

Amonett Family Newsletter
Volume 1 Chapter 4
June 1981
By Wanda Faye Campbell and Laudane Carr

Amonett Reunion
June 14, 1981 (2nd Sunday in June – always)
Community Center
Petersburg, Texas
About nineish (9:00 AM) til -----

Sunday, June 10, 1979, about 62 people attended.

Sunday, June 8, 1980, about 57 people with Amonett connections attended.

Each time that same group came laden with enough food to feed 3 armies and waddled out with enough to feed 2 armies. Now one thing we can say about the Amonett's –we do enjoy our food, but the greatest pleasure is seeing familiar faces and in general getting re-acquainted.

Now you don't want to miss seeing the rest of us there. So you might as well pack up the old picnic basket and rush right over.

In 1979, we had a lot of new faces that didn't show last year and we really missed them. Hope they will be able to make it again this year. There was Odessa Irwin McPherson, Audrey Irwin Leslie, Audrey's son Gerald and his wife Chloye. These children are from Grandmother Amonett's brother Scott Irwin. Also in attendance were Mr. and Ms. Denton Ellis of 1052 Burlington Dr., Muncie, Indiana. Delma Ellis is a niece of Grandmother Amonett from her sister Nan Garrett. Now some of you may know all this, but I added this bit of information for the benefit of us YOUNGER ONES.

In 1979, the Wild West family was in attendance, Yes! Even Dane..... In the summer of '80—DANE PLAYED HOOKY AGAIN.

Now Dane you shouldn't do us the way you know we love seeing you. Nelda keep bringing those pretty grandbaby's.

Now we have to get busy and do something about the Welch family. When was the last time we saw any of them? Ladelle came for awhile many moons ago. And Oh yes! What about the Floyd Amonett family. We haven't had a representative from this family in a coon's age. Now don't you think they should be ashamed for depriving us of their company all this time.

The Stephen family was represented by Aunt Cordie and Latricia last year. We all loved seeing them, but I think they need a little help in representation.

Oh yes! What happened to the Clyde Amonett kids? I always thought they had some of the cutest kids. Clyde and Juanita were here last year. I didn't see anyone with them—did you?

Aunt Earline Whitaker had pretty good representation. Charles was missing. Maybe next time he can make it.

The Willis Amonett family was in good attendance. Eldon and Brenda had their two daughters in tow - Kay and Shana - Roy and Omitene were showing off their new Grandbaby (Jeremy Brock) as well as their other two Grandchildren, Dennise and Aaron Amonett. Oh Yes! Their two children and spouses were along also. Eunice Amonett and Dorothy Lane Strickland were here. They brought a guest, Mrs. Alma Pack of Knox City. She is my mother's sister. That made it nice to see a relative from both sides of the house.

The Posy family (my family) was in good attendance. I was even showing off a couple of grandsons (Dustin & Daniel Cole). All that was missing was our sister Billie Jo Hughes. Billie lives in Van, Tex. She has 4 children of which the oldest son Kaleum Odell (Boots) graduated from high school this year. Sister Marjorie had the same pleasure as her son Clifford Jay (Cliffy) Reynolds graduated also. Her daughter Reynesa Ann Massey is a LVN at Methodist Hospital working in intensive care unit. She is expecting to add to her family in Aug. Brother Gaylon had his family in tow last year. He was able to take his family home with all their bones intact. We had a wedding in our family last December. My daughter, Arvilla was married to John James. Daughters Deborah and Arvilla are both teaching.

Berlyn, Edith, and Johnny were the only ones to represent the Leo Amonett family. I just knew Berlyn would have at least one of his grandchildren here. Now Berlyn! I know you can roust your bunch out better than that. While you are at it you might see what you can do about that brother, Derwood. It is always a pleasure to see him.

I forgot to mention that Kay Shaw had a new addition to her family last February. Son James was married to Cindy. We wish them all the best.

Now in all seriousness, I want to take the time to pay our respects to Thayne and his family. Last year we had among us a lovely lady, Maxine, now she is gone and we will miss her greatly. The valleys and peaks, the sadness and gladness come our way and it has been just that in this family. Last summer was a happy time as daughter Robin was married to Bryan Edwards. You met him last June. At the wedding we had the pleasure of meeting the son Randy's wife. Randy and Jeannie have 3 children-Andrew, Aaron, and James Ashley. I want to not Ashley's initials, the same as granddad Amonett. It's nice to have another J. A. Amonett in the family. Maxine told me on occasion that Jeannie was a good mother. I can't think of a better tribute than that. Randy has just finished his studies and has passed the board and is now a Doctor of Dentistry. I am so proud of this young man; he has worked very hard and overcome great obstacles to attain this goal. I hope you will give him your encouragement and support as he endeavors to set his practice up.

To those that were unable to attend, you were missed. To those that came, maybe some of us only got a brief visit with you, but a hand shake and a hug can go a long way in reuniting a family and bring a family closer

together. To you younger ones, true you may not know many of us, but this –remember- your roots are here in this family. Some day you will be glad you made the efforts to hold on to these ties.

