

Upchurch • Davenport

Family Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 1, August 2010



Arthur Monroe Davenport and his new bride Mary May Upchurch Davenport, on their wedding day.

They were married June 24, 1909, at Tecumseh, Oklahoma, the county seat of Pottawatomie County at the time. Theirs was a double ceremony with friends.

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922 Barbour Avenue, Norman, OK 73069

E-mail: mae@coxok.com
Web: www.coxok.com

Our Grandparents Arthur and May

are shown in this photo. This particular copy was scanned from an actual original that only recently came into my possession, courtesy of Gail (see first article, page two).

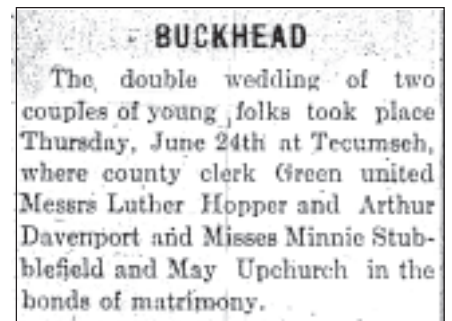
Most everyone in the family has a copy of this same picture, however, it wasn't until I saw the clearer, sharper original that I could make out more of the detail.

Arthur appears to be wearing a new pair of dress shoes, and I'd swear they look like wingtips. Look a little closer and you'll see that's a dirt floor, and scattered around are what look to be natural vegetation. The photographer most likely hung a backdrop somewhere outside and shot the picture from there.

The write-up shown here about their marriage, appeared in the July 2, 1909 edition of the *Lexington Leader*. The Upchurch family lived, at that time, in the Buckhead area.

You may remember that my last book was entitled, *Buckhead, O.T. ~*

The History of a Community and its People. The Buckhead area was where the Upchurches homesteaded, where Grandma May was raised, and where May and Arthur lived after they were married. All but their last child was born in this area.. or just over the county line. That very fact is what piqued my interest to research and write about Buckhead.



Family E-Newsletters

We're moving into the age of technology by posting family newsletters online. From now on, I'll put these together and just send a link to everyone. The cost of printing has become out of sight, plus postage also went up. This just seems like the sensible thing to do.

I will continue to print and mail to those who don't have computers, namely Ethel and Shirley. For the cousins who live near one of the other aunts or cousins, if you'll print off copies for them, that would really help. Also, if you'd like to add your children's e-mail addresses to my family list, just send them to me.

Note: Rest assured that from now on, I won't use your last names, addresses, and phone numbers. If you have trouble identifying just who someone is in one of the newsletters... holler and I'll explain.

Family Rambling Reporter

Gail and the Uncle Lute clan closed out the estate of Aunt Mary, Uncle Lute, and Kermit — their house and possessions — last year.

Aunt Mary was a stickler for keeping batches of photos. How wonderful that she had such foresight to know that down the road these pictures would mean a lot to other family folks. She had lovingly put together numerous old photo albums, preserving her keepsakes for posterity.

When Gail and the others went through the pictures, they pulled out ones they each wanted then made a pile of those they thought I'd like to have. Gail mailed them all to me, and boy, was it ever a surprise... really made my day.

What a delight to go through the oldies-but-goodies, most of which I'd never seen before. I'll print some throughout this newsletter to share with everyone. If you'd like an actual copy, let me know. I've also put several of these on my Web site, so you can go there and see an even better version of each shot. Just click the link **DAVENPORTS**, and that'll take you to these and many other family photos.

In a recent conversation with Gail she told me there were lots more photos, many with people in them that she didn't know. I've asked her to send them to me so I can scan and put them on my Web site. Maybe that way someone can help identify who they are.

My Family Web Site

If you're 'into' old family photos and family history, you should take a look at my Web site. I recently updated it and added a lot more stuff.

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George and Judy have moved from their home atop the hill east of Ardmore. They now live several miles south of Ardmore... much closer to where their son, George, his wife, Kim, and their son live. Since I'm not posting addresses in this newsletter, just e-mail me for their address change. They still have a lot to do to get the place alpaca-ready. A friend is caring for their critters until they can get the fencing up and a shed built. They're sure eager to bring their herd back home.

Mom (Nenavey) is moving too. She will now be living with George and Judy, and she's thrilled. About four months ago I went down and helped her sort through years of accumulation. We packed several boxes, but then there was a holdup on the move — so she sat a few months with boxes stacked around.

A couple weeks ago Charles and Betty started carrying loads of boxes over to her new home. George says he and Charles will have her moved by the middle of September. So if you want her new address, e-mail me for that too.

Cousin Floyd called the other morning. Was good to catch up with what's been going on with his family. His wife, Marian, had knee surgery the first of August and has been recuperating from that.

Their son, Andy, who, with his family, lives in Georgia has informed his parents that they will soon have another grandchild. This will be their fourth little one.

Marie, lady friend of William Upchurch, called a few weeks back. She's moved to Noble from Lexington where she is now just a few blocks from her daughter. She said she likes her new place and especially likes being near her daughter.

Cousin Suzanne and Dean spent many months touring the United States in their motor home after they retired. Earlier this year though they decided to settle and bought a nice big, practically new home southwest of town. They invited me out for the grand tour a few months back. Ann went with me and we were treated to lunch... some of the neatest egg salad sandwiches I've ever tried. I keep intending to get her recipe, as this wasn't your common everyday egg salad — it had all kinds of good stuff in it. I enjoyed the day, and since then have seen them several times... it's good to have you back!

Aunt Annie has been in hog heaven now for several months. She's a hard one to catch up with though. It seems when her daughter and son-in-law, Suzanne and Dean, retired and settled here, they began whizzing her off to garage sales, grocery stores, and a lot of other places.

I know I used to call her in the mornings, but by golly, she's just usually not there any more. Nowadays, I have to time a call just right to find her at home. I do miss going to lunch with her occasionally, however, it is good to see her getting out and about... and she loves it!

