

the Dreves Family

A WORKING HISTORY



Compiled by Rick Dreves
(with a great deal of help!)

Volume Two 🌲 *1940-2020*

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» About those “Jr” & “Sr” things...

For simplicity, we will almost always refer to George A. Dreves, Sr., as “Pop,” and George Jr. simply as “George”.

Until the narrative reaches the birth of Carl E. Dreves, Jr., we will simply refer to Carl, Sr. as “Carl,” but thereafter, will make the distinction between the two wherever the context of the sentence does not make it clear about which Carl we’re talking!

» ... and the difference between Dreves “Kids” and “Cousins”

To keep the generational confusion to a minimum, we’ll use the term “**Dreves Kids**” to refer to the five children of George (Sr) and Emma Dreves (**Bob**, **Carl** (Sr), **George** (Jr), **Art** and **Dot**; and “**Dreves Cousins**” to refer to the children of those five children: Bob’s **Janet** and **Donald** (“Don”); Carl’s **Carl Jr.**, **Nancy** and **Virginia** (“Ginny”); George’s **Vera** and **Sandra** (“Holly”); Art’s **Richard** (“Rick”) and **Diane** (“Dee”).

» ... and maiden vs. married names

To help you keep track of “who’s who,” early in this narrative, I’ve made a point of including the birth surname (“maiden name”) of the women of the family, in parentheses, followed by their married surnames. Later in the narrative, by which time such relationships should be well-established, I’ve omitted some birth surnames in the interest of brevity. I know; it’s confusing, but read the story from beginning to end, and you’ll be fine!

About the Second Volume

It has been a decade (!) since we compiled the first version of *The Dreves Family: a Working History*. Since then, as you might imagine, more new information became available from online genealogical sources, and additional family photos and historical documents surfaced. So, in 2014, an *Addendum to the First Edition* was produced, containing updates, corrections and new information related to the narrative of the first version. Since then, still more information and artifacts have surfaced; and so, on its 10th anniversary, the original narrative has received a well-deserved “make-over”. The info from the *Addendum* has been folded into what is now an updated Volume 1 (1550-1939).

The original narrative’s timeline ended on the eve of World War II; and as we all know, there is a lot of Dreves Family history in the war years, and after. The 80 amazing years that followed are the subject of this second volume -- years that saw all five of the children of Emma and George Dreves, Sr. go to war; serve their country honorably; return home, disperse across America, and, without exception, lead very long and successful lives.

In the most recent decade, the family has been saddened by the loss of all five of the Dreves Kids -- Robert (in 2009, age 94); Carl, Sr. (in 2015, age 98); George, Jr. (in 2017, age 98); Arthur (in 2019, age 95); and Dorothy (in 2019, age 94). With their passing, the Dreves Family now begins writing a new chapter, led by the nine Dreves Cousins. Their stories *begin* in this second volume, but are far from over; and their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren will continue to extend the amazing story of the Dreves family, well into the 21st Century.

As always, the compilation of this narrative is a team effort. I owe a great deal to all of the Dreves Cousins for their diligent work as custodians of their parents’ historical information and artifacts, for being so interested in this project, and so willing to share their families’ stories, photos, and other historical treasures. Thanks go to Janet and Diane (“Dee”) for endless proofreading and fact-checking, and to Don for sharing the Wells “business book”. Extra special thanks go to “Grammy” (Emma Adelaide [Cordes] Dreves), my grandmother, whose care and effort to keep journals about important family events, and consistent efforts to label the backs of old photos, often in great detail, have helped greatly in stitching together this amazing narrative.

It is ironic that it took the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus to provide me with enough ‘quiet time’ to focus, and get this finished. I suppose I should thank the virus for its assistance...but I won’t. *Stay healthy, and enjoy!*

-- Rick Dreves
Sewanee, Tennessee
May, 2020

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» A Bit about Spit...

Janet (Dreves) Hall requested a "23 and Me" DNA analysis (known colloquially as the 'DNA Spit Test') and reports that it came back showing she was 38.4% German and French (including the Dutch region); 22.4% British and Irish; 12.3% Scandinavian; 25.8% "broadly Northwestern European" (strains they couldn't assign to a specific population); and 1% Southern European.

» ...and that 'Cordes Welp chin'...

We've all referred to the "Grammy-like" facial features, particularly chins and necks, as being due to the "Cordes genes," but in reality, if you look at Welp family photos, it's passed down from the Welps (Grammy's look-alike mother, we must remember, was only a Cordes by marriage; she was born a Welp!)



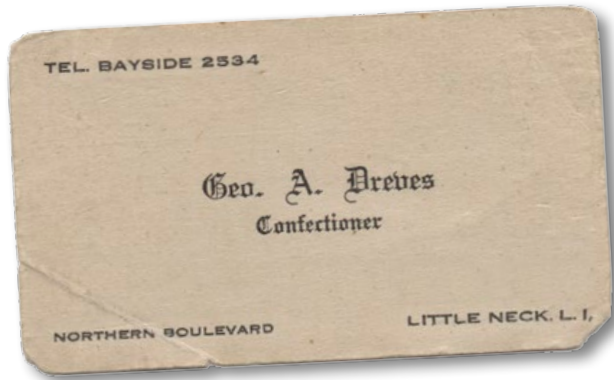
Emma A. (Cordes) Dreves ["Grammy"], and her mother, Margaretta (Welp) Cordes

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» There's more, online...

The underlined red text in this document indicates (in the PDF version) links to websites with more information, including source material I've used in researching that topic.

A great deal of additional Dreves Family History resources are also online at rickdreves.com/dreves-family-history. The gallery of photos at the bottom of that page also has been updated to include additional historical images that have been received since then.

On a separate page, in this section of the website, are several short videos -- including a 4-minute video tour of the ancestral locations of the Dreves Family in Germany between A.D. 1500 and 1900; a 4-minute 'music video' that chronicles the immigration saga of George August Dreves, Sr; and a 6-minute video tour of the location of his various businesses and investments in the Greater New York City area, from the time of his arrival in the States 'til his retirement.

Also in this section of the website is a page with various recordings and oral histories, plus photo 'slide shows' from two Dreves family reunions (2010 and 2013). The oral histories are detailed and fascinating; set aside time to watch them if you haven't done so already:

Carl Edward Dreves, Sr.	George August Dreves, Jr.	Arthur Frederick Dreves	Dorothy Emma Dreves
May 15, 2013 (age 96)	May 15, 2013 (age 93)	Three parts, recorded 2000-2006	August 8, 2013 (age 88)
[1 hour, 18 minutes]	[29 minutes]	(ages 77 to 83) [about 6 hours total]	[26 minutes]

And, all five of the Dreves Kids: Bob, Carl, George, Art & Dot, recorded at Dot's 75th birthday in 2000 [2 hours]

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» Pop and the Northern Boulevard building

An interesting historical tidbit is now better known, thanks to Emma's wisdom in keeping copies of closing papers, whenever they bought or sold a property (this method of documentation apparently replaced her small notebook, which recorded their real estate dealings until ~1930).

The building at 253-24 Northern Boulevard was, as we knew, built for Pop and Emma by family friend (and later, extended family relation) Fred Burdewick. It was new when they arrived in 1925.

However, what's "news" is that Pop was apparently renting the space (both for the store, and living areas upstairs) from 1925 until early 1929. It was only in February of '29 (just 8 months before the market "crash" that began the Great Depression) that he and Emma purchased the building from Burdewick for \$30,000, although "Uncle Fred" carried their mortgage note until Pop and Emma paid it off in November of 1941, on the eve of the U.S. entry into World War II.

Also of note, when Pop sold the store to Henry Meyer around 1938, he *only* sold the ice cream business -- not the building. (Presumably, Meyer then paid rent to Pop). It wasn't until November of 1957, well after he and Emma had moved to Williston Park, that Pop finally sold the building itself (price not listed, but surely he made money on the sale, given his cumulative real estate experience).

Life in Little Neck

Life "above the store" was good. Little Neck was a pleasant, if bustling place to live and grow up [check out the street scene, below]. Luff's Hardware was on one side of the Dreves Confectionery Shop; Greb's meat market was on the other. There was a wonderful delicatessen across the street. Uncle Theodore Welp, who had an egg farm in southern New Jersey, would send Emma a tin box filled with fresh eggs by mail each week. Dot recalled that Tante Marie (Dreves) Burdewick always gave the Dreves Kids \$2.50 gold coins for their birthdays.

The family was close, but the Dreves Kids were not above carefully-planned rebellion or hijinx from time to time. Emma believed strongly in the health benefits of Cod Liver Oil (which all the Dreves Kids hated); in the wintertime, she would put the oil — along with other things she wanted to keep cold — on a shelf just outside the kitchen window. The kids would wait for an opportune moment to knock the bottle off the shelf, or bring it in and pour its contents down the sink, to avoid having to taste a dose of the foul tonic!

For the holidays, "Pop" (George, Sr.) always made a huge cane for the store window, as a promotional item: "Guess the Weight and Win the Giant Candy Cane!". At Christmas time, extra help was always brought in. Dot recalled how the store made candy canes at Christmas time — Start with a big square of peppermint, squirt the red accent lines onto the square, then put the peppermint on a warmed marble table and start rolling it out. John Limbach was the candy cane expert who came on board each fall to manage the process. As the block of peppermint transformed into a long, thin rope, it would be cut into sections with large shears to make the individual canes. George recalled that Limbach had a huge hook he would use to "pull" the peppermint, stretching it at the same time it was being rolled.



A panoramic view of Northern Blvd. in Little Neck, taken from the roof of the Dreves ice cream store in the 1930s. Notice the sign for "Luff's Hardware" at the very far right. ⌘

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» About cousin Louise Guntz...

In his oral history, Carl, Sr., recalled that some members of the Cordes family moved to San Francisco just before the big earthquake there, in 1906. According to Bob Dreves' research, Emma's second cousin, Louise (Cordes) Guntz went to California in search of her sister and other relatives, and stayed.

Emma had established a girlhood correspondence with Louise, which continued until her death. Louise wrote to Emma after the quake, sending only an envelope, with "We're all alive and OK" written on the back. Later, Lou and her husband came to visit the Dreves family, in Little Neck, on occasion.

Emma and "Cousin Lou" were always close. As a result, Lou remembered Emma in her will. Contrary to a family 'legend,' Lou Guntz was not related to the family that started Hunt's, the tomato products company, although Joseph and William Hunt did start their produce company in the San Francisco area around 1890.



Louise (Cordes) Guntz,
Emma's cousin.

But the Dreves Kids were growing up, and change was in the air. Carl was the first to "leave the nest", hitchhiking to southern California in 1936 with friend Martin Krebs. Carl recalls that they rode a good part of the way in a brand new Buick with a well-educated German fellow, who spoke both excellent German and English, and had a .45 caliber pistol in the car's glove compartment. When they got to Pasadena, CA, he made Carl and Martin stay in the car while he went in and met with various people. Carl strongly suspected the fellow to be a German spy, in the States on a mission for the German government.

Carl had wanted to be a cowboy, but couldn't find work, so he hitchhiked up to San Francisco to visit with Lou Guntz' family. Martin, meanwhile, had gone on to Denver to visit a friend. While Carl was in San Francisco, he spent time up at a boys' camp, north of the city, that Cousin Lou's uncle operated. This, Carl said, was the experience that made him want to eventually resettle in California. Reluctantly, however, he purchased a \$35 bus ticket from San Francisco and returned home to New York.

This was the era of Charles Lindbergh, whose solo crossing of the Atlantic captured the imaginations of the Dreves brothers. Bob, Carl and Art wanted to fly; but none of them ever officially became pilots. However, they did enjoy interesting and productive careers related to aviation, in no small part due to the onset of World War II.

The War, and the Careers of the Dreves Kids

» Robert George Dreves

Bob was born over the store on King's Highway, in Brooklyn, on October 24, 1914. He graduated high school in early 1933, and secured a job at Dell Publishing in New York City, where he met Eddie Mantai, who would become a life-long friend. Bob worked for several years at Dell, perhaps to save money for college, and, around 1936, finally enrolled in the colleges of Engineering and Commerce at New York University.

But after Bob's first year at NYU, in 1937, Pop had a stroke, which disabled his left arm and, for all practical purposes, ended his working days in the confectionery business. Pop wanted Bob to take over operations at the store, in part, perhaps, because Carl had left home already (he was still in California, probably with Lou Guntz' uncle at that time).

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» The Cradle of Aviation

There were five major aviation centers on Long Island that played an early and significant role in wartime (and later, civilian) aviation: Roosevelt Field (Lindbergh took off from here in 1927; it's now a shopping mall of the same name); Mitchel Field (now home to Lockheed); Lake Success (Sperry); Bethpage (Grumman) and Farmingdale (Republic).



One of the early Link Trainers. Many still exist, and are found in aviation museums worldwide.

Reluctantly, Bob agreed, but, according to both of his children, never forgave his folks for making him give up college. After working a year or so in the store, and getting married to Emily Swan in June of 1938, Bob was ready to leave Little Neck. (And, about that time, Pop sold the store to Henry Meyer).

Bob got a job at Mitsui, a Japanese metals importer, in Manhattan; both he and Carl worked at Mitsui for a short time, but it was an uncomfortable place to be, with war on the horizon.

Like most of his brothers, Bob had a fascination with flying; and so, he left Mitsui and went to work for Sperry Gyroscope Corporation in Lake Success, not far from Little Neck. Sperry manufactured a variety of precision instruments for aircraft, many of them developed as a result of the impending need for wartime air and tactical superiority. Sperry's huge 1.4 million-square-foot plant at Lake Success had parking for 22,000 employees.

In November of 1942, Bob and Emily welcomed their daughter and first child, Janet Elizabeth.

