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Sept. and Oct.
2001

FASCINATING FOURTH

Nancy Murdock

The 4th of July Howlett Reunion hosted by Polly and Carl Soberg was a great combination of catching up with members of our extended family, eating terrific food, and drama. Clyde Howlett, age 91, began the excitement by falling backward to the ground when his chair legs sank into the sand. Frankly, I thought he was dead as he lay there with his mouth and eyes wide open and no sound. Then he calmly instructed his rescuers in the most favorable way to help him up, and we all breathed again.

The next bit of drama was the rain, which suddenly came in *torrents* as lightning and thunder crashed down almost simultaneously. There we were: 50 people smushed together under an open tent with aluminum poles. I'm sure I wasn't the only who was terrified. However, I reasoned that if one of us went, we'd all go, and there was no sense in worrying about it unless I chose to go running through it alone to the house. Nah! We all kept eating and visiting as the world crashed down around us. Why waste either tasty food or a chance to visit?

Water collected on the tent top and made it sag, so we took turns seeing who could drain more off it without getting a cold shower. Clyde's cane came in very handy. The rain let up and we were doing fine until we heard an ominous sound. A whole corner of the tent doused Carol Howlett as she sat innocently eating, and the tent landed on her head. Men and boys came running with muscles and a hammer to put everything to rights. The children, who had been peacefully eating in the sunroom tent, asked if they could come out now, and we found that they were standing in 6 inches of water. A river was flowing down from Rennie's house through their tent to the driveway.

The kids had a high old time playing badminton and assorted running games. Young Kevin Leary slipped in the woods and cut his hand open, which sent Grampy, Dad, and Mom with him to the hospital to get him 9 stitches. When they got back, his mom, Lori, was telling the story in the dusk when a large bug flew down her throat. Meanwhile, Bob was writing everything down for the edification of Muse readers. It was a GREAT party, and one we'll remember for a long time.

Seriously, it was extremely well planned, and our hosts had spared no effort to make sure we had all the amenities, including more than enough food, grilled to perfection. They thought of everything! We had an excellent setup, with picnic benches arranged to allow enough room to get around but no isolation. Everyone was delighted to see people we hadn't seen for a while, plus some whom we had seen only in the past two years, such as members of Uncle Arthur Howlett's family. I was excited to see our cousin Albert Funiaole and his wife Jenny for the first time since 45 years ago, when we attended our last Howlett Reunion in West Townsend.

Many thanks to Polly and Carl for taking up the torch when our long-time hosts could no longer manage the event. And grateful thanks to the Steve Howlett family for all the years we were their guests for the 4th. It's a wonderful tradition!

GOLDEN CELEBRATION IN MAINE

Orrel and Charlie Frost <cfrost@maine.rr.com>

We held our 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration at the VFW Hall in Cape Neddick Saturday, August 18. Fifty- three people came to the event, which was held in an outdoor pavilion. Thank goodness, the weather turned out just right. Pam managed the decorations (table centerpieces featuring original designs in sand and sea shells, napkins decorated with sea shells, balloons, streamers and a wreath decorated with photos supplied by a college classmate. Local jams and candies were provided for place favors, along with a 50-year family chronology.

Derek kept the show moving as MC. Caterer provided beef, chicken and vegetarian kabobs, bean and olive salad, tomato and mozzarella salad garnished with fresh basil, sparkling cider for the toast, and a huge strawberry cake. Our kids presented bouquets of roses to us, also a box of chocolates (to Orrel) and a pie (to Charlie). Pam awarded prizes to the four girls who helped with decorating. Lobster dolls for coming the longest distance were presented to a couple from Sacramento, CA, and the mother of one of Charlie's former graduate students from Shanghai.

WEDDING PLANS

Sarah Howlett <sarah@reticpics.com>

Aug. 8 - We're busy busy busy getting ready for our [Oct. 13] wedding! I have a month in between classes, and am using every spare minute I have to get as much done as I can before I head back to school. My boss finally gave me the OK last week to cut back to part-time hours when classes start up in Sept. - she didn't want me to, because we've been so busy lately, but it's only 10 fewer hours a week... and when she realized that her only other option was replacing me and training a new person after I quit, she decided we (the team) should be able to handle it! (Training takes months to complete).

It will be a small wedding and reception. I booked a hot air balloon for a sunrise flight that morning. If the weather is right, Gary and I will exchange vows at the launch site just as the sun comes up, and then he & I will be going for a short balloon ride! I'm so excited, I've wanted to go on a balloon since I was little!

We got new snakes recently. Two new baby pythons, about a month ago, and a very badly mistreated boa that I "rescued"- his previous owner didn't want to take care of it anymore, so he just stopped. The little guy is doing well though, considering.

