

The Craddock Connection

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RT 1 BOX 115C
BINGER OK 73009

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

JULY & AUGUST 1992

VOLUME 4 ISSUES 7 & 8

Dearest Family,

I hope everyone enjoyed the reunion as much as I did. It was the most fun I've had since last year.

From the attendance register, videos and racking my brain to remember, I have concluded that 132 people were present and they were: Leonard and Daisy Craddock from Richland, Wa., Reginald and Martha Craddock and children Marly and Jacqueline from Tampa, Fl., Leonard and Janet Craddock and children Jamie, Amber and Ashleigh from Oklahoma City, Ok., Clay and Gail Hicks and children Danielle and Kaitlyn from Ft. Cobb, Ok. and Laura Kay Bowes from Ft Cobb, Ok; Ronnie Craddock and son Devon from Ft. Cobb, Ok., Mandy McIntosh and son Tyler from Ft. Cobb, Ok., Aaron and Dusty Craddock from Ft. Cobb, Ok., Ryan and Cody Bob Smith from Anadarko, Ok., Lonnie Craddock from Oklawaha, Fl., Carl and Ada Morris and children John, Leesa and Josh from Binger, Ok., Larry and Linda Morris and children Justin, Brandon and April from Seminole, Tx., Rita Morris of Anadarko, Ok., Marty and Tammy Morris and children Jared, Jeremy and Marti from Binger, Ok., Joe and Aaron Morris from Ft. Smith, Ark., David and Gay Craddock from Marietta, Ga., John and Kim Mann and children Shannon and Tyler from Springhill, Fl., Quentin and Laurie Brent from Seminole, Fl., J.W. and Viola Craddock and son Rodney from Binger, Ok., Doug and Darlene Craddock from Ft. Worth, Tx., Angie Wall and Mike Henderson from Anadarko, Ok., Sheila Thomas of Binger, Ok. and Tony Mayer of Anadarko, Ok., Kevin (Olinger) Craddock of Binger, Ok., Dan and B.J. and daughter, Shauna of Anadarko, Ok., Danny Craddock and daughter Kandice of Cordova, Tn., Nick and Holly Watson and children Kayla, Steven and Chaney of Oakgrove, Ar., Steve and Nickol Craddock and daughter Shelby of Oakgrove, Ar., Larry and Samie

Craddock and children Stephanie and Nathan of Anadarko, Ok. and son Erik Craddock of Monterey, Ca., Charlene Oldham of Anadarko, Ok., Dee Johnson of Anadarko, Ok., and Dakota Walsh of Binger, Ok., Fred and Linda Trescott and children Tommy and Charity of Anadarko, Ok., Joe and Debbie Craddock of Nashoba, Ok., Gilbert and Idele Archer and son Darryl of Tecumseh, Ok., Aubry and Fay Finley of Verden, Ok., Ansel Finley of Seabrook, Tx., Keith Finley of Azel, Tx., Max and Sue Upchurch of Anadarko, Ok., Joel and Debbie Dickinson and children Sasha and Chanda of Verden, Ok., Larry and Jennifer McBride of Anadarko, Ok., Cindi Upchurch and daughter Kaci of Anadarko, Ok., Clifford and Rosalee Nath of Blanchard, Ok., Mark and Tammy Williams and son Britt VanDiver of Oklahoma City, Ok., Bob and Wanda Craddock of Ninnekah, Ok., Vaughn Craddock of Ninnekah, Ok., Andy and Rowena Bowens of Ok., Mark, Carolyn and Timmy Bowens of Ok., Laura Belle Johnston of Minco, Ok. and daughter Debbie Jolly also of Minco, Ok., Deanna Climer and son James of Binger, Ok., Lonnie and LaDonna Climer of Binger, Ok., Robin and Viola Locke of Minco, Ok., Albert and Mickey Leus of Chickasha, Ok., Armond and Jane Humphreys of Minco, Ok., Leonard Kionute of Ok., and last but certainly not least Margie Gordon of Oklahoma City and her sister Scharleene Bowens of Chickasha came late (Scharleene had to work) and found everyone gone so came on by the house and some of us got to visit with them.

