

Skiles family reunites after 8 year separation

Saturday, Aug. 3 started a wonderful two weeks for Howard and Lelia Skiles of Virden. It was the beginning of a reunion of their four sons, eight years passing since thier last get-together.

First to arrive was son No. 3 David, wife Kim and boys Paul 9 and Eric 6. They drove from Camp LeJeune, N.C. where Dave was stationed for two years as a Captain in the Marines. That evening son No. 2 Jim, wife Kathy and Denise, 9, of Virden came for a visit.

After a few days of rest it was time to go sightseeing.

Early Tuesday morning found Howard, Lelia, Dave, Kim, and sons and Denise headed for Six Flags where they spent the night and returned home Wednesday after visiting the Arch.

Thursday evening Howard and Dave drove to St. Louis airport to pick up son No. 4, 22, and wife Sandy who flew from Newtonville, Mass. where Mike works for a computer firm.

Friday all visiting tried to make a day of it at the Illinois State Fair but the rain ruined that.

Saturday evening brought the sons together for a steak supper. Due to rain the

steaks were grilled in the garage.

Saturday afternoon son No. 1 arrived. Howard Jr. (Jake) and wife Sharon. They drove from Ayer, Mass., where Jake is a sergeant in the Army.

The complete family of 13 enjoyed Saturday night supper together.

Sunday seemed to be the biggest day, though, for Howard and Lelia. They had planned an outdoor reunion and the weather cooperated. After a large turkey dinner under a tent canopy, all the family joined in fun and games, homemade ice cream

and cake. Many pictures and movies were taken.

Monday morning began the first departure when Mike and Sandy flew to Chicago on business before returning to Massachusetts.

Jake and Sharon plan to leave Saturday to visit in Marion for awhile with her mother and relatives. They most likely will return before heading back to Massachusetts.

Then on Tuesday Dave, Kim and boys will board a plane to take them to Okinawa where Dave will be stationed for a year and Kim and boys will enjoy visiting all her relatives, who live there.

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