

The Reunion Junction

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The Woolever Reunion: June 23-25, 2000

May 14, 2000

Final Preparations Being Made

What's it all about?

The big event is getting really close now. Let's see... not much more than a month away! I thought it might be appropriate to explain again how the idea of a reunion all began. In simple terms, it's all Michelle's "fault."

Many of us were gathered in Chicago for Michelle's wedding back in March of 1999. We cousins were all feeling the same delight at seeing each other, and seeing our aunts and uncles, after so long. Everyone seemed to be saying the same thing: "We should have a reunion." In the end, it's mainly for the love of our parents, and of our aunts and uncles, that we do this.



This family portrait, taken about 1947, was apparently hand-tinted by Esther, a talent which she used professionally in Des Moines at Dean's Studios, which still exists today. Does anyone know when and where this was taken?

The Amateur Talent Show:

So, maybe you're nervous about the talent show? Don't be! This will be fun. Emphasis is on "amateur." I've asked my sister, Mary, to be M.C. for the event, since as actress she must be comfortable on stage. I've told her to encourage at least someone from every family to offer something for our amateur hour. There's no obligation, but won't we be sad to miss experiencing someone's talent?

But what, you ask, should you do? Anything that pleases you—silly or serious. Who's going to complain, unless you don't get up. But really, here are some examples:

- Tell a story (about a relative, or how far you had to walk in the snow to get to school...?).
- Stupid-human-tricks, *a la* David Letterman... (I don't think stupid-pet-tricks will be allowed in the motel.)
- Tell a joke (kids, we'll love your "groaners")

- Sing a song. Play an instrument. (Some people have been known to make up new lyrics to old songs, and some have been fiendishly clever with ballads about other family members, near or distant.)
 - Anyone for Hamlet's soliloquy?
 - I know at least one person who can recite all the president's names. And was that backwards, too?
 - Magic tricks? Show and tell?
 - Trivial (reunion) pursuit (who did or said what when...?)
- You get the idea. Anything goes, and it's all for the fun of being together, and for discovering "Woolever."

Cost Estimates:

We've been making a list, and scouting prices. It looks like the requested donation will be \$10/person (children 6 and under free). This will cover the costs of beverages and light refreshments in the hospitality room Friday, all food and beverages at the picnic Saturday, as well as the base travel fee of the photographer.

Discretionary costs will be for any other meals you decide to seek, the golf outing (\$31), whatever you buy at the Farmer's Market, the Art Festival or at the mall. You decide what photographs you want to order and purchase. The motel will charge a separate fee for our group Sunday brunch. And of course the motel room will be \$59/night basic charge.

The Motel:

Valley West Inn
3535 Westown Parkway, West Des Moines, Iowa 50266
Phone for reservations: **1-800-833-6755**
Tell them "Woolever Reunion."

(Final deadline for motel reservations: June 16, 2000)

Schedule Review:

Friday:

- Arrival and check-in + hospitality room.

Saturday:

- Morning: Golfers golf; others to Farmer's Market, Des Moines Arts Festival, or shopping, etc.
- Afternoon: Picnic and photos.
- Evening: Amateur Talent Show.

Sunday:

- Brunch and final farewells.

Love — Greg & Mary