Phillip, son of Edna, was enjoying the Memorial Day holiday with his two girls when I talked with him. He says all is going just fine up their way, and that Deanna and Robert John are about the same as always too. I was really amazed when he mentioned that his girls, Cassandra and Valerie, were now in high school. A senior and a sophomore. It's hard to believe those two little girls we saw at the reunion are now high schoolers. Geesh, but time does speed on by us.

Cousin Linda writes that her family is doing well at this time and expecting some of these torrential rains from hurricanes in their area. She also told of the passing of Jerry's father, Ervin J Hahn, on July 5th, just 19 days shy of his 102nd birthday. She says, "We are saddened for our loss but oh so happy to have had so much time with him. He was an amazing man and a good Christian." I will remember Jerry's dad was always part of the loving photos of their entire family. Our condolences to all of you.

A special thanks to Mike, Jeff, and Donna who graciously helped with the memorial service for my son, Stephen. Cousin Mike and Jeff (Darrell's son) officiated, telling about Stephen and his life. They each were so comforting.

Donna lent her delightful singing voice adding a beautiful element to the service. It's really nice to have such wonderful folks in our family who pitch in to help when help is needed the most. I appreciate their doing this for our family, and my heartfelt thanks to each of you for being so considerate and thoughtful.

Nonagenarian Club

Bessie S. turned 97 years old in January. Faye of the Skinner clan and I had a fried chicken lunch with her to help celebrate that milestone. Bessie kept us entertained telling stories of her travels, and showing us an array of old photos. It's amazing how she remembers all about her childhood and through the years... that and she's still feisty as they come.

Mom (Nenavey) celebrated her 93rd birthday in February. George and I took her for catfish to celebrate. She was delighted with the many cards and phone calls she received.

Aunt Annie joined the group of nonagenarians as she hit the 90 mark in February. Her family gathered at Suzanne and Dean's house to celebrate the momentous occasion. They had an old fashioned 'singing' as everyone joined in on hymns.

Aunt Ethel will be turning 93 this year too... in November. I've talked with her several times and she's always so upbeat and sharp as a tack. She did tell me that she's sold her car now and no longer drives.



Cousin Shirley Scheduled for Kidney Transplant

Shirley will be getting a new kidney after years of waiting for her name to move up on the transplant list — and for them to find a suitable donor.

The surgery is schedule for September 22nd. Her daughter, Lisa, will undergo surgery the next day to donate a kidney.

There is such a neat story behind how all this has come about and Shirley has given me permission to share it with you.

Over the last several years, Shirley has been waiting to move up on the kidney transplant list, but it just wasn't happening. She's been going through dialysis three times a week for quite some time, and each treatment seems to leave her

completely drained of any energy or stamina.

Month after month went by until Shirley's daughter, Lisa, decided she would donate a kidney to her mom. She underwent all the tests only to find that she was not a suitable match for Shirley.

That didn't deter Lisa though. She then went through all the red tape involved in "paired donations" where she can donate a kidney to someone else, and that would allow them to match Shirley with a suitable donor.

You've probably heard of these pairings surgeries... I've seen it on national news. Several surgeries happen at the same times only in

various cities. The organization works to match up folks willing to donate with the person needing a kidney ... then the surgeries are scheduled. The person donating a kidney goes to the city where the person receiving the kidney resides, and the surgery takes place there.

Shirley's surgery will be in Denver, while Lisa will travel to Dallas to donate her kidney to an awaiting donor there. Linda and Jerry plan to drive to Dallas to be with Lisa during this time.

What Lisa is doing for her mother is just amazing... what a lifesaving gift!

Shirley asked for your prayers... for herself, for Lisa, and for all those involved. You've got'em, cuz, and we'll be thinking about you.

From Becky and Joe

She is the Daughter of Ann and Clifford

We're doing fine down here in San Antonio. The summer is ending on a warmer note than it began, but we can't complain after last summer's scorcher. A major project the past few months was having a fence constructed in our back yard. Very happy with the results and privacy it offers. Now my attention is shifting to gardening some ... and not just growing items that turn to deer food.

Biggest event this year to date was (son) Anthony's graduation from RN program. His current plans are to work and live here in San Antonio for now.

Jennifer (daughter) and her boyfriend, Joseph, came for the graduation festivities...then she returned in August to spend another week with us. It was great having her here both times!

Joe and I took a week trip (job related) to Ottawa, Canada, in July, which turned out to be a terrific time. Beautiful place ... exceeded my expectations. It was a great time of refreshing. Now, we both look forward to some Fall Bible studies ... and a few shorter trips when the Autumn days get closer ... and cooler.



Becky and Mountie Moose at Royal Canadian Mint...Ottawa, Ontario

From Ron and Denna

He is the son of Loyce and Gene

Our motley mayhem since May.

We had a great time over Father's day in June. We drove to Dallas for Father's Day and for Robert and Cali's engagement party.

Ron was really fantastic working on the grilled food in 100+ degree weather and talking with five of the six kids. Fed quite a few folks and Ron was so happy and the kids kept giving him hugs! I got too hot and had to go back to our room early. Plus all the riding is a killer on my back. I keep looking for some kind of back that is worn like a sweater vest but haven't been able to find one. Let me know if any of you find a place where they sell them.

We had originally planned to stop over in Ardmore and visit Aunt Thelma and Uncle Kenneth, and Claudia and Howard who were visiting them, and Aunt Nenavey too. Then drive up to Norman a few days to see folks there, but alas, I was too ill and Ron had to bring me on home.

I went on In-Home Care with physical therapy and after six weeks I began Hospice Care. The aides and nurses, the chaplain and social workers are extra great. A volunteer built me two ramps so I can get into the house and then up into the dining room/kitchen/bathroom/bedroom with my walker. I still use my walker most all of the time, but at least I am still able to move around some on my own.

