



NEWSLETTER



December 2009



To all...Merry Christmas und fröhliche Weihnachtenein 2009 ...zu alles!

What a travel year this was! We were away from home for around 4 months! In January, we flew to Lake Worth, Florida, with Phyllis' dad to visit with her sister's family. Dad turned 94 this year, and he handled the trip like a trouper.

We usually travel in the fall to visit the kids/grandkids in Texas and Georgia, but I was given the duty of set design and setup for the musical "Scrooge" at church



Jerry and Phyllis enjoyed Santa's lap during the "Scrooge" intermission

last August and it took two months, with the help of 31 other volunteers, to get the London street scene along with two room settings together before the first "on-stage" rehearsal (we sang in it too) the first week of November. But it was lots of fun to do, and I wouldn't have missed it.

We headed east in March with stops in Lake Jackson, TX, (son Roger's family) and Euharle, GA, (daughter Cherilyn's family).

As we started out for Texas, we got word from my sister, **Mary Cooper**, that my brother-in-law, Joe, succumbed to his fight with cancer on March 2, while we visited relatives in Phoenix, Arizona. So Joe's memorial service was first on our list. Joe was strong in the Christian faith and his service was very uplifting to family and friends.

Highlights, while visiting in Texas, included attending our grandson, Geoffrey's, little league games, working with the boys, Geoffrey, Ben and Andrew at home schooling with their dad and enjoying 2-year-old Zachary's attempt at the English language. In Georgia, our daughter's family hauled out their new motorcycles... **Cherilyn** and **Tim Vaughan** are now weekend road warriors. Our great-

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The 2009 National Reunion was the 5th meeting of the clans, first time welcoming Hermann & Gundi Altstadt's family, of Erlangen, Germany, to the festivities!



This reunion's group shot, by Adrienne Altstadt, was taken on the porch of the 4-H Center building where the grand washer tournament took place during a driving rain storm.

Jim, Katie, Wayne and Diane Altstadt along with their Heinrich Altstadt kin of the greater Evansville, Indiana, area gave us a grand time that we will be talking about for years to come!

This 5th meeting brought together descendants of six immigrant ancestors for everything from a golf tourney to a rainy day washer pitching contest. Attendees were descendants of Bernhardt Altstadt (1725), Georg Altstadt (1831) Heinrich Altstadt (1792), Johan Jakob Altstadt (1755), Martin Altstadt (1699), and Rhinehart Altstadt (1818).

The get together was held at the Vanderburg 4-H Fairgrounds with most of the out-of-towners staying at the Drury Inn North, which was the host hotel. Attendees registered at the Drury on Friday and by the time breakfast rolled around Saturday morning, those at the Drury knew each other and had a hard time getting away from new friendships to motor over to the fairgrounds, which was about 5 minutes away.

Friday's golf match at the Clearcrest

Pines course aided male bonding between the Altstadts and the lone Alstott (*I'd love to call it a Tourney, but you just can't do that with only a handful of cuzzins smacking the ball around the course*). Brothers **Ewald** and **Manfred Altstadt** along with organizer **Lefty Altstadt** and "one handed" **Bill Alstott** rounded out the participants. Ewald showed his prowess on the course by taking the prize!

This was Ewald and Manfred's first reunion, along with their families, and I must say that they were the life of the party.

Thursday and Friday mornings found Jim, Katie, Wayne and Diane up to their necks in bar-b-que sauce, slaw and potato salad in getting ready for Saturday's evening dinner with all the trimmings. **Jerry Allstott** rounded off the day by picking up some really sweet Indiana seedless watermelon for lunch (*what would July 4th be without watermelon?*).

Rain greeted us on Saturday morning but it didn't spoil our parade! The washer tournament had to be moved to the

Alstott/Altstadt Reunion continued on page 2

covered patio next to the reunion building.

Hot dogs, chips, cookies, never ending soft drinks and coffee kept the hungries off everyone till the bar-b-que hit the serving table around 5:30 pm. In the meantime, all the clans were introduced. **Hermann and Gundi Altstadt** and their son, **Matthias**, came the farthest to the reunion from Erlangen, Germany. **Bob and Pat Altstadt's** family, who are American cousins to Hermann, traveled over from Pueblo, Colorado, just to hobnob with Hermann and his family. The Joliet, IL, area Alstotts provided a full table as did the New Albany, IN, Alstott bunch. The Taswell, IN, Allstotts came along, and **Louie Allstott** showed championship form at the washer tournament. Louie's son Jerry was in attendance, so that meant that it was the first reunion attended by two Jerry Allstotts (*I thought I would just throw that in*).

Forrest Hoffmeister was the oldest attendee at 91 years of age. Forrest was one of the organizers of the 1st Reunion in Pennsylvania in 1989. It was good to see him and his family from Maryland.