MD STATE FAIR

N. Murdock

We went to the MD State Fair Saturday. With plenty of years of practice, we stopped briefly at the Cow Palace to watch some young people show their young cattle, and marveled at the way they managed to control those large animals. Then quickly on to the main item for us: the quilts, crafts, and art displays in the air-conditioned Home Arts Bldg. We also watched a little of the judging for the Turkey Spam contest. At a couple of booths outside, we were treated to caramel yogurt samples and spring water. We went to lunch early before the crowd, and the cheese fries, superb Silver Queen corn, and huge dishes of ice cream really hit the spot. After cruising a couple more buildings, we headed back home, having enjoyed the fair in our sedate rut.

FITZWILLIAM, NH UPDATE

Marge Aukstikalnis <jamea@top.monad.net>
 "Buttons", our 6-month old four-pound miniature, long haired Chihuahua, and "Bows," our nine-month old six and ½ pound long-haired all-black cat, fought like cats and dogs the first three days after Bows came home from the rescue league. Buttons spent most of her time hiding and shaking, and Bows, bigger and slyer, spent the same time stalking. But now they are best of friends, sharing toys and even food when the adults in their lives aren't looking.

Jack has completed the first loop of his perimeter trails through the woods. It's a nice half mile walk through very pretty parts of the woods. There are a few wonderful large stones of unusual shapes, and loads of Mountain Laurel and moss. It smells nice, too.

I'm off this morning to join the rest of the water testing committee to determine the quality of the water in Laurel Lake. We test for clarity, bacteria, algae, and minerals. It's quite an interesting adventure. We send the water samples to the State of NH for analysis. (Laurel Lake is one of the healthiest lakes in the State.)

Jack and I were fortunate to hear and see a presentation by Judson Hale, the Editor-in Chief of both the Yankee Magazine and Old Farmer's Almanac. He is witty and informative, and kept our attention every second of the hour he spoke. One thing he shared, especially struck my funny bone. He said, "You know why I attend the funerals of all my friends and relatives? I figure, how can I expect anyone to come to my funeral, if I don't go to theirs!"

DATES, ADDRESSES, AND NEWS

Donna Estep <estepch@worldnet.att.net>

Pris told me that you were requesting contributions for the next Muse and I thought I would just mention that our mother, Ona, will be 90 on November 1st. Her brother, Euel, turned 93 this past July, and Euel's wife, Sadie, will turn 90 on October 10th. As it happens, Ona's and Euel's brother Malcolm also has an October 10th birthday and will be 83 this year. If anyone wants to send cards to them, here are their addresses:

1. Ona (Charlton) Fellows, 18 River Rd. Apt. 16 B, Pepperell, MA 01463.
2. Mr. Emmanuel Charlton, P.O. Box 30, c/o Walter's House, Hollowell, Maine 04347.
3. Mrs. Sadie Charlton, c/o Bolster Heights RCF, 26 Bolster St., Auburn, Maine 04210
4. Mr. Malcolm Charlton, 1504 S. Desert View Place, Apache Junction, Arizona 85220

Chris and I are now full time residents of Vermont and loving it. Our email address is <estepch@worldnet.att.net>.

We had that same address once before and then had a couple of others for a short while during the transition to our new home. Now we are settled in and our mailing address is: P.O. Box 474, Jacksonville, Vermont 05342.

HOWLETT REUNION 2002

Paulette, Scott, and Regina Howlett had hoped to invite us for 2002, but a closer look at their schedules turned up too many previously planned items for that time period. So think about how you would like to see it happen next year. It's not too early to start planning! We'll sign up to do publicity and a monetary contribution, but we need a place, furniture setup, hosts, food planners, and recreation planners. If you're interested in coming to MD, we'll be happy to host you all at a nearby park or our church. But MD is a long way for everyone but Tim and family!

BROWSING IN VERMONT

Priscilla Januskiewicz <janorp@msn.com>

Aug. 28, 2001 - Our latest adventure took place this past weekend. The weather was gorgeous. Our overnight bags were packed, and our sandwiches and soft drinks were on ice in the cooler. We were in the truck, ready to take off for Vermont. As we started, Roy said "Do you have the photograph?" I said, "Uh-oh!" I ran back into the house, dug deep into the hope chest, pulled out Grandma's scrapbook and climbed back into the truck. Now we were truly ready to go.

The day before, Roy had asked me if I wanted to go to Montpelier and I said, Yes, if we could stop in Union Village first. I was curious as to whether Grandpa and Grandma's (Allen and Idella Charlton's) first home was still standing.

We drove off, making good time on the highway. On the way, I opened the scrapbook and inside the front cover was the news clipping of my grandparents' wedding in Putney. Just below it, Grandma had pasted a photo of their first home, the old Colonial mansion known as The Deacon Lord Homestead, erected in 1785. It overlooked the beautiful Ompompanoosic Valley in Union Village.

As we entered the village, we came upon the Methodist Church where Allen's father, Emanuel, had been the pastor from 1903-1904. Allen had worked as a farmer in nearby Norwich shortly before his marriage in 1905. The bride and groom were given a grand social reception in Union Village soon after their arrival so they must have been well-known to the townsfolk before the wedding.