If anyone was left out, accept my apology and please sign the register next year. My memory isn't all that great.

Lonnie B Craddock won the Pitch Tournament and was presented with the much coveted (thou shalt not covet) Pitch Trophy by the previous champ, Dan Craddock. Lonnie very "humbly" and with his familiar little "chuckle" accepted the

hard earned Trophy.

Dan Craddeck took a red ribbon for 2nd place winner, JW Craddock came in third and Josh Morris came in fourth place.

Rosalee Nath became ill during the games and had to leave, Uncle Aubry and Aunt Fay took her home and so they too were unable to compete to the end.

Ansel Finley, unable to stay over another day for the Pitch games has engaged a lawyer and is protesting the removal of the Trophy from Oklahoma to Florida on the grounds of insufficient competition.

Josh Morris is threatening a lawsuit, accusing Dave Craddock of throwing some games in order to give Lonnie an advantage over Josh.

Reg Craddock plans to contact his Attorney and bring suit against his flesh and blood sister, wrongfully accusing her of abstaining to bid in order to let her son Josh win a game.

I have already contacted my lawyer to counteract this heinous assault of slander.

Winner of the Bass Trophy was Joe Bob Craddock, his bass weighed between 2 and 3 lbs (they never let me know anything) caught somewhere in Texas. Dan Craddock won second place and a cap.

Winner of the Catfish Trophy was B.J. Craddock her fish weighed over 2 lbs and was caught in Oklahoma. Ada Morris (me) won second place with a whopping 14 oz bass caught in Ft Cobb Lake. My prize was also a cap which Carl took because he said his fish (he didn't even enter) was bigger, it was but he wouldn't enter it. I let him have the cap anyway because men have to be babied or they pout.

Joe Craddock has offered to be in charge of the fishing rules next year, he was selected over Leonard's offer to take charge and only allow fishing in Washington and Idaho or Dave's offer to allow fishing only to catch ocean trout. Joe gave the best option with a perch contest. He will get serious about it later on we hope.

John Paul Morris won the horseshoe trophy and said he could not have done it without Larry Dean. Lonnie says he will take charge of the horseshoe games next year. He has a plan. Where were you, Clay and Gail, we missed your competition.

Leonard and Daisy Craddock won a trophy for traveling the longest distance of 1900 miles from Richland, Wa.

Ronnie J Craddock won the trophy for

the least distance traveled, was it one mile?

Uncle Aubry and Aunt Fay won a trophy for the longest wed couple showing that the flame still burns. They have been married 59 years.

Joel and Debbie Dickinson having been married 3 months won a trophy for the least time married.

Aunt Fay won the trophy for the oldest Craddock present, she is 75 years old. Uncle Aubry deserves honorable mention for being the oldest family member present, he is 81. You've come a long way.

Receiving the trophy for the youngest was 18 day old, Tyler Anthony Drew McIntosh (he's too young to have a name like that) son of Mandy McIntosh. Cute darling. We also owe honorable mention to another sweet thing, losing 1st place by 30 minutes difference was Chancy Danielle, daughter of Nick and Holly Watson.

Now we come to the Full Of Bull Trophy. This was a hard one with Leonard and JW being the only contestants. We had to don our hipboots before this was over and since we just couldn't decide which was best David decided to flip a coin to determine a winner. Jay won. Now this brings on another lawsuit. Leonard, wasting no time, stopped on his way back from the reunion and called his lawyer. He is bringing charges of being prejudiced on Dave, saying the horseshoe tie was determined in a play off and the bullstory tie should have been settled in the same manner. Leonard claims he was prepared with a good backup story. Leonard did get a second place red ribbon, but it's doubtful that will appease him.

And then we have the best joker, well Aunt Fay, LaDonna Climer and Joe Craddock all had a good one. Joe was finally elected as the winner and he won a painted clay pot with spotted cow eggs created by Linda Morris; very cute. Hope you hatch out some nice calves Joe.