Diane and Katie Altstadt had gathered door prizes and drawings were held throughout Saturday and Sunday.

The bar-b-que dinner started the evening's activities, followed by a little "drinking contest" that the Germany Tour folks picked up at the Allstedt Castle Medieval Banquet back in 2003. Participants were **Ewald Altstadt, Sean Barnett** and **Jacob McDonald**. This ended in a room full of laughter, including laughs from the competitors. I think this was Jacob's best time at any reunion he has attended so far!

The evening's activities ended with the firework display sponsored by the City of Evansville downtown at the Ohio River. Boats packed with fireworks ignited their cargo for around an hour to ooohs and ahhs.

After complimentary breakfast on Sunday morning the families attended worship services given by cuzzin **Father Damian Dietlein**. Father Damian is a professor of Theology at St. Meinrad which is just a few miles east of Evansville. His message was on, as you would guess, the family, and it was enjoyed by all who attended. For many of the Protestants in attendance, it was their first Mass.

Following the worship service, a catered fried chicken dinner was enjoyed by all. This led to our last door prize giveaways and raffle for a quilt made by **Katie Altstadt**.

Lastly, the clans were invited by **Mary**



Photos by Adrianne Altstadt and Jerry Allstott



Homman and Jean Williams to Clearfield, Pennsylvania, on Labor Day Weekend 2014 for the 6th National Reunion. I hope everyone will make plans for this get together in mid-Pennsylvania! Phyllis and I will be there!

Attending the Reunion were:

- Paul & Delight Engelman, Indianapolis, IN*
- Roger, Mary & Jeanette Alstott, Shorewood, IL*
- William Alstott, Joliet, IL*
- John & Pat Alstott, Howell, MI*
- Jim & Kathie Alstott, Plainfield, IL*
- Jerry & Phyllis Allstott, Ventura, CA*
- Mary & Wilford Homman, Morrisdale, PA*
- Jean Williams, Morrisdale, PA*
- Ewald, Diane, Adrienne, & Trista Altstadt, Toms River, NJ*
- Manfred & Elaine Altstadt, Monroe, NY*
- Bill, Jenny & Beverlie Alstott, New Albany, IN*
- Sam, Kathleen & Jacob McDonald, New Albany, IN*
- Wayne & Barbara Alstat, Vergennes, IL*
- Bob, Pat, Maddie & Kyle Altstadt, Pueblo, CO*
- Carolyn, Jim, Tony & Beau Fuller, Reading, MI*
- Lefty & Charlene Altstadt, Evansville, IN*
- Louie Allstott, Taswell, IN*
- Jerry Allstott, Birdseye, IN*
- John Allstott, La Verne, CA*
- Carole & Charles Reising, Evansville, IN*
- Gloria Hoffmaster, Silver Springs, MD*
- Forrest & Mildred Hoffmaster, Linthicum, MD*
- Doris Blackmon, Chagrin Falls, OH*
- Jim & Katie Altstadt, Evansville, IN*
- Hermann, Gundi & Matthias Altstadt, Erlangen, Germany*
- Beth & Sean Barnett, Indianapolis, IN*
- Karen, Nicole, Dan & Emily Miller, Lee's Summit, MO*
- Wayne & Diane Altstadt, Evansville, IN*
- William & Shirley Alstott and Alex Gonzales, Lockport, IL*
- Lana Weiss & Wanda Weiss, O'Fallon, IL*
- Joanie, Kent, Andy & Kelli Duggan, Evansville, IN*
- Father Damien Deitlein, St. Meinrad, IN*
- Alan, Angela, Katelyn & Britnee Altstadt, Evansville, IN*
- David, Kori & Blake Altstadt, Evansville, IN*
- Kristie Colbert, Evansville, IN*
- Karen, Cassidy & Jacob Sumner, Evansville, IN*
- Bob Altstadt, Evansville, IN*
- Don, Cheryl & Katie Teepool, Evansville, IN*
- Don, Andrea & David Teepool, Evansville, IN*



2014 Reunion Meet Hosts - Mary Homman and Jean Williams...see you in Pennsylvania!



Besides all the great moments meeting my Altstadt American cousins at the Family Reunion in Evansville, Nebraska and California, here are some more, let me say, personal highlights from our trip through the States...

1. Steak/Burger

I got the first great impression of America in a restaurant in Chicago, where I ate my first all-American burger. During our trip I had many great burgers, steaks and other fantastic meals. I enjoyed the food very much, because I love cooking and of course eating.

2. Gibson Guitar Factory, Memphis, Tennessee
One of the things I liked much was visiting the Gibson guitar factory. Being a guitar player myself, I was very impressed of all these handcrafted guitars there. The next time I visit the US, I have to take one of these home with me.

