



Vahsholtz Cousins

March 2016

www.vahsholtz.com

IDAHO the place to be July 14-17!



SO ... WHERE DID THE IDEA of having the 2016 Vahsholtz Family Reunion in Idaho come from and, uh ... just where is this place called "Idaho"?

For many years our reunions were in Kansas, then a couple in Missouri, followed by two in Colorado. Those places made a lot of sense because most of the Vahsholtz family sprung from Midwestern Germans. Now, it turns out the Vahsholtz family in all its various spellings is scattered across this country, and there are a surprising number of us here in the Northwest. We're hoping to tap into that group for this reunion, as well as enticing folks from the rest of the U.S. to come out and visit a place they might otherwise never see. For some—for *you*—this could be a once in a lifetime vacation with a reunion tacked on!

Plans are well on the way. Significant numbers of you have signed up to come, from as far away as Georgia. Any map will show that's about as far away from Idaho as you can get! If you're one of those people still trying to decide, here are some reasons to make the positive decision:

- There will be Vahsholtz family members here you have never met; some mighty interesting folks.
- This reunion will be different from

ones in the past with all of us in a facility reserved for just our family. The retreat center has plenty of things to do, on site and in the vicinity.

- On site, just for us, are a rock climbing wall, a gym, a stocked pond, a zipline, a swimming pool, game room, ladder golf and plenty of inside and outside areas to just visit and share family stories.
- We're planning to have a sort of "talent show"—no talent required. In the non-talent area, I've enticed my brother, Bob, into playing the "air accordion" and that will definitely demonstrate no talent! A couple of other acts are already lined up. More volunteers wanted!
- In the vicinity is an outdoor theater event where, if you find the play boring, the wildlife wandering by might prove a pleasant distraction. You can visit places with names like The Dirty Shame, Granny's Closet, the Trading Post (every man will want to spend some time in there!), the Old Merc (every woman will want to go here), Uncle Billy Bob's Redneck Trailers, Wild Bill's Bistro and so forth.
- We'll likely arrange an early day drive to Silver Creek Plunge, about 25 miles from Garden Valley on a

By Ruth (Vahsholtz) Richter

Cost Concerns? Consider this:

Most of you who have made deposits did so at the "advanced rate" of \$80 per person. People continue to sign up, and their deposit is \$100 per person. We required those substantial deposits because we had no idea how many would make the trek to Idaho, and if very few came, the cost per person might be high, because we've committed to the entire facility for three days. (Gulp!)

The good news is, enough of you have made deposits that all costs are now more than half covered. If we get an attendance comparable to some past reunions, there's a chance your deposit could cover your entire cost for lodging, breakfasts, one dinner and all the amenities provided at the lodge!

So keep those deposits coming! The more who attend, the less it costs each!

mostly dirt road, for a great opportunity to soak in a hot springs swimming pool. There's a closer option at Terrace Lakes Resort (*not* a grandiose resort!), but the pool is quite lovely. You can also play golf at Terrace Lakes; an interesting public course right in the mountains. Rent clubs there if you don't bring your own.

(Continued on page 2)

- Everywhere you look from Garden Valley there are beautiful mountains, two pristine, clear mountain rivers running through the valley, opportunities to tube in one of them, or just sit in the river cooling off. Rafting, trail riding and kayaking are all available. If you want to fish, bring your own gear and we can find someone to guide you to likely spots.
- We have family members who are regular DJs on the local all-volunteer radio station. (See page 6) We plan to interview some of you, and you'll likely be asked your impressions of Idaho and Garden Valley—what you think of the place as a tourist destination! Inquiring minds want to know.
- Sunday morning you'll find several churches in Garden Valley, but best of all, Lloyd Powless will lead a brief service, just for us.
- When you go home from Idaho, we guarantee you'll have stories to tell your family and friends. They'll wish they'd come along!

There is truly something for everyone here; things most of you probably haven't done before. As Hostess/Organizer, I'll be happy to help you find just the right unique thing to make your visit extra special.

