

## **2020 MEEKER GET - TOGETHER**

We enjoyed our fourteenth gathering on Saturday 8/8/20. It was held at the Oldaker shelter in Yoctangee Park.

Of course we had some losses. David Detty's wife Heidi died earlier in the year, and our grand matriarch Edith Fisher just passed on Monday Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> from a fall, that might have had medical causes other than a simple misstep.

Her timing was impeccable, that our reunion would begin just as the events of that terrible week wrapped up. It of course meant that Custer, Sharon, and Heather could be here. He was extremely concerned all week, that he being from out of state, was a great risk to all; so they only stopped in briefly Saturday, before going on to the airport. Of course Jason, Chika, and 20 month old Jack had to stay behind. They could not afford to risk Jack's health.

Her funeral was Friday, 08/07/20, and she was buried at Mt. Carmel Cemetery five miles east of town. She was buried beside her husband Russell. The family gatherings of this reunion weekend really helped us get through the process. We will miss her, and try to carry on with this great get-together as she would have us.

Thirteen of us met at Longhorn's Steak House Friday evening. Six again met the next morning at Bob Evans, and Fifteen again met on Sunday morning at Bob Evans to say farewell (we were there for three hours)!!

We had a total of 41 attendees this year, including a very late arrival by Connie Melson (she had gone to work, and didn't realize she was not scheduled). That number is just shocking. With all the virus STUFF, I only expected around twenty.

All weekend we donned our masks, grumbling, laughing, and complaining all the while. We were very lucky to have made an early reservation. At one point, they had shut off any future reservations, but honored those already made. It takes much more than a silly old virus to stop us!

Randy Meeker was here, but none of Doug Meeker & family were, neither was Phil Meeker (Joe's son). Jim S. brought his new fiancé Beth! We got started around 1 PM with a prayer by Kenny Fisher. We had plenty of good food, including Marge's pulled pork. I was again surprised how long many people stayed, considering the virus. About half of us left around 3:30 PM, but some stuck around till 6 PM or so.

At one moment in the afternoon, the siblings lined up for their traditional annual picture. All of a sudden we realized that there were ONLY three - Marge, Jane, and Mike.

The weather the entire week was some of the best August weather I have ever seen. It was so comforting during our difficult week of loss, that the sun was out, and humidity extremely low. It was a great blessing to me personally, and I felt it was heaven sent for our difficult time.

Below is a summary of our gatherings, locations, and attendance.

07	Charles's barn	49	
08	Charles's barn	61	
09	Russ Lewis barn	51	Same as Charle's barn, but met outside.
10	Russ Lewis barn	41	
11	Edith's yard	50	
12	Edith's yard	47	
13	Edith's yard	59	
14	Edith's yard	61	
15	Edith's yard	33	
16	Edith's yard	43	
17	Edith's yard	56	
18	Custer's block barn	42	
19	Oldaker Shelter	43	We moved to reduce Edith's responsibilities.
20	Oldaker Shelter	41	

fourteen years, five locations, average attendance 48.4

This year there were no special guests, except members of the Kirk family. Sue, Eric, and Stacy (with Jesse). I had seen John and his wife earlier at Walmart. Bruce was not able to come.

At one point during the afternoon, we were surrounded by five curious squirrels. Karen K. tried to shoo them away, but they stayed close, even coming up on the concrete.

Later in the afternoon, there was another group not far from us, and they did mock battles with some kind of swords, armor, and cardboard shields. They really went at it, making a terrible noise, but interesting.

I was able to reserve the shelter house for Saturday Aug 14 next year. In 2019 we took up a collection, and it came to \$150 dollars, which exactly covered 2020, and 2021. Custer found a box of donations for the tent in Mom's house. It comes to \$164 dollars, so we are good through 2022 (unless they raise the fee).

