

Winter 2019 \* Volume 22 \* Issue 85



The old homestead BEFORE the remodeling took place when the Original Gang of 10 lived there. In this issue you can reread Clayton's article about the layout of the house.

Everyone remembers the Fall 2017 issue of the *Gardner Newsletter* because that was the issue that celebrated Aunt Lois' 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. While visiting her during that time period, Cousin Rod Ames discovered several of Aunt Lois' photo albums that contained many pictures depicting various people, places, and events throughout her long life.

Unfortunately, the photo albums were not in the best of shape. As the titular "Great Lady of the Lake" living along the shores of Lake

Memphremagog, the humidity and moisture coming off the lake during the summer months did irreparable damage to the albums. Ever resourceful, Rod scanned all the pictures in each album. He kindly forwarded them to your editor and I tried to enhance and enlarge some of them using Adobe Photoshop.

On the following pages, we'll display and talk about some of the older pictures that perhaps may pique the interest of our family of subscribers. Hope you enjoy them!

***“Some pictures from Aunt Lois’ photo albums saved from mold and deterioration by Cousin Rod Ames ”***



**The infamous Gardner family trip to Nova Scotia in 1928**

Front Row: Nita Alice Gardner, Elizabeth Gardner, Lois Gardner, Earl Gardner, Clayton Gardner

Back Row: Ruth Amy Gardner, Olive Lucy Gardner, Amy Jane Ripley Gardner Lang, Adelbert Johnson Lang (holding Raymond Richard Gardner) Adelbert Cecil Gardner, James Matthinson.

(Poor quality picture. Grandpa Gardner is not pictured, so he must have taken the photo.)



**The infamous Gardner family trip to Nova Scotia in 1928 drawn as a cartoon**

On Grandpa Gardner’s 90th birthday in 1977, this cartoon was shown (along with many others) commemorating many important events in his life.

We’ve all heard the story of how the family of 10 piled into an old Model T car and headed across the border into Canada! (See Gardner Newsletter, Winter 1999, Volume 2, Issue 5)



**Grandpa Gardner flips Ford Model A while he was on the road selling insurance**

Grandma Gardner annotated this picture that was in Aunt Lois’ photo album. She wrote that Grandpa experienced a car crash while he was on the road to Lyndonville selling insurance.

***“Good thing Cousin Rod Ames scanned these pictures from Aunt Lois’ photo albums or they would have been lost to us forever”***

## The younger members of the “Original Gang of Ten

Here’s a great picture of the Gardner family while they were living in the house pictured on the front page. Left to Right: Uncle Raymond Gardner, Grandpa Gardner, Aunt Elinor Gardner, Uncle Adelbert Gardner, Aunt Beulah Gardner, and Grandma Gardner.



## Earl Gardner and his sister, Lois Gardner

Here is a rare picture of Earl and Lois photographed together. In the early 1970’s, Aunt Lois accompanied Grandma and Grandpa Gardner (her parents) on a trip to California to visit Earl and Marie. Here are Earl and Lois posing outside Earl and Marie’s home in Prunedale (Watsonville) CA.

Aunt Lois was the third of the Original Gang of Ten and Earl Gardner was the fourth child of Will and Olive Gardner.

During this trip, Aunt Lois was frustrated that Grandma and Grandpa insisted on having their cup of hot water every morning before beginning any of the day’s activities. She was also a bit annoyed at the time it took them to actually get on the road. As we all get older, we can appreciate that sentiment, right?



## Rod and Irene Ames (a VERY early photo of them together)

Rod and Irene Ames celebrated their 50th anniversary back in 2012. You can go to Aunt Nita’s page on the Gardner Newsletter website at [www.gardnernews.org](http://www.gardnernews.org) and see a video of that special event.

Here it is now 2018, six years later, and they will be celebrating 56 years of marriage this summer!



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***“Some pictures from Aunt Lois’ photo albums saved from mold and deterioration by Cousin Rod Ames ”***

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### **Sandra Johnson Baraw**

Sandra (pictured here in her graduation photo) is Edith Lang Johnson’s daughter. Grandpa Gardner was “Uncle Will” to her as Edith was one of Grandpa Gardner’s half sisters. You can learn all about the Lang-Johnson-Eggleston connection by following this link:

<http://www.gardnernews.org/The%20Lang-Johnson-Eggleston%20Connection.htm>

Sandra’s daughter, Jodi Desimone, publishes a family newsletter every year and you can read it by scrolling through the same link printed above.