3. Larry's Grand Ole Garage & Bluegrass Music
A special experience was Larry's Grand Ole Garage in Nashville, Tennessee. They played great authentic blue grass music there, in a perfect fitting ambience. Especially my dad was amazed by this music.



Left: Universal's Blues Brothers, above: Las Vegas Lights



Hermann's American cousins: left to right, Phyllis Allstott, Hermann, Jerry Allstott, Gundi, Teri, Stan, & erika Teutsch, Jim and Matthias Altstadt; seated: Doris and Laren Teutsch at the Happy Hollow Country Club in Omaha, NE. They also lunched with Ken & Phyllis Altstadt in Norfolk, NE

4. JB in Evergreen/Colorado
Visiting JB, Jerry's cousin, in Evergreen was awesome. It was a great pleasure staying at his self-made loghouse, enjoying barbecue and especially watching TV on his 70" screen.

5. Grand Canyon, Arizona
Another great experience was Grand Canyon and Zion Canyon National Park. Standing in front of these huge mountains was just overwhelming.

6. Las Vegas, Nevada
Of course Las Vegas was stunning, with its many great impressions., just like you see it in the movies.

7. Universal Studios, Los Angeles, California
The Universal Studios was a unique adventure. On the one hand seeing all the great film sets on the studio tour and on the other hand the theme park with its great rides, especially the Simpson's ride. Am I right Jerry?



Above: at Grand Canyon, right: Steak House in Norfolk, NE



Left: JB's log house in the Colorado mountains

Cuzzin Contact...

Dear Jerry,
No, we haven't fallen off the end of the world, but I have been quite remiss in getting our family letter out! I hit the wrong button on the computer and deleted my whole address list! Now we are here at mid 2009, and I'm starting over again! If I am diligent this letter will reach you before Christmas 2009.

Ruth and Rob Pruitt were married on Sept. 22, 2007. Rob is a Mental Health Therapist at Good Samaritan Hospital, Dayton. Ruth has decided to follow her long time dream and become a teacher of special education children. She began classes at Sinclair University this summer.

Amy and Scott Fulton were married on Oct. 18, 2008. Amy is an associate buyer in Columbus, OH. Scott is a planner for Franklin County.

Ron is an estimator with Ritter Plumbing, while Sharri makes and repairs



The Altstadt Clan: Left to right, back - Rob , Ruth, Amy Ali Shari, Ron, Jesse, Jon and Andrew, front row - Candy Thelma, Everett and Doug

awnings for Glawe Awning. Jesse is a server at Texas Roadhouse. Ali has taken liberal arts courses at Sinclair University. Doug is the senior partner of Family Physicians of Englewood, group he and a friend started nearly 28 years ago. Candy keeps very busy with church activities. Jon is a nuclear medicine technologist at the hospital in Ashland, Ohio. Andrew graduated from the University of Dayton and is part of the crowd looking for a job.

Thelma and I are enjoying retirement, but have cut back on our activities. I am directing a small choir here at Otterbein St. Marys and am serving on the Board of Directors and the Committee on Human Resources. I have retired from all my church involvements, partly because I want to retire and partly because of Thelma's health. Now it is definite that she has some form of dementia, probably Alzheimer's, along with some other complications, mainly oxygen deficiency. The most likely cause of the oxygen problem is lung damage from the radiation treatments she took after her breast cancer surgery in 1961. We moved her into the Skilled Nursing unit here at Otterbein on March 26. Along with this, her near vision has gotten bad enough that she can't read anything except very large print.

Once, after she had been in the Nursing center only a few days, she said, "I suppose I'll never get to live in my house any more."

We know you are praying for us, and that support really helps. Hope this reaches you before Christmas!

Everett Altstadt, St. Mary's, OH, pg. 459

Dear cuzzin Jerry,
Chris and I have traveled a bit this year. In May, I visited my mother and sister in Decatur, GA. My Mom was not doing well at that point in time but has subsequently improved greatly due to drinking more fluids. It was great to see them. In September we celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary by taking a vacation to Aruba (we traded a timeshare week) with Sharon and Art. In October we spent a week on Maui where we own a specific week in a specific unit at the Marriott Beach Club on Ka'anapali Beach. Joe and Hazel, Corvallis friends, went with us. Aruba has nice white-sand beaches but is a hot, mostly arid island with

a great butterfly garden, a quirky ostrich farm and a number of decent restaurants. Maui is more to our liking and much easier to deal with (no customs issues).

Chris and Steve Naberhuis, Corvallis, OR, pg. 198

Dear Cuzzin Jerry,
Thank you so much for your interesting and informative letter.

I thought I would send you a photo of your "89" year old cuzzin. They say that I favor the Allstot family and have my dad's (George Allstot) personality, which is a great accomplishment to me as my dad was a wonderful man, always happy and would always find good in everyone he met. He whistled all the time so I learned to whistle. This upset my mother because girls were not supposed to whistle (She was English).