You may have heard it's hot in Idaho in July, particularly from early afternoon to early evening? It can be,



but there's very little humidity, so you'll find it pleasant compared to the Midwest or East. In the mornings you'll want a sweater because it will have cooled down to somewhere in the 50s overnight, making for great sleeping, as well as sitting around outside in the evening. The retreat facility where we'll stay is air conditioned, in case moving into the shade of a tree doesn't work for you. You'll want to bring lightweight clothes and swim suits for the hot afternoons; sweaters, light jackets and slacks or jeans for the evenings and mornings.

If you want to whitewater raft, there are multiple options of how wild the ride can be, from quite calm and relaxing to Class V rapids and falls, one of which has to be hiked around. For rafting and such activities, you'll need reservations; see the list, next page. Shopping trips, short or long, can be arranged and, if needed, a leader can probably be found to make sure you have the best experience.

Here are suggestions for planning your trip:

If you're flying here, get a flight into Boise, Idaho, and rent a car. Then it will be about an hour and a half drive to Garden Valley.

If you're driving to Idaho, there are lots and lots of route options. Study some maps beforehand and consider planning one route here and another for return. We've driven most of the choices from most directions and will be happy to advise on routes you might enjoy.

There are multiple national parks you may encounter near your route. Consider getting yourself a Senior Pass if you're 62 years or older. A mere \$10 allows a whole car full of people into any of the National Parks, is good for your lifetime, and it can be purchased at the gate of the first National Park you enter. That pass can be used multiple times for any park such as Yellowstone, and even sometimes works to get you into state parks.

Idaho! July 14 through 17. I can't think of a better place to be! ■

To sign up, send \$100 deposit per adult, \$50 per child, with names of all attendees and your ancestral branch to:

Ruth Richter, P.O. Box 677
Garden Valley, ID 83622

ruthrichter2@gmail.com 208-462-3442



FAMILY

*We may not have it all together
But together we have it all*

HERE IS A LIST of things to do and see in the Garden Valley area where making reservations in advance would be wise. Regarding whitewater rafting ... there are all types of trips that anyone could feel comfortable taking from the very mild with limited rapids to the very exciting variety. Call and chat with the folks at the rafting companies and you'll get good advice. I'd say for most folks this would be a really fun thing. This is a great way to make Idaho memories; and something you're unlikely to do at home!

Another great choice: flying into the Frank Church Wilderness, River of No Return area, and having breakfast at a lodge there. Not cheap, but how often do you have a chance to go to a place so isolated that groceries and mail have to be brought in by packhorse or airplane?

There's even a 300' long summer tubing lane for the kids and a Bungee Jump nearby that look like fun, if there's time!

I can highly recommend almost all of the following, but make reservations!

Bear Valley Rafting Company,
www.bearvalleyrafting.com 800-235-2327

Cascade Raft & Kayak,
www.CascadeRaft.com 800-292-7238

Idaho Whitewater Unltd.,
www.idahowhitewaterunltd.com
208-462-1900

Arnold Aviation, Cascade, ID,
208-382-4844 (Back Country Fly-in
with Breakfast)

Terrace Lakes Resort, Golf Course,
www.terracelakes.com 208-462-3250

Deadwood Outfitters, fishing trips,
horseback riding, etc.
www.deadwoodoutfitters.com 1-800-365-8789

Killgore Adventures, jetboating the
Snake River,
www.killgoreadventures.com 800-469-8757

Garden Valley Trail Rides
(horseback riding),
www.gardenvalleytrailrides.com
208-462-3451 ■



In 1990, Marge and I met Ella (left) and Lloyd Vahsholtz (right) at my parents' house (Fred and Merle Vahsholtz) in Abilene and took this picture. We met them later from time-to-time at their home in Vancouver, Washington. Lloyd and Ella's daughter Joyce found the text below among Lloyd's writings and we typed his words (with minor editing) for us all to see—and remember.

What is Remembered Thoughts of Yesterday

By Lloyd Vahsholtz

CHILDHOOD TIMES – Ella's mother passed away at her birth. Hank and Ella without a mother, June 28th, 1921. Hank was taken by the Doran Family – grandfather and grandmother, which was good. Ella went family-to-family 'til Charlie and Lizzie Lanyer at 65 years old took Ella which turned out good for both Hank and Ella.

