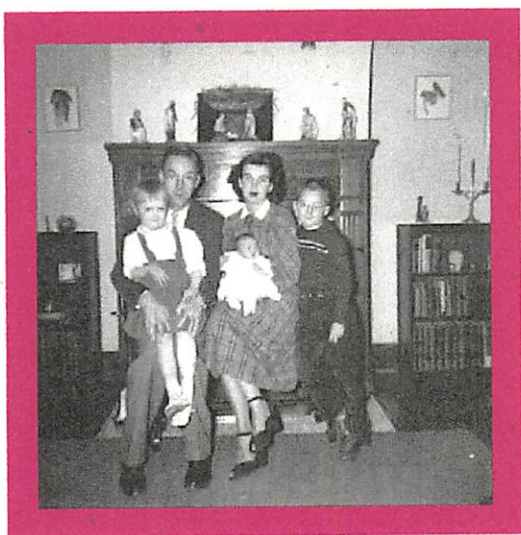


The Moorehead Family Council Memoirs



*Meetings Held & Minutes Recorded
Columbus, Ohio
1955 to 1957*

*First Collection of the Uncovered Minutes
1987*

*Special 40-Year Bound Edition
1997*

Becky Moorehead Hoag, Editor

Foreword



Once upon a time there was a little family that gathered once a week for Family Council meeting. It was the 1950s and family life had to have been simpler then - before television, videos, shopping malls and two car families had taken over.

Nestled in their warm parsonage home (Papa was a preacher) near the campus of Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, they met to discuss the matters of the week. The purpose, one would guess, was to maintain some sense of order in a very active home. But as you read through the following entries from the "Family Council Minutes," you can see that often it was more like "Council Wars," as the older brother and sister fought for power, recognition, and that ever important - allowance.

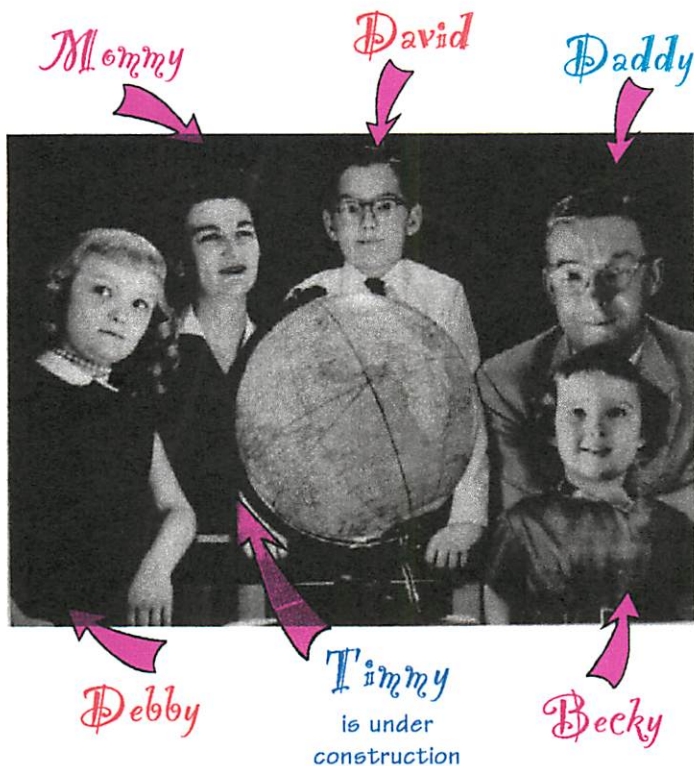
Scarcely mentioned is the younger sister, aged three, who must have been so well behaved that she did not warrant mention. And of course, the youngest brother is missing from this journal as there was no notion of him until over a year later, when the parents spent one pleasant evening on board the Queen Mary, returning from a summer in England!

Becky Moorehead Hoag
Editor

Note: My apologies to my elder brother, who bears the brunt of the humiliation from the publishing of his "dirty linen."

Cast of Characters

Family Christmas Card Photo — 1957



True personalities - as evidenced by the minutes!

The Family Council Minutes

Read now from the pages of one family's journal. The spelling has been kept intact, to add to your amuzmint.

February 13, 1955

Prayer

Election - Pres. Lee (father) Secy. David

Questions:

How often election

1. Month 2. 3 weeks 3. 2 month

Pay allowance at meeting.