I took a few photos of the church and wondered where the house could have been located. We noticed a young couple sitting on their porch across the street and showed them the photo. They recognized the house and directed us down the street, through the covered bridge and up to the top of a high hill. After seeing two deer right in front of us on the dirt road, we climbed to the top and there was the house in all its splendor.

The view of the valley was breathtaking. A white church steeple poked out from the forest of dark green trees below. The house had changed little over the years. I noticed a slightly faded wooden sign near the side door, "1785". We knocked on the door, and showed the photo to the owner. He graciously gave us permission to take photos of the house and grounds.

On the property were several outbuildings, beautiful flower gardens and a herd (300 head) of black beef cattle grazing in the fields. We walked around, used a whole roll of film, thanked the owner (who also owns a well-known furniture company) and left.

We found some picnic tables at a park, had lunch and then went on to Montpelier. Grandma and Grandpa went to school there when the school was called Montpelier Seminary, as did my mother and father. It was interesting seeing the huge organ in the chapel that my mother had talked about for years. But the highlight of the day was finding the old house in Union Village where my grandparents had lived for a very short time, 96 years before. It was there that Allen decided to go into the ministry, and the following year he and Idella left for Putney, where their first child, Christel, was born in 1906.

HE'S BAAaack

Art Murdock <amurdock@NET1Plus.com>

Okay, now I have been interrogated by inmcgYet, electronically embarrassed, tormented by telephone messages, scorned by siblings and hounded by a housewife but I've still avoided communicating with family and friends for ions. I'll bet you're wondering why.....

Well, since I was offered a multiple choice questionnaire by the CEO of Charmur Enterprises [Gene], I will use that same format to offer my lame, if not forgivable hopefully humorous excuses.

1. I have not communicated with you via email, snail mail, telephone or through our beloved Murdock Muse because:

A. I was abducted by aliens and taken millions of miles away to a planet with, believe it or not, no Internet service.

B. Our dear cat ate my mouse so the only thing I can click on is kitty litter.

C. I am a confessed workaholic and have allowed my employer to take far too much of my time. Please don't let this happen to you.

2. How am I? I think I can describe myself as being:

A. Bedridden by mental exhaustion trying to think up excuses for neglecting family and friends.

B. Injured in a terrible accident at work in which both my hands were severed and just now learned how to type with my nose.

C. Healthy, happy and humbled by the many beckoning emails and phone messages waiting for me to get off my butt and let the world know that this branch of the Murdock tree is alive and well.

3. And Lorraine and Kim ??????

A. Lorraine has run away with a homeless vagrant and is living in a Good Will box at the local mall. Kimberly is a volunteer at a shelter cooking soup for Lorraine and her friends.

B. Lorraine had a terrible accident at work in which both her hands were severed and hasn't yet learned how to type with her nose. Kimberly is the proud mother of octuplets named Bob, Dot, Len, Gene, Barb, Walt, Marge and a player to be named later.

C. Lorraine is happily enjoying retirement in great health and spending countless hours with grandchildren. Kimberly is working in the purchasing department with a large electronic parts distributor and getting rave reviews. She is actively looking for Mr. Right.

Hope this tardy note finds you all in good health and enjoying the summer months with family and friends. We will try to get back into the habit of more frequent email.

QUOTATION OF THE MONTH:

At the *Common Man* restaurant in Concord, a juke box was playing. Clyde said "Do I hear a music machine?" Carl's quick response: "I'm afraid you're dated, Clyde. Nowadays we call them Victrolas."

SEAN MURDOCK'S RECOMMENDATION

Best Robot game ever: www.robforge.com. It's Lego to the nth degree. You can just design robots or do creative combat. He's willing to give classes in robot-building. He wants to start Team Murdock. His email address is pimpshiva@aol.com. Sean says he is at home to anything to do with computers. And he sends his love to all of you.

NETWORKING

Valerie Davidson

All is well here, and Jerod is settling nicely into his new networking position for the City of San Jose. He discovered that he was being paid \$5 an hour more than he thought he was hired for--a nice little surprise! The powers-that-be were so impressed with him from the get-go that they hired him away from the sub-contractor who had brought him in, gave him the extra pay to boot, and look to be willing to help finance his licensing as a network techie, which will also involve more pay. He is a natural for this kind of stuff, which means that the same part of his brain that lends genius to his knowledge of sports stats is now coming into play for income-generation! Yahoo!

You either "got it or you don't," is my opinion about this kind of knowledge. As much as I know about applications and keeping a Mac running, the network stuff is beyond my ability to grasp and always means calling in the experts--similar to my inability to comprehend football, now that I think about it. As you might guess, the need for good networkers is tremendous, and despite all the local layoffs of computer types, there just aren't enough of these guys around, who truly understand this kind of stuff. I'm very happy for J.--he needs to be deeply interested in something to totally apply himself, and he just simply eats this stuff up!

E THOR, ARTIST

Marge Aukstikalnis <jamea@top.monad.net>

Jul. 17 - I read with interest in the Worcester Telegram online yesterday of a locally born artist, E Thor Carlson. He has a website, <www.thorcarlson.com>. Since he was born in Gardner, 1925, I thought it might be of interest to you. He has an unusually wide variety of style. Are you familiar with him?