I now have 22 great grandchildren and love every one of them. I get to see them often and really enjoy them.

I keep busy visiting my kids, playing Bingo, pinochle tending my flower garden and I'm also a "Red Hatter."

I live with my youngest daughter, Sherry, who is a Realtor. My oldest son, Wayne, lives in Little Falls, MN. My daughter, Lynne's husband is retired. My retired son, Douglas, and his wife live in Ellensburg, WA. He has horses and is a roper. Douglas' twin sister, Diane, and her husband live in Reno, NV. They are retired, he was a Battalion Chief for the fire department.

I'll sign off and wish you the best on your trip to Germany in 2012.
Cuzzin Louise Harris, Mt. Vernon, WA, pg. 215

Dear Jerry,
"Hoosier Hysteria" or basketball tournament season has already arrived along with daylight savings time. So I guess it is now time to quit procrastinating and compose my annual newsletter for last year if I want to beat the Easter Bunny.

It was also a very dry winter and spring. The past six months (October to April) had been the driest half-year in the history of western North Dakota...the equivalent to what they get in places like the Mojave Desert.

A huge thunderstorm hit on June 24, -gusting up to 60 miles an hour, the rain poured-- When it was finished, the oats crop was destroyed and the hay crop severely damaged. This past summer was not a good summer for hay baling and I had very little to show for my labors with my meager 150 bales. This was quite a contrast to the summer of 2007 when I baled over 1500 of the big round bales. Fortunately the Abbey had over 800 bales left from the previous year.

The annual Catholic Biblical Association met Aug. 2-5, 2008 at Fordham University Bronx NY. Three of us planned to fly from Minneapolis to the LaGuardia airport and split the \$60.00 cab fare. Three colleagues joined us on the same flight so we decided to try to find a van cab that would take all six of us. Just as we were heading outside to look, a man came up, asked how many there were, and offered to take us for \$17 each. I told him we were going to Fordham and his reply, "Oh, I forgot to ask you but I'll honor the fare." Imagine our surprise when we found ourselves riding in a shiny black stretch limousine and causing a stir when we pulled up at the University.

I had an extra two days that enabled me to take a train to Connecticut to visit a cousin and her daughter. The next day we took a ferry to New York to visit her sister, aunt and cousin. We returned that evening and I flew back to Minneapolis the next day in time another cousin's wedding on Friday. One of the summer highlights for me was the Doll Family Reunion hosted by Lex and Heather Doll in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on August 15-18. The reunion was fun and the hospitality superb.

When I flew into Fargo, ND, the evening of January 15, 2009, the temperature was 31 below zero without the wind chill factor. So I got my first taste of North Dakota-Minnesota winter weather in quite a few years. But by Saturday it was 20 above for the wedding of another cousin at Rush Lake about 5 miles south of Perham, Minnesota.

Back at St. Meinrad, we felt some of the fury of hurricane Ike as strong gusts of wind blew down trees and tree branches and caused power outages. A tree blew down near my house and tore the electric meter from the house. We also had an ice storm Jan. 7th that caused a 28-hour power outage here. But, all in all, things are going well here and I am in good health.

I wish you all the best for the rest of 2009.

Fa. Damian Dietlein, pg. 113

Hi Jerry,
I finally "cleared my desk" today and am back to you. I don't use the computer (dinosaur) so I definitely prefer a hard copy of our newsletter.

I enjoyed the piece on "Dr. Dan" so much - my nephew in Brownwood, TX. He is a great guy and our family is very proud of him.

Cuzzin Sara Altstatt Ayers, pg. 286

Hi Cuzzin Jerry,

As part of the Mills line I wanted to share that Dad, Sherm (John Sherman Mills/son of Oscar Henderson Mills) has had a busy year. April 5th he celebrated his 100th birthday.

Earlier in December he was crowned King of the Senior Prom at Sunrise of Edmonds where he presently lives. This email is getting a bit messy with the cut and pastes, but I wanted to share with you a

non-obit.

Thanks for all you do and please send my newsletter by e-mail.

Jan Mills Hansen, Shoreline, WA, pg. 423



John Sherman Mills, 100 year old birthday boy

Dear Jerry,

A radio station contest challenged writing skills to "Tell your life history in only six words." So we are trying it for our Christmas news?

...Need sun! Florida beckons. We fly.
...Fountain of Youth water doesn't work.
...New windows; fuel bills lower, ahhhh.
...Ski boat sold; Spokane nephew thrilled.
...We are too; we can visit!
...Shoulder replacement eases pain we hope.
...Ouch - physical therapy is the pits.
...Exciting Montana class reunion, number 55.
...How did we get that old?
...Tomo lively sixth grader, playing baseball.
...Chris has job; high school senior.
...Keiko studying University Washington Honors College
...Laura graduates Oregon State in June.
...Will be Romney's bride next October.
...Parents happy, healthy, enjoying the activity.
...Grandparents happy - no longer their responsibility!
...And finally, the best good news.
...God created, man sinned, Son sent.
...Jesus forgives, man believes, lives forever.
Thanks for continuing the Allstot (etc.,!!) newsletter. We enjoy the contact.
Jim and Tonna Weir, Sherwood, OR. pg. 216

Dear Jerry,

I wish that I could have made the Reunion this year, but we also had a big weekend here in Lake Bluff.