Lloyd born Nov 17, 1917; the seventh child born to Lizzie and John Vahsholtz. My father wanted six children. Lloyd's one brother died in 1912 so he might not have been, if the brother had lived. Ella's birth place Clatskanie, Oregon. Lloyd's in Hope, Kansas. The Spirit of the Lord was with us. He brought us together in the Camas Paper Mill.

In both of our lives there were hard times in our family. But both families were survivors. Some hand-me downs and living off the land. If there were malls as today, we had no money to make them exciting. We were born in the horse and buggy days. But was

blessed with good food and kept warm in the winter times. The food came from our large garden. We would can everything we could – corn, beans, tomatoes and peas. We raised potatoes and sweet potatoes, etc.; our meats; pigs and chicken. We took time to visit neighbors. Good to meet the mail man. When working in the fields, we watched the shade on the barn for noon time.

Ella did well in both Grade School and High School; good grades. After high school she came to Camas and stayed at an Aunt's place. She later worked in the paper mill.

Lloyd wasn't too good in school; a slow learner; went to high school only three months. Had to quit to work on farm. His brother would run around so one had to do the work. The brothers played for dances – the social life. Lloyd had no social life 'til after twenty-one. After the two brothers left home, one to California and the other to Washington, Lloyd never knew how

(Continued on page 4)

easy farming was as the two brothers both wanted to be boss. But boss of what? There was just things to do as make hay for the winter to feed the cattle and horses, plant crops of wheat and oats. Wheat to sell for cash; oats for the horses and cattle and cows to milk. But it was a busy time to do the work. But not to fight about.

Mother wanted to leave the farm so Lloyd had a sale. Sold the horses, tractor, cattle and the farm machinery. Came West in Sept 1937. Lloyd was 20 years old. Us three brothers built mother a house. One brother went to building houses. The other was a car mechanic. Lloyd had many jobs, worked planting trees, worked on farm, in building houses, cement, mixing plaster for homes. Then finally to paper mill where Ella and Lloyd met. The Lord gave Lloyd the desire of his heart to be able to do many things.

As they met, it was Ella really her choosing Lloyd. For Lloyd to have a girl sit by him, to him that was strange. But it all came about and soon it all blossomed.

Lloyd had bought a '41 Chevrolet; went to Flint, Michigan and drove it back to Washington. He got back for her birthday, a night out to celebrate.

The war in Germany, then France, then World War II started. Then Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. The young men were being drafted. Ella and Lloyd went ahead and got married. Lloyd joined the Army Air Force, but Lloyd and Ella got married one month before Lloyd joined. They did the whole wedding themselves. Some said it was too nice. But they did what they thought was right and proper. They were married Sept 19th [bottom of page missing]... Base. In Douglas, Arizona. Ella worked in the Sub depot. When she became pregnant we had to move to Bisbee, Arizona. Nancy was born later. We were shipped to Langley Field, Virginia. Later was discharged in April 1945; came home in hospital for three or four months and later returned to paper mill. As we tried to get our feet back on the ground we rebuilt garage to live in and that went along OK. Joyce, the second daughter, came along; then two years later Number 3; Barbara and our little garage was getting smaller.

My brother that was building houses always wanted me to help him for half wages as I was putting in dear for one of his houses for a friend, Otto Pertes. I was always talking of building a house. He got tired of me talking about it and said if you haven't got guts to do it, you might as well shut up. So a couple nights later I asked a friend to back me. He said well, I knew you since you came to town so he would back me. I had the plans. Ella didn't know what to think. She asked the Lord. She prayed about it. She didn't know what to think, a man came and dug the basement hole. I went to Portland, Oregon and bought the form lumber and started building the form to pour the foundation. Brother Homer framed the house in the Fall season. He helped me put the roof on the house then I made the window frames. Sawed out door frames. It took two years to get ready to live in. I should of

*... take it as it comes
the one you love ...*

Lloyd Vahsholtz

worked harder but working at the Paper Mill too was a busy time. Homer helped with plumbing later. Moved in in 1953. The house cost was about \$11,000.

Sometime 1995 or 1996 Ella brought Lloyd her credit cards and car keys. She knew something was going on in her life.

Lloyd did not at first relate this to Alzheimer's. We were keeping on top of things so we thought. We bought hand rails for front and back steps, changed locks on front and back doors. When grocery shopping she started having trouble writing checks and had to give it up.