In 1943, Bob enlisted in the Navy, and formally joined the war effort. Because he had partially completed college, he was given an officers commission, as a Lieutenant, Junior Grade.

In the Navy, Bob saw 2-1/2 years of active duty, first serving as a ground flight instructor at the Banana River Naval Air Station in Florida (now Patrick Air Force Base). He was later transferred to Washington, D.C., where he worked in the Office of Research and Inventions, overseeing the introduction of the first operational flight trainer for the Navy.

At the end of the war, Bob re-joined the Navy as a civilian employee. Bob felt strongly that simulation was a better, safer, faster and cheaper way to train aircraft crews, but that concept still wasn't gaining much traction with Navy higher-ups.

At that time, Bob's wife, Emily (Swan) Dreves, worked as a dietician at Lenox Hill Hospital in Manhattan with the wife of a Navy captain. Through that acquaintance, Emily was able to connect Bob with the captain, who, in turn, introduced Bob to Ed Link, a civilian contractor and inventor of the Link Trainer, who was later hired by the Navy to develop the product.

Bob's association with Link proved valuable. His work attracted the attention of Admiral Luis de Florez, who headed the Special Devices Section of the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics. De Florez agreed with Bob's assessment, and also championed the use of "synthetic training devices," urging the Navy to undertake development of such devices to improve pilot skills.

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The Special Devices Section began developing innovative training devices, including ones that used motion pictures to instruct aircraft gunners, a device to train for precision bombing, and a kit with which to build model terrains to facilitate operational planning in the field.



The Guggenheim Estate at Sands Point, on Long Island's north shore. Bob was instrumental in locating the Special Devices Section here, after the Guggenheim family donated the property to the U.S. Navy during World War II. Both Bob and Art worked here until the Naval Training Device Center, as it was later called, was transferred to Orlando in 1965. Now, as part of the Sands Point Preserve, the facility has been restored for use as a conference and event venue. The building has been prominently featured in several movies, including *Scent of a Woman* (1992), *Malcolm X* (1992), and *Great Expectations* (1998).

The Section began to prove its worth, and grew to become the Special Devices Division. Admiral de Florez and Bob were ultimately successful in convincing the Navy to establish a simulation research and development facility at the Guggenheim Estate on Sands Point, Long Island, about 10 miles from Little Neck. In August, 1946, the operation was commissioned as the U.S. Navy's Special Device Center.

Also in 1946, Bob and Em rented a house in Williston Park, on Collins Avenue, just across the street from his brother, Carl; and in April, welcomed their son, Donald Arthur, into the family. By 1956, with the kids heading into their teen years, they moved about 15 miles east, or "out on the Island," to a home in Huntington Station.

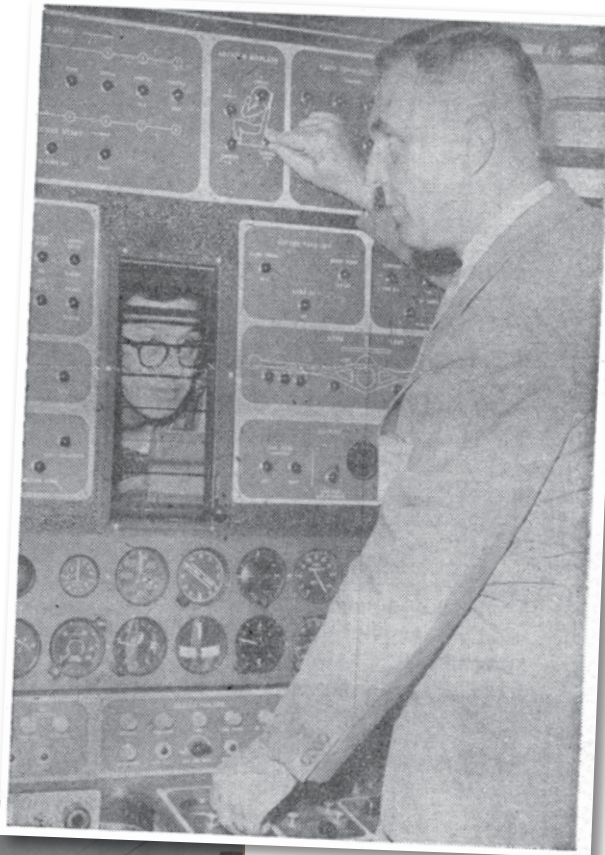
In 1960, Bob was named head of the Air and Space System Trainers Department at what was by then called the Naval Training Device Center (NTDC). As a result of a Department of Defense reorganization in 1965, NTDC was relocated from Sands Point to the former Orlando Air Force Base in Florida, which, as we shall see, had a profound (though not unpleasant) impact on the entire Dreves family.

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» So many names for "The Center"...

The military training and simulation entity for which both Bob and Art worked throughout their careers has changed names many times in its nearly 75 years of operation -- so many that, for the remainder of this narrative, we'll refer to it simply as "the Center".

It began in 1946 as the Special Devices Section of the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics, which was renamed the Naval Training Device Center (NTDC) when it moved into the Guggenheim Estate at Sands Point, Long Island. After its move to Florida, it became the Naval Training Systems Center (NTSC); then the Naval Training Equipment Center (NTEC); and is now the Naval Air Warfare Center, Training Systems Division (NAWCTSD).



ABOVE: Newspaper clipping from the Long Island Daily Press, November, 1959, showing Bob at the controls of a full-crew aircraft trainers he designed while at the Center. A test engineer peers in through an observation window.



LEFT: Photo of Bob and Emily's home at 141 Collins Avenue in Williston Park. Emma, Emily (with baby Janet) and Pop are seated on the front stoop.

After the move to Florida, Bob went on to head the Aerospace Engineering Department and later became Director of Logistics and Field Engineering. He retired in 1973 as the Technical Director the Center. Today, the vastly-expanded operation is still in Orlando, and is now known as the [Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division](#) (NAWCTSD).

Of note, most of the first-person, role-play computer gaming world owes its start to the piloting and combat simulation technologies pioneered by, and for, the Center.

» Carl Edward Dreves, Sr.

Carl was born over the store on King's Highway in Brooklyn on August 20, 1916. In his 2013 oral history, Carl, Sr. recalls that as a nine-year-old young boy, Lindbergh's solo crossing of the Atlantic (1927) fired his imagination, and got him interested in aviation. As a teenager, Carl took flying lessons and earned his trainee pilot's license.

In the late 1930s, Bob and Carl had both found work at Mitsui & Company, a metals importing firm, housed on the 7th floor of the Empire State Building. Carl was a mail clerk, and Bob worked in the messaging department, sending and receiving messages between New York and Mitsui headquarters in Japan.

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LEFT: Carl, ca. 1935, during a picnic on a family trip to upstate New York.

BELOW: The Dreves family, at that same picnic, L-R: Emily (Swan) Dreves; Vera (Ferrer) Dreves; Dot Dreves; Bob Dreves; Doris "Dodie" (Booth) Dreves; Carl Dreves, Sr. (facing away); Emma and Pop.

A note on the back says George (Jr.) took the photo.



As part of Carl's job, he had to take paperwork to the Customs House, as he said, "a nickel subway ride, about 30 minutes away." Carl recalled that the company was exporting scrap metal "like crazy," but at that time, nobody [in the public] had any idea that a war with Japan was soon to come.

Both Carl and Bob quit their positions at Mitsui, not feeling comfortable with the atmosphere there, after a year or two. (Mitsui is still in operation, as of 2020; and still trades in metals.)

After leaving Mitsui, Carl got a job with Standard Oil Company (today, "Exxon Mobil"), working at the then-new 30 Rockefeller Plaza complex, while Bob went on to work at Sperry Gyroscope.

As Carl recalled, his cousin, Marie Burdewick "was always trying to fix me up with girls", starting when Carl was a senior in high school. After several failed attempts, he says, Marie became friendly with the Booth family, who had bought a house just behind the Burdewicks, having just moved from Chicago to New York City. Mr. Booth was an equipment supervisor with Sunshine Bakery, and he had a daughter named Doris ("Dodie"). Carl had seen Dodie before, as she commuted to work at a job at Rockefeller Center in Manhattan, on the same bus as Carl. Then, Marie Burdewick formally introduced Carl to Dodie; a romance began, and they were married in January of 1940.

Around that time, Bob, already at Sperry, may have heard of an opening, and encouraged Carl to apply. Carl got a job in the machine shop at Sperry. Many of the machinists were German immigrants, and Carl learned much from them. The quality control department was looking for personnel, and Carl began to learn inspection and quality control processes, which would serve him well throughout the remainder of his career.

Carl and Dodie chose to settle in the "new suburb" of Williston Park, purchasing a house on 141 Collins Avenue. Williston Park was less than five miles from Lake Success, where Sperry was located; and, it was where Pop's protégé, Henry Hildebrandt, had set up his own ice cream shop.

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An N2 training biplane, similar to the fabric-covered N3 Carl and Dick owned.

» A different kind of “FORE...!”

Carl recalls that the only way their plane could take off from the driving range (which was not all that large, and was flanked by large trees) was for he and brother Arthur to hold the plane by its wings ‘til Dick, who was piloting, revved the engines to full speed for a “slingshot-style” launch, barely managing to gain enough altitude to clear the trees.

In 1942, Carl volunteered for the Army Air Force, hoping to enroll in the Army’s flight training program. He was sent to Tennessee, to the [Smyrna Army Air Field](#) near Nashville, home of the 313th Army Air Force Base Unit, which trained troops to fly B-17 and B-24 aircraft.

Carl wanted to be a pilot, and did well in basic training, but in a medical review, scar tissue was discovered on his bronchial tubes. The Army put him in the hospital, and ran tests. They said they couldn’t approve him for flight training; but that he could transfer to infantry or receive a medical discharge.

After talking it over with Dodie, Carl elected to take the medical discharge, and by 1943, Carl was back home on Long Island. Most who went thru the program at Smyrna became bomber pilots or bombing crews. As Carl said, washing out of the Army Air Force program was probably a blessing, as the casualty rate for bombing air crews, especially early in the war, was very high.

Once home, Carl visited his family doctor, to ask about the matter of his bronchial tubes. The doctor said it was probably related to childhood sinus issues, and how earlier doctors had tried to treat it; the treatment had scarred his bronchial passages, which is what showed up on the Army’s X-rays during his medical evaluation.

After Carl returned to Long Island, he had found work at the Republic Aviation in Farmingdale, about 20 miles east of Little Neck, further out on Long Island. In order to be closer to work, around early 1943, Carl sold his house in Williston Park to his brother, Bob, and moved to 107 Cypress Street in Westbury.

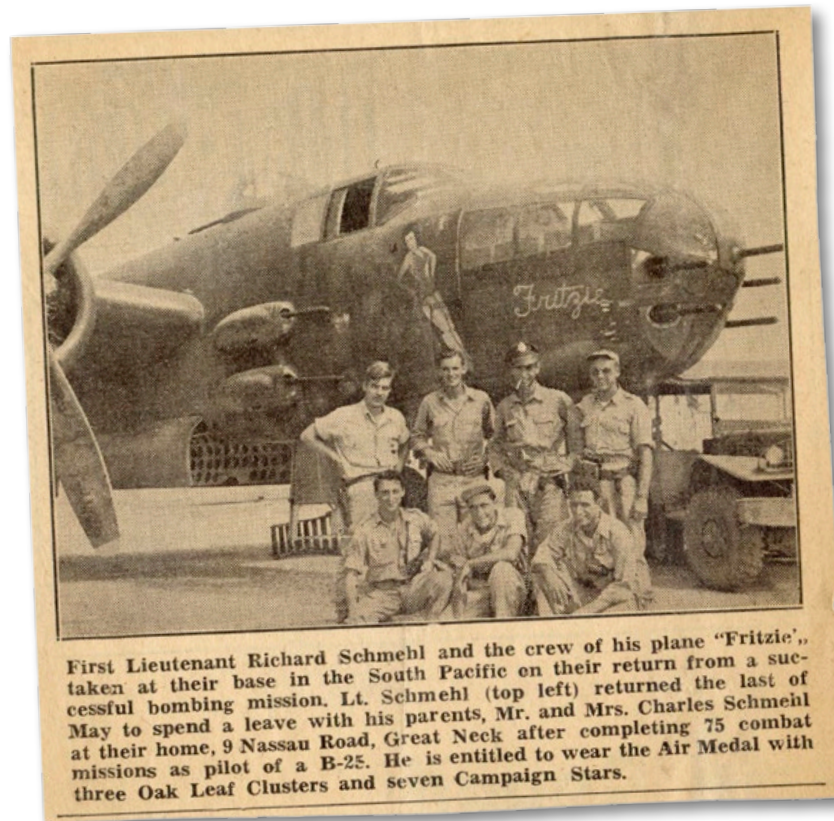
About that time, Carl and Dick Schmehl (a friend to many of the Dreves brothers), who both worked at Grumman in nearby Bethpage, decided they wanted to get an Army surplus airplane and use it to start up a crop-dusting service. They both knew a fair bit about aircraft, having worked in aviation-related industries; and thus could make modifications to the airframe.

N3 training biplanes, fabric-covered aircraft with aluminum spars (girders) in the wings, were readily available for about \$900. Dick found one at a government surplus facility in Pennsylvania, and flew it back to an abandoned golf driving range behind Dick’s house in Little Neck (« see more at left).

A neighbor, who was a licensed mechanic for American Airlines, agreed to provide the required Federal inspection of the modifications Dick and Carl had made to the plane.

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First Lieutenant Richard Schmehl and the crew of his plane "Fritzie", taken at their base in the South Pacific on their return from a successful bombing mission. Lt. Schmehl (top left) returned the last of May to spend a leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schmehl at their home, 9 Nassau Road, Great Neck after completing 75 combat missions as pilot of a B-25. He is entitled to wear the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and Seven Campaign Stars.