### **Arthur Johnson of the Lang-Johnson-Eggleston Connection**

Here is a rarely seen photograph of Arthur Johnson, Sandra Johnson Baraw’s brother. Like Sandra, his parents were Edith and Ed Johnson.

Arthur was a great friend of the Gardner Newsletter and offered good advice and even sent in an article or two. He was especially appreciative of the articles that the newsletter published about the Clyde River.

Sadly, Arthur passed away on November 11, 2006. You can learn more about Arthur by going to the Lang-Johnson-Eggleston Connection page at [www.gardnernews.org](http://www.gardnernews.org).



### **Glenn Johnson, oldest grandchild of Will and Olive Gardner**

Glenn Johnson, Cousin Teresa Vasko’s brother, passed away in 2016. His parents were Elizabeth and Homer Johnson of Lyndonville. Elizabeth was the second child of Will and Olive Gardner.

Glenn was a very talented carpenter and had an abiding passion for the Boston Red Sox.

***“Good thing Cousin Rod Ames scanned these pictures from Aunt Lois’ photo albums or they would have been lost to us forever”***

## Adelbert and Earl Gardner

There aren’t many pictures around of the Gardner boys when they were young. Here is a wonderful picture of Adelbert and Earl together in front of a big tree.

Aunt Lois’ photo album labels this picture as “Clayton and Earl,” but I think you can clearly see that the fellow on the left is Adelbert, not Clayton. In fact, the fellow on the right could be Raymond, not Earl, as they look so much alike. What do you think?



## A very early picture of Nita and Lyndol Ames together

Here is a very early picture of Aunt Nita and Uncle Lyndol Ames. This photo even may have been taken before they were married. The Gardner cousins who are Nita and Lyndol’s children are: Rod Ames, Terry Ames, Dawnita Ames, and David Ames.

Tragically,, David passed away in 2001; but his wife, Ann. and their children, Sarah,, Marie, and Matthew, have growing families and are all doing well today.



## Another picture of the younger members of the “Original Gang of Ten”

Here is another group photo of “the Gardners” probably taken before the original homestead had been remodeled.

Pictured here are Adelbert, Beulah, Grandpa Gardner, Grandma Gardner, Elinor, Nita, and Raymond.



# The “Original” Old Homestead

*Reprinted from the Gardner Newsletter, Volume 4, Issue 13, Winter 2001*

**T**his house was remodeled in 1946 or 1947. Before remodeling, the main part of the house had five rooms.

Downstairs there was a kitchen, small living room, and a small bedroom. Upstairs there were two slant ceilinged bedrooms. As shown in the picture, there were three windows on the west end.

The upstairs window was for the four boy’s bedroom. One of the two downstairs windows was for the folk’s bedroom – a very small bed room just barely large enough to hold a double bed flush against the south and west walls with a small walkway north of the bed. There was a bureau at the foot of the bed

and room enough between the bureau and the entry door to hold a wash tub in which we had our Saturday night baths.

Usually, quite a few of us used the same bath water so that we did not have to fill the tub many times. The other downstairs window was for a small living room. The remodeled house combined the old living room and the downstairs bedroom to make the present day living room.

The six girls slept in the upstairs bedroom that had the dormer. We boys felt that they had a better room than we did because of the dormer and because our room did not provide any privacy.

The stairway was open. Everyone coming up the stairs could see both boys’ double beds. The girls’

room had a door that they could close.

The structure between the main house and the barn contained the ice cream factory, the ice cream parlor (these were converted to a stable during World War II), a garage, a woodshed, the outhouse and two rooms that sometimes served as a kitchen and dining room.

Above these was the space that we called the shed chamber. This shed chamber contained many interesting things – Papa’s old checkbooks, a cider press, the frame of a bicycle, old bureaus, a bear’s head rug, (Papa shot that bear

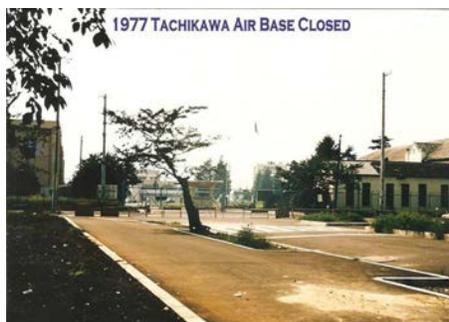
(Check out the photo on the front page.)