The group of eight family members I mentioned in the 2012 report; that have come every year has reduced to six. Of course Edith was not here, and Mike's wife Jane did not come this year, so now the list is **Kenny, Jean, Jane K., Marge, Mike, and Marc S.**

I have created a website. The URL is below. That's right, there are two S's. I am in the process of learning to build it. So far there is not much there, just a Kenny's Stuff name and a special graphic logo I designed several years ago. So far I have six areas you can click on, to see their full descriptions. I haven't learned yet how to add any real content, but soon.

[www.kennysstuff.com](http://www.kennysstuff.com)

Below that opening graphic logo is a button entitled "Details of my Logo". Click it for some information about that logo.

I want to have several buttons you can select to view different sections of the web site. Some of these of course will allow you to go to family sections for Fisher, Meeker, Oldaker, and possibly more. In the Meeker section there will be further choices including Meeker Get Together, where I will eventually have lots of information.

It will take me some time to learn how to build those features into the site, but give me a few weeks, and there should be some relative content.

We lost two family members this past year, Edith Fisher and Heidi Detty. Their photos are below.

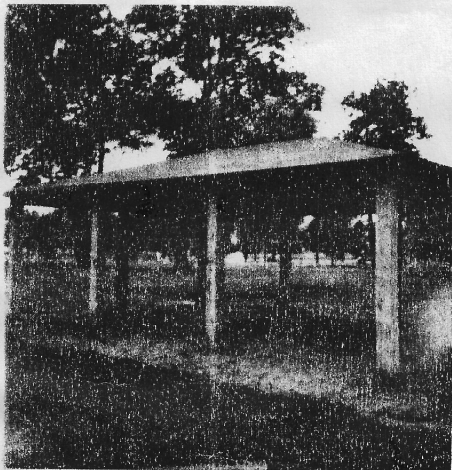


While going through stuff after Mom's passing, I found a letter from Glen Kempton about the Oldaker shelter house dated May 12 1988. At the time, Glen did not know Danny and Charles all that well. He told the story of when they began construction, they pulled in with a trailer full of lumber. Charles sat on the load, figuring on a note pad while smoking a cigarette. When he finished, he started up his saw, and in just a few minutes, tore through that load of lumber, knowing exactly what he needed to cut. Glen was just blown away by the fantastic talents of both of them.

Since that day Glen became very close to my Dad and brothers, and to the family. He spent most mornings having breakfast with us at the old LK restaurant before a hard days work. That letter is on the following page.

May 12, 1988

Some of the descendants of the family of H. B. and Ella Oldaker have decided to build a shelter house in their memory, at the City Park in Chillicothe, Ohio. It will be erected at the location of the reunion for the past 58 years. We have consent of the Mayor and the City Officials to build this memorial. It will in turn become city property, but will carry a placque designating it was donated by the Oldaker families. The cost will be approximately \$3,000.00. Contributions may be sent to the H. B. Oldaker Shelter House Fund, % Huntington Bank, P. O. Box 106, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601. The shelter house will be dedicated at the reunion the 3rd Sunday in August, 1988 (8-21-88). If there are more contributions than needed for the memorial, the funds will be turned over to the Treasurer to be used for future reunion expenses. If any additional information is needed, please contact Glen Kempton at the below address. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the 1988 reunion.



Glen Kempton  
284 Narrows Road  
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601  
614-775-6920

*Xeo 4/11*

Here is a current picture of the shelter house. You can see near the top, the city has added the label "HENRY & ELLA OLDAKER AND FAMILY".



### Alphabetical List of Those Present

<b>BARNHART</b> , EnnaJean, Nick	<b>KOHLHOFER</b> , Jane
<b>DETTY</b> , Dave	<b>LEWIS</b> Bill, Amy
<b>EVANS</b> , Keith	<b>LEWIS</b> Christina, Steve
<b>EVANS</b> Heather, Willow..	<b>LEWIS</b> Jeff, Sara
<b>FISHER</b> , Brenda	<b>LEWIS</b> Rich, Courtney, Wiley
<b>FISHER</b> , Custer, Sharon, Heather	<b>MCCORMICK</b> Marge
<b>FISHER</b> , Kenny	<b>MEEKER</b> Mike, Kent
<b>GERDING</b> , George	<b>MEEKER</b> Randy
<b>HILL</b> , Roger	<b>MELSON</b> Connie
<b>KEEFNER</b> , John & Karen	<b>MOREHEAD</b> Rich, Cathy
<b>KIRK</b> , Sue	<b>SHERWOOD</b> Jim, Beth P.
<b>KIRK</b> , Eric	<b>STRAUSBAUGH</b> Marc
<b>KIRK</b> , Stacy, Jesse B	<b>STRAUSBAUGH</b> Dan, Marilyn