Richard "Dick" Schmehl, top left in the photo, was a close friend to several of the Dreves brothers, notably Carl and Art. In this photo, we see that he became what Carl had aspired to: the pilot of a B-25 bomber.

Schmehl was good at it, too. According to Art, in his oral history, Dick perfected a bombing technique called "skip-bombing," where the plane would come in very low over the water, beneath radar; gain speed toward its target, and then release the bomb, which, at that angle, would skip across the water like a well-thrown stone. The bomber could then bank sharply, pull up, and get away before detonation. Before long, Schmehl's technique became a standard part of bomber pilot instruction.

The inspection revealed hidden damage, of which they were unaware, to one of the lower wings. So Dick flew the plane back to Pennsylvania and got a replacement wing from another surplus aircraft. They changed the wing out and tried some experimental flights between Long Island and the area around West Point, on the Hudson River north of New York City.

For a brief time, Dick and Carl used the plane to "commute" to work at Republic. After a several weeks of doing this, they realized it was costing them twice what they would pay to put gas in the car and drive to work!

Although by now they had a temporary license for the aircraft, they discovered that further modifying the plane for crop dusting would be an expensive proposition, and their money was running short. Dick bought out Carl's interest, as by then Carl was expecting a child and couldn't invest any further in the aircraft. And so ended his dream of operating a crop-dusting service.

(Epilogue: Dick, who continued to be a close friend to the Dreves family, married Nancy Johnson, the childhood best friend of Elly Meissner [who later became the wife of Arthur Frederick Dreves!], and ultimately became an air-traffic controller at Boston's Logan Airport; retiring to a beautiful spot on the Maine coast, near the town of Bremen.)

Carl and Dodie's son, Carl, Jr., was born in May of 1944, followed quickly by daughter Nancy in September of 1945.

When the war ended, in 1945, Carl recalls, many aircraft and defense contractors were scaling down from the war effort, so his work at Republic became sporadic, and there were periodic layoffs. Because of the intermittent work at Republic, Carl began looking for other opportunities, and saw an ad in a New York City newspaper for [Hughes Aircraft](#), which was recruiting Quality Engineers for their new guided missile facility out in Tucson, Arizona. Carl had set up an interview with the Hughes recruiter, when he got a word of another opportunity, this one at IBM in Binghamton, in upstate New York.

Carl interviewed with IBM first. The Dreves family had just acquired a getaway place in the Adirondacks, "the farm" at Wells. Carl liked the idea of being closer to the farm (nearly 100 miles closer, compared to being on Long Island).

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However, Carl had always wanted to go West, particularly after his 1936 hitchhiking trip to California where, as he recalled, he was impressed with the clarity of the air, and the good weather — a sharp contrast to New York City. So he passed on the IBM offer, and re-contacted the Hughes recruiter.

As a result, Carl and Dodie, Carl, Jr. and Nancy, packed their bags and headed for Tucson, where Carl would work as a Quality Engineer at the Hughes Missile Plant for about two years (ca. 1952-54). Carl recalls that he was quickly promoted, and offered solutions that improved the stability of missiles in flight. However, the Tucson climate didn't agree with Carl, aggravating his long-term sinus and bronchial issues. Carl felt he should move back East, and his superiors at Hughes promised him work there, but didn't seem to be able to deliver.



Carl and his family stayed at the Dreves family's getaway place in the Adirondack Mountains, near Wells, in early 1955 while he looked for a new job "back east," having left Hughes in Tucson because the climate there was causing him bronchial issues.

So, in early 1955, Carl packed up the family, returned to New York at his own expense, and spent some time at the "farm" in Wells, while looking for a new position. In December, 1955, Carl and Dodie's third child, Virginia ("Ginny") was born.

One day, the local sheriff came to the door of the cabin, saying there was an urgent telegraph from Hughes, waiting for him in town. Carl drove in, retrieved the message. Hughes wanted to give him a promotion to be a Hughes liaison with other key subcontractors, and asked him to return to Tucson to discuss.

They offered him a choice of three locations — one in Virginia, one in St. Louis, and one in Framingham, just outside of Boston [today, a major tech center]. Carl was intrigued with the Framingham project, a joint venture between Hughes and Waltham (the watchmaker, which had developed a specialty, making chronographs and other guidance instrumentation for use in aircraft and missiles). The Waltham Precision Instruments Company utilized the original Waltham watch factory in Framingham.

Carl bought a home in Framingham, in a subdivision built on an old farm, and recounts how much he and the family enjoyed their time in New England (ca. 1956-59).

Around 1959, Carl was approached by a former boss at Hughes, who asked him to move west again, this time to take another promotion, a key role in ramping up production at a new Hughes factory in Fullerton, California. By that point, Hughes was transitioning from being an aircraft manufacturer to a supplier of advanced military and aviation electronics.

And so, Carl, Dodie and the kids moved to California. They initially went to Culver City, near Hughes' legendary Hercules Campus, but soon after moved to Fullerton, to be close to Carl's work.

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The Hughes Ground Systems Group facility at Fullerton ultimately grew to 3 million square feet and included manufacturing, labs, offices, and a test facility. It designed, developed and produced the United States' air defense systems, and air traffic control systems used around the world. At its peak, the Ground Systems Group employed 15,000 people and generated revenue in excess of \$1 billion per year.

Carl had four bosses during his 20+ years at Hughes; ironically, he recalls, all four ultimately ended up working for him.

» George August Dreves, Jr.

George was born on August 31, 1919, over the store on King's Highway in Brooklyn. He began first grade soon after the family arrived in Little Neck in 1925.

By George's own account, he was not a great student; he ended up repeating 3rd grade. He dropped out of high school, and went to work in the Dreves confectionery store. After his father had his stroke in 1937, George and his brother, Bob, both took on added responsibilities for keeping the store running.



In June, 1941, George married Vera Ann Ferrer.

After Pop sold the store to Henry Meyer (but still before the war), George worked for Arnold Brillhart, carving hard-rubber mouthpieces for reed instruments. [Brillhart's company](#) was located at 435 Middle Neck Road in Great Neck, about 3 miles from the Dreves store. "Blanks" for each mouthpiece were made in California and sent to Great Neck for finishing.

George was a finisher, who had to insure that the openings were precise for each different kind of instrument (sax, clarinet, etc.) and configuration (reed placement vs. opening size and shape, etc.) — all of which affected the tone of the instrument.

Brillhart, being a musician himself, knew what worked. Jazz greats such as Charlie Parker, Gene Ammons, Sonny Stitt and Kenny Garrett all preferred to play with Brillhart mouthpieces. Brillhart's company continued making mouthpieces until well into the 1980s. George worked for Brillhart until he was drafted, shortly after the war began.

TOP LEFT: Even today, Brillhart mouthpieces of the type carved by George are prized by musicians worldwide for their unique design, great tonality and comfort of playing.

LEFT: George, in a promotional photo for Brillhart, working at Brillhart's shop in Great Neck.

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George, while in [basic training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina](#), before being deployed to North Africa. Had George not been wounded during the Tunisia campaign, he might have been with the 9th Army in 1944 as it attacked enemy forces in Italy at Monte Cassino, where the 34th suffered an 80% casualty rate.



A combat photo from the Battle for Hill 609 in Tunisia, North Africa, where George was wounded. He spent several months recovering in an Army hospital in Africa, before returning to the states for more rehab at Fort Devens in Massachusetts.

George entered the U.S. Army in November, 1942, and after basic training was [quickly deployed with the 34th Infantry Division, 9th Army](#), to Tunisia, in North Africa, to go up against German forces. The 34th landed at Casablanca (Morocco), and were taken by railroad through what is now Algeria, to Tunisia (in boxcars, as George noted, that could hold "40 men or 8 horses each").

[According to Wikipedia](#), "In late April 1943, Hill 609 was the key to the German defensive line facing the U.S. forces, commanded by Major General Omar Bradley. Hill 609 was deemed one of the most difficult objectives in Tunisia, not only protected by steep slopes and artillery but also by fire from nearby high grounds, which gave the Germans a cross fire on the slopes leading up to it. After rejecting the proposition of bypassing the mountain, Bradley ordered the 34th Infantry Division, commanded by Major General Charles Ryder, to take the hill. After heavy fighting and high casualties, the 34th Division managed to take the hill by April 30, and the following day repelled several German counterattacks."

[George saw action quickly](#). He suffered hearing loss and shrapnel wounds in his leg from an exploding shell during the early stages of battle. He spent several months in initial recovery at an Army hospital in Africa, and was then transferred to an Army hospital at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, for another 5-6 weeks of rehabilitation. He returned home in the fall of 1943.

In June, 1944, George and Vera prepared to welcome their first child, a daughter, into the world. However, there were complications with the delivery, and four days after she delivered a healthy baby girl by C-section, Vera died. George named the baby Vera, after her mother. Emma and Pop helped George through the first year of raising his infant daughter.

Bob and Emily, who were at that time stationed in Florida at the Banana River Naval Air Station, and already had a 20-month-old daughter, Janet, offered to take young Vera for awhile, until George could get back on his feet; but George felt strongly about raising Vera himself, albeit with his parents' help.

George moved back in with his parents, and returned to work at Brillhart, which by then had retooled to produce materiel for the war effort. That is where he met Mildred ("Millie") Rhodes Goudie, who was in the process of getting a divorce from her first husband.

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Family gathering on the lawn at George and Millie's farmhouse in Hillsdale, New York, ca. 1960. **L-R, standing:** Vera Dreves (Willi), Sandra "Holly" Dreves (O'Brien), Irma and James Rhodes (Millie's parents); George Dreves, Jr. **L-R, sitting:** Rick Dreves, Art Dreves, Diane Dreves (Soliwoda), and Millie (Rhodes) Dreves.

In the spring of 1945, Millie went to Virginia City, Nevada, where she could establish residency and in six months, make her divorce final. During that time, she worked at a casino, and at the newspaper in Lake Tahoe. Finally, Millie and George were able to be married. George flew to Nevada, and following the ceremony on August 27, Millie was able to get a nice cabin where she and George could honeymoon.

Millie already had Judie, a 3-year-old daughter by her first marriage, who became close to George and the Dreves family. Similarly, the Cornell family (young Vera's grandmother) also remained close with George and baby Vera.

An interesting side-note: Millie's father, James H. Rhodes, Sr., an electrical engineer, worked for the Atomic Energy Commission, related to the Manhattan Project (developing the atomic bomb) at Oak Ridge, Tennessee; George recalls visiting James and Irma Rhodes at Oak Ridge.

When they returned to New York, George worked for a brief time at Henry Hildebrandt's ice cream store in Williston Park. He also enrolled in a government program to help veterans get on-the-job-training, and took a position at Mark Markowitz Oldsmobile, in nearby Hempstead, where he learned how to be an auto mechanic — a skill that would prove useful later on. George also worked as the new car manager, processing new cars as they were delivered to the dealership from the factory. After several years at the Markowitz dealership, George went on to work as a school bus driver for the Mineola School District, near their home in Williston Park.

Then, in December of 1947, George and Millie welcomed Sandra Holly Dreves to their family. George recalls that the entire bill for the baby's delivery was \$25.

George, Millie and the girls wanted to live in the country, and after much searching, they moved to rural Hillsdale, New York (about 2 hours southeast of Albany, on the Massachusetts border) in 1955. George stayed behind in Mineola until he secured a job in Hillsdale, working as a bus driver and later as a mechanic with the Lower Rolliff-Jensen Central Schools.

» Arthur Frederick Dreves

Arthur was born at the Prospect Heights Hospital in Brooklyn on November 2, 1923.

Like his next-oldest-brother George, Arthur (or, as he was known as an adult, "Art") was not a great student. And yet, Arthur had a thirst for knowledge — but perhaps not the kind they were offering in grammar school in the 1930s.

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Arthur Frederick Dreves, age 6 months (spring, 1924).



Art Dreves, likely at Camp Pendleton, California, 1942, shortly after completing basic training.

Before his life was over, Art, like many of the Dreves Kids, became self-taught and quite knowledgeable about many things. His repertoire included hunting, fishing, living off the land, navigating by dead reckoning (and the stars), archaeology, painting on sand dollars, living with stomach ulcers, antique bottle hunting, and how to build amazing miniatures inside a bottle. Many of the Dreves Cousins (grandsons and granddaughters of Pop and Emma) have remarked that “Uncle Art was the cool uncle!” — always up for an adventure, particularly in the outdoors.

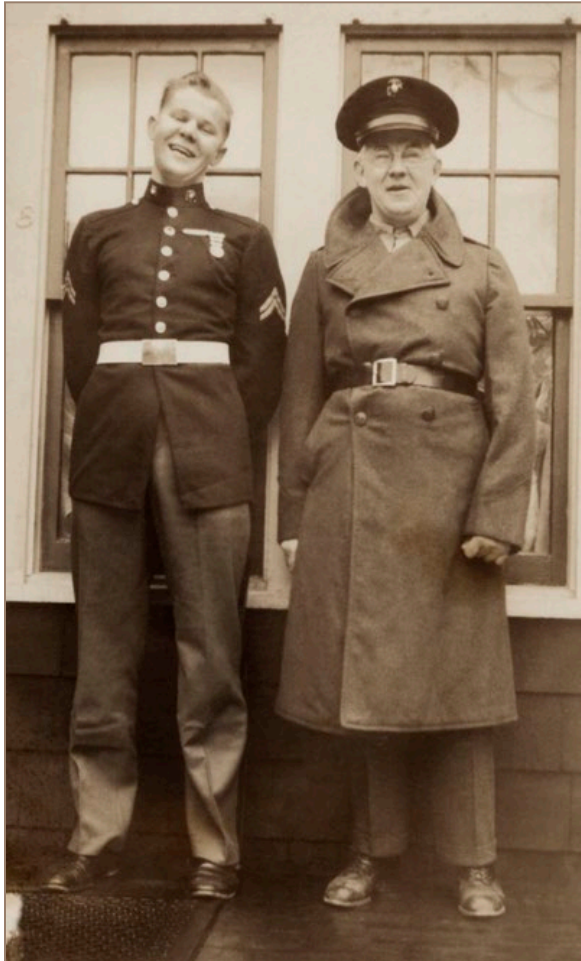
Even as a child, Arthur would rather have been outside, preferably in the woods, or with a fishing pole in his hand. In many respects, he was the original Sam Gibley, the principal character in [Jean Craighead George’s “My Side of the Mountain”](#) (a wonderful book to read with, or to, your grand or great-grandchildren!)