I wanted you to know that my sister, Elizabeth Duke Nichols died peacefully on March 21, 2008, in Denton, TX with Natalie Hill by her side. Elizabeth was 80 years old. Fondly, **Mary Lou Dalton**, pg. 499

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Take a Look!

The www.altstatt.org website has updated its information! But...we are still in need of your family updates to keep things current. Please send your revisions to John Altstatt at <jea@altstatt.org> or Jerry Allstott at <jandpallstott@yahoo.com>. Thanks John for all your hard work!



Germany 2012!...we wanted to give you plenty time to get your "green" nestegg set aside!

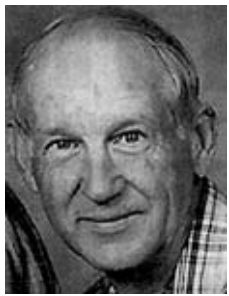
Did you miss the 2003 Grand Tour of Altstadt/ Allstadt Immigrant sites?

At the 2009 Reunion, we offered you another chance to visit early Altstadt/ Altstadt locals in Germany, Austria and Switzerland on a tour in the Spring of 2012.

25 cuzzins said YES to another tour of the "Fatherland"...so, if you are interested in seeing Germany...along with seeing Austria and Switzerland...please let me know by "snail" or e-mail. We need a minimum of 15 people to make the tour possible so, it looks like we are going...
are you?



Lonnie Joe Cooper, 69, (pg. 363) passed away peacefully at home March 2, 2009, after a courageous fight against renal cell CA. Joe was born July 13, 1939, and raised among



the beautiful hills and rivers of Desloge, MO, where he learned a love and respect for God's creations.

He enlisted in the Navy and was stationed aboard the USS San Joaquin County (LST 1122). He learned his profession as an air conditioning specialist on board ship. Upon his discharge, he attended college for a brief time in Pensacola, FL. Moving to Houston, TX, to reunite with his best friend in the service, John Mason, Joe met and married Mary Ruth Allstott, his devoted wife of 37 years.

They have three children, R. Dave DeJohn and wife, Mignon, Lore Mason and husband, Michael, of Houston, Texas, and Alice Janz and husband, Charles, of Pittsburgh, PA; 12 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Joe is survived by his brother, Tim Cooper of Desloge, Missouri, and sister, Georgia Burt and husband, Charlie, of Bonne Terre, Missouri; nephews, Chuck and Steve Birt, and niece, Melanie Kater, and their children, who also reside in Missouri.

Other close family include his brother and sisters-in-law, Jerry and Phyllis Allstott of Ventura, CA, and Melva Allstott of Cartersville, GA; a nephew, Roger Allstott of Lake Jackson, and niece, Cherilyn Vaughan of Cartersville, GA, and their children. Close aunt Lillie O. Rogers resides in Temple, Texas, and another, Barbara Rogers, in Muldoon, Texas.

Joe was the founder of Airton and Airmack Air Conditioning Companies in the greater Houston area. In his spare time, he was assistant coach in fast-pitch girl's softball whose team won the TAAF state championships in 1990 and 1991. He received the Knights of the Round Table Award from Episcopal High School for volunteer work with their athletic program that same year as their team took SPC state honors. He earned his PADI rescue diver license in the 1990s and scuba-dived Alaska and the Caribbean, including Belize.

After retirement, Joe enjoyed raising monarch and swallowtail butterflies. Until his illness prevented, Joe was active the Clemens Youth Center Initiative with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and the Feed My Lambs Ministry of West Columbia, Texas.

Hi Jerry,
It is with regret I must inform you of my mother's passing. Gerda Rose Osborne (nee Kohlmann/Coleman) died on May 12, 2009, in Dunedin, New Zealand. I was with her when she died.

I suddenly remembered you and the family tree and thought it would be a good idea to let you know for your records.

Hope all is well with you and Phyllis. We

are waiting for summer to arrive. We're probably a little impatient because it is really still only Spring, but it has been a cold winter this year and the whole town is hanging out for some sun.

Cheers, Penny Smith, Dunedin, New Zealand, related to pg. 18

Mamie Allstot, 94, (pg. 399) of rural Windom, Minnesota, died Feb. 10, 2008, at Good Samaritan Society in Jackson, MN.