Richard, our computer geek son, has been doing some work out of state. He will be going to an area in Virginia close enough to Sherry to get to spend a weekend with her. Stacy got a new job that pays more, better benefits, plus, she got a better position because of her knowledge of what mortgage companies do.

Katrina, Melissa and Sherry are all doing very well. Sherry has rented a three-bedroom house just ten blocks from the beach in Norfolk, Virginia. We are hoping to get Sherry and Gene together with Jason Davenport when he gets back from his deployment.

Dustin, Kristi, Anna and Wesley are doing very well. The kids have had sinusitis this summer and so have Dustin and Kristi.

We have had so many days of heat with no rain that everything is beginning to look like fall. Ron has had to run the mower to mulch leaves twice. But alas, we've finally had rain for the past couple of days.

Anna [Denna's granddaughter] was very excited to go to Dallas to see her Aunts and Uncles and Mimi (Linda). She just doesn't understand that if the kids are her aunts and uncles, that doesn't mean she has another grandparent. Linda has been most patient with her and doesn't seem to mind one bit.

October 9th is Robert's wedding day and I am really trying to be as healthy and strong as possible so that I can make the trip (we will be staying five nights) and then be able to come up through Ardmore and Norman for a couple of days on the way back home.

We hope to see you all soon.

- Denna

From Suzanne and Dean

She is the Daughter of Ann and Clifford

We last checked in during our travels while visiting Medora, North Dakota, and Theodore Roosevelt National Park. What a great rest of the summer of 2009... We went south to Mount Rushmore, northwest through Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, and Washington State.

Grand Coulee Dam in Washington was simply awesome. Spokane, Seattle, and Tacoma were great cities to visit. The Columbia River area between Oregon and Washington was spectacular. We traveled back to Yellowstone, Grand Tetons, Salt Lake City, Laramie, and Cheyenne. Then south to Denver, Colorado Springs, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque. Northern New Mexico is a great place to tour!

Arrived in time for OU football in September and stayed until the first week of November. From there we went south to Houston, San Antonio and then west to Carlsbad, Roswell, Ruidoso, Alamogordo and Deming, New Mexico where we spent Christmas. Traveled to Tucson for three wonderful weeks into January and explored the south-western corner of Arizona.

Then, we came back to Oklahoma to look at a property that had gained our attention. Didn't pan out, but we did find a home that we really liked between Norman and Newcastle.

We celebrated our mom's [Aunt Annie's] 90th birthday in February at our new home! So, I am an official Okie again, and Dean is now a "Buckeye Okie"... We have spent a great deal of time at the new house

this year, adding a storage shed, storm cellar, backyard fencing, and fixing a few drainage issues.

We are planning a trip to Palo Duro Canyon in Amarillo, Texas, in October and back to Houston for a week in early November. Looking forward to the holidays! Plan to continue part-time travels in 2011.

Dean, mom, and I had a great time making all the springtime garage sales in Norman when all of the OU students were trying to pack up and leave. You wouldn't believe the bargains that we found for our new house, paying only a fraction of what it would cost new. I also think that we have now tried every restaurant in Norman since we've been back; many new ones have sprung up since the 1970s! ha Seriously, we have had a great time exploring everything again.

Suzanne sent this wonderful photo taken on Aunt Annie's 90th birthday. Standing, l-r are: Don and Donna, Suzanne and Dean, Mike and Glenna, Joe and Becky, and seated is Ann.



From Valarie

*Daughter of Darrell and Eunice,
Granddaughter of Roy and Bessie*

Life at the Harshaw's Happy Place farm has been a story of beginnings and endings.

Robert started the year officially retired from the Air Force and moved home from Andrews AFB, Maryland for good. He jumped into farm work and also started a new job as Director of Nursing at Griffin Memorial Hospital in Norman. His job currently has him traveling to Lawton two days each week as Interim Director of Nursing at Talifero Mental Hospital.

Sarah graduated 10th grade, no mean feat considering she missed 65% of official school days. At public school she would not have been passed in spite of her 3.5 GPA, but it was a private school. She turned 17 in May and got her driver's permit; hopefully, that will turn into her driver's license in November.

In August, Sarah started her junior year at Moore High School. She was very excited and after two days of riding the bus, is now very motivated to get that driver's license ASAP.

After four days of school, and enjoying it, she was knocked down and stepped on by her horse who had been spooked. Both bones in her left forearm are broken. One is a clean break, the other looked like a compound, it just didn't break the skin. So on August 27 she had surgery on her arm, a plate and four screws were inserted to put the bone back together.

She has been out of school since then, until yesterday. She went back to school and half way through the day fell going up the stairs, so today she had a hard cast put on her arm and is planning to return to school on Monday.

Oh, Sarah had two firsts this summer. You probably remember she has always had really long hair. Her hair is now chin-length with blond highlights. It was pretty shocking the first time people saw her—ask Phyllis. Sarah's other first was to drive at night, trying to get me to the hospital. We stopped at a fire station and EMS completed the trip.

I started working in May at a dental office that provides cheap dentures. It's different from anything I've ever done before, but in this economy, and after nine months of applying, who am I to turn down a job. I'm still looking for a position more in line with my experience and that pays more.

In January, I had a side-effect to a medication I had been on for five years and my colon started to die. I was hospitalized for eight days during that snowstorm at the end of January. We caught the symptoms early so my colon was saved and no colostomy is needed.

In July, my doctor referred me to a ortho doctor for my knee pain and arthroscopic surgery was recommended and scheduled for early August but was I put in the hospital for five days for dehydration (Sarah's wild midnight drive). No cause was discovered for all the vomiting, but

the symptoms sure looked like salmonella poisoning. That hospitalization put my knee surgery off until September 2. Surgery was successful, I had a tear in both ligaments. I've been hobbling around the house using a walker, but today I started using a cane. YEAHHH!!