Of course, he didn’t run away to the woods, but he found plenty of adventure in Little Neck ... and a fair bit of mischief, too. (See page 49 in Volume One of this narrative!) He loved keeping wild animals, whether it was Jake the crow, who he taught to sit on his shoulder as he’d walk down to the bank to make a deposit for his father; or that big Black Racer snake he kept in his dresser drawer, which nearly caused Emma’s housekeeper to quit after she found it one day while putting away the laundry; or the live alligator he and George raised in the fish pond in the back yard, unknown to their mother, until she noticed all the goldfish in the pond were suddenly disappearing; or the two huge barred owls they raised by feeding mice they’d trapped next door at Luff’s Hardware (and which they ultimately donated to the Bronx Zoo!); or ... you get the picture.

If there wasn’t adventure associated with it, Arthur wasn’t much interested. He dropped out of high school, not long after Pop’s stroke, to work in the store for a year or so; and then went to work for Luff’s Hardware, stocking the shelves, running errands and driving the delivery truck...until the icy day in the fall of 1941 when, out on a delivery run, he lost control of the truck and smashed it into a fire hydrant (creating an even icier mess!).

As he recalled in his oral history, “that was the day I decided it was time to get out of Little Neck and get a fresh start,” which, in his mind, meant signing up to join the U.S. Marine Corps, a group he had always admired for their snappy dress uniforms and sense of derring-do. Little did he know that within a week, the Japanese would attack Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and completely transform the expectations for a wet-behind-the-ears Marine Corps enlistee.

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Art and Pop, when Art was on leave from duty in the U.S. Marine Corps to attend the funeral of George (Jr's) wife, Vera, in 1944.

His enrollment would not be complete, of course, without his parents' signatures (Arthur was barely 18). He took the papers home, and as he recalled, got into quite an argument with his parents; they even asked his brothers to try to talk Arthur out of making what they considered to be a big mistake. But Arthur prevailed.

For the next four years, Arthur would see and experience just about every aspect of the war in the Pacific, from the mundane to the terrifying. To read more about his journey from New York to California to Indonesia to Japan to China and home again, take time to read the account in **Appendix A**.

After four years of service in the United States Marine Corps, Sergeant Arthur F. Dreves was discharged in Bainbridge, Maryland on February 23, 1946. He called Bob, who was working in Washington, D.C. at the Special Devices Section; and Bob contacted Dot, who was about 100 miles away, working at an Army hospital in Staunton, Virginia. The three of them hatched a plan to return to New York together, and surprise their parents.

After a "straight-out-of-Hollywood" scene where all three of them managed to find each other in a frenetic crowd at Washington's Union Station, they boarded a standing-room-only train bound for New York City; largely filled, as Art recalls, with recently-discharged (and very happy!) service men and women.

Bob had called his wife, Emily, to ask her to pick them up at the Long Island Railroad station, in Williston Park, but didn't tell her who was coming home with him. By that point it was midnight, but Emily's chagrin about a late-night trip to the train station was quickly erased when she saw who accompanied Bob!

Art recalls that they stayed up nearly all night at Bob and Emily's house in Williston, telling stories and getting caught up. Some time the next day (after all had gotten some rest), they went over to Pop and Emma's house on Van Nostrand Court in Little Neck, and 'sprung the surprise' on their delighted parents. After more than five anxiety-filled years of war, all of the Dreves Kids were now safely back in the States, and home again.

When Art returned to civilian life in 1946, Emma wouldn't let him sit around the house. He briefly thought about acting on his desire to become a Forest Ranger, but dismissed the idea. Bob mentioned that the Special Devices Section was moving from Washington, D.C. to the former Guggenheim family estate at Sands Point, on Long Island's north shore, not far from Little Neck, and encouraged Art to apply, as they were hiring.

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Art and family friend Dick Schmehl, in a "gag photo" shortly after both of them were discharged from duty after World War II; this was about the time that Art was working as a laborer at the Center.



Christmas at Art & Elly's house in Elmhurst, ca. 1959. **L-R:** Walter Kronke, Art, Rick, Dot and Marge (Cordes) Durkin.

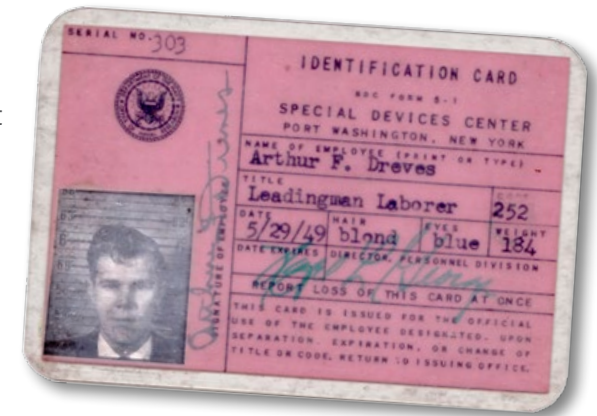
Since his years in the Marine Corps didn't give Art any relevant job skills for a higher position, he came on board as a laborer, for which they were paying 92¢ per hour. As Art recalled, "it was a temporary job that lasted 36 years." He began as a basic laborer for about three months; was promoted to being a Gardener [the Guggenheim grounds had extensive landscaping] at \$1.10 per hour; then helped move government furniture, file cabinets, etc. into the mansion when trucks arrived from Washington.

Art was diligent, recognized for his work, and moved up to being a "leading man," running crews of other laborers. Finally, around 1950, he went from hourly pay to a Government Service (civilian service) employee, with a salary, starting as a GS-4, and quickly working his way up to a GS-7; at each step of the way, learning more about how the Special Devices Center (as it was by then known) operated.

Art acquired enough knowledge and experience that he was able to step into a vacated position, responsible for maintaining complete working drawings of all the buildings on the campus (keeping track of electrical, plumbing, heating and all other manner of building systems), in part because the employees he would be supervising thought well of him and indicated to management that they would be happy to work for him!

On June 4, 1950, Art married Elsie Meissner, the cousin of his good friend and fellow Scoutmaster, Hank Meissner, who helped introduce the two. Four and a half years later, on January 8, 1955, they welcomed Richard Arthur Dreves into the world; and in another 27 months, daughter Diane Ellen Dreves, on April 27th, 1957.

Art and Elly had been living in the home Elly grew up in, on St. James Avenue in Elmhurst, New York. In the summer of 1960, when young Rick was old enough to start school, Art and Elly decided to move out to Williston Park, near Art's parents. They bought a beautiful slate-roofed home on Primrose Road, just a few doors down from Henry Hildebrandt (and less than a mile from Emma and Pop, and Henry's ice cream store). Henry had known the previous owner, a widow named Mrs. Steidinger, who was retiring to Sarasota, Florida; and was delighted to sell her home to "such a nice young couple," as she later told Henry.



Art's ID card from the Special Devices Center

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Arthur and Dorothy, behind the store in Little Neck, ca. 1927. Notice the chalk writing on the cement blocks -- the initials, running down the wall just to the left of the door, of the five Dreves Kids, in order of appearance.

» Dorothy Emma Dreves

Dorothy (or “Dot,” as everyone knew her) was born on March 23, 1925 at the Prospect Heights Hospital in Brooklyn.

She began her nursing training in the fall of 1943, at Lenox Hill Hospital on Manhattan’s Upper East Side, in New York City. About that time, with war casualties mounting, nursing students began being recruited in volume for all branches of the service; they could choose the branch in which they wanted to serve. The arrangement was that these nurses would devote the last six months of their three-year training at a military hospital of the branch of their choosing, for which they received a \$25/month stipend.

One of Dot’s best friends, Betty Mathews, had signed up to serve with the Army, so Dot did as well, although there was no guarantee they would be assigned to the same medical facility. As it turned out,

when the time came, Dot, Betty and two other nurses from their class were assigned to the Woodrow Wilson Army Hospital in Staunton, Virginia, in the Shenandoah Valley, about 100 miles west of Richmond, to take care of wounded World War II soldiers.

It was big news when plans for that hospital were first announced in the May 22, 1942 issue of *The Staunton Evening Leader*: “Army Hospital Will Be Built East of Staunton; \$3,000,000 Institution to Provide 1,000 Beds at Opening.” And with that, the U.S. Army bought 652 acres in nearby Fishersville. The Army chose to name the hospital after the 28th president, who hailed from Staunton.

Ground was broken one month later. For just under a year, 1,500 workers swarmed the site to build what was literally a giant military city. There were surgical wards, rehabilitation rooms, dormitories, picnic areas, officers’ clubs, a brig, supply rooms, a theater, a chapel, and a morgue, all housed in 135 one-story brick buildings, connected by 2 ½ miles of walkways.

Less than a year after ground-breaking, the first 300 wounded soldiers arrived from the North African campaign, in June of 1943. The site was still a mess of red clay, according to medical personnel stationed there, but they were trained and ready to take care of the wounded soldiers.

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Woodrow Wilson General Hospital treated more than 4,000 soldiers who were sick, injured or wounded during World War II. Many who lived in the local community will never forget the arrival of patients on Sunday evenings. Route 250 was closed to through traffic as a line of ambulances queued up at the Fishersville train depot to transport the G.I.s to the hospital for care and rehabilitation.

Dot and Betty arrived around August of 1945, and served there until February of 1946. When the war was over, the hospital, being a wartime-only facility, was closed. Many of the buildings, however, still remain; compare the photo of Dot, below left, to a photo Rick took of a similar part of the site, below, when he and Art visited there in 2011.

This was a major Army facility, with nearly 1,000 beds, receiving wounded soldiers from both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters of action. The hospital consisted of a large array of one-story, barracks-style buildings; each ward held about 25 patients, with only one or two nurses per ward.

Some material for this section sourced from [this Richmond News-Leader article](#), 2015.



Nurse Dorothy Dreves
Woodrow Wilson Hospital
Staunton, Virginia, 1945



The hospital as it looked in 2011, when Rick and Art visited.

Dot was assigned to the colostomy ward (for G.I.s who had sustained lower abdominal wounds or diseases). The Corpsmen (doctors) took care of the actual colostomy procedures; the nurses primarily administered medications, brought food, and provided comfort.

When they had signed up two-and-a-half years earlier, Dot and Betty could not have known that the beginning of their assignment would coincide almost exactly with the end of the war. They arrived in Staunton just as the hospital began receiving large numbers of former POWs (Prisoners of War), who had just been released by surrendering enemy forces. The POWs were quickly moved back to the States, and those needing hospitalization were generally sent to the military hospital closest to their homes, so family could more easily visit them.

Dot's ward received a number of POWs who had been held by the Japanese in the Philippines, and who, as prisoners, had been forced into what is now known as the

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Bataan Death March, a brutal journey on foot of approximately 70 miles. The march involved between five thousand American and approximately 55 thousand Filipino troops, many already injured or ill. According to Wikipedia, the march was characterized by severe physical abuse and wanton killings, and was later judged by an Allied military commission to be a Japanese war crime.

Dot vividly recalled caring for some of the Bataan survivors. “They arrived looking like cadavers, very thin and suffering from all kinds of diseases. They struggled to live until they could get home and see their families,” she said. Dot specifically remembered one young man who hailed from a very rural area in Virginia. He arrived at the hospital in particularly rough shape, barely aware of his surroundings.

“All he kept asking for was possum [yes, the animal!], which was considered a local delicacy,” Dot remembered. “Of course, the doctors said, ‘Give him anything he wants,’ knowing that he wasn’t going to last long.” His family soon came to visit, and Dot relayed the soldier’s request. On their next visit, they brought him a home-cooked meal of possum. “He ate a few bites, but that was all he could manage,” she recalled.



LEFT: Wartime publicity photo of a patient ward at Woodrow Wilson Hospital

BELOW: Betty and Dot, with the hospital campus and Blue Ridge Mountains beyond

RIGHT: Dot and Betty in their Army dress uniforms

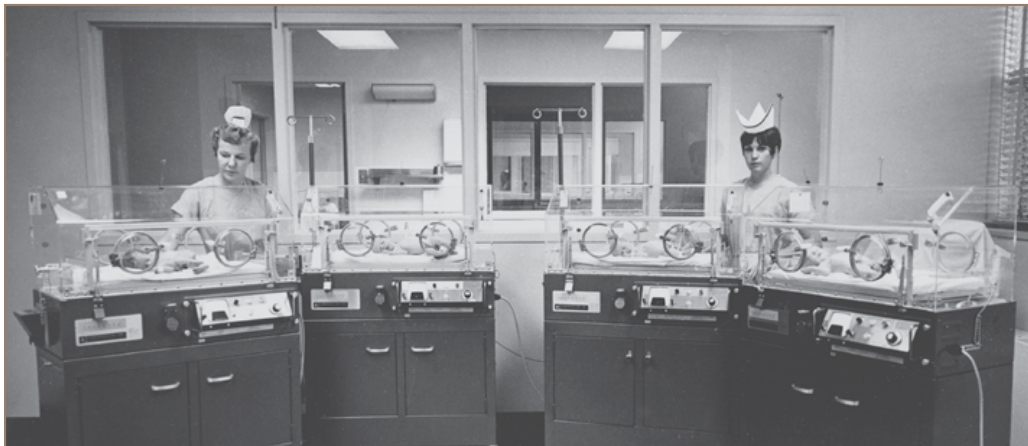


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Latest thing in bassinets is displayed in one of the six nurseries at New North Shore Hospital, Manhasset. Nurses making preparations for opening today are (l. to r.) Marie Scholl of New Hyde Park, Florence Werber of St. Albans and Dorothy Dreves of Williston Park.