To be discussed at next meeting - Allowance Vacations

Time - one half hour

Note: We do not have our meeting unless all we here
unless pursusan is out of town for a lone time

February 20, 1955

1. Debby opened with prayer,
2. The minnites were read

David

Bus fare	.24
Cub scouts	.10
Church	.05
S. School	.10
Savings	<u>.10</u>
	.59
Spending money	<u>.16</u>
	.75

Debby

Church	.05
S. School	.10
Savings	.05
Spending money	<u>.05</u>
	.25

Allowance covers necessary expenses, tithe, savings
and spending money.

4. Debby votes againnst me getting 75¢, motion passed 3 to 1.
5. Debby gets 25¢ every week.
6. *Next week:* Diussuplin

March 3, 1955

David open with prayer. We voted that we would only spend \$300 at Michigan and our other vacation plans. We voted that David would act as father tomorrow.

Meeting adjourned.

March 6, 1955

Debby open with prayer. Then we had any old business that was to come forth to the meeting. Then the subject of discipline was discussed. We talked about our trouble in the mornings.

The meeting was adjourned.

March 13th meeting not held.

March 20th

David open with Prayer. then we had any old busnis that was to come to our meeting. then we disscuss'd discipline on me just becusce I'm not loved. Debby did not git to go to pack becouse she was naughty. Debby moved that the discipline program be accepted, Mommy and Debby and Daddy voted aginist me, I lost. Mommy and Daddy said our Report cards were good. Daddy told us about our pledg to the church.

I answered the Phone.

The meeting was adjourned.

Discipline plan:

1. Debby deprived of going places because she behaves worst away from home.
2. David deprived of TV, playing and sent to bed early because he behaves worst at home.

March 27th

Debby opened with prayer. Mommy said that I could see Carlus Orchar. We had a long discussion on discipline. We will keep a time chart on David. We were cautioned about our behavior during church. We had a discussion about our church pledges. David moved to giving ten dollars each week to the church.

Meeting adjourned.

April 5

Mommy opened with prayer. Old business. Mommy told about my time chart that was pretty bad except Friday. Daddy said I had to get a hair cut because I hadn't combed my hair for seven months. Daddy said we could get our chickens.

The meeting was adjourned.

May 1

Our votes - Pres. Mommy Secy. David

Debby opened with prayer. We talked about the cat and Daddy said that we couldn't have a cat because Debby still had her allergy and just could not have one.

Daddy complimented the children on their behavior at dinner with Mom and Pop. David is to be denied TV for being late again for Sunday School.

May 8

Daddy opened with Prayer, we had the minutes read and then any old business to come forth, to the counsel. We discussed Sunday School and talked about our lessons at Sunday school. We discussed pets. Mommy suggested that we have different kinds of pets for short periods of time.

May 8 continued

Attention was called to the charts. No stars earned yet. Mommy thanked everyone for her Mother's Day presents. We are going to learn about Michigan before we go on our vacation.

David's fine of 8¢ was announced. David asked for money for a fishing rod. Mommy said that he must save most of it first.

Meeting adjourned.

May 22

Debby opened with prayer. we had the minnites read. David suggested that he get 20¢ spending money because 16¢ didn't take care of his expenses for the week. it was tabled to be considered in relation to his behavior. While Daddy is in the hospital.

May 28

David opened with prayer. The minutes were read and corrected. The report on David's behavior was not good. Daddy moved that on that basis his request be denied, for additional funds. Debby seconded. Motion carried.

A discussion was held concerning David and Debby telling the truth. They were informed that this was serious. David moved that Daddy be elected secretary. Mommie seconded it. Motion carried.

David asked to buy a used bicycle from Mintons. Daddy moved that this request be tabled until next week to see how he behaves. Debby seconded it. Carried. Mommie suggested that vacation time be used for practicing, reading, and writing. Adjourned.

Sun. July 3, 1955

Debby opened with a nice prayer. Minutes read and approved. Mommie reported that David's behavior was improved - somewhat. Debby moved that a certain routine of duties and responsibilities be carried on before allowances are paid. Seconded.

Daddy moved David's duties (as outlined on separate paper) be approved. Seconded. Carried. Daddy moved Debby's duties as outlined be approved. Seconded. Carried.

Mommie reports no improvement in telling the truth. Mommie reported that David and Debby have been reading very well. Secretary instructed to buy new minutes book. Debby asked about weeking trip. They have been interrupted by Bible School and mumps. Debby had mumps June 25-July 3, 1955. David moved meeting be adjourned. Seconded. Carried.