Services were held Thursday in the American Lutheran Church of Windom Chapel with Pastor Terry Frovik officiating. Mamie J. Hanson was born Feb. 8, 1914, to Julius J. and Clara (Swanholm) Hanson in Christiania Township of Jackson County. She was baptized and later confirmed at Bethany Lutheran Church in Bergen, MN. She received her education in a Jackson County country school.

In 1933, Mamie married Clyde B. Allstot at the American Lutheran Church parsonage in Windom. Mamie and Clyde farmed on Clyde's home place.

After retiring in 1969, they purchased a home on Fish Lake, southeast of Windom.

Mamie and Clyde enjoyed fishing together, playing the game "Aggravation" and "to coffee" with friends.

After Clyde's death in 1994, Mamie continued living in their home. She became a resident of Colonial Manor Nursing Home in Lakefield in 2003. In 2007, she moved to Good Samaritan Society-Jackson.

A member of American Lutheran Church in Windom, Mamie enjoyed Saturday evening fellowship and worship services at the church. She also enjoyed a large garden and raising chickens, and will be remembered for her cooking as well as baking "Norske" goodies.

In addition to her husband Clyde, Mamie was preceded in death by three brothers: Chester, Harley and Verlon. Survivors include her sister, Clarine Ludvigson of rural Windom; a brother, Duane (Janet) Hanson of Henning; a sister-in-law, Muriel Hanson of Worthington; and dear friends, Orpha Kenyon of Windom, and James and Joan Bregel of rural Windom.

Harold Wayne Nicks, 77, pg. 516 June 3, 1931 - November 11, 2008

As written by his sister Connie Morrill
My brother, Harold passed away after having lung surgery to remove cancer from his right lung. He was 77, the first son of Paul and Lucille Nicks.

Harold served in the Navy, managed dry cleaning businesses, managed a security service and drove an 18-wheeler for many years where he was proud to be the "Captain of his ship." He received an award for 10 million accident-free miles. He loved "Mo" (that's Maureen) who shared his life and love for their three dogs and a cat, a constant source of entertainment and comfort. Harold was friendly, outgoing and had a great sense of humor.

He will be missed by all his cousins and family and friends in the Greeley area.

Dear Jerry,
I am sorry to report the passing of my husband Karl (Charly) Lutz-Sturzenegger this January. Charly was born on January 27, 1920 and died on January 12, 2009, just short of his 90th birthday.
Elisabeth Lutz-Sturzenegger, tour director for the 2003 Altstadt/Altstatt Germany Tour

In the service of his country...

USCG Station Golden Gate Command Cadre CWO3 Mark Allstott CWO3 Mark T. Allstott Commanding Officer

CWO Allstott, (pg. 295) originally hails from Hermiston, Oregon, and enlisted into the U.S. Coast Guard in 1987. Upon graduation from Basic Training, he was assigned to USCGC Spencer homeported in Boston, MA. From there, he served at Station(s) Castle Hill, Newport, RI. He earned the Coxswain qualification, the Surfman qualification, and he was assigned as the Executive Petty Officer aboard USCGC POINT Winslow, Morgan City, LA, earning the Underway Officer of the Day qualification. He was then assigned as Executive Petty Officer of Motor Lifeboat Station Humboldt Bay, Samoa, CA. He was promoted to Boatswain's Mate Chief, and assigned as Officer in Charge Station Toledo, OH.



He was commissioned Chief Warrant Officer in 2004, and assigned as Assistant Operations Officer Maritime Safety and Security Team LA/LB, San Pedro, CA. From there, he received orders as Commanding Officer, Motor Lifeboat Station Yaquina Bay, Newport, OR. *-submitted by BM1Kendall*

Cuzzin Contact...*...continued from page 5*

Dear Jerry,
My wife, Mildred was 86 years old the past July and we had a dinner with some of our children and grand children at that time at a local restaurant. I reached the age of 91 on the 21st day of January 2009. 14 of my children and my niece, Gloria and friend celebrated with a dinner at Cactus Willie Restaurant, in Glen Burnie, MD.

On June 15, 2009, we celebrated our 65th wedding anniversary at a local restaurant with 32 family members and guests. Everyone had a wonderful time.

Mildred and I have regular visits to the doctor and are in reasonably good health except for a few aches and pains. We are still active in the local AARP Chapter and took only one trip with them this past summer to a Crab Feast on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. We also took a weeks trip to

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Every name on 'Wall' a painful reminder of life, love lost



Louis Hoglund / Perham Enterprise Bulletin photo

Pointing to the name of her first love, Richard Ned Lillis, is Dianne (Altstadt) Szarke. Killed in action in Vietnam, his name appears on the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall, which was in New York Mills Sept. 10-13. Dianne was engaged to Lillis in 1966--about nine months before he stepped on a landmine near Quang Nam, South Vietnam, Dec. 29, 1966.