At North Shore, Dot “made the news” several times: at the hospital opening (top), and when she was on the team (below, on the left) caring for the prematurely-born Sklar Quadruplets, who all survived; a rarity in those days.



“He died shortly afterward,” she remembered, “but he knew he was ‘home’ once he had his meal of possum.” Dot drew the curtain around his bed, and, as was the nurse’s responsibility, remained with the body until the Corpsman could come to take it away.

Dot finished her six-month duty to the Army around February of 1946, and returned to New York. She began work at Flushing Hospital, in Queens. She had requested an assignment as an operating room nurse, but there were no openings. However, in early 1947, the idea of providing special care for premature births was a new concept, and Flushing was one of the first hospitals in the country to set up a NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit); so Dot’s supervisor suggested she apply to work as a supervisor in the NICU.

To be certified as a NICU supervisor, Dot would have to take several months’ worth of postgraduate courses, and went to Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, a leader in the then-new field of premature birth care. Dot recalls that she had acute appendicitis, requiring surgery, just ten days before she was supposed to report for class. Fortunately, she recalls, she healed well and was cleared to go, but her physician advised her “not to carry any heavy oxygen tanks” while she was in training at Johns Hopkins.

Dot graduated, received her certification, and returned to Flushing Hospital. Not long after, she was asked if she would be interested in transferring to a new hospital, nearing completion in Manhasset, on the north shore of Long Island, about five miles from Williston Park, where her parents, Emma and Pop, had just moved.

At North Shore Hospital, Dot was head of the newborn nursery unit, with responsibility for

a dozen or so nurses. She began work before the hospital actually began operating, and was responsible for ordering and overseeing installation of much of the equipment in the nursery wards. The hospital opened for business in July of 1953. Over the course of the next 10 years, she saw many innovations in newborn care, including the replacement of “Hess beds” — large metal enclosures pioneered by Dr. Julius Hess at the Reese hospital in Chicago — with Isolette incubators, more like those still in use today; better control of oxygen delivery to “preemies,” to avoid causing blindness; and significant improvements in a number of other processes related to premature deliveries.

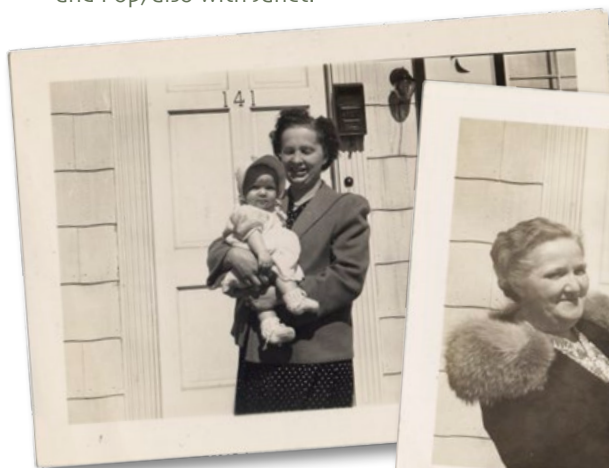
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RIGHT: Pop, Emma, Elly (Meissner) Dreves and George (back to camera, coming out of the house at Van Nostrand Court



LEFT: Pop and Emma on the steps in front of their house at 24 Meagher Place in Williston, sometime soon after 1951.

BELOW: Two photos taken on the front steps of Bob and Emily's house at 141 Collins Avenue, ca. 1942: Emily, holding baby Janet; and Emma and Pop, also with Janet.



The Dreves Family moves to Williston Park

Henry Hildebrandt, a newly-arrived German lad, came to America about the time Pop opened his shop in Little Neck, in 1925. Pop gave Henry a job; he probably saw a lot of himself in the 22-year-old. After all, Charles Cordes had taken Pop under his wing, when he was a new immigrant, which set Pop on a very successful career path.

Henry undoubtedly looked up to Pop, so it's no surprise that when Henry chose the newly-booming suburb of Williston Park, about 10 miles southeast of Little Neck, as the location for his own ice cream store, he followed the "formula" taught to him by his mentor: Find a highly-visible corner location, market yourself well, and serve great ice cream and food!

We don't know exactly when Henry started his store in Williston Park, but family records suggest it was in the mid-1930s. Henry's enthusiasm for his new location, in fact, may have encouraged many in the Dreves family to move from Little Neck to Williston.

Bob was working at Sperry Gyroscope, in nearby Lake Success, and moved to Williston, renting a home on Collins Avenue. Not long after they were married in January of 1940, Carl and Dodie also moved to Williston, buying a home at 141 Collins Avenue, almost directly across the street from Bob's family. Then the war broke out, and in 1942, Carl enlisted in the Army, hoping to pilot bomber aircraft. When he returned to Long Island in 1943, Carl got a new job at Republic Aircraft, and moved the family to a new home at 107 Cypress Street, in nearby Westbury. When Carl moved, Bob and Emily purchased Carl's house in Williston, literally moving across the street.

Meanwhile, Henry's business was doing well, and – once again following in the footsteps of his mentor – Henry acquired not only his own home on Primrose Road in Williston, but also an investment property, a house at 15 Lehigh Street, which he sold to George and Millie around 1946 for \$7,500. That was about the time George briefly worked at Henry's store. (George and Millie remained in that house until they moved to Hillsdale, in upstate New York, in 1955).

Meanwhile, after the sale of the Little Neck store, Pop and Emma had moved one block away, to a house on Van Nostrand Court in Little Neck, and were there for several years, through World War II and after, until Emma took a spill one day in April, 1951, while trying to climb the stairs to the second floor.

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A true “family tree,” painted by Millie (Rhodes) Dreves for Emma and Pop, for their 50th wedding anniversary in 1962.

Dot, who received the plate when Emma passed, gave it to nephew Rick as thanks for his work on the family history.

When Emma fell, the family quickly realized she and Pop needed a home without stairs. Henry, being well familiar with Williston Park, helped Emma and Pop find a new home at 24 Meagher Place, less than a block from Henry’s store.

At this point, Dot was considering whether to take the neonatal department head position at the new [North Shore Hospital](#), nearing completion in nearby Manhasset, so she was glad Emma and Pop were moving to Williston Park. She was still living at home, and her commute to North Shore from Williston would be considerably shorter than if she stayed at Flushing Hospital. And so, Dot moved to Williston with them, which set in motion a lifetime spent in the care of her parents.

Finally, Art and Elly joined the Dreves of Williston Park, moving in the summer of 1960 to yet another house “found” by Henry Hildebrandt, at 153 Primrose Road — the same street on which Henry and his wife, Anna (née Burdewick) lived.

» Memories of Williston Park

- Carl, Jr. remembers going to Grammy’s for dinner every Sunday evening. Carl remembers getting Pop’s (Grampy’s) cigars out of wooden boxes in the basement. Every Sunday Pop would have a cigar, sitting in his chair in the dining room.
- Rick recalls clearing the table and playing any number of card and board games. It was during one of those games that his mother, Elly, realized he was squinting to see what cards had been played; he had recently recovered from a serious case of measles, which, it turned out, had affected his vision; he’s worn glasses ever since!
- Ginny recalls having rhubarb, a sweet concoction with the consistency of applesauce, as well as Junket (custard pudding).
- What a difference a few years make! Don recalls sitting in Pop’s lap, listening to the Lone Ranger on the radio. Rick recalls sitting in Pop’s lap (as he smoked a cigar), watching the Brooklyn Dodgers game on TV. (Don is about seven years older than Rick.) Dot and Janet rooted for the New York Yankees; Dot loved Mickey Mantle!

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2019 Google street view of Pop and Emma's home at 24 Meagher Place in Williston Park. There's still a bank next door (to the left), and a diner directly behind the house, on Hillside Avenue -- Williston's "Main Street".



Pop and Emma, at Bob & Emily's house in Huntington, celebrating their 50th Anniversary in June of 1962.

- Janet recalls the 'one pot' kale dish, consisting of kale, pork tenderloin, potatoes, and oatmeal for thickening, all mashed together.
- She also recalls going to Sands Point (where her father worked). In the summer, the families of employees were allowed to use what had been the Guggenheim family pool, and she had swimming lessons there. She also remembers the lovely grounds, and statuary (which the kids climbed on). Janet recalls being jealous of the Navy 'big shots' who actually got to live on the grounds, in what had been cottages for house staff when the Guggenheims lived there.

While Bob's family was still living in Williston Park, Janet had wanted a dog, but Bob was firmly opposed to the idea. Dot, being a long-time dog-lover, 'tricked' Bob into taking in "Schnappes," a black Lab puppy [short for "*Schnappes von Schutzenkorpf*"], after she pulled up in front of his house with the pup in a box, in the back seat. Dot claimed (perhaps with slight exaggeration) that Bob didn't talk to her for six months after that, but Bob came to love the dog. Schnappes lived a long life, moving with the family to Huntington Station. Rick remembers Schnappes as an "old dog" with graying muzzle, always a mellow, well-trained and kindly animal, with a whip-like tail that was always in happy motion.

In early 1956, Bob and Emily were planning to buy a new house under construction in Huntington, but their current house in Williston sold so quickly, the new house wasn't ready, and so they had to make a "quick purchase" of the beautiful home they had for many years at 9 Sandra Court. It was there that the Dreves family celebrated Emma and Pop's 50th wedding anniversary in June of 1962.

Pop lost his battle with cancer a year and a half later, passing on October 9, 1963 at their home on Meagher Place in Williston Park.

How the Dreves Family came to know Wells

This section, describing the Dreves family "getaway place" near Wells, New York, is based on Bob Dreves' essay from the 1980s, which he intended as a 'sequel' of sorts, to the book entitled "[Oliver H. Whitman, Adirondack Guide and The Journals of Oliver W. Whitman](#)" by Donald R. Williams, a Whitman descendant and prolific writer about the Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York.

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We have incorporated additional information, either drawn directly from the Whitman book; from documents relating to the purchase and sale of the property by the Dreves family; from newspaper clippings of the time; or from the recorded oral histories of the Dreves Kids and the Dreves Cousins. We also made a few compositional corrections, where necessary.



Pop and Emma's Studebaker, large enough to hold all seven of the immediate Dreves family. This photo was taken in back of the Little Neck Store.

» Four names, one wonderful place!

As we're discussing the property itself, the terms "West Hill" "the farm," "the camp," and simply "Wells" are all used interchangeably — depending the point in time, and from whose perspective, the story is being told.

» Historic, Folkloric and ...

When the Dreves Kids were small, Pop and Emma would pile the kids into their Studebaker and take them for weekend trips, either "out on Long Island" (meaning further east, to places like Lake Ronkonkoma), or up toward the Catskill Mountains, north of the city, to Poughkeepsie, to visit the Hess family (Pop's sister, Emma, lived there with husband John and daughter Audrey). These forays into rural America, coupled with their enjoyment of times spent in the Boy Scouts, sparked the Dreves brothers' imaginations, and undoubtedly became part of their enthusiasm for wanting to have a "getaway place in the woods."

The Dreves family certainly had plenty of exposure to the Adirondack Mountains of northern, or "upstate" New York. The Dreves brothers first experienced the Adirondacks in the 1930s when the older Dreves brothers, Bob, Carl, and later George, and their friends, spent vacations at *Camp of the Woods* in Speculator, a few miles north of Wells. Here, they, and ultimately all the Dreves Kids came to love the beautiful Adirondack wilderness.

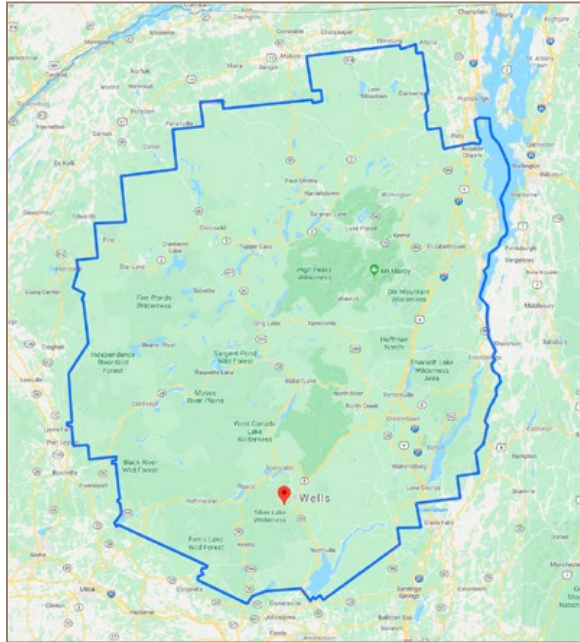
After World War II, the brothers would periodically return to the area to go deer hunting. Carl and Dreves family friend Dick Schmehl thought they would like to operate a boys' camp in that area. They examined an abandoned boys' camp at a place called Whitehouse [[see pages 100-104 in the Whitman book](#)]. On further examination, they considered that deal too expensive; the existing camp was abandoned, and would need a lot of work.

Then, Carl's job and growing family began to occupy more of his time and attention, but Dick and Art hung out together, and talk always returned to the dream of having that boys' camp in the Adirondacks.