On December 31, the fainting goat breeder called us and cried "Help." Her does were dropping kids and many had frozen before being found. Cheryl had eight babies in the house being bottle-fed. So we went over and got two boys and two girls. One of the boys had to be euthanized a week later because of a genetic defect in his hips making him unable to walk.

We now have Boomer, our buck born on Christmas Eve; Carmelita, born on December 30; and Blue Moon, born New Year's Eve, just a few hours before we got there.

It was a lot of fun raising them by bottle, in the house. It was like having triplets. They wore diapers and onesies and slept in a large dog crate in our extra room. Every two or three hours they woke me up and I groggily changed them, warmed up their bottles, and fed them. By the end of February we had weaned them down to one bedtime feeding and moved them down to the barn.

Once it was warm enough we moved them up to the pasture near the house so we can see and talk to them. They still cry for their people to come play with them. Boomer should be doing his job once we get a couple of nights in the 40s and we'll have four to six "kids" in the spring.

In February, I lost my beloved potbelly pig, Wilber. He got some bacterial disease and by the time we realized he was sick he died two days later. It was very sad.



In June we had to say goodbye to Sarah's childhood friend, Hairy Bear. They'd been together thirteen years. Chickens? They come and they go. A few have caused a moment's sadness but that's just one less chicken to eat, poop, and squawk. When it turns cooler, Robert plans to perform his own type of euthanasia on some roosters and non-productive hens.

So, life on the Happy Place farm is like any another—lots of ups and down, beginnings and endings.

Another beginning I'd like to start is to have the Davenport Halloween

party at our place. We have a large house, a big deck, a fire pit, and plenty of animals for the kids to pet and play with. Bring a side dish, we'll provide the hamburger and hot dog fixings.

Included will be the 1st Annual Davenport Pumpkin Carving Contest—BYOP (Bring Your Own Pumpkin). If you have your own carving and scooping tools bring them and others will be provided for those who don't bring them. We'll have tables set up to work on, patterns for those who are creatively-challenged, and we'll provide the candle to light

them. Pumpkin Carving begins as early as 5 pm and ends at 7:30. Everyone gets to vote on each category and there are no age restrictions. There will be prizes for Most Scary, Most Goofy, Most Creative, and Honorable Mention, plus you get to take your pumpkin home, and plenty of seeds for those who want them.

I'm open to two dates in October: the 23rd or 30th. E-mail me a note at txveekay1@yahoo.com or phone 405-761-7922. If no one votes it will be October 30. Hope to see everyone here!

Cousin Becky's Blog:

Becky recently sent a link to join her blog where each week she posts a new cupcake recipe. It seems she's trying various recipes she runs across, then if they meet her scrutiny, she'll share the recipe. The following is info from her site: <http://cupcake-adventure.blogspot.com/>

—Mae

Becky's Cupcake Adventure

It's September... and that means Autumn is on its way! Time to slice and dice the apples... let the flour fly ... and fill your home with the aroma of home-baked sweetness. I've started a cupcake blog and will share with you my recent *Cupcake of the Week!*

A neighbor gave me the idea for this particular week, so I baked three versions of the *Apple Spice Cupcake* and found one ranked far above the others: Shelly Kaldunski's apple spice cupcake. It was a winner, hands down... tastes like apple pie!

All three called for a cream-cheese variation of frosting, so add it if you like, but you really don't need to. The appearance of this one has such character! They just simply make me smile at their floppy relaxed look that packs a mouthful of apple spice flavor.

This is a great little cupcake. :)



Apple-Spice Cupcake

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
Prepare 12-cup muffin pan with liners.
Recipe makes 12 cupcakes.

In a saucepan, melt **2T butter**...add **3 apples (about 1lb)**—peeled, cored, cut into chunks)...add **2T sugar** and cook over med-high heat 5-7 minutes till apples are translucent and soft. Set aside to cool.

Meanwhile whisk together:

1C flour	3/4 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt	1/4 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp cinnamon	1/4 tsp allspice
	pinch of nutmeg

In an electric mixture bowl: beat **6T butter** and **3/4C sugar** till light and fluffy (about 2-3 minutes)...add **2 large eggs**, **1/2tsp vanilla** and beat until combined. Slowly add four mixture and beat on low speed till combined. Add **1/4C sour cream** and reserved apple mixture, beating until just combined: scrape down sides of bowl as needed.

Divide batter into the 12 muffin cups. Bake till golden brown and toothpick inserted comes out clean, 18-20 minutes. Let cupcakes cool in pan for 5 minutes then transfer to wire rack to cool completely...about 1 hour.

Note: After 5 minutes I removed them from the muffin tin and they appeared undercooked and soft in the paper cup. But after they cooled they were perfect. It may vary with the amount of apple you use, but they are wonderful. Cream cheese frosting or a Honey-Cream cheese frosting would go well, but they really don't need any frosting at all.

From Karen and Sherman

He is youngest son of Thelma and Kenneth

Cerissa got married July 10th at First Baptist Church in Norman to Jeremiah. The wedding was wonderful with lots of family and friends to help celebrate!



The girls are keeping busy with school. Erica has about one more year in grad school. She is doing research at The National Weather Center here in Norman.

–Karen

From Jason and Kim

He is Darrell and Eunice's son

Jason [who is in the Navy] has been spending the summer and fall off the coast of South America on the USS Iwo Jima. At one port, he took a bus trip into and around Costa Rica where he saw a banana plantation and a monkey. They painted for some folks and in general had a pleasant time.

He also went to Cuba where he purchased cigars that he really enjoyed. It's really exciting to us that he's learning so much even though the learning entails his also working very hard... it certainly is not a pleasure cruise he's on. This has been a very good experience for him overall and a learning experience for all of us.

We sent him a care parcel in June and he received it September 2nd. They don't do a real good job with sailors' mail. But at least he got it.