## “The Most Important Patients in the World”

Jean and Paul’s mother, Dorothy, had another sister,

**Who** is Mervin Avants? In the Summer 2013, Issue 63, publication of the

Gardner Newsletter, Cousin Teresa Vasko celebrated her “Gardner” cousins. In that same issue, the brother and sister team of Jean Gonzalo and Paul Gardner also celebrated their Portuguese heritage with a story about their cousins on their mother’s side, yet another brother and sister team, Eleanor Strong and Richard Mendes. Their mother was Jean and Paul’s mother’s oldest sister. If you want to re-read that issue, it’s on-line at [www.gardnernews.org](http://www.gardnernews.org). Go to your cyber-cousin Greta’s page.



Lillian, whose only child is Mervin Avants. He is a retired Air Force colonel who contributed the following article. He and his wife, Gail, are honorary subscribers to the newsletter along with his cousins Eleanor Strong and Richard Mendes. His mother, Lillian, actually has her own page on the Gardner Newsletter website. Here is the link: [http://www.gardnernews.org/Lillian\\_costa\\_avants.htm](http://www.gardnernews.org/Lillian_costa_avants.htm)

Since all of our newsletter subscribers are “family,” here is Mervin’s recent contribution to the Gardner Newsletter. We hope you will follow his example and send in articles too.

Here is an article which was re-published a few months ago in a medical newsletter and was originally written in 1986 for a publication at Air War College when I was a student there. Feel free to use it if it will help you or ignore it if it is not appropriate for your purposes.

In 1967 I was a Medical Service Corps officer stationed at Tachikawa Air Base, Japan, outside Tokyo, working at the 9<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Group headquarters. Tachikawa AB also boasted a fairly large hospital and it included an Aeromedical Staging Flight (*see picture to the right*), which was commanded by another Medical Service Corps officer who was a friend.

With Vietnam underway, some patients were being aero-medically evacuated to Japan for treatment, but most passed through Japan on their way to comprehensive care elsewhere. For those patients, the Aeromedical Staging Flight (ASF) became their temporary home for a day or two as they were transferred between aircraft for the next leg of their journey from Vietnam back to the U.S.

The ASF was not a beautiful facility. It was an old, World War II era Quonset hut as plain and unattractive as only a Quonset can be. However, my friend, Bill, an eager young officer, was not the type of ASF commander who would accept a conventional, some would say drab, facility. No, sir! He wanted to improve the scruffy building he had been assigned and turn it into something the wounded or ill patients coming from Vietnam or elsewhere would be pleased to enter. So, with a limited budget and no chance

of replacing the old hut, he decided the best option would be a makeover of the entrance to the facility. After all, first impressions are important.

In those days, Japan was still recovering economically from World War II and part of the role of the American military included employing local nationals.

Most routine tasks were carried out by these hard-working, reliable employees. Bill's vision to improve the ASF entrance, the first thing seen by arriving patients, essentially all of whom were young men, included two major modifications to the Quonset's entry. First, a large, square false front that gave the impression of entering a more substantial facility than the simple hut.

Second, he wanted a welcoming sign over the door that would make a positive impression. His inspiration was to create a large, semi-circular inscription with the words "Through These Doors Pass the Most Important Patients in



The morning of the grand opening I was a bit late arriving at the ceremony; and as I parked, I noticed the Japanese workmen literally hopping around the new entryway to the Quonset/ASF. As I approached, I realized they were disassembling the fancy, freshly-painted plywood front entrance. I could not imagine why they would be removing the new entry before the ceremony had even begun. Then, on closer examination, I had to laugh. The inscription, completed by the Japanese employees and encircling the fancy new archway read: ***"Through These Doors Pass the Most Impotent Patients in the World!"***

*Merv Avants, Colonel, USAF, Retired*



*Pictured left: USAF Colonel (Ret.) Mervin Avants with his wife, Gail, and their family*

the World." He sketched out what he wanted, passed the instructions to the Japanese supervisor whose workmen would complete the new, attractive but affordable entry, and invited many of us to the opening of his improved Aeromedical Staging Facility.

**SEND IN YOUR ARTICLES  
FOR THE SPRING, MAY  
2019 ISSUE!**

# Crazy Cats, Cheeky Chipmunk Cause Chaos

By: *Cindy Eggleston of the Lang-Johnson-Eggleston Connection*

As usual, I hope this finds you well and happy. It has been an interesting year for me. In February, after starting work on the 41st Scamp show, I contracted a “flu-like” virus that put me in the hospital with “cryptogenic cardiomyopathy,” a 50 cent word that means “your heart is messed up and we don’t know why.” I have recovered from a cardiac standpoint, but was weak enough that I had to turn the show over to the participants for the first time ever. The young woman who took over did an excellent job (with me coming back late in the game as a producer) but she ruffled some feathers of the other kids, and so the fate of the program is questionable for this coming spring. The only definite is that I would prefer to continue to be in the background - it was sooo much easier!