[Ed. Note - Yes, E Thor was in my class, but we knew him as "Eddie." In the 8th grade, our home room teacher wanted a circle drawn on the blackboard. Eddie volunteered, and drew a perfect two foot circle on the first try, thus giving us an early look at his artistic talent. - - RDM]

GREETINGS FROM SW MISSOURI

Tami Murdock <celticsfan@prodigy.net>

Aug. 25 - We love it here in Joplin, it is so wonderful - low crime rate, good weather, and on the edge of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. So beautiful and Roy is so happy in his new job, too. There is the #1 pharmacology college right in Kansas City (150 miles away is all - how handy for us!) for Khendra to attend, as she is leaning heavily towards being a pharmacist.

Roy has been so involved in his new job that we've only been to the Harry Truman museum, but plan on taking my mom & Shannon to the civil war museum, Harry's museum, and the Belle Starr museum this coming weekend.

We also had so many things to buy - after 24 years of being married, things wear out and we've had huge expenditures - so no other traveling until there is time & money. Roy is obsessing over the yard, also. They have 2 inches of black dirt over rocks and I mean rocks - (more like boulders! LOL) so the growth has been awful and he takes care of that nightly.

Roy made a 2nd trip to Chicago (for a week at a time) for his job, which he always pours himself into. He has saved them over a million dollars in just the first 2 months alone - you can imagine how happy they are to have him!

NOTES FROM THE HOWLETT REUNION

Bob Murdock

Clyde took pictures with his digital camera, and Michael Howlett displayed them on his Compaq Presario laptop. Warren (the elder) Leary is retired from 24 years with the state of NH, but he's their parimutuel commissioner. He's also a NH parliamentarian for the American Legion.

Kevin Leary loves his job with the state (Mass.) and also loves gardening. "We have the best lawn in Whitman!" said Lori. Lori is a service specialist with Boston Financial, and has flexible hours. Danielle is now in High School. She 's studying culinary arts and plays soccer and basketball. Kevin Jr. is in 5th grade and has signed up for football. Melissa, 4th grader, enjoys swimming.

Paulette Howlett manages a beauty salon in Shrewsbury - been there 19 years! John McQuade is retired (30 years with UPS) but stays active politically. As I took notes, John said to Paulette "If Bob had a camera, he would be Alan Funt!"

Scott Howlett is now an Engineering Test Supervisor with EMX Controls, only a 10 minute drive from home. Regina is taking classes to become a Medical Coding specialist. Casey is in the 3rd grade and enjoys her karate classes. Jeremy is now in kindergarten. He said he will love riding the school bus!

Buddy Leary, 6th grade, enjoys biking and playing his new electric guitar. He learned a lot about ecology at a school program in Saco, ME this summer. Matt, 4th grade, can play "Old MacDonald" on the keyboard. He enjoys going to New York, where his mom's family lives.

MORE MUSE READERS

Scott Murdock <scott-murdock@consultant.com>

Scott and Nancy are not the only Muse readers in this Murdock household. [Ed. Note - Scott Emailed three pictures of their cats (Shirley, LaVerne, and Tigger) reading the Muse! We hope to make these available in our upcoming Website. - - RDM]

EXCITED ABOUT GENEALOGY

Ian Murdock

I found Mom's Grandpa and Grandma Mawhinnie on the Internet! Grandpa was shown as being from Canada. There were only 4 death records in the Social Security Administration listing, but 5600 or so for Murdocks.

I didn't know Grandma Mawhinnie had such an unusual name, so I thought I had the wrong person until Mom told me the name: Nellie Centennial (Derby) Mawhinnie. Centennial - must be a story for that one!

WEB MUSE COMING!

We expect this to be our last *printed* Muse. Bob will begin work on a website in one week. Any ideas will be gratefully considered. We're both new to this 21st century communication.

A BUSY SUMMER

Nancy Murdock

It seems I am constantly changing my phone message at work to: "I will be away from the office until..." In July we had a great vacation with Polly and Carl, then went to visit Margie and Jack Aukstikalnis one day, then on to stay with the Frosts. Polly and Carl had planned many fun things, and Claudia Lindsay, who also stayed with them, joined us in our trips to thrift shops, etc. Bob and I fulfilled his heart's desire with a trip to the discount shops and the mall.

Viki Blakley and her two youngest boys, and Jack's brother Paul joined us at Margie and Jack's, where we had a full tour of the grounds and were introduced to Jack's latest toys - er, tractors, etc., plus his well-done projects, such as the remodeled bathroom. Margie described all her projects for the town and other organizations. Viki regaled us with stories of her job at Walmart's Garden Shop, where she discovered that her customers implicitly trust all her suggestions for their gardens. Casey and Scott had fun exploring the outdoors, especially the new sundial.