Sun. July 10, 1955

(Minutes now being recorded in the new minutes book)

David opened with prayer - a very nice prayer. Minutes read and approved. David moved, seconded, carried.

Mommie reports some improvement in truth telling. Reading has continued very well. Practicing generally improving for both David and Debby.

Mommie gave report on duties:

- 1 - Debby carried out duties quite well.
- 2 - David was only fair about setting the table - otherwise fairly good. He did not mow the lawn.

Mommie suggests they do duties without having to be told. It was agreed that David and Debby would trade duties - David to clear table, Debby to set. Otherwise the same duties.

Sun. July 10, 1955. continued

Daddy moved following summer plans:

On Aug. 7, take David to Camp Indianola. On Aug. 8, Mommie, Debby, Becky and Daddy drive to Chicago, and Debby, Mommie and Daddy do things together there. Then Mommie, Debby and Becky to drive back to Columbus after a day or two with grandmother and grandfather in their car. Daddy will stay in Chicago to study. On or about Aug. 25 David to fly to Chicago to spend a day or two with Daddy. Then Daddy and David to drive back to Columbus. On Aug. 27 the family will leave for Michigan. We will return from Mich. on Sept. 9. David moved that this plan be adopted. Debby seconded. Carried.

Daddy moves that the family buy Helen Ann Minton's bike for Debby. Debby seconded. Carried. David voted against.

Daddy moved following regulations for David's use of bike:

No farther North than Lane Ave.

No farther South than 16th Ave.

Not to go to High St.

To walk bike across Indianola, Summit, and 4th St.

There will be no racing or fast riding. All plans subject to review after experience is gained. David seconded. Carried.

Mommie suggested following plan for Debby's bike:

Never out of sight, never after supper, always with adult watching. Daddy moved. David Seconded. Carried.

Mommie suggested that we see about getting Debby a violin this week. Mommie suggested that David look in the telephone book for places and plan to visit today. David moved meeting be adjourned. Debby seconded. Carried.

July 18, 1955 (Mon. 11:30 AM)

Daddy opened with prayer. David moved minutes be accepted. Carried. Mommie reports relapse in truth telling with David. Mommie reports that both David and Debby fell short on duties. David's attitude was very poor in doing all duties.

Mommie reports practicing was well done. Daddy moved that because of David's poor behavior the proposal that he fly to Chicago to return with Daddy be canceled. Seconded. Carried. David voted against.

David moved we have a new election. Carried. Mommie re-elected president. David elected secretary. Daddy moved that Debby's allowance be cut 5 cents for lack of cooperation in duties. Seconded. Carried. Mommie moved that David be docked 10 cents allowance saving for lack of cooperation in duties. Seconded. Carried. Daddy moved meeting be adjourned. Seconded. Carried.

July 31, 1955

Debby opened with prayer. Mommy said that practicing had not been held up. Mommy said that there was some better on truth telling. Mommy reported duties completely overlooked. Allowances will have to be cut again. That was all of the old business. David was called before the council for refusing to cooperate with family schedules. Daddy said me might go swimming. Meeting adjourned.

Debby was confined to house and yard for one week for running carelessly into the street. David was denied his bike for one day for riding after dark.

Editor's Note: There is a time lapse here - so we don't know how the vacation went.

September 25 (2:30 P.M.)

Family council called to order for the first time after vacation. Debby opened with prayer. David asked to be relieved of duties. Daddy was appointed by Pres. to take over.

Mommie reported that truth-telling had improved. However, duties - except for bedmaking - are not being well done. Practicing must be resumed following vacation. David accepts 15 min. before lunch as practicing period on piano. Will rehearse trumpet at 5 P.M. each day.

Debby accepts 15 minutes after school each day for violin practice. David to be off of bike by 5 P.M. David is to go South on alley and North on Indianola.

Debby's bike is locked because of her disobedience. This has been very bad. David's school work shows improvement. Debby to become apprentice secretary.

Oct. 2, 1955 (4 P.M.)

David offered prayer. Minutes read and approved. Mommie reports David has not been telling truth through week. Debby has practiced well - very good lesson. David practiced fairly well but refused to practice three days. This week Debby caused great alarm and anxiety by not coming home for lunch on Tues. Debby's obedience not much improved.