Tammy Morris won the Best Cook Trophy with her delicious "Pig Cake". This was a hard selection also because there was so much food and every bite of it was delectable.

Lonnie Craddock won the "I did My Best Ribbon" for his competitiveness and good sportsmanship in all the games and events.

Ansel Finley won the "Living Room Angler" T shirt. I'm not sure what the rules and qualifications were for this event but the logo on the shirt gives us some idea.

Martha, thank you very much for taking charge of the kid games, I know it was hard to get them organized and settled enough to do anything.

Ryan Smith won a bubble gum machine full of bubble gum for blowing the biggest gum bubble.

Shannon Mann and Marly Rushing won trophies for the fastest runners in the three legged race.

Winners who guessed to the nearest number of candy pieces in the four jars of candy were: Chanda Miller, 13-19 age group; Justin Morris, 10-12 age group; James Climer, 6-9 age group; and Shelby Craddock, 0-5 age group.

In our drawing, winners were: Wanda Craddock winning the ice chest; Charlene Oldham and JW Craddock winning beach towels; and Kim Mann won a beach ball.

Vases of flowers were given to some of the ladies just for being so sweet and pretty. Those getting flowers were: Daisy Craddock, Gay Craddock, Fay Finley, Viola Locke, Laura Belle Johnston, Mickey Leus and Rowena Bowens.

All of the little children were given a small toy and or candy. They were each allowed to pick out their own toy, youngest first, hopefully each one of them was at least moderately satisfied.

Gay Craddock made a "Craddock Connection" T shirt just for me and had those who knew about it sign on the back. Thank you Gay, I love it (although it needs some slight altering, I had gained a few pounds since seeing Gay) I'll bring or wear it to next year's reunion so those of you who didn't sign it can have a second chance.

In addition to all the fun, games, good food and good company we had lots of good picking and singing. Gilbert, Idele and Darryl Archer, Dan and BJ Craddock, Reginald Craddock, Lonnie Craddock, Leonard Ray Craddock, David Craddock, Fay Finley and her kids, Ansel, Sue, Rosalee and Keith, and Debbie Jolly all blessed us with some wonderful entertainment. (And CARL)

We also had a fund raising auction to pay for the reunion expenses and if you leave off the d you have a fun raising auction and it turned out to be that kind too. Bob Craddock (professional auctioneer) had everyone bidding and I think he even had a few people bidding against themselves, is that correct, Dave? It was lots of fun and we raised lots of money, \$294, I believe. Thanks to everyone who brought items for

the auction. We had some handmade items that were really special, Larry Morris brought a lovely little bench, Carolyn Craddock on an earlier visit to Ok brought one of her folkart figures, Gail Hicks brought a peg game she had made and Aunt Fay said she didn't make the potholders she brought but she knew the woman that did. Kim Mann brought a huge box of assorted items, Laurie Brent brought a camera, Gay Craddock brought 2 Atlanta Braves T shirts from the stadium in Atlanta, Wanda Craddock brought salt & pepper shakers, Samie Craddock brought a video of last year's reunion and there was much more that I just can't remember. One little lamp was overlooked and when it was discovered Bob was already gone, the result of this led us to some new auctioneer talent. You've missed out on some fun til you hear Joe Bob Craddock sell. We'll have to divide the auction between him and Bob next year.

Someone left a white bowl and lid with green beans and tomatoes in it. It's very pretty but odd shaped, kinda like a chinese pagoda. You can claim it any time at my house.

We responsible for the community bldg apologize for the inconvenience of the door, we had to keep it open, thus letting in the flies and hot air. Hopefully we won't have that problem next year.

And the building the next day in Binger was a bad deal, the water cooler worked only part of the time and forced us to leave the door open letting flies in there.