We started cooking together. Ella would put out three plates. Lloyd would tell her, "no, just two". "No, one for Lloyd and the other guy."

We bought a davenport; a steel frame and took the other to Barbara at Moses Lake. In the night she got up to go to the bathroom. She got lost and went to the garage. She lost her water out there. But where was Ella. Lloyd looked around; then out the front door. There she was – standing out front on one side in night gown, in the cold night.

How does one work with, but take it as it comes, the one you love. It was all so sad.

We ate out a lot. We got to know many people at the restaurant. We later changed windows all to thermo. We bought a new bed the right height for her to get out more easily; a bathroom stool higher and wheel chair. But all short lived.

Lloyd writing this –

I go every day to see her. She tries to talk. One day she said, "I sure hate to break up this way." Oh how I hate leaving her all alone. They dropped her three times in Rose Vista. I had to move her. She was moved to Highland Terrace, Camas, Washington.

How I would like to know how much her brain is working. She must be hurting but they say it is all short lived. Lord have mercy, give her strength to endure it all. Lord we are hurting from it all.

We had a good life, many a cross road. She would say, "Lloyd it will always work out. It always does. The Lord was always by our side."

So we carried on.

So we wait for the Lord to take us home. 1942 on Sept 19th many beautiful days, hand in hand a warm hand to reach out to – filled with love. All given from the Love of God.

Praise your Holy name,
Lord King of King
Lord of Lord

Creator, the One who answered our Prayer as we went on our way living the life He gave us. Great is our God. Greatly to be Praised. ■

Last spring we got an email from Wanda Hartman, whom we'd met at Cousin Reunions. She said, "I just love this time of the year. Can you tell? It is the time for projects. I am planning to put up a pergola and a cupola on my work shed this year. Last year, I refurbished an old hexagon shaped wooden grain bin into a garden shed." Intrigued, Marge asked for details. Here's her story of an old wooden grain bin.



Doomed for Destruction

By Wanda Hartman

AMONG MY COLLECTION of garden magazines are many with covers featuring a garden shed. I wanted to be the proud owner of one someday. I kept on the watch for the perfect little shed to work the magic on. I am sure everyone has heard of a "Man Cave"? Well, this would be a, "She Shed".

Behind my windbreak was kind of a junky area (well, more than "kind of"). There were two small sheds that the doors had fallen off and the roof questionable on the one, with growing trees and brush, some old tires and other stuff you-can't-imagine-why-it-was-being-saved. My son, bless his heart, doesn't like clutter. He asked me what I wanted to do with that lot, besides pretend it wasn't there. He assured me it was not taking care of itself!

There was the option of pushing it all in a pile and hauling it out. Only thing was, the sheds were covered with tin and were structurally fairly sound. One thing we agreed was they should be moved from the present locations so they could be utilized, if we were going to save them. Then it dawned on me that the hexagon shaped building (an old wooden grain bin) could become a garden shed and the other could be moved right behind the windbreak and used for a storage shed. And besides, these are things a gardening woman wants and needs. Right?

Both sheds were actually sitting on cement. The hexagon shed sat on a

round pad. The rectangle shed sat on cement runners that a trailer house had set on at one time. The cement would be broken up and hauled away. New pads were poured and the buildings were moved to their new locations. After debris had been removed, the cement runners were to be broken up and moved away. A final inspection of the round cement pad was made.

WOW! What a discovery!

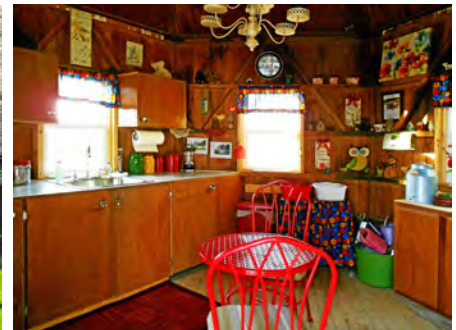


A date and two handprints in the round cement pad were found. The date was 9-11-79 and the hand prints were of my deceased husband and my son, Jerry. My husband, Gerald was 34 years old at the time and my son, now 40, would have been four years of age. (Gerald passed away in 2009 at the age of 64.) Neither one of us were aware our new discovery ever existed.