On one hunting trip around 1949, Dick and Art once again found themselves up in the area near Whitehouse. Exploring the back roads for new and interesting places to hunt, they crossed the West Branch of the Sacandaga River on an old iron bridge, and followed the road about a mile or so, up into the Adirondack foothills.

the Dreves Family

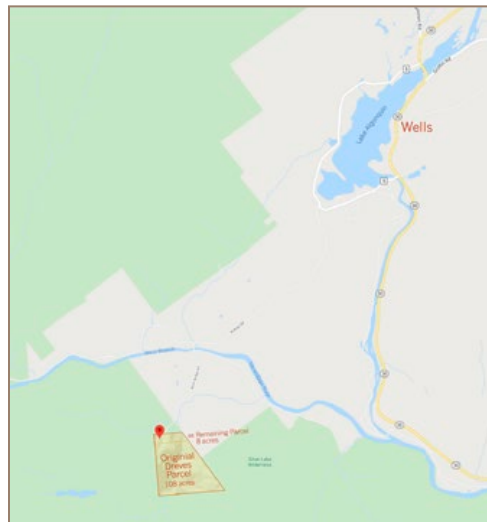
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ABOVE: Outline of the Adirondack Park, total area larger than Glacier, Yellowstone, Everglades, and Grand Canyon National Parks combined. By tradition, the park boundary is shown in blue; hence the local term “inside the Blue Line.”

RIGHT: Enlargement showing the location of the Whitman/Dreves property in relation to the Town of Wells. Areas in green indicate current Adirondack Park lands.

(For more about the ‘original’ vs. ‘remaining’ Dreves parcel, see pg. 36.)



There, they came across an old log cabin, at the end of the road; stopped and knocked on the door, to see if they could get permission to hunt in the area beyond the house. Everett Taylor, the cabin’s owner, answered the door. After granting them permission, the three of them continued to talk, and the topic of the boys’s camp inevitably surfaced.

Everett said he’d be happy to sell them the “Old Whitman Homestead” and adjoining 100+ acres if they’d like. (What he didn’t tell them is that, more likely, he was anxious to get rid of the place, particularly since he’d recently learned the soil on the property had no commercial mining value; more on that, later.)

So after returning home, Art relayed Taylor’s offer to his brothers. Carl and Bob were particularly enthusiastic; and so they talked their father, and younger brother George, into taking a look at the place as a possible family retreat and hunting lodge. (The boys’ camp idea was quickly scuttled, but as it turned out, Dick didn’t mind; by then he was busy courting a girl Art had fixed him up with; but that’s another story...)

After some negotiations, the three oldest Dreves brothers, plus Pop, contributed shares to purchase the property for \$2,500 in December of 1950. Art, who was still working as a laborer, didn’t have the capital to invest at that time; “Pop” carried Art’s share until he could purchase it on his own, which he did in 1958.

The Whitman Homestead was at the end of Blackbridge Road, so named because of the old iron bridge that spanned the river (and gave the road its name). The deck of the one-lane bridge was a metal grate, which made a pronounced low humming sound as cars crossed; younger Dreves cousins called it the “Mmmm Bridge,” for the sound it made. Arrival at the bridge always was a cause for excitement, as it signaled 5-hour drive from New York City was nearly over!

The property was surrounded on three sides by the Adirondack State Forest Preserve, and was ideally situated for hunting and fishing, with the Devorse Creek running along its eastern edge. According to legal documents in the Dreves family’s collection, Wes Whitman took out a mortgage, presumably to buy the property, in 1872. According to the Whitman book, the house was built and first occupied by the Whitman family around 1878.

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[illegible]

Oliver Whitman's farm was one of the more productive in his immediate area (items in yellow)

A special 1880 farm census [at left] showed 38-year-old Whitman owning 155 acres of land at West Hill, only four of which were cleared at that time. Whitman was living in what was then a new log home with his 24-year-old wife, Emma (who he called "Annie"), two daughters and three sons, ranging in age from 1 to 12. Wes reported the value of his farm and land to be \$300, and the value of his farm output for the prior year to be \$125. He had two cows, and produced 350 pounds of butter that year; and 14 poultry, producing 140 eggs. (It was only later that he and son Oliver H. would "diversify" into machining, furs and guiding.)

Later Journal records noted that Wes had added sheep, was making cheese, and kept bees, not only to pollinate his crops, but also for the income to be had by selling honey. In the wintertime, he kept the beehives in the basement of the house. He did occasionally have trouble convincing the bees to stay in the hives he constructed for them: *"June 6, 1898: The bees that swarmed yesterday came out and went off in the woods. We followed them and brought them back. June 7: I had another swarm of bees go away and had another start to go. We caught them again. I partly made an other bee hive after supper."*

The Whitman home was constructed of hand hewn logs, three stories high, with a steeply-pitched roof that was originally covered with hemlock shingles, but by the time the Dreves family acquired it, had been re-roofed with asphalt felt ("tar paper").

The building was approximately 25 feet square, built on a natural rock boulder basement, with hand hewn beams supporting the first, second and third (attic) floors. There was no electricity, running water or indoor plumbing. The heating and cooking was done on an old iron cook stove in the kitchen area. Downstairs there was a living room with an upright piano. On the second floor there were three bedrooms reached by a very narrow stairway. The attic was reached by a ladder. The roof was supported by rough pine logs pinned to a ridge pole. A woodshed, roughly 10 x 15 feet, was attached to the southeast corner of the house.

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On the road opposite the house was a large two-story barn which had a hay loft and stalls for horses and cows. Like the house, the barn was originally roofed with hemlock shingles.

Whitman's Journal recorded days on end making shingles, preparing for the barn's erection in 1897. He began hewing beams the prior November, and spent a great deal of time pulling specific types of trees out of the forest, which he referred to as "shingle trees", "sill trees," "plate" and "post" trees, presumably varieties of wood best suited to each purpose.



The barn that Whitman built, in this photo from the early 1960s. The circle of evergreens were planted by the Dreves family in the 1950s; later, the Viola family, who bought the property from the Dreves family, used that circle of trees to create a family cemetery on the property.

just north of Lake Algonquin on NY Route 30] and got 12 cakes of chalk [chalk]. Wes and a neighbor began digging out the basement for the barn (as we all remember, the barn was set into the side of a small hill). Almost immediately, they hit rock, and so, on June 21, Wes *"went to the vilage and got 1 lb. of dnemite and got 3 drills sharpened. Came home and put blasts in the rocks in the basement and helped Ed place the lower sills. I got my hand hit holding the drill."*

Finally, by July 7, the barn was framed and the roof was ready for shingles: *"I and Jack Wadsworths and Oliver and Willey Weaver put of the scaffel [scaffolding] on the lower side of my barn and put roof boards up to the counter frame (the "hip" in the roof). Ed and Jack commensed shingling."* A week later, shingling was complete; Wes could turn his attention to finishing the sides and interior of the barn, a process that would consume the next six months. The barn was finally finished on January 3, 1898. On the last day, *"we hung the back barn dore. We put the track up and hung the dore four noon. Ed charged me three dollars for making and hanging my barn dores and stable dore."*

When the Dreves family purchased the farm, there was still plenty of hay in the barn, which, in the early 1950s, provided fun for the older Dreves cousins. By the 1960s, however, the barn was becoming structurally unstable, and the younger cousins were told to "stay out."

Not all of the wood for the barn came from his property, however. In February, 1897, Wes went to a nearby abandoned tannery village called Griffin, where *"I and Oliver and Manuel ... took up three 40 foot spaces of boards of the upper flore of the tannery. Fetched 307 feet of plank."* Later that week, they went back and "fetched" an additional 4,500 board-feet of plank.

An expert barn-raiser, Ed Morrison, was called in on June 1, 1897, to begin the actual barn-raising work. At first, it was a slow start: *"Ed Morison came heare this after noon to commense fraiming my barn. He didn't doo any thing, only make a ten foot pole [presumably, a measuring stick]. I went to Pickelville [today, the area*

the Dreves Family A WORKING HISTORY



Releasing water from the mill pond behind workshop, ca. 1962. The sluice and waterwheel would have been in the left-center foreground of this photo, were they still in existence. Rick and his maternal great uncle, Fred Meissner, are on top of the dam.



Photo of the dam, also from 2019, showing the massive stones still solid and unmoving. The mill pond behind them is still overgrown with willow, evidence of a battle the Dreves brothers fought, but never won.

In addition to the house and barn, there was a well-equipped workshop that contained an arrangement of shafts and pulleys that operated a variety of belt-driven machinery, including a circular saw and lathe. A 1911 journal entry includes references such as these:

"August 25: Oliver sawed up the old stumps from the wood pile on the cicler [circular] saw. Allen and Willey Lawarence carried the stumps from the wood pile down to the saw. November 4: Oliver and Allen cut a load of pole wood and drew it to the building down by the creek. Oliver sawed it up with the engine. November 13: Oliver and Allen took the pile of pole loges from behind the house and sawed them up into stove wood on my cicler saw. I piled the wood up as fast as they sawed it. After supper I and Allen went and cut a tree down and got a coon."

An impressive dam behind the shop, comprised of huge, rounded boulders, impounded enough water to turn a water wheel, which provided power to the machinery. There was also a single-cylinder kerosene engine in the workshop [which apparently replaced the water wheel sometime before 1911, per the reference to the "engine" in the 1911 journal entry, above]. Behind the shop there was a natural spring which provided water. Outside the shop, attached to its northeast corner, was the customary two-hole "outhouse," or privy.

According to the Whitman book, Wes Whitman was not only a farmer and hunter, but also a talented machinist, tinkerer and occasional inventor:

"...The resourceful Adirondacker made use of everything to meet his daily needs. He mentions using the lead from tea boxes to make bullets. Wes was a self-taught machinist and worked at repairing and inventing. Wes often made parts and repaired rifles, and noted in his 1914 journal that 'a man came to buy the patent for [my] broken shell extractor.' He mentions buying rifles from Sears, Roebuck and company, and sending them back because they were 'inaccurate.' He reportedly made a 'portable rifle', which he could carry, fastened under his arm or in his pack basket. Many of his friends and neighbors made the trip to West Hill to have Wes make a part for a machine or rifle." (pp. 48-49)

There are other journal references about his lathe, and accounts of his talent in using it to work both metal and wood. They made furniture legs, yokes, snowshoes, cutters [sleighs] and a variety of other finished wood products as well.

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Oliver "Wes" Whitman and one of his daughters (either Carrie or Etta), ca. 1890. Wes was the machinist and craftsman; his son, Oliver H. Whitman, was the talented trapper and later, Adirondack Guide.



A 2019 view of the former Whitman kitchen garden (the field on the south side of the house). No doubt this was Annie's domain: "Everything on her table except the sugar was grown on the Whitman farm..."

The Whitman family made good money, not only from machining, but also from being excellent hunters, who developed a thriving fur business. Journal entries make frequent mention of selling "beair, mink, wezal, coon, patrage [partridge], heg hogs [hedgehogs], deer, fisher [a weasel-like marten], beaver, squirrel, fox, skunk and muskrat" pelts.

The Whitman biography states that Oliver H. Whitman, Wes' son, who was also a skilled Adirondacks Guide, "*was the greatest trapper who ever lived*", according to those who witnessed his trapping skill. Early residents on West Hill remember Oliver walking by with \$1,000 in fur on his back. He was an expert at trapping the wary fisher, whose hide was worth over \$125 at that time [around 1900]. Ten fisher hides equalled a year's wages in the lumber mill in town. Early lumberjacks recall that Oliver 'made more money than any man in that part of the country.'"

And it wasn't just the men who contributed: A 1909 journal entry records that Wes and wife Annie "*went black berring [berrying] four noon. We pict 18 quarts.*" Annie was Irish, and, according to the Whitman book, "*when she served a meal made up of the meat from the wilds of the Adirondacks, she responded to one of the puzzled partakers with 'It's a hish and a hash and a helluva stew.'* Others remember her meals with delight: '*Everything on her table except the sugar was grown on the Whitman farm or taken from the surrounding wilderness. No matter how many she had to feed, she would dance around the table, dropping small, hot, boneless venison steaks on the plates as fast as they could be eaten. She baked, cooked, canned, pickled, smoked, salted, churned and buried the products of West Hill to feed her family and friends the year round.*'"

Annie's job was undoubtedly made easier when, in the summer of July, 1903, Wes bought her a 'range' (likely the wood stove that was still in the kitchen when the Dreves family purchased the place in 1951, although they quickly replaced that one with another, newer model). His Journal entry for July 16, 1903 reads, "*The range men were hear. I bought a range of [off] them. They staid all night.*" And then, the inevitable follow-up, on December 12: "*The colector for the rote [wrought] iron stove was here for the first payment.*"

In 1903, Wes must not have paid his taxes; the State foreclosed on the property and sold it to the Hamilton County Clerk, Carl Fry, who in turn sold it to a William H. Fry (related?), who then negotiated a mortgage with Wes and Annie (presumably so they could pay their back taxes). It is unclear how this matter was finally resolved.

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» Give Mother Nature 60 years and...



TOP: Whitman's pastures, already in the process of being slowly reclaimed in this ca. 1957 image from Art's 8mm silent films.

BOTTOM: Roughly the same view in 2019 (note the right-hand stone column, visible in both photos).

Oliver Wesley Whitman lived and farmed his land at West Hill, quite literally, until the day he died in July of 1920. His son, Oliver H. Whitman, the Adirondack Guide, was by then making his living by guiding the ever-growing wave of sportsmen from afar who had discovered that part of the Adirondacks; as a result, Oliver ended the farming operation, and the slow reclamation by nature of the pastures, timber lots, and even the barn and workshop began.

Oliver and his wife, Eva, continued to live in the house at West Hill. (It was Eva who saved and protected Wes Whitman's journals, which tell us so much about the place where the Dreves family made so many fond memories, and contributed so much to preserving and maintaining the house that Wes built.)