The contestants in the Pitch Tournament were: Reg, Lonnie, Dave, Gay, Carl, Ada, John, Josh, JW, Viola, Dan, Larry, Samie, Erik, Nathan, Joe, Laurie, Kim, John, Max, Sue, Fay, Aubry, Larry Morris, Rosalee Nath. Nathan and Josh were allowed to play in spite of their age because we had an odd number. Lonnie brought his good-lookin little grandson, Justin from Anadarko and he came up to Lonnie holding the trophy and said so cutely and sort of proud like, Grandpa, you won?

Did everyone enjoy Larry Dean's "Ten Commandments For Pitch"? I loved it.

Leonard suggested that we all take Lonnie down and tie a bell on him so we would be able to find him next year. He's gotta come back and defend the trophy.

Another suggestion came from Dave to see if we could reserve the community bldg at another time, like the middle of June or August, he seemed to think Onis and Paul

might be able to come one of those times. June the 15th would be nice. Cool, maybe. We'll have a chat with them and see if that would be suitable. It sure would be great to have them here with us

It was nice to meet Quentin Brent, Laurie's husband and we hope that we didn't overwhelm you too much, Quentin. Carl said to tell you the cat is doing fine.

Dave's kids, Kim, John, Laurie and Brent took a quick crash course in pitch (can you believe Dave never taught his girls to play pitch) so they could enter the tournament. If Laurie comes back next year she might just take the trophy, she was pretty good and very competitive.

Dave asked that last year's minutes of the pitch games be read and he had a matter to bring before the family council questioning some of the rules. Unfortunately there were no minutes kept and time did not allow for a meeting so Larry Dean put him off until later.

According to Dave, his son-in-laws felt intimidated and inadequately prepared to enter into all the hard competition and so Quentin did not play and John didn't play until the end. Also BJ Craddock said "they go out for blood" and so she, a new pitch player did not play either. Well let me say to all the ones who are afraid to play because of inexperience, that we do take the game seriously but it's only fun too so jump in and get your feet wet, beware though it's blood not water you're standing in. NOT!

There was so much fun and excitement going on during reunion days that I can't possibly remember all of it, but one night some of the men went fishing, they fished all night and caught only a few little fish for the fish fry next day, no problem, they just took some frozen fish from the freezer put them in a large bowl, cleaned their piddly little fish and put them on top of the others, they might have gotten away with it if Viola had not heard them whispering and opening the refrigerator door in the wee hours of the morning. Those guys will try anything if you don't watch them.

Leonard learned a trick from me while they were here. I told him if he waited until about 11:30 or 12:00 to fix breakfast he could sometimes get away with fixing only two meals a day. Sure nuff, next day, there was Leonard sleeping in and about 11:00 he had started breakfast.

Some of us gathered in my yard on

July 4th for a cookout and afterward some more of that good ole picking and singing. Lonnie ran off somewhere with Leonard Ray but we had a good time and lots of fun. Carl played "Faded Love" on his new fiddle that Gay Craddock brought and gave to him, he did a very good job for a 3 day learner. Next year he'll play "Orange Blossom Special".

As the song goes, every rose has its thorn and ours was the plague that struck without warning, beginning the evening of the reunion at the lake. We thought Justin Morris had overfilled on candy then the next day at the pitch games, Rosalee became so ill she had to leave (you know that was no fake) then one by one it assailed us, felling several victims per day and still going 2 wks later. Mercifully, it only lasts about 24 hours, Larry Dean said it lasted 29 with him. The symptoms range from mild malaise to violent vomiting. Four out of five in my household were struck, I was spared. So far.

Viola made the doll clothes (Linda helped when she arrived) for the dolls the little girls were given. Thanks much, Viola they were very cuteful.

Some of the boys went to the old homesite where most of us children (school teacher's, is that proper grammer? oh well) were born. One of the treasures they found in the old cellar was a Vick's Salve bottle. They remembered Mom rubbing their chest from that bottle. They feel sure there are more treasures buried in the dirt there. If any of you decide to dig and you find jacks, they belong to me.