Jeff has been overseeing and assisting with putting card readers in cash registers at the stadium. This now makes it possible for the concession stands to take credit cards. It has been a nightmare. He's been working just about 24/7 for a couple of months and is very tired. He does, however, feel a sense of accomplishment now that he can see the fruits of his labors.... plus he knows it will help others as well. His next project will be putting card readers in Lloyd Noble. I can tell it's going to be a challenging year.

About my transcription business, I now have five clients who keep me as busy as I want to be. I love working at home. It's so nice to be able to work on business for a while and also do homekeeping as well. I like to do laundry while I work and usually find the time each week to keep our ironing caught up.

I enjoy our animals. If the schedule is OK and the weather is tolerable, I take the two Labs on a walk around the track by our neighborhood elementary school.

On July 5th, I painted our backyard deck and then on Labor day painted our patio/plant/pet room floor. It's quite enjoyable to just turn on the radio and listen to music while I work... I'm much happier if I'm busy.

We lost eight panels of fence with a recent large gust of wind and it was all so very old that it will have to be replaced. That's a work in progress, and Jeff insists on doing it himself. He also keeps in close contact with Darrell who has bought a smaller home in Norman and is doing reasonably well.

We want to wish you all blessings this season!

–Kim

Memories of Family Get-Togethers

By Phyllis

Daughter of Darrell and Eunice, Granddaughter of Roy and Bessie

So who's interested in their family history? Me! Me! Why? At first I'd probably say I don't really know, but on second thought, I think back on all those generations past.

All those great-grands who were once young and, hopefully, in love with each other. Their lives; their trials and tribulations; their laughter shared; their joy over a newborn; their sadness at losing a dearly loved family member; and the games they played which strengthened the bonds between them.

I know some of my favorite memories involve the Davenport-Upchurch clan converging, whether at a Christmas-decorated home to share in a good holiday meal, a lake campground to go fishing, or the Chickasaw Lake Club, a private lodge where Loyce and Gene Laurence were caretakers.

Bet most of you remember dressing up for the Halloween parties, eating potluck dinners, warming your backside near that huge fireplace, and playing games. Normal games like dominoes or Password or, even better, those insanely fun games like passing the orange, feeding a long rope down your shirt and pants with the next person going up their pants and shirt with it. There was never a reward for the team that won first, just bragging rights.

And who doesn't remember li'l octogenarian Aunt Mary* playing "belly ball," trying to fling that ball into the hoop attached to her waist? Hands on hips, gyrating and thrusting back and forwards, while everyone around her was practically rolling on the ground in hilarity, wildly hoping she didn't throw out her back or hip.

THESE are our shared memories and I'll forever treasure them and others that we've made together over the years. And my imagination reaches back across the generations. I just know our forebears shared such memories together too. Because in their enjoyment of those memories, they made sure the next generation had a good time, that they'd be sure to pass the fun along.

*Aunt Mary is the lady in photo 4) standing at left.

By Mae

Family get-togethers have been a 'thing' with our family as far back as when our aunts and uncles left their parents' home to begin their families. We've been a close-knit bunch all through the years. Fortunately we've had many picture-taking-folks in our midst to capture some of those events:

1) 1956 Christmas Eve and Carl and Nenavey's house in Ardmore. 2) from the 1950s at Roy and Bessie's house on Stewart. 3,4 and 6) Loyce and Gene's parties at Chickasaw Lake Club. 5) Uncle Lute and Aunt Mary's 70th anniversary party in OKC.



Let's go back in time...

More photos from Uncle Lute's Collection (see page 2)

George William Davenport's Family

Great Grandparents

This is a phenomenal photo — actually it's a photo taken from a tintype. I managed to scan the tintype and through the miracles of Photoshop, came up with this wonderful image. Taken about 1886 or so, sitting:

George William Davenport

(April 6, 1863 – February 21, 1955)

Alice 'Allie' Meridian Alexander

(June 9, 1867 – March 1, 1896)

Nellie Gray Alexander, I think. The girl/woman standing is unknown though I suspect she is Allie's younger sister, Nellie.

George and Allie married July 14, 1881 in Texas. Allie died at 29 years of age, in 1896, leaving three very young children (one of whom was our grandfather Arthur — he was just nine years old). George married Nellie in 1898, but their marriage lasted less than a year. I do believe it is she, Nellie, who is standing in this photo.



George and Blanche

When Great-Grandfather **George William Davenport** retired as a Deputy Sheriff, he lived at the Macomb farm where he farmed with his son Arthur. In 1942, worn out with that type work, he moved into Shawnee where he rented a room.

The rooming house, at 217-1/2 East Main, was over Warren's Hardware Store in the downtown area and was owned by his friend **Blanche Saxon**

George had known Blanche for many years having met her while he

was a deputy. Blanche ran the local brothel, and according to relatives, several *ladies of the evening* also lived at this rooming house while their actual *work* was performed at the Aldridge Hotel just a block or so away.

Several different relatives have mentioned how Blanche took good care of George in his golden years. There were several elderly men living at her rooming house, including George's brother Jess Davenport. George lived out his life in this little room, and he and Blanche remained best of friends until his death.

He is buried in a plot provided by Blanche — It seems she purchased three cemetery plots together, for \$75, just the year before George's death. Another friend of hers is also buried in one of the plots, while the third plot is still vacant today.



Great Grandfather, George William

George was the first of thirteen children. About half were born in Tennessee and the others in Texas. Thanks to Gail, we do have a few photos of some family members.

At right are two of George's sisters. The one at left is **Azalena T. 'Nora' Davenport Warren**. The one on the right is **Rosella 'Rose' Davenport Valbrach**.

I don't seem to have much information at all on George William's family. I've heard that most of them lived around the Shawnee and OKC areas. I've tried to track them down, but have never had much luck in that endeavor.

If you know anything of these folks, please fill me in about them.

George's Son, Homer

George and Allie had four sons. The oldest was our grandfather, Arthur Monroe (1886-1946).

A second child, Leland Franklin, died in 1889, at fourteen months old. George had moved the family from Texas into Love County at that time. A third son was Martin Luther

W. Homer Davenport



George's sisters Nora at left and Rose at right.