Won't you represent your family June 14, 1981? If you can't attend send some news and pictures of you and yours. Oh yes! You forgot to send your favorite recipes.

"Reflections"

As this year comes to a close and a new year is about to unfold, I can not help but do a bit of reflecting about my family the "Amonett's".

It was great seeing as many faces of youth this year at our family reunion. Gee! We have a handsome bunch. There was Ronald, Nancy, Brent, and Blake all from Clyde's family. Ronald sure has a pretty little wife, and two good looking young men.

John and Audrey West must have got up before the Chickens. They were here before 10. Got to remember to make coffee next year for the early arrivals. Audrey, as usual, was looking as fresh as a daisy.

Dorothy Strickland and Eunice were not too far behind in arriving. Wonder if Eunice will share her pecan pie recipe with us? It sure goes fast, so it must be good.

Speaking of recipes, I am still working on the idea of a family cook book. Where are your recipes?

Cordie and Latricia, along with Tanya arrived soon after. Tanya has some of the cutest angel kisses across her nose. –Shows she is loved a lot.--.

Derwood and Mary arrived looking great-same as always. They announced they were to be grandparents as daughter Susan was expecting. That has now come to pass and they now are grandparents to a little girl named Christina Amonett Lynn.

Juanita came stepping brightly in, escorted by Clyde. (Now I wonder what her secret is for staying nice and thin?)

Gaylon, Marc, and Alex Amonett arrived along with Margaret's nephew, Eric Adamson.

The Irwin girls were here to represent Uncle Scott's family. Willie Leslie, Audrey Leslie, and Odessa McPherson. They never change. They were kind enough to share some pictures taken in the early 1900's. The first I had seen of my grandparents when they were quite young. Included in one group picture were Floyd, Pearl, Leo, and Myrtie. Grandmother was quite pretty and Grand-dad! Can you believe it? Had a mustache and color in his hair. I only knew as an old man, my Granddad.

Earline and Earl surprised us with a guest—son, Charles. Charles is at Tinker Air Force Base in Okla. Assisting Earline in family representation were Myra and her family, Bennie, her husband; son Brent; daughter, Sherri;

daughter, Donna; son-in-law. Alton Hurley and pretty little granddaughter, LeAnn. –Now that Brent has been eating his Wheaties. – A good looking-he man. Jan could not make it, however! Wife Linda and their 3 children, Kris, Stacy, and Randa came. I know it takes a great effort to go to a reunion alone and yet still to a reunion of in-laws. Oh well! We do not consider her an in-law, just one of us.

Bobbie Joy had one of her sons to escort her. This was the first time she and Terry Claunch had been to a reunion in about 10 or 12 years. I know Aunt Cordie was pleased to have her here once again. Speaking of Aunt Cordie, she must have said the right thing to get her bunch out. Duane was here along with his wife Peggy, their children Robbey, Mr. and Mrs. Rickey Stephens, Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Snowden, Tina and Lex. Tina gave us some pleasant entertainment in the afternoon. That Duane was some proud Grandpa. His shirt buttons were popping off. I don't blame him. Her performance was great in gymnastics.

Speaking of entertainment, Marc Amonett, Posy's grandson played a selection on his fiddle.

We are always happy to have members of our family share a little of their talent with us. Maybe next year Bennie Brown will bring his family to entertain.

Thayne was here and proud as could be showing his grandchildren off and happy to announce Randy's title as Dr. Amonett, also Randy's plans to join a Dental Practice in Lubbock. I am happy to say that has now come into being. I hope we did not scare Jeannie too much. Thayne's daughter Robin was in attendance also. Robin is still a student and the grapevine tells me is working as a dental assistant, to brother Ran.

The Shaws, Kay and Jim arrived around 11 as did Berlyn, Edith and Johnny. They must have stayed up late talking. No doubt about just who they were talking about—us--. I believe it was announced that Joey would be getting married; well - Joey got cold feet. That's O.K. better not than be sorry.

One marriage that did take place was Berlyn and Edith's son Carl. On November 7 Carl took unto himself a wife named Sharon Diane. She is a real cute little girl. A great asset to this family.

Eldon, Brenda, and Kay Amonett arrived somewhere around this time also. Now that Kay will set many a young man's heart to flutter. We missed Shanna this year. She is another little heart flutter.

Around noonish, my bunch arrived (FINALLY). There was Mother (Jessie), Marjorie, Cliff Reynolds, Reynesa & Preston Massey my daughters Deborah her family Darrell and two sons Dustin and Daniel Cole, Arvilla and John James. Now----I wonder---what can we do to get them here a little sooner next year? Speaking of Reynesa, she and Preston have made Marjorie a grandmother of a little girl named Jennifer Dawn. She is a real pretty baby.

We missed seeing a lot of our loved ones. Nelda could not be here. I now have a new address for Nelda, as she and Bill have moved to Clovis, New Mexico. Having sold their banking interest in Muleshoe and invested in one in Clovis. Had the pleasure of chance meeting with her in Lubbock recently and enjoyed a lovely visit over lunch.