Chores poorly done. Allowance not earned. No more payments until chores are cheerfully and agreeably done. David forbidden to ride down terrace. David suggests Daddy should not mumble as he writes minutes. (apprentice secy signs off) - the meeting has been adjourned.

October 23, 1955 (4:45 PM)

Daddy offered prayer. Minutes read and approved. David complained of the way Daddy read the minutes. David shows unreliability with money. He has not fulfilled his agreement to save Lantern money (from newspaper route).

David and Debby have both practiced well. Their obedience is terrible in daily matters. Chores poorly done. Mommie reports that David wet his pants every day. Debby suggests we take a family trip to University farm. David would like trip to Civic Center. Daddy suggests airport and Sunday dinner with Lucases.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

November 6, 1955 (2 PM)

David opened with prayer - a very nice prayer. Minutes read and approved. Mommie reports church envelopes are not up to date. Debby's allowance must be increased ten cents because of Brownie dues. David shows some improvement in handling money. David and Debby have done duties poorly.

Duties:

DAVID - garbage disposal; make bed; clean room; clear table

DEBBY - Make bed; set table; clean TV room

David and Debby have failed to practice. David still wets his pants though some improvement noted. Both did well in first play rehearsal. It was agreed that David and Debby would save most of their play money for trip to England. They will choose use of tithe money. Each will have not more than \$5.00 to spend.

Daddy proposes that David be given a week's trial of having money - including trumpet lesson and piano lesson - all delivered to him. When there is no lesson he still to keep

November 6, 1955. continued

money for another time. He will be strictly on trial for a week. Lesson money to be taken out of box only for lesson. David seconded. Passed.

Mommie proposes we begin reading on England this week. David is to read about England from Americana each meal in evening. Debby to begin scrap-book on England and other European countries.

Mommie suggests that since English people expect good manners a campaign for good manners begin at once. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Lee C. Moorehead

November 13, 1955 (1:45 PM)

Debby opened by reading the Lord's prayer. No improvement in duties reported by Mommie. Practicing slightly improved. Play rehearsal satisfactory. David has passed the test of having all money delivered to him. Campaign for good manners and obedience a total failure. Daddy confronted David with his habit of beating Debby. Daddy confronted Debby with the fact of her disobedience. David suggests that a chart be kept at lunch and dinner showing manners.

An election will be held next Sunday. Family trips next Sunday. Meeting adjourned at 2 PM.

Lee C. Moorehead, Secretary

Saturday, Dec. 3, 1955 (7:45 PM)

David opened with nice prayer. Mommie reports almost total failure on duties. Practicing no better. Play rehearsal -both must speak louder and slower. Campaign for good

Saturday, Dec. 3, 1955 continued

manners and obedience still a failure. David's treatment of Debby has improved. Debby still disobedient. Daddy moves that new election be held. Ballots passed. David seconds the motion.

Results of election: Pres. David Sec. Debby

Daddy move meeting be adjourned. Passed.

Lee C. Moorehead - deposed

Jan. 22 Sunday

Daddy open with prayer. Daddy compliments David and Debby on acting in plays. Duties - David make bed and take out garbage. Debby - make bed and help with dishes. Skating party next Sat. Suggested that children should be more careful to save their money. David suggests that he will give to church and care when he gets paid.

Suggested a savings account for children. Debby agrees. David objects on grounds that he couldn't get it when he wanted. Regarding David's bike. Daddy moved that bike repair expenses be shared 50-50 by David and family. David votes against. Motion carried. practicing must be resumed. Good manners stressed. Debby brings up problem of David's lying and acting smart. Debby moves that no one should fuss and hit and scream when something happens that they don't like. Mommy seconded. Debby must behave at plays, sitting still when not on stage.

Editor's Notes

Here a major time lapse of 8 months goes by. I can tell you that the family spent the entire summer in England where Daddy was in a exchange pastorate program (the English pastor came to Columbus, Ohio and lived in our house all summer and served our church - as Daddy did for his in England.)

As they prepared for the trip, the family had to undergo "interviews" to determine if they were appropriate exchange "material." (Thus Mommy's heavy emphasis on good behavior.) Sadly, the darling three year old Becky was asked not to accompany the family. They swear they cried their eyes out as she drove off to spend the summer with "Mama" Moorehead in Decatur and with Grandmother & Grandfather Birmingham in Chicago.