Davenport whom we all knew as Uncle Lute. W. Homer Davenport was the youngest of their children, born in 1895. He was only a year old when his mother died.

When George's wife, Allie, died, George had three young sons on his hands. Unbelievably, he farmed them out to three different neighbors. No one seems to know just why he did such a thing, but it's felt that most likely he just didn't

want the hassle of raising kids. It was at that time, Homer, just a baby, was 'given' to neighbors. More information on our Grandfather Arthur and Uncle Lute during this time is chronicled in my book about the Davenports.

Homer though was raised by the Wiggins, and would eventually marry their daughter, Edna Elizabeth Wiggins. Homer and Edna had one child, a daughter, who is shown in the other photo below.

In 1934, Homer died quite young at 39 years of age. I'm thinking he had stomach cancer. His obituary is online at my Web site if you'd like more information about him and his family.

That is about all the information I have on Homer. I've never been able to locate his daughter or any of his descendants.

Most all of us know about our grandfather Arthur's other brother, Uncle Lute. It's really neat how we've remained in touch all through the years. I like that.

Allie B. Davenport



IN MEMORIAM

During the past year since our last newsletter we've had several deaths in both the Davenport and Upchurch lines... including a Skinner family member who was close to our family.

There may be some folks who don't know or recognize their names. So, I'll try to give you my take on each person.

Herman Burks

Herman was married to Edna Upchurch, a sister to William whom most of us met at various family reunions and get-togethers. We send our condolences to Edna and her children on the loss of her partner.

The Norman Transcript Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2009

Herman R. Burks

Herman R. Burks, 88, passed away October 5, 2009. He was born September 2, 1921 in Cleveland County, Oklahoma. He graduated from Norman High School, Norman, OK in 1939. He married Edna Belle Upchurch that same year and started working for Texaco oil company. He was drafted into the Army in 1944 and served until 1946. He was in the Southern Philippine Liberation Campaign.



Burks

After his military service he went back to work for Texaco. In 1948 he and Edna bought a service station in Norman, and later built a new station and motel north of Norman. They were there until I-35 came through 11 years later. Herman retired on November 6, 1975.



He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Edna; his son John Burks, and wife Candy, of Norman; daughter Linda Gunning, and husband Tom, of Oklahoma City, OK; grandchildren: Mike Gunning of Flower Mound, TX; Alan Gunning of Hoover, AL; Kevin Burks and Greg Burks of Yukon, OK; Bryan Burks of Oklahoma City, Kay Hill of Roseville, CA; Shelley Hopper and Diana Fletcher of Norman, OK. Great-grandchildren: Ryan Gunning of Flower Mound, TX; Grant and Ally Gunning of Hoover, AL; Eve Hill of Roseville, CA; Fletcher and Ryan Hopper and Isabella Fletcher of Norman, OK.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 P.M., Thursday, October 8, 2009, at Havenbrook Funeral Home Chapel in Norman. Interment will follow at Norman I.O.O.F. Cemetery.

Send condolences online at <http://www.havenbrookfuneralhome.com/Obituaries.htm>

Submitted by family

Mildred Upchurch Kline

This is another of the Upchurch relatives that I only came to know more recently. She attended our family reunion in 2000 and that was my first time to meet her. I know dad was really tickled that she had come and he proudly introduced her as his 'first cousin.'

After that, I visited with her numerous times. The first time was in her home on Johnson Street here in Norman. Then as she went through health problems I saw her several times in the hospital and nursing homes.

One of the most pleasurable visits was on her 85th birthday. Bessie S., Aunt Annie, Faye of the Skinner clan, and I all surprised her with gifts and balloons. She was so tickled to see everyone and what a pleasant afternoon that turned out to be.

Sadly though, her family and friends gathered at IOOF Cemetery on a cold and blustery December afternoon to say our farewells to her. It was so cold with a frigid north wind whipping around us that several were forced to leave before the services were complete.

We'll miss you, Mildred, you were a neat lady and I'm glad I had the chance to get to know you.

The Norman Transcript Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009

Deaths

Mildred Kline

Mildred Kline, 86, of Noble, was born May 15, 1923 to John and Mary Upchurch. She died December 11, 2009.



Kline

Mildred lived her whole life in Cleveland County. She worked at Central State Hospital for thirty years and retired in 1980. She married Homer Kline on January 17, 1972.

Mildred is preceded in death by daughter, Kay Burks and son, Bobby Thompson, both of Norman. She is survived by two granddaughters, Gwen Martin of Noble; Sharlene Lamm and husband, William Lamm of Wichita, KS; four great grandchildren, Jaimie Byrd of Noble, Haley, William, and Amanda Lamm of Wichita, KS; one great-great granddaughter, Nevaeh Renay Byrd of Noble; son-in-law, Bill Burks and wife Linda of Norman; step-daughter, Helen Kisner of Chowchilla, CA; extended family Debi Madden and her family, and staff and friends at Noble HealthCare.

All services are under the direction of Primrose Funeral Service in Norman. A graveside service for Mildred will be held at 2:00 PM on Monday, December 14, 2009 at Norman IOOF Cemetery. Family will receive friends beginning Sunday, December 13, 2009 from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM at Primrose Funeral Service.

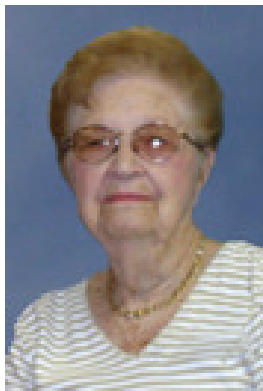
Submitted by family

Gladys Olene Skinner McDaniel

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Gladys — what a neat lady she was. I met her about six or eight years ago when I attended my first Skinner reunion. She was such a gracious and kind person, and it was always a treat to visit with her. She came to one of our family reunions in 2007, with her nephew, Leroy Skinner and his wife, Karen.

