in Zambia.

Bob and Joanne Barrett for their report on the service work of Linda and Robert.

Al Heise for his report on the work of Daryl and Lois Climenhaga in Africa.

Myron Lady for the Monday Morning Devotions.

Nancy Jo Lenhart for the Tuesday Morning Devotions.

Sam Brubaker for coordinating the collection of the "Christian Service" (missions) offering.

Lucy Brubaker for coordinating the traditional reunion letter.

Myron Lady for coordinating the travel arrangements for those who went rafting and those who toured NORAD.

Bob Barrett for arranging for the raft trip on the Arkansas River.

Mary Olive Lady for her diligence in having coffee ready for the early risers, for keeping coffee available at all times, and providing leadership in keeping the lodge kitchen clean.

Karl Hess for coming to the Reunion of 1988, especially since he left his family vacation on Cape Cod for the trip to Bear Trap Ranch.

Sam Lenhart for bringing the videotape about hummingbirds for us to view.

Mary and Myron Lady for the use of their trail bikes during the reunion.

Joanne and Bob Barrett for bringing the films of early Lenhart gatherings.

Sam and Lucy Brubaker for bringing the films of more recent Lenhart gatherings.

John Lenhart and Sam Brubaker for bringing their video cameras to record many of the events of the Lenhart Reunion of 1988 for viewing by all of us later.

Dale Lenhart for serving as master photographer so that we can have photographs of the Lenharts assembled, and sending copies to the families.

Karen and Tim Haldeman and Lucy and Sam Brubaker for taking "less than desirable" sleeping accommodations so that everyone could be in the lodge.

Lucy Brubaker and Mary Lady for helping to calculate the individual family bills so we could pay Bear Trap Ranch.

John Aaron Lenhart for serving us drinks at the end of each meal.

Bear Trap Ranch personnel, for their considerate accommodation of our group and our requests. P.S. The gratuity was \$270.00.

SOME GEMS FROM THE TRADITIONAL REUNION LETTER
(for details in the complete copy, send \$1.00 to Lucy Brubaker)

Here we are in a very new and wonderful place. We are all bedded down in one place...a log lodge, very much like the old Mountainview." Nancy Jo Lenhart

"Today I got to hike with a group to St. Peter's Dome, enjoying the flowers along the way. Even more satisfying, however, was the experience of closeness with the fellow hikers. This reunion has been such a wonderful succession of such intimate moments of sharing life!" Karl Hess

"This is reunion no. 3 for me and it has been a very special one. The boys have only been to one, but they were only 2 and a baby, so they have no memory of it. I guess that I am still at the point of learning where everyone fits in. I really appreciate the closeness that we have for each other. Highlights for me these past few days include; rock climbing (figured I could do it if both boys could), rappelling backwards down a 35 foot rocky ledge (only Sue Y. on top saw the fear on my face), horseback riding as a family, playing with the children one day when a lot were gone, and just enjoying one another. The boys have enjoyed playing with their cousins. It has been so good to be here." Joyce Lady

"About 10 of us are a little shaky in arms and legs after some rope exercises. ...These activities are to develop trust and character. With what we already had, we are now a great people." Myron Lady

"On Monday evening when Josh Lenhart of the rafting group had just returned to camp, Joanne found him standing watching two deer with rapt attention. Seeing Joanne he said, 'I have just had an amazing day!'" Aunt Violet

"We did have a good reunion, and as usual it didn't seem long enough to really get re-acquainted with everyone." Lucy Brubaker

"This has been a very enjoyable reunion for me." Jim Lady

"Sunday morning's service was precious. Martha Lady was in charge. ...There were 8 people in the choir.... Then we had communion. Of course there were hymns, sung in marvelous four part harmony in good B in C fashion." Joanne Barrett.

"It was good to have Dale do the official picture taking. We all listened to him very well as he told some to come to the front and be 'squatters.' For a nice change the sun was not shining in our faces nor the wind blowing hair out of place." Lucy Brubaker

"This is my first Lenhart reunion in over two decades, so you can imagine what a privilege it is for me to be here." Mary Olive Lady

And in a post-reunion letter, "More words do not seem adequate to express my appreciation for the Lenhart Reunion. ...We were surely blessed for the time we spent together!" Nancy Jo Lenhart

IN MEMORY OF UNCLE PAUL

By Al Heise

In Martha Lady's prayer this morning she expressed gratitude for our godly parents and grandparents. Our enjoyment of this reunion is one by-product of the fulfilment of God's promise that "the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him and his righteousness unto his children's children; to such as keep his covenant and to those that remember his commandments to do them." (Psalms 103, 17, 18)

God's word has emphasized the importance of remembering and recalling his mercies to his children. It is appropriate then that we recall the sacred memory of one who for many years exerted a strong and godly influence upon the members of the George Lenhart family in particular. That person was Paul Gish Lenhart.

The verses to which Martha referred in our worship service this morning provided a fitting outline upon which to recall Uncle Paul's life. Compassion - kindness - humility - gentleness - patience - all were embodied in his character.

In an era when the practice of medicine was characterized as a "jealous mistress" that demanded a physician's total time and energy he exerted great effort toward the promotion of healthy family life. It is appropriate here to state than many of the following comments about Uncle Paul cannot be made without recognizing Aunt Mary's unique partnership in this strong family influence.) Into the joyful family activities they freely included an ever expanding list of friends, family, neighbors, colleagues, and especially missionaries.

Uncle Paul generously assisted missionary relatives, medical students and other needy individuals. Maxine and I fitted each of these categories at various times and are deeply indebted to his memory.

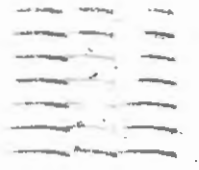
As Karl Hess has stated, Uncle Paul was a "role model" for a whole generation of young men, not entirely from the Brethren in Christ Church, who followed him in the practice of medicine. Many of us in the Lenhart family can attest to his influence. I personally owe this pursuit of my career to the image he projected. I am also indebted to him for assistance in obtaining my admission to the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine as well as for his providing a second home for our growing family during those years of preparation.

It was not easy for Uncle Paul to express emotions. The warmth of his caring frequently was exposed, however, as the occasion when he hugged a niece returning from a mission assignment and greeted her with "You're a good girl!"

One of the worthy memories of Uncle Paul is a statement he made some months prior to his death on November 23, 1987, "I married a beautiful girl and I'm going to be with her soon."

Knowing that Uncle Paul loved God and trusted in Jesus' atonement, we rest assured that he is among those about whom God's Word says; "For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

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