Everyone has returned home now and it makes me feel a little sad but I'm already looking forward to next year and planning the fun we will have then. No one else in the whole wide world has family and friends greater than mine. This is a family full of character, fun, humor, love, talent and good traits to numerous to mention. God has truly blessed us.

SPECIAL PERSONS

Keith Finley has submitted the special person or should I say persons for this month. Unfortunately for us they are no longer here, but will always be remembered. They are Ada Susan Church Craddock and Van Edwin Craddock and they were special.

Keith writes, " I have many special memories of Grandma Susan. One is of her rocking me as a youngster and singing "You Are My Sunshine", in a loud and clear voice. Another is receiving a letter each year on

my younger birthdays, with a one dollar bill enclosed. When I was thirty years old Grandma returned a letter to me that I had written to her when I was only eight years old. Such a simple and uncostly thing to do, yet so profoundly transmitting her warmth and love of family. I still have the letter.

I suppose I surely must have saw Uncle Van mad or perplexed a time or two but I can't remember it. I do know that when I was around him, I was genuinely welcome in his space and his laughter was enjoyable. Uncle Van enjoyed being around kids and playfully teasing them more than any person I have ever known. When life dealt Uncle Van a severe blow with the death of his first wife, during childbirth, he rebounded with a family by Aunt Lucille in what could only be called "World Class" fashion.

Neither of these Special Persons accumulated what could be considered even modest wealth, by economical measurements; however, when you look at today's market on honesty, loyalty and outright goodness, they were both millionaires while a lot of today's society is dead broke. I believe the founding of the "Craddock Connection" can be attributed to characteristics passed on by these two wonderful people. I'm proud of my Craddock blood, let's keep the tradition alive."

Keith, I think all of the grandkids will remember the birthday letters with the one dollar bill in it. I always started checking the mail a day or two early but it was never early nor was it ever late. How did she do that? And I always loved and marveled at Grandma's simple elegance.

As for Dad, you had him pegged too. The world's greatest teaser, until he had sons to compete with, he was a great Dad too, no better to be found. And we're thankful for and love that child born of Dad's first wife, which is Leonard of course. You know he's just as full of "Craddockness" (as my son John says, when he speaks of our antics) as the rest of us and just as much a brother; and you cousins, well it's pretty evident that the Craddock blood runs in your veins and I'll never forget the fun we all had as children. Thank you for your compliment concerning the newsletter and thank you for your little tribute to Grandma and Dad, a couple of tears accompanies this insert.

5 Since the newsletter is so lengthy this month and since it's so late in the month I'm going to combine July and August and will list the birthdays and anniversaries for both months.

***** happy july birthdays

3rd joseph dale morris	1977
3rd devon jay michael craddock	1990
8th rosalee (finley) nath	1938
8th christina lynn mcdougle	1986
12th onis elbert craddock	1936
12th david gien craddock	1941
12th sheryl marie (craddock) robinson	1956
13th stephen paul mcdougle	1981
15th rhonda lea (craddock) kolling	1963
17th justin durrell craddock	1985
18th idele archer	1923
18th gay laurie craddock	1938
18th shelby lynn craddock	1991
23rd regina allison craddock	1975
23rd daylin dean farrow	1977
24th brittany marie wall	1989
28th jackie lee craddock	1964
30th donald roland mcdougle	1962

happy august birthdays

4th alonzo craddock	1916
5th ethan scott van	1991
9th gregory dewayne craddock	1965
9th erik van craddock	1973
10th geoffrey i barnes	1985
12th verna jean (craddock) garber	1960
15th sheila denise (olinger) thomas	1964
17th glenda gay craddock	1966
18th steven van craddock	1969
22nd lori lee loveless	1961
30th hershel leon climer	1945
30th stacy dawn holderbee	1973
31st david levi craddock	1909
31st larry dean craddock	1991

happy july anniversary

1st larry & linda morris	14 years
3rd jw & viola craddock	19 years
7th clay & gail hicks	2 years
9th bill & carol craddock	9 years
13th stacey & rod davis	1 year
29th hershel & carolyn climer	28 years

happy anniversary

august

10th jeff & sheryl tuyette	1 year
15th doug & darlene craddock	1 year
30th kenneth & Vickie barnes	15 years