By Louis Hoglund editor@eot.com

Vietnam was beginning to heat up in 1966.

When 18-year-old Dianne Altstadt (pg. 117) came home to Perham, a solemn-faced priest, was waiting for her.

She knew her fiance was dead.

For nine months in 1966, Dianne was engaged to a soldier.

The young U.S. Marine from Richville popped the question before he departed for his second tour of duty.

"He was very good looking, brown curly hair," smiled Dianne (Altstadt) Szarke, fondly remembering a romance that abruptly ended more than four decades ago. "It was love at first sight." Near the very center of the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall, Dianne kneeled down--with a red rose in her hand--and found the name:

Richard Ned Lillis

On Dec. 29, 1966, PFC Lillis stepped on a landmine and was killed.

A 1965 graduate of Perham High School and Dent area native, Dianne was living in the Twin Cities in 1966. Her good friend Jo Anne Waldorf was engaged to Lillis's brother, Eddie; and that's how Richard and Dianne met. It wasn't long before two girl friends were engaged to two brothers--both of them Marines. Older brother Eddie actually signed for Richard, because he was only 17 when he enlisted--and an adult signature was required.

"They didn't want to tell me when I was in Minneapolis," recalled Dianne of the day she learned that her fiance was one of the nearly 60,000 who eventually perished in

Vietnam. "I was coming home for a wedding dance in Perham, it was a Friday night. We stopped at Joe Waldorf's gas station."

"When I went in, the priest (Father Bill Wey, from Dent's Sacred Heart Church), and members of my family were waiting....I knew right away what had happened."

It was the Easter holiday, 1966. Richard and Dianne were engaged.

The couple attended Holy Thursday services at Dianne's hometown church, in Dent. True love it was, because Richard didn't put up a fuss--though "he wasn't even Catholic," smiled Dianne.

Prophetically, Richard confided with friends about the situation in Vietnam. He evidently told several that he feared he "was never coming back."

He didn't say anything about that to Dianne, but she later

learned of his grim prediction.

It was relatively early in the Vietnam conflict. So, for many in Perham and East Otter Tail County, the death of Richard Lillis was perhaps the moment that the war in Southeast Asia really hit home.

It was a tragic awakening and the end of innocence for girls Dianne's age.

"Things like this happened in the news. It didn't happen to people we knew," said Diane Bruhn. "It was devastating."

Dianne Szarke still has the diamond Richard gave her 44 years ago. She also has a diamond given to her by Mike Rohde, who she met within a year after Richard was killed. Mike died in 2000, and Dianne was alone again after 32 years of marriage. Both diamonds are embedded in a custom-designed ring Dianne wears. There is a third gem, too. It is from Jim Szarke, a retired Perham teacher who she married in 2003.

Hundreds of people visited the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall when it was in New York Mills Sept. 10-13. They scanned The Wall for names of long lost friends, family members and loved ones.

There's an old wartime saying: "there are no atheists in a foxhole." Well, when the bombs drop, the bullets fly and the landmines explode--there are no high school or college graduates, either. Just frightened young soldiers, a long way from home.

There is hardly a historic trace of Richard Ned Lillis in Perham school or Otter Tail County records. But his name will live on with 58,253 others, eternally etched into "The Wall."

Reprinted from the Perham, MN, Enterprise Bulletin

Cuzzin Contact...*continued from page 7*

Nags Head, NC, in July with my oldest son's family. We also took our annual trips to our high school reunions in West Virginia.

Our son Alan has retired after working 33 years as a broadcast engineer at a local TV Station. He will be working three days a week at a local Catholic School keeping their computers in working order.

Stay healthy and keep well.
Your cuzzins, **Forrest and Mildred Hoffmaster**, Linthicum Hgts, MD, pg. 499

Hi Jerry,
I wanted to thank you for being the keeper of the family history. We so enjoy hearing from you over the holidays.

Our life is pretty much about kids and work. Husband Tim is interested in doing eco-friendly remodels in his free time. We gained an office this year with a field stone walled music studio below. The building was a 110 year old grainery and during restoration, we found an old pottery liquor bottle hidden in the wall!

Warmest wishes, **Tana, Tim, Grey and Bronwyn Boyce-Erickson**, pg. 564

Merry Christmas...*continued from page 1*

grandson, **Conner Tucker**, celebrated his 1st birthday while we were there and celebrated it by taking his first steps! Turning north, we visited my sister's daughter's family, **Alice and Charles Janz**, who had moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in December (*what a month to move!*) and celebrated our visit with two days of snow! Heading west, we stopped by Evansville, Indiana, to see how the reunion was shaping up with **Jim, Katie, Wayne and Diane Altstadt**. We had the treat while we were there of having dinner with Father Damian Dietlein and the Altstadt's before heading back home. Snow caught us again in Colorado and we finally escaped it just west of Albuquerque, New Mexico. I think that we'll travel in the fall from now on...with less chance of snow!