It wasn't until twenty years or so later that the older children figured out that somehow Mommy & Daddy managed to concieve "Timmy" on this trip. They are convinced it was on the trip home on the Queen Mary (but from looking at the bunks in their tiny cabin for four - it can't be figured out how and when they managed it. Perhaps it was during one of those extravagant children's tea parties held on the ship!

Something must have gone awry with diuessuplin, chores and/or allowance for the Council to be put back in operation. . .

September 29, 1956

Daddy opened with prayer. Minutes of last meeting were read. Old business - Debby suggests that David should not carry on and ask for any more things since he got his new bike.

Mommy suggests that we must return to regular practicing. Debby's schedule- morning for piano, after school for violin. David's to be arranged, probably on returning from paper route. It is stressed that the children must report home right after school, and get permission before going anywhere else. Debby wants to start Junior Choir. We will check with Cleta and

September 29, 1956 *continued*

Miss Schneider first. It is moved that no TV may be watched until homework is done. Motion passed 3-1.

Allowances were discussed. Debby's will be resumed this week. She receives 35¢, allotted as follows: 10¢ Brownie dues; 10¢ Church School; 5¢ church pledge; 5¢ savings; 5¢ spending.

David will present his budget next week. Motion carried. Mommy asks for better cooperation in daily routine especially from David. Debby was corrected for her behavior in playing with neighborhood children. Daddy moved meeting adjourned. Passed.

Editor's Notes

Here again, a major gap. It can be reported that "Timmy" was born into the family on March 8, 1957. A fourth child must have robbed Mommy & Daddy of time available to use their humane, controlled Family Council method of disciplining the children.

August 29, 1957

Discussion of time for meetings. Decided on Monday at dinner. Daddy moved that all winter we plan and discuss places to go on next vacation. California, New England and Washington D.C.

Practicing to be continued daily. Debby doing very well.

Allowances:

Debby - 10¢ Brownie dues; 10¢ Sunday School; 5¢ church; 10¢ savings; 10¢ spending = 45¢

David must present budget. David's job discussed - Lantern versus Smittys. Daddy feels Lantern only proper decision.

David's allowance - Sunday School 10¢; Church 10¢; savings 35¢; spending 25¢ = 75¢

August 29, 1957 continued

Move that election be held Monday. Rule that every morning each child is responsible for making bed and straightening up room before going anywhere.

September 3

Daddy called the meeting to order. Minutes read. Debby says she thinks David should be allowed to work at Smitty's because he's tired of the Lantern. Daddy says Smitty's is not dependable.

Election - Daddy elected president. Debby elected secretary. Mommy suggests duties assigned and charts made up.

Duties -

Each - rooms cleaned and beds made

Becky - clear table

David - yard

Debby - porch and TV room

David objects to chart, violently. Daddy says if after the first month David has performed his duties faithfully he can do without a chart. Passed.

No TV after supper except for special programs, and then only for those who are bathed and ready for bed.

Date unknown (Debby new secretary)

Daddy called meeting to order. Minutes read. Mommy tells how we did our chores were don. Dicuss relason of chores and allowence. Moshen pasced that this week allowance be paid fully but next week spending determind by chores done. David askes for his alowences be put up 10¢. Moshen passed that Davids request be tabb led

Meeting adjurned.

September 16, 1957

Debby opened with prayer. David censured for knocking Debby down. Most chores were done well there can be much improvement in chores. Beckys chores have been worse this week.

Daddy tells how he heard on the radio how a good breakfast will help you feel better. Daddy talks about churches letting negroes in white people's churches. Meeting adjourned.

September 24, 1957

Munnits read. David asks Daddy if he wrote the letter to the bishop. He said if Debby does not hurry up with the munnits Daddy and David argue over his job. We discuss about chores. David asks for his allowance to be raised and Debby does to
Meeting adjourned

October 14, 1957

Munnits read. David says that mommy owes us for two weeks. Mommy says she is owed for two weeks of chores. David leaves for scouts.

Editor's Notes

1987

Somehow, for reasons unknown, the family council minutes end here. It is not exactly known whether October 14, 1957 also marked the demise of the family council meetings.

It must be told that family legend has it that David did go on to get a job at Smitty's hamburger place (a hot spot on the campus of Ohio State.) Unfortunately, his finances did not improve. By the time pay days came, David owed Smitty over and above his salary for all the burgers he had consumed.