Okay, call us sentimental over a chunk of cement, but there was no desire to break up the round cement pad any longer. Eventually, a pergola seem to be in order for the round cement pad. That project was completed spring of 2015. The garden shed and storage shed in 2014.

The garden shed was used to store

seed wheat in when it was in good condition. My husband and I had purchased the shed from one of our landlords and moved it to our farm in 1979. After its recent relocation I had windows put in five of the sides and a door on the sixth side. I decided to add the cabinets and sink while the windows were being put in. (I think my carpenter was beginning to wonder if this project would ever end.) The tin was removed and siding



and trim to match the house was added. The roof was repaired and then new shingles were applied. To complete the garden shed a window box was added under each of the windows.

The shed has no heat source at the present time and water is supplied to the sink by attaching a garden hose on the outside of the shed to plumbing that goes through the floor under the sink. The hanging chandelier accommodates ten tea lights. So you see, all that really is needed yet is a bed!

As for the rectangular shed it had two new doors added, one on each side. I had a rollup garage door put in the one end so the mower could be stored in this shed. A ramp was added to the side with the garage door opening. Only one problem, with all the other garden stuff

(Continued on page 6)

there isn't room for the mower!

There is something I have learned about garden sheds in the short time I've had one. For all practical reasons they become something other than the potting shed you first intended.

I can name a few, for example: a glorified playhouse for grandkids, a card playing shack, a quiet and peaceful hideout, and probably the most important is something to play tag around! ■

... and Wanda's not done yet! We have more coming from this creative member of the Vahsholtz tribe; Hartman branch!



JayBird and Country Girl in their Blue's Brother's Halloween Costumes

HOW MANY OF YOU REMEMBER the good ol' days when you could call the local station and request a popular song for your sweetheart, your mom or Uncle Jake? The DJ would find that record, play it and say something like, "And this one goes out from Bob to Marjorie Otte for her 17th birthday coming up tomorrow. Here's *Harbor Lights*; Happy Birthday, Margie!"

Well, Saturday morning, July 15th, after the business meeting, tune your radio to Community Radio KXGV-LP, 98.5 FM, in Garden Valley, Idaho, where these fun-loving relatives, Jaybird and Country Girl, will be on the air, *live*, playing all of your special requests! Preference will be given to requests that remind someone of special or fun family times. A little family story or just nostalgic memories regarding relatives attending or not, ancestors or living!

Can you stump these DJs? Probably not. They've been able to come up with songs like, *The Thing*, *Ghost Riders in the Sky*, *Yellow Polka Dot Bikini*, *Rag Mop*, and *Purple People-Eater*. They're pretty good at finding half-forgotten oldies.

Send a note, the song you request and the dedication you want to hear to ruthrichter2@gmail.com and the team will squeeze in as many requests as possible, after the Saturday morning business meeting at the lodge!

And as Ruth mentions on page two, they'll be hoping to interview some of you as we dine and amble around the thriving area that is the vibrant heart of business, recreation and entertainment in unbelievable, metropolitan Crouch, Idaho, in the heart of Garden Valley. *Be there!* ■

Repeating a Final Note

The main purpose of our Cousin Reunions is to meet and renew family acquaintances ... and have some fun. But we do have a short meeting to conduct business. A topic that will arise in Idaho this summer is the location of the next Vahsholtz Cousin Reunion in 2018. Wisconsin? Kansas? Want to host? Let us know for the business agenda in Idaho. ■

Vahsholtz Cousins is published twice yearly, spring and fall. Copies go out to some 260 Vahsholtz families. It is supported entirely by donations. Those who supply email addresses get full color copies attached to an email as a PDF file, which they can read on screen or print as they wish. Those having no email address get a black and white edition mailed to their last known address. "Snail mail" is the biggest cost item of the whole Vahsholtz publication enterprise, due to costs of printing and stamps. Your donations are appreciated. **What will help most is any additions or corrections you can make to our email list. Each mailing we send out, we get half-dozen email bounces or returned mail from those who have moved, passed on, or changed their address. Please let Marge know! mvahsholtz@gmail.com**

And if you want to make a donation, contact Treasurer Tony Vahsholtz avahsholtz@gmail.com or his new address: 12419 S. Downing Way, Nampa, Idaho 83686.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE; October 15, 2016 ■