In 1935, Oliver passed, and sometime after that, Eva sold the place to Everett Taylor for \$1,800 — who, 15 years later, sold it to Pop and the Dreves family for \$2500, after being told by geologists from Republic Steel that the magnetite deposits (a gray-black magnetic mineral and a form of iron ore) Taylor had discovered on the property were *not*, despite Taylor's claims to the contrary, of high commercial value. Taylor provided Bob Dreves with his correspondence in this regard; we're not sure why he did, but it makes for an interesting story!

» Work parties, and "what did we get ourselves into...?"

In January, 1951, Pop and the Dreves brothers got their first chance to take a close look at what they'd just purchased. Although the house was structurally sound, the interior was very primitive, and needed a lot of cleaning and repair. There was no electricity on-site. And, the house was almost 75 years old, having suffered through decades of brutal North Country winters, with only minimal maintenance, as its last several owners had been elderly and mostly unable to keep up with the maintenance demands of an aging and rugged cabin. Clearly, there was work to be done.

For many of the years the Dreves family owned the property, "work parties" were organized to tackle a variety of necessary repairs and improvements to the place. This work was done usually during the spring, after the last frost, as the house had only a limited heating system. Brothers Bob, Carl, George and Art did much of the work, along with their wives, children and sometimes with friends.

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During this period they always went up with the car loaded with equipment, supplies and utensils. Friends who would join them would bring their own bedding.

The four Dreves brothers started working on the house during the summer of 1951. Until electricity arrived, no power tools could be used; it was all “manual labor,” and it was truly a family enterprise. Fairly quickly, however, the family applied to the Rural Electrification Service for a power line and connection. While waiting for poles to be placed and lines to be run (nearly a mile up Blackbridge Road), the brothers wired the house for electricity.

Wes Whitman’s 1903 cast-iron stove had seen better days, but the Dreves had become friendly with Hattie, an older woman who lived alone, about a half mile down Blackbridge Road; she wanted to get a new stove, and agreed to sell her old cast-iron, wood-burning stove to the Dreves. A deal was struck, and the brothers moved the stove up the road to their place (see photo, lower left). Also, the oak flooring which had been partially installed over old rough planking was never finished. Fortunately, a good supply of oak tongue and grove flooring material was found in the workshop.

But a much larger job awaited. The first-floor interior walls and ceiling were covered with many layers of wallpaper, laid atop each other, over the years, to serve as insulation. Art recalled how thousands of carpet tacks held it all in place. Beneath the wallpaper was cardboard, newspaper and any readily available insulating material. The chinking between the logs was mostly sawdust, compacted in clay. In between was plenty of room for bugs, snakes, and mice. Before this smelly mess was removed, Bob recalled hearing the mice scampering around in the walls, and in the spaces above. At night, he said, they could hear the mice dropping cherry pits, which rolled out through holes they’d gnawed in the ceiling paper!



Projects inside the cabin at Wells:

FAR LEFT: One of the first projects was to wire the house for electricity. The Dreves brothers got the job done, using exposed Romex cabling (like you see here, left of the ceiling light) while waiting for poles and lines to be placed along Blackbridge Road. Later, they added the pine cabinetry and wood box, which held the fuel supply for the cast-iron wood stove in the kitchen.

LEFT: A photo of Pop, napping in the living room, ca. 1957. Note that wallpaper is still on the walls.

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Photo of the cabin, ca. 1956, showing the tar-paper roofing that covered Wes Whitman's original hemlock shingles at the time the Dreves family purchased the property. Emma (Cordes) Dreves can be seen by the front door.



Same angle, post-1960 installation of the new aluminum roof. Notice the additional chinking that has been added to the logs on the front face of the structure.

When the wall coverings were stripped away, it revealed massive hand-hewn logs with many gaps to the outside, except where chinking material had been crudely, and often ineffectively applied. Similarly, after the layers of paper on the ceiling were removed, beautifully hand-hewn beams were revealed, supporting the second floor. The dirty job of removing and cleaning this detritus strained the marriage of more than one Dreves brother.

When everything was finally removed, the entire interior of the house had to be scrubbed with a mixture of chlorine bleach and water. Over a period of a few years, the brothers finally had the place fairly clean, and began to re-chink the exterior log walls, by cutting strips of quarter-inch hardware screen and pressing them into the seams between the logs. Next, they mixed a fine mortar cement and laid it over the screening, both inside and out. This project was so successful that decades later, when the Dreves family sold the property, the chinking was still perfectly intact.

In spite of all that, the mice were down, but not out. After leaving a chest-of-drawers nicely stocked with sheets and blankets for their next visit, the family returned to find the mice had turned the entire chest into a massive mouse nest! Art then found steel equipment cases at a post-war surplus store, which turned out to be the only fully mouse-proof solution!

In succeeding years the family changed the cabin's interior room arrangement, enlarging and replacing the stairway to the second floor, and creating separate bedrooms to comfortably sleep more people. To provide better heat, they found a large, used kerosene space heater which vastly improved indoor comfort during cold-season visits. Over time, they added other conveniences, including a refrigerator, an electric stove (to supplement, not replace, the old iron wood stove), and running water. Water was obtained from a natural spring up on the hill, south of the house. On one of the "work parties," they enclosed the spring with bricks, creating a gravity-fed reservoir to feed the ice-cold spring water down to the house and into the kitchen.

Another major task was to protect the old tar-paper roof, which was beginning to fail. The chosen solution was to obtain large sheets of corrugated aluminum, which were laid on furring strips over the old roof, allowing heavy winter snows to slide off, thereby reducing the risk of the roof collapsing under a heavy snow-load.

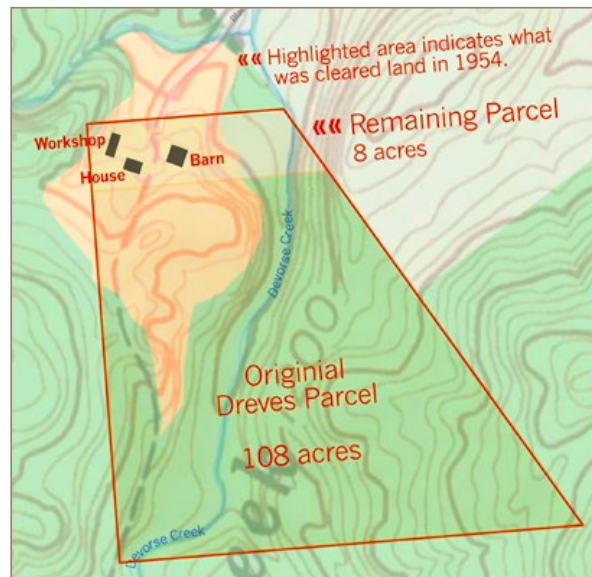
Plans were made to re-roof the house during the summer of 1960. Materials were obtained at a cost of about \$250. Bob, George, Art, and two of Bob's friends, Ed Mantai and Bill Schilk, agreed to handle the installation.

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Both warmer weather and the materials arrived. The project involved laying a new layer of asphalt felt over the existing tar paper roof (which, itself, covered Wes Whitman's original shingle roof, according to Art). Next, a set of furring strips were mounted to the roof, and the large aluminum roofing sections were hoisted into position, and nailed to the strips.

As the youngest brother, Art either volunteered, or was drafted, to get up on the roof, to position and attach the aluminum sheeting. The roof was so steep, Art had to be tied to a long rope, which went up and over the house, and down the opposite side, where it was tied to the bumper of a car. When he had to move "up" or "down" the roof, Art had to signal one of his brothers to move the car accordingly. Slowly, the new aluminum covered the old, and at the end of a very long day, a durable metal roof gave the old home new protection. And somehow, the project was completed without any casualties!

While the Whitman family maintained a working farm on the property -- including a large kitchen garden in the meadow just north of the house, as well as pastures for cows, horses, and for growing hay -- they only cleared about half of the 108 acres they owned.



ABOVE: Map showing the parcel as it appeared in 1954 (old Whitman pastures/fields in yellow).

LEFT: A 2019 Google aerial, showing the dark green areas of now fully-grown larch, spruce and pine trees, planted by the Dreves family in the late 1950s. The planted areas are all now part of the Adirondack Park.

Many of those pastures were still somewhat open land when the Dreves family purchased the property (see map at left). The family joined New York State's Forest Management program, which allowed for selective forest cutting, but primarily recommended reforestation of many of the pasture lands.

So, each spring for several years (1954-60), the family ordered thousands of seedlings of larch, spruce and pine. In late April, Bob recalls, they would receive their delivery of seedlings, and plant them in neat rows in the old meadows and pasture lands.

Today, those trees are on the 100 acres the Dreves family sold to the State of New York, now a permanent part of the Adirondack Park. The family retained the remaining eight acres, encompassing the house, barn, and a piece of land running down to the Devorse Creek.



Three views of “the farm”

TOP: As it looked in the early 1950s (tar-paper roof)

MIDDLE: View looking east, ca. 1962, showing all three buildings (house now has new aluminum roof)

BOTTOM: “Creosoting” the logs was an ongoing (and smelly) task that usually fell to Art; he would try to do one face of the building each summer.

» The business of running “the farm”

As with many things in the Dreves family, the joint ownership of the property was an orderly, well-organized endeavor. Each of the Dreves brothers, as well as their father, had 1/5th shares in what was dubbed the “Bear Tooth Lodge.” The operating “rules” for the enterprise can be seen in **Appendix B**. Even shareholders had to pay the requisite \$1.50 per night to generate rental income for the operation; guests paid slightly more.

For most of the 18 years the Dreves family owned the “farm” at Wells, Bob served as the property manager, lawyer and accountant, preparing detailed reports to the family on the condition of the farm, interactions with government and neighbors, and operational bookkeeping. His meticulous records provide a wonderful look at all of the projects the family completed, both to maintain and improve the place, and a record of who “rented” the house each year (and when). His journal can be seen in **Appendix C**.

As you might imagine, the “hidden costs of home ownership” are even greater when the home is a nearly 100-year-old rustic log cabin, complete with separate workshop, barn, and mill pond to maintain. For most of the time the Dreves family owned the property, even with rental income, the Bear Tooth Lodge was a break-even proposition, at best.

In 1961, the family contacted the New York State Forestry Department, to see if it would be interested in purchasing most of the 108 acres, leaving only the 8 acres the family really needed to own, encompassing the house, workshop, pond, barn, and a strip of land extending east to the Devorse Creek (see map, previous page). The state agreed (having already incorporated all the land on three sides of the Dreves property into the newly-expanded [Adirondack Park](#)), and in 1962 paid the family \$1900.

That transaction took a little of the financial pressure off the “Bear Tooth Lodge”; yet there is an entry in Bob’s journal, in 1962, that “Art put up For Sale Signs”.

» All good things must come to an end...

As much as the family loved the change of scenery and fun that “the farm” offered, they were apparently coming to realize how much work it was to maintain (much less improve) the place; coupled with some of the “drama” of dealing with the place being broken into; several other trespassing and timbering issues; and the general agitation of trying to remotely manage the property.



"The farm" in 2019, taken by Rick during his brief visit. Pat Viola (who has, as of 2020, lived in the house for 52 years) celebrates the history of the place by utilizing as decorations the sleds and snowshoes Dreves youngsters used "back in the day." [The inset, a frame from Art's 8mm silent films, shows Diane (Dreves) Soliwoda using one of these sleds, ca. 1962].

Even being four or five hours away was a challenge. And that was 1962 — two years before Bob and Art learned they were being transferred to Florida (with the prospect of being even further away).

With the transfer of Bob and Art's jobs to Florida in the mid-1960s, and the fact that Carl and his family had moved to California nearly a decade before, George was the only remaining brother in the Northeast, and so the decision was made to sell the property.

Harold Ward, whose son was dating Bob's daughter, Janet, at the time, wanted to buy the property, and had worked out an option to do so with Bob, which was approved by the rest of the Dreves Kids. The option specified that Ward would rent the place for a year, in 1966, and would have until August of 1967 to exercise the purchase option.

Some time in 1966, and unbeknownst to Bob, or the rest of the family, Ward and his son stripped a large number of exterior boards off the barn, presumably for their own use, or for resale (vintage, aged barn wood is a very marketable product). Needless to say, this didn't go down well with the Dreves family; and subsequently, the purchase deal fell apart.

The family eventually sold the property in March of 1968 to Gene Viola, a World War II veteran and insurance salesman from Johnstown, New York (about 30 miles south of Wells) for \$6,500. At the time, Gene was dating Patricia Knowles, who he married the next year, in September of 1969. Pat and Gene moved into the house as the first full-time residents since the Whitman family left in the 1930s. At that time, Pat was 38 years old.

As of 2020, Pat, at age 89, is still living in the house. Pat outlived Gene, who called West Hill "my Walden," and when he passed in 1990, he asked to be buried out in the circle of spruce pines the Dreves family planted, behind the old barn. The "burial at home" created a bit of a stir in the local community, but at the time, there was no New York law that prohibited it.

Pat has been a good steward of "the farm"; she added an enclosed porch on the north side of the house, and an open porch at the front door; converted the woodshed to a garage (presumably removing the old wood-burning stove); and more recently, renovated the exterior of the workshop. And, Pat finally replaced Art's 1960 aluminum roofing handiwork with a newer metal roof.

A timeline of the major events in the history of the property at Wells, from Wes Whitman's time to the present, can be seen in **Appendix D**.

the Dreves Family A WORKING HISTORY



Elly (Meissner) Dreves in the kitchen, after wallpaper has been removed, logs re-chinked with concrete, and beautifully re-sealed. Photo is ca. 1962.



Hattie's old cast-iron stove, purchased to replace Wes Whitman's 1903 predecessor; moved from Hattie's to the Dreves cabin, with a great deal of sweat!