In spite of the behavioral problems the two eldest children seemed to have, they have gone on to become upstanding citizens in their communities. David not only has to deal with his own three children who are now at similar ages, but he is director of an entire children's home in Connecticut, filled with many children who most likely delight in giving him some type of "trouble."

And, although he spent many years filled with much hatred and disdain for his two repulsive sisters, often using brute force to repel them (as was reported in the family council minutes,) he has gone on to be a loving and supportive brother to them in later years.

Debby has gone on to be an outstanding member of the profession of nursing and is now raising her own daughter, who, on occasion, can give her mother a piece of her own medicine in the behavior and discipline areas. Honestly, some days it has to have been *deja vu* for Grandma.

The editor, who was scarcely mentioned except in the end, & only to mention that her chores were done poorly, has taken great delight in uncovering these journals that so distinctly convey the true personalities that make up this little family.

And the stoic parents, who somehow survived these years of child rearing, could actually qualify to write a book on child management techniques. Somehow it has all worked, creating a family that has remained close and caring for thirty years hence. And now that the four children are experienced in parenting (or at least aunt and uncledom), we are moving into a whole new type of relationship and understanding with each other.

The only risk in publishing these council minutes is in the danger it now poses as our own children can hold some type of evidence over our heads that we once were crazy, misbehaving children! Well hey, I guess we shouldn't feel bad because look how we turned out!

— Thanks, Mom and Dad.

Becky Moorehead Hoag
February 5, 1987

Editor's Addendum - 10th Years Later

As I pull these family council memoirs out in anticipation of a family reunion in two few weeks - I laugh and cry all over again. I am really touched by how poignant it all sounds, and how different the 50s were from today! It reminds me of one of my own family's favorite movies - A Christmas Story - about the boy who absolutely had to have a Red Rider Bee Bee Gun for Christmas. It was 50s charm, through and through.

Now we excitedly anticipate the reunion in the Wisconsin Dells at Chula Vista Resort, to celebrate our parents' 55th Wedding Anniversary. Just five years ago at Chula Vista, *seventeen* family members gathered at a reunion to celebrate Mom & Dad's 50th Wedding Anniversary. Since then, we have added two new family members - the spouses of the daughters of David and Debbie (note the rebellious change in spelling!) Now we number *nineteen*.

Actually, this year has been one long family reunion! Many of us gathered in November in Texas for Debbie's daughter's wedding. In May, we gathered in Connecticut for David's daughter's wedding. In July, many of us were together again for Dad's 20th Annual Lincoln Seminar to Springfield, Illinois. And now — the Chula Vista reunion in August!

After years of very little communication or time for cross country visits - we all communicate by Email and are sharing more of each other's lives than we had since David went off to college in 1964! The grandchildren have great times together and for the reunion, we plan on a "Revue" of the many talents that are to be found in our family.

The talents, interests, and career paths in our family are many and awesome to consider. There are violinists (2), cellists (2), brass players (3), flutists (4), dancers (5),

Editor's Addendum - 10 Years Later

2/5/87

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The talents, interests, and career paths in our family are many and awesome to consider. There are violinists (2),

cellists (2), brass players (3), flutists (4), dancers (5), pianists (14 at least), singers (all - of varying caliber!), social workers (2+), nurses (2), college students (2), masters degrees (6), doctorates (3 - a Ph.D., a JD, and an Honorary D), athletes (many - current & former), persons born on the 8th day of the month (3), persons born on the same day, same mother, same hospital, same doctor (4) -- two are twins and two were born 11 years apart!

There are at *least* two or more family members in each of the following categories: artistic types, antiquers, crafters, writers, writers of letters to the editor, speakers, pack rats, book lovers, Sunday School teachers & church leaders, baseball, basketball & soccer players, computer junkies, soldiers, frequent flyers, thespians, seamstresses (a few rather rusty now!), questioners, talkative types, quieter types, and last but not least -- oodles of dimpled folk.

For uniqueness we have an ice skater, a fireman, a native of French Algeria, a psychologist, a professional computer expert, a quilter, a vegetarian, a Lincoln expert, a red head (real), and a saint (you know who you are!).

What inspires and keeps this active family going are two of the most wonderful, enjoyable, admirable, intelligent, caring, giving, and dedicated parents that ever could be imagined.

Thanks, Mom & Dad, for giving birth to the original FOUR who have attempted to follow your example. We feel very fortunate to have grown from that "Leave It To Beaver" family of six -- into this wonderful brood of nineteen!

Happy 55th Wedding Anniversary!



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