On June 14, I headed via Air France, with 23 others from our church, on a 10-day mission trip to Kandern, Germany, where I had worked last year (*see last years newsletter*).

Hermann Altstadt drove over from Erlangen on Sunday, so that we could review what we would be doing on our U.S. tour at his mom's and sister's, Heidi Pierre, homes in Badenweiller, plus visit with his uncle and aunt - **Alfred & Hildegard Altstadt**.

We really had a good reunion in Evansville - 95 cuzzins, descendants of six Altstadt Clan immigrants, made the trek to Indiana and everyone had a very enjoyable time. On our way to the reunion we stopped by Oklahoma City to visit **Bill & Georgia Altstadt** and **Hershel Altstadt**.

This reunion featured our first golf tournament and the guys that played - from Illinois, New York, New Jersey and Indiana developed a good camaraderie. We had rain Saturday, so the Washer Tournament was moved to the porch next to the hall where

we had our meetings and meals. Can you imagine tossing washers into cups on boards placed on concrete? As soon as the washer missed the board or clunked off the board it rolled under tables or bushes. That was good for quite a few laughs. The host Altstadts, Diane, Katie, Jim and Wayne fixed bar-b-que for the Saturday night Supper...*Man it was really good!* Sunday's meal was fried chicken with all the trimmin's and what would be complete without ice cold watermelon...and was it sweet!

On Saturday night we went down to the Ohio River for the July 4th fireworks. It was one beautiful night. No one could complain as the temperature had been in the 100s a few days before we came to the reunion. The temperatures were in the high 80s during the reunion due to the cloud cover and rain.

There were quite a few folks there from the other reunions. **Forrest Hoffmaster** was our oldest cuzzin at 91 years of age.

On Monday, after the reunion, Phyllis and I headed west with our German cuzzins, **Hermann, Gundi** and their son **Matthias Altstadt**. Hermann retired this year and this was the families retirement trip. (*See Matthias' article, starting on page 4, about his favorite times in America*).

Back again in the RV, we left home on August 8, for our Canadian Parks "vacation" and Airflow (car) Club of America National Meet up in the Seattle/Tacoma area.

On the way north, we visited **Pat and Marvin Kennedy** in Medford, OR and were invited to an Applegate Reunion at a Llama/ Alpaca Ranch on the Rogue River. The food and fellowship was great.

We also dropped in on some of Phyllis' cousins in Washington State before crossing the Canadian border and heading to Glacier, Banff and Jasper National Parks. The route to the parks took us by the home of **Darlene and Myron Watson** in Kalowna, BC, and we enjoyed a good time with them for a couple of days before visiting the parks.

The Canadian Rockies were beautiful, and we saw lots of elk and mountain goat and...Phyllis got to walk on a glacier in Jasper Park below the Columbia Ice Fields. She was a happy camper.

Canadian gas runs around \$5.00 a gallon, so we were glad to get back into the states and on to the Airflow 46th National Meet. It was good seeing club friends and spending a day at the Boeing Museum of Flight and a day at the LeMay car collection. What a super bunch of cars!! After that we headed down to Clackamas, Oregon, and visited with cousins **Bill and Sally Langford** on the way south.

A couple of days later we visited **John and Susan Altstadt** in Los Altos, CA, where we spent a couple more days updating the Altstadt website, before heading for home where we landed on September 5. We're staying put for the rest of the year...yahoo!

Jerry and Phyllis Allstott
P.S. Take a look at the Altstadt website...John has done a great job in updating the material!

The descendants of Martin Altstadt (1699), led by Mary Homman and Jean Williams of the Royal Feaster Altstadt (1878) line, invite all the AAA Clans members to...

The 6th National Altstadt/Alstott Reunion

Labor Day Weekend
September 2014
Clearfield, Pennsylvania
Start making your plans now to attend!
More information to follow in next years AAA Newsletter



Clearfield...it's right in the heartland of the great state of Pennsylvania.

Many Thanks to all of you who said "YES...send the annual newsletter via e-mail!"

With rising mailing costs, around 2/3rds of our cuzzins said, "Send the newsletter via e-mail! That was a whopping lot of responses from all of you.

Of course, not everyone has access to e-mail. If you are receiving this newsletter electronically, you have already noticed the new color of most of the photos and artwork. Color printing is just out of the question for this low quantity published newsletter.

If you are still considering receiving your newsletter electronically, please let me know sometime early next year.

Thanks, Cuzzin Jerry

Thanks to the many of you who help defer costs on the newsletter

My sincere thanks to each of you for supporting the "All-Clans" Snail-mail Newsletter...and your annual (\$2.00) monetary support. Again...THANK YOU ALL and have a wonderful Holiday Season!