We hit the jackpot and saw Pam and Colleen Clark, and Stephanie Chamberlain and all three of her children at the Frosts'. Orrel and Charlie took us to the Rachel Carson Nature Reserve, where I snapped pictures to record changes in the same scenes I had photographed a few years ago in preparation for a quilt class. And we had *lots* of interesting meals.

Next we settled down to preparing our apartment for a visit from our friend Jean Ogawa from our sister parish in Tokyo. We had to buy three large plastic storage bins to stash extra fabric, quilts in progress, and sewing tools from the guest room. The two teen girls who came with her were delightful, and their hosts planned a lot of events. We had a great time with Jean, including shopping trips and a boat trip from Annapolis around the Bay. Well, I guess it was a great trip; I fell asleep as we were leaving the dock and woke up as we docked after the trip. They left me asleep the whole time!

I spent way too much time being ill with a diverticulitis attack in August, but fortunately we were able to go visit Barb and Pete DiStefano for the New York State Fair. It was a beautiful drive up, through rolling countryside. We even arrived in time to go to the local quilt shop before it closed. The Fair was wonderful - much bigger and more comfortable than the MD State Fair (which we attended the Saturday after our return). We also enjoyed the local gourmet super market (where we bought the best corn anyone could ask for), and the Flea Market, where we picked up some more of our favorite kitchen knives. They also invited Ron and Diane Murdock for a visit one afternoon, so we caught up on Uncle Ken's family's news. We may never be invited back at Fair time again, though, because we misplaced Bob and it took 1½ hours to locate him - after alerting the state troopers et al. Pete finally found him on the 3rd try - in the spot designated in case we got separated, doing his number puzzles.

We had to back out of some trips to events we had promised to attend, after Bob figured out the mileage and realized he wasn't up for those long drives so soon after our July trip to NH and ME. Now I'm working my way through a series of doctor's appointments and medical tests. But we have only to close our eyes to recall all of the wonderful things we've done this summer. Thanks, everyone!

MY 110 HOUR SHIFT

Darrel Murdock <darrelmurdock@webtv.net>

The camping near Duluth was a good trip. The resident from Assisted Living (Pete), who is often crabby, had a good time and returned home happy. It was a little warm, and I accidentally got dehydrated and ran a fever one morning but recovered, thanks to all that first aid training that I thought was so boring.

We saw the mansion from 1908's richest Minnesotan by Lake Superior in Duluth. The art within was incredible and it was everywhere. It boggled my mind. We also ate a meal at Piccadilly's, and since we arrived at 4:45 or so we got a window table. That was fortunate, as Pete was thrilled his wish had come true.

We biked many times for short bursts and swam out to a floating dive platform. We ate huge breakfasts and then chased the shade around our site like a sundial. And we saw a lot of wildlife, including 4 deer and nearly domestic chipmunks.

Best of all, it cost only negative \$900!

GETTING A KICK OUT OF IT

Missi Howlett <alouette99@netzero.net>

Hi all. Life's been so busy. Been taking classes all summer...still working on a paper as a matter of fact. Love that distance learning.

Speaking of, gotta tell you how much ribbing I'm getting from everyone over the DCE catalog this year. Since I am both an administrator of the distance learning program and a student, the college wanted to use me as a marketing tool to market the program. So they plastered my mug on the inside cover of the catalog with a small writeup about me and information on distance learning. I will probably never live it down. People want to know who I paid and why my picture's bigger than the Presidents. My own family, of course, is the best at giving me a hard time.

Overall I'm quite proud of the writeup and the program I am involved in. I know that without distance learning I could never finish my degree (only about 7 classes left -I think) so if my story convinces someone to come back to school who may otherwise not come, than it'll be worth all the joking put on me.

I'm also on the website. Here's the link:

<<http://www.mwcc.mass.edu/HTML/Missi.html>>

Don't laugh too hard now!

JULIE ANN FAIR'S WEDDING

Rose Martz <cmartz@eee.org>

May 27, 2001 was the wedding day for Julie Ann Fair and Corey Checketts. They were wed in the rose garden of the Valencia Marriott, a truly lovely setting. Jennie, Cam, Carl and I made the long hot trek...we would not have missed it for anything.

Julie Ann is the great-granddaughter of Doris Howlett Martz, granddaughter of the late Patt and Richard Avery, daughter of Allyson and Jim Fair now living in Caspar, Wyoming. The bride's uncle Mark Avery and his wife Paula flew in from their home in Anchorage, Alaska for the occasion. It was a wonderful family reunion for us. Julie Ann and Corey are a strikingly handsome couple and he is a welcome addition to the family.

In my mind's eye, I could see Meri, Julie Ann, Sarah and Jennie as they were years ago when you all lived in So. California. They would play together or just hang out as the grownups visited.

Carl, after 36 years in education, has retired!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We had a wonderful party for him on June 23, 42 people, family, old friends, and colleagues, some of whom we hadn't seen for a few years. There were a few tears and a lot of laughter. It was a marvelous send-off for him and now he's all mine, 24/7. We have so much planned, starting with an Alaskan land/cruise in late August. Upon our return, the planning for Sarah's wedding really begins.