Gladys and her brother, Glennis Skinner, were childhood friends of our aunts and uncles. I know I heard a lot about Glennis growing up as dad always considered him a really good friend.

Arthur and May Davenport lived near the Skinners down around the Buckhead area where when their children were growing up. They all moved about the same time to OKC and continued their friendships even there. Both Glennis and dad (Carl) passed away in 2002. Gladys was the last of that era of the Skinners. I'm grateful for the opportunity to have known her.



McDANIEL

Gladys O. McDaniel, 94, of Midwest City, was born on Sept. 15, 1915 to George and Frances (Barber) Skinner on the Family Farm east of Lexington, OK. She passed away on Feb. 14, 2010. Preceded in death by her husband Elmo McDaniel, her parents, one brother Glennis Skinner. She is survived by niece Sharon Goode, 4 nephews Leroy Skinner & wife Karen, Navoy Skinner & wife Connie, Ronald Skinner & wife Sue, George Skinner & wife Martha, stepdaughter Karen Mort Walton, many relatives and friends. Gladys retired from Tinker Air Force Base after many years of service. She loved to travel, gardening and go out to eat with her many friends. Instead of flowers, make donations to: The Charity Fund, Macomb Masonic Lodge, c/o Leroy Skinner, 38793 Prospect Rd., McComb, OK 74852. Family will greet friends from 5-7 PM this evening at the funeral home. Funeral services will be held 2:00 PM, Thursday, 2/18/2010 at the Barnes Friederich FH Chapel with burial at Resthaven Cemetery.

Daily Oklahoman
February 17, 2010

CARRILLO

Bruno J. "Sonny" Carrillo, 76, passed into eternal life on December 3, 2009 in OKC. He



was born on September 12, 1933 at home to Bruno and Maria Carrillo. He attended Little Flower

School and Church in his youth and Franklin High School in his teens. Bruno was a loving husband to his wife, Mary, for 27 years until her death in 1981. He had a successful sheet metal career for 22 years with Brown's Manufacturing Co. before starting his own Volkswagen repair shop, "Bruno's Garage," in 1977, where he worked until his retirement. Bruno is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Mary; and eight siblings. He is survived by his son, David; daughter, Elaine, and her longtime companion, Morris; and his sons, Brandon and Dylan; brother, Joe; and many nieces and nephews. Sonny was known for his endless humor and notorious for the nicknames he bestowed on us all, whether you liked them, knew them, or wanted them. An Evening Prayer Service will be 4:00 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6, 2009, at Smith and Kernke, 23rd Chapel. Mass of Christian burial will be 1:00 p.m., Monday, Dec. 7, 2009, at St. Patrick Church.

The Oklahoman December 6, 2009

Bruno 'Boondie' Carrillo

If you never knew this guy, you missed a real treat. Back in the late 1950s, I loved going to his and Mary's house. Mary, known to some as Little Mary, was Uncle Lute's daughter.

Anyway, somewhere in there I started calling him *Boondie* and that just sort of became his name to me. He was such a character and so fun to be around. What a sense of humor he had!

Many years ago, he introduced me to some 'real' barbecue in OKC. It was sort of scary as one evening, after dark, he drove Mary and me into this 'bad' area of town where he told us we didn't dare get out of the car. He went into this hole-in-the-wall-looking-place where we weren't sure if he'd ever make it back or not. But he did and had a big bag of barbecue.

We went back to their house and had ribs and slices of bread. Now that's a strange combination unless you realize that this barbecue was so hot it just about took the skin off your lips. The only way you could eat it was to poke pieces of bread in your mouth to absorb some of the heat. Through tears and laughter we polished off every bite of those delightful ribs. Thankfully I didn't try that treat with him again. So much for 'real' barbecue.

Another time, around Christmas, he disappeared for the day only to show back up later with a big batch of tamales. It's a custom with his family that they make big barrels full of these wonderful tamales every year.

And then there was the time he taught me how to shoot craps. I'd never heard of that before and thought what a disgusting name it was... but lo and behold it was a lot of fun. The knowledge of playing sure came in handy my first trip to Vegas.

In the early 1960s we lived in OKC and since Mary and I both had babies now, we didn't see as much of each other though we did keep tabs by phone. After Mary died in 1981, I lost track of Boondie though I did get to meet their children, David and Elaine.

David as many of you will recall was the personable young fellow who frequently chauffeured Kermitt and the gang to family reunions and parties.

Boondie was quite foolish over Mary and now he rests with her in their final reward. Rest in Peace, dearhearts.



Saying Goodbye to Stephen...

One of the hardest things I've ever gone through was watching my youngest son be consumed with lung cancer. I still cry when I remember sitting at his bedside in Panama City, Florida, watching him struggle to breathe, knowing it was only a matter of minutes or days before he'd be gone from us. Though it was and still is unbelievably painful, I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to spend those last days with him.

He was so brave and if one can die with dignity, he did. From the time he learned he had cancer, he, like the rest of us, thought he had plenty of time to go through chemo and enjoy a few more months or years. It was not to be for him. Fast and furious. That's how the lung cancer attacked his body. Aggressive. Unrelenting.

During the last few years, he'd turned his life around and things were finally shaping up for him. Even though a motorcycle accident three years ago broke both legs and his left arm, he'd overcome that and was learning how to appreciate and enjoy life.

Earlier, Stephen discovered a real passion and love working in the field of computer technology ... and he was good at it too. Then, last October, he'd picked up a guitar and learned how to make music... oh how he loved playing. In January, he fulfilled a dream of getting to live near the ocean when he moved to Florida.

It's still really hard to believe he's gone. In my head I know he's in a beautiful place, but in my heart, I still want him here. God bless you, my child. I love you ... and miss you..

This obit and a memorial with videos is posted on my Web site at www.coxok.com.