The reunion expenses are paid for by donations and the sales from the auction. Dan Craddock, treasurer, has prepared the following financial report for us:

**CRADDOCK REUNION FUND - 1992
ANNUAL REPORT**

BEGINNING BALANCE IN FUND	\$ 80.00
INCOME	
Donations	\$ 73.00
Reunion Auction	\$ 294.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 367.00

EXPENSES:

Lake Building Deposit	\$ 75.00
Lake Building Rent	\$ 79.00
Trophies	\$ 60.00
Prizes	\$ 90.00
Binger Community Bldg Rent	\$ 50.00
Card & Pens for Pitch Games	\$ 13.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 367.00

ENDING BALANCE IN FUND	\$ 80.00
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The lake building deposit will be returned and will add \$75.00 to the account leaving a \$155.00 balance to start the 1993 Reunion Fund. This is a gain of \$75.00 from the 1992 starting balance.

We hope the use of the funds is suitable with everyone. Though quite a lot was spent for prizes and toys we thought that each child should get some little toy, having not yet reached maturity they may not be as good at losing as the rest of us.

Suggestions are always open concerning the reunion. Keith mentioned having our meals catered. Let's take a vote on that at our next reunion. If anyone else has an idea bring it up at the reunion and we'll vote on it too.

The Craddock Connection Newsletter expenses are not paid with the Reunion Fund. No problem with that, but a couple of comments led me to believe some folks may have that idea (though no one cared or complained) but I just wanted to make it clear, money donated to the reunion and from sales at the reunion go only for reunion expenses. Many have donated money to the newsletter, and when it's designated for that then I use it for the newsletter expense and it does not go into the reunion fund.

Larry Dean is writing an article he calls "Now It Can Be Told." It's going to be all about the pitch tournament and the reunion, look for it in September's Issue.

It was nice to have Joe and Aaron Morris here for a couple of weeks. Their Mom had to have some surgery and needed a little rest afterward so they came to visit.

We went to the lake swimming a few times and on one of these trips Joe ran headlong into a catfish barrel, skinning his knee and cutting his nose. Another time he and John went skiing with friends and Joe came back lookin like a lobster. He's a tough kid.

Our three kids have been gone for the past few days. Leesa is staying with Charity Trescott and John and Josh are visiting Nathan. John has been besting Samie in volleyball and Samie has been beating Larry Dean and Larry claims he is just being easy on them. Huh.

Josh has had a bad case of poison ivy ever since the reunion. After 3 bottles of ivy medication and a cup of peach yogurt he finally went for a shot. Nothing, more rash, another shot a few days later and some countdown pills. He's still clawing his legs but the ivy is almost gone, fearfully so are the pills. Hope it doesn't flare up again.

At any rate Carl and I are left here face to face with each other. It's our moment of truth. The silence looms heavily around us, ha. What do we do, go get some grandkids to keep us company, what else.

The John Branch of the Craddock's are having their reunion at Chickasha, July 19th. This reunion began over 40 years ago I'm sure and probably lots longer than that. I can remember going when I was just a wee tyke. Last year Carl and I attended and really enjoyed meeting relatives for the first time and getting reacquainted with others. We are planning to go again this year and if we do I will have a little writeup about that in my September Issue, a little late but keep in mind this Issue includes August.

We missed you at our reunion, Dorothy and Roy Crutchfield and hope you're ok now, Dorothy. Nelda we missed you too and are looking forward to all attending next year.

The world sings this song, "Lookin' For Love In All the Wrong Places." That's my cue, I just happen to know where the right place is to get perfect, unconditional, and never failing love. A love so strong that it overcomes hate and all manner of evil. This is what John 15: 12-14 says about it;

"This is my commandment that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you."

Real Love Never Fails. I Cor. 13:8.
love, ada