The good that came out of this was finding out that I have a pretty good support group. Several people rallied to feed cats (one of them inadvertently shutting off the furnace in an attempt to find a light switch) and two of my Scamp veterans kept me shoveled out as we immediately had two back-to-back storms as soon as I was home from the hospital. I had many visitors and food dropped off and felt very pampered and cared for. I consider it a blessing that I found this all out as a result of getting sick. I would prefer to not repeat the incident, but it definitely had a silver lining.

The other notable development this year was an abundance of chipmunks, many of whom never quite got the memo that some of their burrow doorways - the ones that opened into my outdoor cat enclosure - should have been closed up and sealed. Consequently, my crew managed to take out 23 chippies, only seven of which I was able to rescue. The rest ended up in pieces on the rug. I had to keep reminding myself that “I do love cats, I do love cats ....”

Talkative Rosie and Terrorist Olivia led the massacres most days; but on one occasion, Big Brody brought one in and deposited him, very much alive and running loose in the dining room. What ensued was kind of a cross between a rodeo and a cattle stampede, as all able-bodied cats - six of the seven - gave chase, up and over chairs and under bookcases, with mom also in hot pursuit, trying to capture a very unlucky critter before his luck completely ran out. The posse ran him into the bathroom, which gave me the opportunity to evict all of them and close the door so that I could focus on corralling Mr. Chips. In his panic, he hopped into the tub, which was great, because it has a sliding glass door that closes and creates an inescapable space - or so I thought. I climbed into the tub and shut the door and calmly approached the gasping rodent with my trusty towel. At that point, he decided to make a run for it, ducking into the only cover he could see, which was my open pantleg!

Up he went, stopping only when he encoun-

tered the snuggled area of the waistband, where he began searching for an opening to the tunnel that had suddenly become a cave. I had a moment of panic myself. Then I realized all I needed to do was close my hands around the squirming lump and hobble, hunched over like a crazed Quasimodo, out into the backyard. When I got there and peeled back the waistband, I discovered that he had managed to get under my t-shirt, and was beginning to get a bit frantic in his search for freedom. For a brief moment, I thought I would have to do an impromptu striptease right out in the open; but, in a sudden burst of cooperation, I peeled back the cloth as Chippy saw daylight and he was off into the bushes. “I do love cats, I do love cats ....”

None of the other rescues were nearly so interesting, but this one was one for the books, and I thought a good choice for a holiday letter. Other than wrangling prey and keeping everyone fed and medicated (that would be both cats and me) I am still playing the organ, directing the vocal choir, and accompanying the bell choir at church, and looking for ways to stay healthy.

I hope this year brings peace to all, and the craziness in the world becomes a little saner. Even more, I hope you and all you love have the best Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Here’s to 2019!

**You can download the RSVP form to attend the 2019 Gardner Family Reunion simply by going to [www.gardnernews.org](http://www.gardnernews.org). You MUST RSVP by JUNE 21st by signing and sending in the form and/or by calling Paul Gardner at (781) 346-3566.**

## GARDNER FAMILY REUNION - 2019

We want YOUR input on how to make the 2019 Gardner Family Reunion better! Send your ideas to Paul Gardner, 28 Ninth Street, # 404, Medford, MA 02155 or e-mail him at [epaulgardner@msn.com](mailto:epaulgardner@msn.com). Don’t forget, the dates are July 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. We are still deciding whether or not to reserve beds in the Bunkhouse for those who RSVP first or to reserve the beds on a “first-come-first-served” basis. What do you think?

### The Bunkhouse

Perfect for housing groups for workshops, retreats, and gath-

erings of family and friends. The Bunkhouse at NorthWoods is ideal as both a headquarters for adventure in the lakes and mountains of the Northeast Kingdom, or as a place to retreat to dig deep into the woods, waters, trails, and exploration offered right on the NorthWoods campus.



Sleeps 16-18. 16 bunks with mattresses, a common area, woodstove, 2 bathrooms with showers & stocked with toiletries. Wheelchair accessible. Includes a small fridge, microwave, k-cup coffee pot and outdoor grill. BYO pillows, linens, towels and k-cups. By request, your group can access the amenities of our main lodge, including a full kitchen and wifi.