FAMILY PROFILE: BARB AND PETE

Bob Murdock

Peter Sr. DiStefano stays active restoring vintage cars, putting together vintage model aircraft, maintaining the grounds, and rapping with his dog, "Dotty."

Barb is the manager of a team of nurses at St. Joseph's Home Care, in Syracuse.

Pete's progeny:

Peter Jr. works on contracts for Lockheed-Martin. He and Trish live in Solvay, NY.

Lisa DiStefano does fund-raising for the Eberson Museum.

Derek and *Wendy* DiStefano are teachers in Charlotte, NC - he the fifth grade, she the second.

Mary Anne has a para-legal degree from Hilbert College. She works for a judge and is contemplating law school. Her friend *Ben* is a Lance Corporal in the Marines, and is a free-lance contractor.

Jon, also a Lance Corporal, is a helicopter mechanic with the Marines and plans to study civilian airplane mechanics for his career after the Marines, two years hence.

Barb's progeny:

Wendy and *John* Littlefield live in Ithaca, NY. *Wendy* is the chef at a Cornell U. sorority house. *John* is a personal fitness trainer.

Wendy's daughters are *Briana* (Annie) and *Jillian* (Jill).

Mary and *Michael* Reese reside in Duxbury, MA. *Mary* does alterations for Bridal Boutique. *Michael* works for the New England Tel. Co. Children are *Nicholas* and *Kristen*.

Daniel and *Carolyn* Leskinen live in Hanover, PA. *Dan* is a manager with Adelphia, a cable and Internet company. The kids are *Stephanie*, *Calder*, *Alizabette*, and *Annabelle*.

David and *Cindy* Leskinen reside in Ithaca. *David* is a Journeyman Plumber. *Cindy* is a teacher assistant for mentally challenged children. Their own kids are *Timothy*, *Lisa*, *Caitlin*, and *Brett*.

2001 HOWLETT REUNION ROSTER**WEBSTER, NH - JULY 1, 2001**

Bob Murdock

Polly and Carl Soberg, hosts
 Clyde Howlett (91) - Son of Arthur Howlett
 Nancy and Bob Murdock - Baltimore, MD
 John and Cathy Howlett - Chichester, NH
 Warren and Nancy Leary
 Thelma Shuck, Warren's sister and Bonnie Clark, her daughter
 Betty Ann Vital, Thelma's daughter
 Brad Howlett, Clyde's brother - Worcester, MA
 Michael Howlett, Brad's son - Northboro, MA
 Claire Fisher, Clyde's sister - Lake City, FL
 Paulette Howlett and John McQuade
 Arthur and Caroline (Carl's sister) Kohler
 Rennie and Maria Leary; Shannon, Buddy, Matt
 Kevin and Lori Leary; Danielle, Melissa, Kevin Jr
 Ashley Clark, Danielle's friend
 Lori Howlett and Michael Brown; Alyssa, Patrick, Nicholas
 Albert and Jenny Funiaole - Townsend, MA
 Scott and Regina Howlett; Casey, Jeremy
 Doug and Carol Howlett
 Sean and Kris Howlett
 Claudia Lindsey, Clyde's daughter - West Covina, CA
 Edmund and Alberta Dearborn (Claudia's hosts, earlier)
 Sarah Howlett and Gary Bergeron

Total attendance: 50

HOME FROM NEW YORK

Dotty Salminen <dsalminen@NET1Plus.com>

A thumbnail sketch of my wonderful vacation includes a visit to a park in Auburn with Penny and Terry. Out to eat in a restaurant with Penny which had a strictly FISH buffet! A visit to the famous Syracuse rose gardens. I took lots of pictures, by the way. A trip to Turning Stone Casino in NY to play Bingo with 497 other people!

I spent a week with the Distefano family during which time Barb and I both contracted poison ivy, their son Jon came home for a visit from his Marine station in CA, a 21st birthday party was held for Jon, and Jon and Maryann's boyfriend were in a terrible accident caused by another vehicle. Both were hospitalized and released.....only because they had their seat belts on.

From Distefanos' I went to Bacon's and we traveled daily from there to take a hot air balloon ride (great fun!!!), go to Niagara Falls to eat in the Hard Rock Cafe, tour the gardens and go on the Maid of the Mist. From there we went into Canada to see what the casino there looked like.

Went to a party at Ernie's brother's house. Saw a turkey vulture and lots of deer. Went to Sonnenburg Gardens and toured the mansion there. On the way back, after stopping for ice cream we went on the Canandagua Wine trail.

Wed., 6/27 was Sally and Ernie's anniversary. We went to his parents' house for morning coffee "and", and then headed up route 81 to the 1000 islands. We were on the top deck of the tour boat and except for the hot sun on the poison ivy which by then had got into my blood stream and was breaking out all over, we did have a great time.