Mae Cox is a longtime contributor to this newspaper and author of the popular 'Echoes from the Past' column. Her family ties to southern Cleveland County go back before statehood. We are saddened by the loss of her son Stephen this week and offer this tribute to his memory.

Stephen Burt Cox

Stephen Burt Cox, 45, passed away early Thursday morning, June 24th, in Panama City, Florida, peacefully in his sleep after a month-long battle with lung cancer. He was born May 22, 1965, in Oklahoma City to Mae Davenport Cox and Burton B. Cox.

Stephen grew up in Ardmore, Oklahoma, where he attended school. He later attended Central State University and the University of Oklahoma.

Stephen found his calling in the age of computers. He took a variety of courses and became a licensed UNIX technician. He worked as a systems administrator and programmer in Dallas and Lafayette, Louisiana, managing UNIX-based systems, providing support and training for the network operations center, working with both Linux and UNIX platforms. Stephen

maintained a certification as an RHCE (Linux RedHat Certified Engineer).

Throughout his life he sought out exhilarating, challenging hobbies. In his younger years, he loved racing bicycles over courses with large jumps. Later, he entered the world of jet skis where his daredevil maneuvers eventually took him to compete at Lake Havasu in a worldwide tournament. He placed fifth in the world that year. He learned to scuba dive and loved exploring the depths of reefs and barriers. Motorcycles fascinated him with their speed and maneuverability until three years ago when a dirt-bike accident left him with both legs and an arm broken. After that, he gave up speed and adrenalin rushes.

Six years ago Stephen moved to Lafayette, Louisiana. He worked at a job he loved,



STEPHEN BURT COX

and developed friendships throughout the community.

About ten months ago he began learning to play the guitar which brought him great solace and pleasure. He joined a group named Autumn

Harmony at the local college, where he played acoustical guitar in a few of their auditions.

This past January, Stephen moved to Panama City, Florida, and realized his dream-come-true. He loved the ocean and found great pleasure sitting in the white sands strumming his guitar.

Stephen was predeceased by grandfathers Carl O. Davenport and Wayland Boyd Cox, and grandmother Helen Schlosser Cox McDaniel.

He is survived by one daughter, Jeniffer Leigha Cox of Dallas; his mother, Mae Davenport Cox of Norman; his father, Burton B. Cox of Grove; a brother, Stan C. Cox and wife Lisa of The Woodlands, Texas; and a sister, Sharon Johnson Hendrickson and husband Len of Kailua, Hawaii.

He is also survived by a grandmother, Nera Davenport of Ardmore; three uncles, George Davenport and wife Judy and Charles Davenport and wife Betty, all of Ardmore, and Bruce Cox of Tulsa, several cousins, and special friends, Janis Boatright, Panama City, and Melony Culotta, Lafayette.

Part of Stephen's ashes will be strewn about his favorite pier overlooking the Gulf near where he lived in Panama City. Memorial services are scheduled for Saturday, July 3, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. at Primrose Funeral Home in Norman, Oklahoma.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation to a hospice of your choice, or to the Cleveland County Genealogical Society, PO Box 6176, Norman, Oklahoma 73070.

From Phyllis

*Daughter of Darrell and Eunice,
Granddaughter of Roy and Bessie.*

Growing up, I always wanted to be a grandmother, because it just seemed like so much fun to host the grandkids for a few weeks each summer. At least my G'ma Bessie always made it seem like fun. Exploring the farm, playing in the water sprinkler, packed lunches at Lake Thunderbird, Vacation Bible School, snapping beans and scarfing strawberries. Anyway, as time has passed, grandkids did not seem to be in the tapestry of my life, having never married.

So, having no children to bring up and dote on, two gorgeous black cocker spaniels have become my "children." Bijoux1, named after G'ma Bessie Davenport and G'ma Jewell Oliphant, was five in July. Her mate, Dakota, will be three in November. Yes, puppies were definitely part of the plan. Not to make profit off of them; just to watch, enjoy, and be part of the Good Lord's plan.

From conception to birth, I was a nervous wreck, even springing for an ultrasound to determine just how many pups to expect. And so, six beautiful pups were born on August

20th. Three black, one black and white, and two dark blonde, in that order, boy/girl/boy/girl/etc. I delivered the first two and my sixteen-year-old-animal-loving niece, Sarah, delivered the last four..

The next seven weeks were a blur of puppies, curious about everything. What was it, what does it taste like, and why can't I play with it? Those and more questions seemed to form their lives. Curiosity can sometimes be a dangerous thing...four of the pups accidentally found their way into my ornamental pond. Ha!

Each had such sweet and wonderful personalities, and when the time came to go to their new homes, beginning at seven-and-one-half weeks, one out of the bunch seemed to peel away from their playing siblings and would choose, for themselves, their new owner.

After 17 weeks, they all found their "forever" homes. Guess I kind of dragged my feet on trying to find homes for them. The house, while once again, serene, seems almost too



quiet without them. Having them jogged me out of my gloominess from having to say goodbye to Mother a year-and-a-half ago. One just can't continue mourning with a puppy licking you in the face.

Bijoux1 and Dakota are of two different minds about their missing children. Playfulness returned to BJ and moping about became the norm for Dakota. But he recovered. I think he believed he could make more, but not after the January 18th. Though it was great fun, one litter was definitely enough.

I've heard from a few of their new parents and find they're being spoiled still just as much as I did. After all, isn't that what a grandparent is supposed to do?



From Don and Donna

He is the Son of Ann and Clifford

Elizabeth, Bradley and Tristan are now living in Tulsa. Bradley is working and Elizabeth is expecting a girl in early November. Her name will be Leighton Anna Hargrove.

Tristan started his first year of soccer Friday evening at Central Nazarene in Tulsa. He is only four and can kick the ball a long distance.

Tristan, 4, looks excited about some Sooner football getting ready to begin. We know the feeling! Tristan is Don and Donna's Grandson, and the son of his daughter Elizabeth.