Now in closing I want to share a poem with you and a letter that was sent to me and was shared at the family reunion. I have been asked for copies of them so will share this way. I hope that in time you will be in correspondence with me when you have some news that you want to share with the family and that I will be able to continue to pass along some tid-bits from time to time.

Dear friends and neighbors keep those cards and letters coming, and RECIPES.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to each of you..

At the ARVIL LEE CAMPBELL household we have open house on New Years day. Black eyes, corn bread, and cabbage will be on the menu. Come on by. Just 3 miles west of Cone, Texas in the brick house on the south side of the highway.

Love,

Faye

GREETINGS TO THE AMONETT CLAN

By Laudane Carr

Dear Faye:

Your letter came yesterday and I really enjoyed hearing about the family. Thank you for your time and effort. We had planned on leaving this Hot South Texas early in June for the "higher pastures" but unfortunately Uncle Sam had other plans for us just now. I have received my first Federal Jury Summons for 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday June 16 and since I have no idea if, or how long I will serve, our summer plans are in limbo just now. Can you believe I have reached this age and never been called until we had our plans made. Oh Well! If I am to serve, maybe I will learn something useful, we shall see.

Our families are all doing well and I am sorry I do not have any late snapshots to forward of them all. Margaret and her family still live in Edmond, Ok. And at last report were all well but wishing for calmer weather in their "tornado alley" area. She has a new baby girl who gave us all a few anxious months, but was she ever worth all the worry and wait!! She is a little doll who is now 10 months old and was named Monica Lynn. She joined her sister, Stephanie who is almost 5 years old. Don and his family are now in Spring, Texas and they, too, are well. They have Melissa who is 9 & 1/2 and Renee who is 4. With four lovely little granddaughters, who needs grandsons?? Cecil and I are still thoroughly enjoying retirement life and stay so busy, we wonder how we ever had time to work. Sometimes, I think we stay too busy. Our little Brood are so scattered and with their respective work schedules, we are lucky if we can get together even once a year.

After reading Faye's letter, I spent a lot of time remembering last night and this morning. It is surprising all the little things that come back: all the lovely summer evenings when the kids played tag, little White House, told ghost stories, etc. and then enjoyed the sweet watermelons and homemade ice cream sitting out in the Amonett front yard. All the play houses we built in the old hackberry tree, the meals we served of mud pies and mesquite beans; catching locusts and tying strings to their legs; granddad and his old broad bladed knife giving us a dose of quinine, ugh! The round of calomel in the spring, the kerosene and sugar in the winter. The old battery radio that Granddad saved up so he could listen to the political conventions and the excitement he showed though we had not the slightest understanding why. I can still hear him when Clyde and Thayne were teenagers and wanting to "sleep-in" saying "Platgonit, you boys it is nearly sun up, now get out of that bed". It used to fascinate me when they strapped the two chairs together to make the "barber chair" and everyone got groomed. Who can forget Grandmother's cooking! Could anyone always make things taste so good? And how we used to fuss over who got to comb her hair with the old fine toothed comb. I remember when Earline and Earl went to get married and Grannie and Mother were preparing the "Wedding" dinner and I innocently asked if they would be bringing a baby home. They both nearly died of heart failure!! Remember the year they had the Santa come in the hose drawn

sleigh, the first year I had begun to doubt. You know I think after that I believed until I was about 10 years old! I still love angel food cake – and Aunt Audrey stood me on a box one year and let me beat egg whites and taught me how to make one for our reunion, that has never been forgotten. Uncle Earl, remember the year we were in the plum thicket and I stepped on a rattlesnake and was so scared I jumped over the fence and ran across the field and you had to chase me down to see if I had been bitten! Or, the day we were riding Old Penny and ran under the low limb and got knocked off and she kept on going to the barn. I remember when Aunt Myrtie died, my first experience with death.

You know times were hard, poverty everywhere, but it is also a time of pleasant memories; family closeness, good times, and simple pleasures that drown out most of the bad things. I wonder if our children will have as many fond memories and recollections of their youth as we have? Whatever else can be said for the "Amonetts" they were a family in the best sense of the word and can be numbered with the group that has made our country great. We should all be proud and live so as to be an asset to the name of our grandparents.

On the next sheet I penned a little short poem in Our Honor. When you read this I can just hear you all saying, Wow, if she had been here, no one could have gotten in a word edge-wise. I am with you in spirit, but will not tell you to eat some for me; because I don't need it and neither do most of you.

Love to All,
Laudane

THE AMONETTS

A is for all of us who make up the clan,
M is our memories, over many years they span.
O is our oneness, though scattered over many miles
N is we never stop loving, even with all our many life styles.
E is encouragement by loving and keeping in touch.
T is for talking, telling, and tasting too much!
T is taking our heritage and holding it fast
S uccessfully holding to Christian Values that will last.

Put these all together and we are one large clan,
And a credit to John Alvis Amonett,
ONE WONDERFUL MAN!