When we got back I stayed with Rebecca and Samantha (didn't dare touch either one) while Sal and Ernie went out to celebrate. I called Barb who suggested cortisone cream and benedryl. On the 28th we left early to go to the Genesee County Village which is much like Sturbridge Village in MA. It was very interesting. We had lunch there and were entertained by a bag-piper. On the way home we stopped in Chili, NY to have supper with Eric.

On Friday Sally, Rebecca, Samantha and I went to Ithaca to visit Wanda and from there to one of my favorite restaurants "Moosewood".

During all of this time I was feeding a wild pheasant who had been injured and walked on one leg only. I fed him cracked corn and strawberries and then he finally found the raspberry patch and ate those too. He was walking on two feet before I left and had been seen quite a way up the road. Eric and Ernie took me to a Pawtucket Boston Red Sox vs Syracuse something ball game. What fun!

I have pictures all over my dining table but this should give you an idea of what my vacation was like.

COMPUTER PROBLEM

Doug Howlett <DHOWLETT@aol.com>

July 3 - Lightning hit our phone line and scorched my modem and evidently did other damage to my computer. Installed new modem but can barely stay on line. I had told some at the Howlett reunion that they can email me through my address in the muse list. Would you please do me a favor and broadcast to all in your email list that if they don't get a response from me it's because I can't get online.

AWESOME INTERNET

Ian Murdock <IanMurdock@webtv.net>

The more I stalk the wild Internet, the more awestruck I become at its sheer vastness. Of late I have begun availing myself of the many genealogical resources found there, mainly following the Howlett/Mawhinnie trail of my mother's (Muse editor Nancy, if you're keeping score) side of the family, as Uncle Gene's invaluable "Days of Yore" Murdock histories are plopped directly in my eager lap at regular intervals. I would be remiss if I did not mention at this point that truly serious genealogy buffs use commercial software applications and brick-and-mortar library resources, not just the 'Net, to achieve the most complete results. Still, it's a helluva bang to find the things that I have uncovered. I would be remister still if I didn't recommend all of Uncle Gene's richly fascinating e-mail based writings to everyone. I believe that he will add anyone who requests it to his mailing list. Keep it comin', Unc!

The other subject that currently heats up my cockles is the USS Panamint, on which Muse editor Bob (a favorite father of mine) served in the treacherous Pacific theater of operations after VOLUNTEERING for WWII service. I cannot describe how it felt to discover the confirmation of many fascinating and often hair-raising bedtime stories about a young man and his ship that were recited to me as a small child. To me, everyone who has fought for our freedom, whether flying a fighter plane or collecting scrap metal from the garage, is a hero.

The sheer volume of online information available on nearly any topic is quite astounding, if one knows how to go about finding it. I'm learning...

ALL'S WELL IN GLENWOOD, IOWA

Gene Murdock <gmurdock032@qwest.net>

July 31, 2001 - On Monday I successfully underwent a surgical procedure called AV nodal ablation in which a catheter is inserted in the groin and run up to the heart. The surgeon then was able to electrically zap certain areas of the heart that were misfiring and kill the nerves in a very small area, so that my atrial fibrillations no longer spread to the lower portion of the heart and put me into a constant arrhythmia.

Everything went well. It took about an hour during which time I was mildly sedated, but conscious (I can't remember everything, but I remember thinking pleasant thoughts.)

For four hours afterwards I had to lie perfectly still to let the small incision heal. It seems that that is the most dangerous and troublesome part of the procedure!

It worked as planned, I am now back in a normal sinus rhythm - the first time in many months. They kept me overnight for observation and released me Tuesday morning. I can do whatever I feel comfortable doing, except he doesn't want me to drive for two weeks.

REUNION AFTERMATH

Polly Soberg <carlpoll@tds.net>

July 8 - The reunion was a memorable occasion. Claudia left for the next step of her vacation today and the house seems very empty. We had a good week with a couple of day trips, food, food and more food!! We went to Maine on Thursday and had lunch at Billy's Chowder House in Wells, ME. We took many great pictures at Nubble Light, ate ice cream at Browns, toured the area then returned home. We had great cool weather while there and on the way home it poured. Good timing!!

One night we had lobsters at home. Yesterday we went to Wolfeboro, NH to a craft fair at Brewster Academy, then went up around Winnepesaukee for more pictures, then to Tilton, NH for an early dinner and back home. We found a great country store in Moultonboro - we could have spent hours just looking at all the items for sale. All in all it was a successful week.

Claudia left at 1:00 PM today just as John and Cathy arrived for a short visit. We had a nice time talking about the families reunion and sharing some of the pictures already developed.

AROUND THE NET

Bob Murdock

Ian Murdock <IanMurdock@webtv.net>

I am sending you a link to a Univac history site that could possibly initiate some archived memory access.
<<http://www.fourmilab.ch/documents/univac/index.html>>
[Ed. Note - It did invoke some nostalgia. Thanks. RDM]

Claudia Lindsey <lindseyd@flash.net>

July 17 - Just a short note to let you all know that I arrived home safe and sound last night. In fact the plane got into LA a half hour early so I had to wait for Dennis to arrive. My trip was wonderful and when I get caught up on the mail (bills, ugh) and other things I will write you all about it.