### Family Outline

**PUNCTUATION** Bold type is used to show family members that were present at the gathering. The "<>" symbols specify a deceased individual. Names in parentheses are spouses, friends, and guests. Spouses are to the right of a family member. I have moved all the guests to the end of the list..

<WARREN MEEKER>                      (<RUTH>)  
Moved to California in 1950's, need family information.

<EDNA MAY>    died at birth.

<JUNIOR (CHARLES) MEEKER>  
Moved to California in 1950's, need family information.

<EDITH>

(<RUSSELL FISHER>)

<JOHN>

**KENNY**

**ENNA JEAN BARNHART**

**NICK**

**NATE**

**MADISON**

**AMY**

**(BILL LEWIS)**

**CHRISTINA**

**(STEVE & SOPHIE)**

**RUSS**

**(MARY)**

**GARETT**

**CLAY**

**RICH**

**(COURTNEY)**

**WILEY**

**JEFF**

**(SARA)**

<DANNY FISHER>

**(BRENDA)**

**DAMIAN**

**(LANI)**

**BROCK**

**MEGAN**

**JAMISON**

**JACOB**

**(AMANDA)**

**JAYCEE**

**CUSTER FISHER**

**(SHARON)**

**HEATHER**

**JASON**

**(CHIKA)**

**JACK**

<CHARLES>

<CATHERINE> (<DON FRAZIER>)  
**CATHY MOREHEAD** (RICH)  
**CONNIE MELSON**  
**KAREN KEEFNER** (JOHN)

<BETTY ANN> died at 16 months old.

<NANCY> (JOHN DETTY)  
SUSIE  
<ROGER>  
**DAVID** <HEIDI>  
CHELSEA

<GEORGE (BUD) MEEKER> (MIGNONNE)  
DOUGLAS (CORINA)  
DANIELLE (JONATHAN WARREN)  
EMMALINE  
SHANE MEEKER  
EDDIE  
CHARLES

<BEN MEEKER> (<PEGGY>)  
**RANDY** (EVELYN)  
Jasmine  
Peggy's son, Randy's half brother  
**KEITH EVANS** (LINDA)  
**HEATHER**  
DAMIEN  
ZYRICK (LIZZIE)  
**WILLOW**  
TROY, KIRK



**MARGE** (CHARLIE MCCORMICK)  
**ROGER HILL**

<CINDY> (JIM SHERWOOD) (BETH PARE)  
CASSIE (GLEN TROYER)  
TABITHA SHERWOOD

<DONALD (JOE) MEEKER> (JODY ELLIS) (<MARK PORTER>)

PHIL (JENNIFER)  
JOSHUA  
MCKENZIE  
ALLISON  
BROOKE

<JUDY> (DAN STRAUSBAUGH & MARILYN)

DANA PETERS (BOB PETERS)  
JOE HERALD (KENDRA)  
GAVIN  
LIAM  
JOSH HERALD (JEANIE TRISTA)  
HARRISON

**MARC** (JUDY)

**JANE** <GEORGE KOHLHOFER>  
KRISTA (JOHNIE JOHNSON)

TAYLOR  
COLTON  
BRYCE  
KALEB  
BRYNLEE

GEORGE III (RD) (AMANDA)  
ABBY MCGUFFIN

**MIKE MEEKER** (JANE)  
**KENT** (SHANNON)  
**HANK** (AUTUMN)

**SPECIAL GUESTS**

**SUE KIRK  
ERIC KIRK**

**GEORGE GERDING  
STACEY KIRK  
JESSE B.**