Charles C. Frost <highledge@cybertours.com> Aug. 10 - The weather here has been like Baltimore the last week. Very enervating. Yesterday it topped the century mark in Portsmouth and was 99 here. This evening has seen the first relief. Stay cool and stay in touch.

Meri Murdock <MeriCat@webtv.net> Work is good. I'm in Santa Fe Springs at an oil and development company. They are designing and building a huge multi-block business park with more than 10 buildings and I am helping the industrial property manager. Today I got a working computer and got to use Excel and Microsoft Word.

Natalie Murdock <LM-ROXYCHICK-55@webtv.net>

Sept. 3 - I will be a junior this year and go for the softball team, and Tim will be a freshman this year, going for the baseball team.

COUSIN ANNE BOLEYN

Gene Murdock <gmurdock032@qwest.net>

Trying to learn more about a Charlton ancestor named Israel Loring who lived in Sudbury, Mass. from around 1722 to 1772, I was looking at his family tree to see if there were any clues that would point out why he was the person he was (which will be explained in another article). I had previously traced it back a few generations to his immigrant ancestors who came over to Massachusetts around 1630, but had never bothered to go back any further into his English background. So I logged on to the family search site and poked around in Old England. I started seeing family names that I recognized as being from royalty, so I traced then back a little further and spotted an ancestor of his named Margaret Boleyn who was born in England around 1489, and who would be my 14th great grandmother.

The name Boleyn was intriguing, because that is the family name of Anne Boleyn who married King Henry VIII and who was later beheaded at his orders. A further search showed me the ancestry of Margaret, so I then went to an entry for Anne, and lo and behold, they had a common ancestry! It turns out that Margaret and Anne were first cousins, so while Margaret is my 14th great-grandmother, Anne is my first cousin, fifteen times removed! I had never looked into it before because we are not descended from Henry VIII. Our direct descent from the Kings of England starts a few generations further back with King Edward III. But I ran Henry VIII through the computer calculator and it turns out that he is about a fourth cousin many times removed.

This relationship to Anne Boleyn is on the Charlton side of the family, so it applies to any descendant of Allen S. Charlton, and she is first cousin to all of us. The only thing that changes is the number of times removed – for my generation it is fifteen times removed, for my sons, sixteen and for my grandchildren, seventeen. For your own show- and- tells you can calculate your number from that. Searching the royal ancestries on the Murdock side of the family I find that Anne is a 4th cousin, which would apply to all the descendants of Edward Herbert Murdock. reunion and sharing some of the pictures already developed.

CELEBRATIONS

Bob Murdock

September Anniversaries

- Sept. 5: Cindy and Nick Coppolino (14th)
 6: Chris and Angel Howlett (9th)
 11: Keith and Maria Howlett (7th)
 15: Eric and Robin Murdock (15th)
 16: Bob and Nancy Murdock (51st)
 23: Wendy and John Littlefield (1st)

September Birthdays

- Sept. 2: Brian Schlicke (6)
 3: Dotty Salminen, Tim Murdock (13), Lindsey Murdock(13)
 9: Gaitlyn Howlett (5) and Viki Blakley
 10: Clyde Howlett (92)!!!!
 12: Larry Boudreau
 13: Alexandra DiStefano (6)
 14: Jarrod Shepard (13), Kathryn Rookes
 15: Art Murdock and Mary Anne DiStefano
 17: Marcia Howlett and Pete the Younger DiStefano
 19: Rennie Leary and Regina Howlett
 20: Nancy Jean Murdock
 21: Cam Movafagian
 22: Annabelle Leskinen (5)
 25: Christen Calder, Eric Johnson, Sarah Johnson Keller
 26: Keith Whalen
 : 29: Ryan Howlett (5)

October Anniversaries

- Oct. 3 Rennie and Maria Leary (15th)
 11 Denise and Bill Chapman (15th)
 15 Doug and Carol Howlett (35th)
 22 Claudia and Dennis Lindsey (37th)
 29 Dan and Carolyn Leskinen (18th)

October Birthdays

- Oct. 1 Logan Salminen (18)
 2 Carla Howlett
 3 Lisa DiStefano and Nicholas Shepard (14)
 4 Derek Revilock-Frost
 6 Angel Howlett and Jill Morgan (12)
 7 Rick Murdock
 9 Doug the Younger Howlett
 10 Malcolm F. Charlton (83), Sadie Charlton (90)!!!!
 11 Craig Heald
 14 Benjamin Raymond Murdock (22) [Ron's family]
 17 Greggie Howlett (1)
 19 Eric Howlett
 20 Melissa Leary (9), Troy Howlett (3), Tim Howlett Sr.,
 Jason Murdock
 24 Benjamin Hiscock (9) and Marjorie Hanson
 27 Peggy Noplos (21)
 30 Adriana Howlett (17)

Sean and Kris (Andersen) Howlett :2nd, June 26. SORRY!