Memories of Wells

This is a composite description of how the Dreves Cousins remember the house at Wells:

On the main floor, inside the front door, a living room, with a small hallway to the left where games, skis, snowshoes, coats, etc. were stored; a large brown kerosene space heater in the center, beyond which was a half-wall cabinet, facing the kitchen.

An old piano was in the far right corner of the living room, along with a very old cobbler's bench, now used as a coffee table for the sofa. Diane remembers endlessly banging out a one-note "tune" on the piano, the lyrics of which were taken directly from the many "Posted" signs the family had printed, to mark the boundaries of the property: "*Warning! No Trespassing! G. A. Dreves, Owner!*"

To the left of the piano, under the window that looked out and down into the old farm garden, was a day-bed of sorts.

The kitchen consisted of a classic old black cast-iron wood stove, with four or five round lids to provide top-side access to the fire box, and to the water-heating reservoir; the lids were lifted with shiny silver coiled-wire handles. There was an oven door on the front, and to the left, another door, providing the principal side access to the fire box. Just to the left of the wood stove was a framed, doorless cabinet that held the wood supply for the stove. To the right of the stove was a more recent-vintage electric range and oven. In the center of the kitchen was a large table; it was obvious the farm was a busy place, and that many people were fed at the same time. Many large windows, and a door, were on the north side of the house, overlooking the farm garden. When the family purchased the property, there was a pump in the sink, to draw water; and an honest-to-goodness "ice box" that was quickly replaced with a refrigerator. (They later built a new spring-fed water box [small reservoir] up on the hill, south of the house, which could "gravity-feed" piped water into the kitchen sink.)

There was one bedroom on the first floor, to the left of the kitchen; it was in the closet for this bedroom that Art began working on installing an indoor flush toilet; a project that was never completed while the family owned the property. (In the meantime, Pop and Emma used an indoor "potty" – a chemical toilet that had to be emptied after each trip.)

the Dreves Family A WORKING HISTORY



TOP: Rick, ca. 1957 (in a frame from Art's wonderful 8mm silent films of the time) with the spinning wheel, in the upstairs hallway at Wells. Notice that the companion [spinner's weasel](#) (or "clock reel") had no mallets at the time; George later made replica replacements (see lower photo).

BOTTOM: George and Millie retrieved both items from the cabin at Wells, shortly before it was sold, and kept them for many years in their home in Hillsdale. When they downsized, they offered the pair to Rick, who now preserves this bit of Dreves history in his home in Tennessee.

From the living room, to the left of the kerosene heater, stairs ran up to the second floor. At the top of the stairs, a bedroom to the left; to the right; and, after a U-turn, across a landing, two more bedrooms, left and right.

The original staircase was in the kitchen, to the left of the wood stove, had been much steeper and narrower. The Dreves family put in the new, more standard staircase from the living room.

On the second floor landing was a classic spinning wheel and matching spinner's weasel that apparently belonged to Emma "Annie" Whitman, Wes Whitman's wife. There was also a small ladder that led to an unfinished attic.

In the woodshed, in addition to wood, there was a long shelf filled with empty Mason jars with snap-latched glass lids.

Don Dreves has a clear recollection about the condition of Whitman's workshop: Inside, racks of dimensional lumber; on the left, a lot of machinery; giant saw blade; all run by large leather belts that ran up thru the ceiling. In the room to the left, a large workbench under the windows that faced the house. Lots of small bottles with various chemicals in them. Don recalls one with brilliant cobalt blue powder.

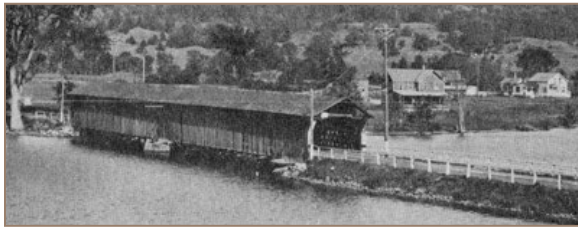
Opposite the workbench was a large kerosene-powered engine that ran the belts. Sometime in the late 1950s, Bob and Art tried to get the motor running, without much success.



TOP: The workshop, ca. 1962. Note the barrel-type washing machine in front. **MIDDLE:** The workshop in 2019, re-roofed and re-sided. **BOTTOM:** The Violas saved one of the sliding doors from the barn (which collapsed in the 1970s) and used it to widen the doorway in the top photo (behind the mower).



Whetstone (with metal cover) in front of the shop. The workbench was just behind all those windows.



Three generations of bridges at Lake Algonquin:

TOP: Covered bridge, which pre-dated the lake itself.

MIDDLE: Double truss bridge, built ca. 1930s

BOTTOM: New bridge, opened 2010

In the back of the workbench/motor area was a set of stairs that went up to a loft that ran the length and width of the building — one large open room. Don recalls finding beautifully finished boards in the shape of a long but narrow curved-tip “arrowhead”. He was told those were used [as we now know, likely by Oliver H. Whitman] for stretching and drying pelts.

Out front, there was a whetstone [photo at left] with a handle crank, possibly connected to a shaft that ran inside the building (Don recalls that stone was very effective at sharpening knives). On the back of the shop, a door that crossed a small footbridge, on the other side of which was a clear-running spring (actually, a pipe driven into the rock).

» Getting There

Early on, the trip from Long Island to Wells was a five or six hour ordeal, consisting mainly of two-lane backroads. In the mid-1950s, however, major highway improvements like the Tappan Zee Bridge and the [New York State Thruway](#) opened, shaving an hour off the trip and making the rest of the trip much less taxing. The Thruway, a toll road, had built-in “convenience plazas” with restaurants (“Hot Shoppes”) and gas stations. Both Rick and Diane recall stopping at the Hot Shoppes for lunch (they pronounced it “Hot Shoppeys”). “When you got off the Thruway at Amsterdam, you knew you were getting close,” recalled Rick.

Janet recalled stopping at Stewart’s on Route 30, near Northville, for “make your own” sundaes, with *lots* of toppings — their family’s indication that they were getting close!

» “In Town”: the Village at Wells

Many cousins recall the distinctive double-truss bridge in Wells that carried NY Route 30 across Lake Algonquin. As it turns out, that was the second bridge at that location; the first was a covered bridge; and the double-truss bridge Dreves Cousins remember has now been replaced by a new span that opened in 2010 (see photos at left).

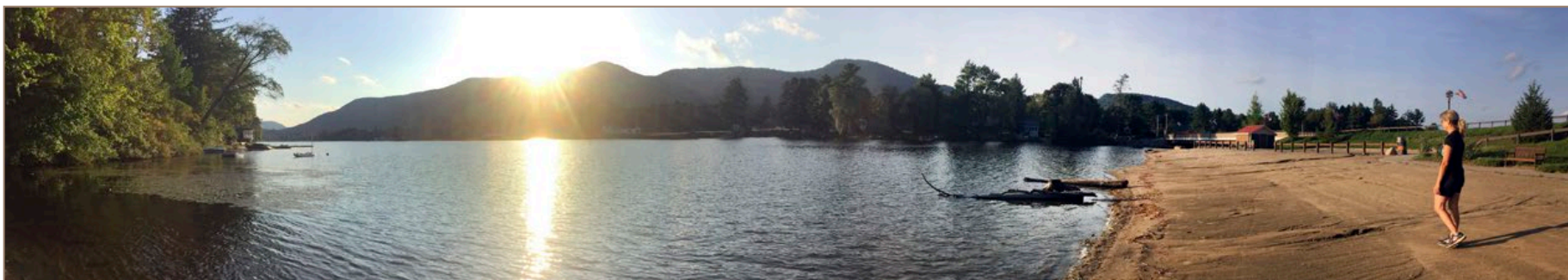
Don recalls a trip, around 1960, where the family drove to Wells in Bob’s car. It started snowing; Bob wanted snow chains put on tires, so he took car to the service station in downtown Wells. By then it had turned into an ice storm. The car was on the lift when another car skidded off Route 30, and slammed into station’s the gas pumps. Gas was going everywhere; the station attendant was trying frantically to cut the power to the pumps. Since nobody from the service station was in the garage at that point, Bob dropped the lift, got his car off, and got out of there fast!

the Dreves Family A WORKING HISTORY



Rick remembers how his father, Art, loved fishing off a small bridge, where a tiny creek flowed into Lake Algonquin, on the road leading from “town” (Wells) out toward West Hill and Blackbridge Road. When he visited Wells in 2019, Rick couldn’t resist re-enacting Art’s “fishing bliss moment”, which had been captured on his 8mm silent films at that very spot, over 60 years earlier (see at left).

Many Dreves Cousins recall swimming (and ice skating in winter!) at the public beach on Lake Algonquin. Photo below shows the beach and lake today (2019]



Several of the Dreves Cousins remember the old “Oneida IGA” grocery store in town, with wonderful pickles in a wooden pickle barrel.

Holly remembers going south of town on Route 30 to swim in the Sacandaga River.

» The Shop, the Dam, and the ‘Outhouse’

Many cousins recall the footbridge from the back of the workshop, out to the spring (a pipe protruding from the hill). The bridge is now gone (see photo at left, from 2019); but the spring continues to flow.

The field that once grew pumpkins, rhubarb, Japanese Lanterns and phlox is now part of Pat Viola’s lawn.

Rick recalls learning to mow a lawn with a gas-powered lawnmower at Wells (at home, they still had the manual push-style mower with helical blades). He loved mowing the big lawn on the south side of the house at Wells (and his father *loved* that he loved doing that!)

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Don recalled one year where they let the mill pond, behind the dam, fill and freeze so they could ice skate on it. He also recalled being concerned about timber rattlers living in the rocks of the dam, though he never actually saw one.



The outhouse door and what used to be the farm field beyond, as it looked in 2019. This photo was taken from the front of the workshop, by the whetstone.

Both Don and Janet recall finding newts and salamanders around the wetter areas of the dam, which rarely survived the trip home to Long Island.

George and Millie planted pumpkins behind the outhouse, which, thanks to the “natural fertilizer,” grew quite large. Rick recalls Art “shoveling out the outhouse” in the springtime (a lovely task!). On one of his last visits to Wells, Art began work to install an indoor toilet, but never finished before the place was sold.

Rick also remembers Art “constantly” cutting the willows that grew back rapidly in the mill pond, and how, as a 9-year-old, he ‘helped’ Art replace the old wood lid on the cistern, up the hill from the house, with a poured concrete lid that turned out to be much heavier than Art had planned. It ended up taking two or three men to lift it enough to slide it off, in order to periodically clean out the reservoir.

» The Devorse Creek

The Dreves brothers built Emma (“Grammy”) a bench down at the Devorse Creek, across the road and down the hill from the main house, where she could sit and watch the family play in the “crick”. No one is sure that Grammy was ever actually able to get down there to use it.

Don recalls walking the trail down to the Devorse Creek after a fresh snow, and finding mouse footprints in the snow, ending suddenly in the pattern of an Owl’s wings, where it pounced on the unsuspecting rodent. He and Jan remember skating on the frozen Devorse!

Rick recalls drawing pictures of the house on shelf fungi, collected down at the creek, and that there was one place where you could sit in the water, under a rock ledge, and have the “waterfall” in front of you.

» Mice

Don and Jan recall hearing mice running in the ‘raceways’ between the “wallpaper” that originally covered most of the inside of the house and the concrete chinking between the logs that formed the structure of the cabin.



Art, Carl, Jr., and Don, just back from the Devorse with a nice catch of speckled trout, ca. 1961.

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Hunting party, ca. 1960. Bob and George Dreves are on the right.



This was, apparently, a very successful hunting trip. Both deer *and* Christmas trees are lashed to the car top.



Running cedar (more correctly called, "Fan Clubmoss"), which can be woven into beautiful Christmas garlands.

Diane recalls the year Art and Bob peeled the "wallpaper" off the inside of the house. Art used a BB-gun to shoot the mice, and handed them to Diane to take across the road, to bury near one of the two 'hoops' by the barn. Diane remembers feeling how important it was to give them a decent burial!

» Hunting

For years, the Dreves brothers would invite their buddies to join them at the camp for their annual November deer-hunting trip, an opportunity for the men-folk to get away for a few days and enjoy both wilderness and camaraderie.

As Art recalled in his oral history, "Of course, after his stroke, Pop couldn't hunt, but he loved coming along on those trips, just to be there with the boys, and cook for us. So each year, just to razz him, we'd start talking about planning the hunting trip, but make no mention of needing a cook. Pop would sit there in his big chair with a long face until, at the very end of the conversation, one of us would turn to him and say, "Hey, Pop, would you like to come along and be the cook?" -- and then his face would just light up. He'd utter something unintelligible under his breath (in German), and we'd have a deal. It became a running joke, but it never got old. And so we'd leave Pop at the camp in the morning, with all the ingredients, and while we were out freezing our tails off, he'd prepare meals for the hungry hunters." It also became a Dreves family tradition for the hunters to bring home garlands of running cedar and a freshly-cut Christmas tree (spruce and balsam firs were plentiful in the woods of the North Country), if not a tree *and* a deer, from those outings.

» Winter Fun

Janet and Holly remember being able to sled from Stuart's (the camp uphill from the Dreves place) all the way down to Hattie's place — a mile or more!

Diane remembers "always" getting her sled stuck on a lone dirt patch in an otherwise snowy Blackbridge Road. There were two of those "Flexible Flyer" sleds, which Pat Viola now proudly displays as tchotchkes on the north exterior wall of her enclosed porch (see p. 38), along with some of the old snowshoes the Dreves family used during wintertime fun at the camp.

In the winter, toilet seats were kept in the house, leaning against the wood cook-stove to keep them warm; ladies put them under their coats, and ran down to outhouse, in order to have a warm seat to sit on!

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Diane (Dreves) Soliwoda, unerringly steering her sled toward the *one* patch of bare ground on Blackbridge Road, despite careful counsel from her father on how to steer away from it.



« George in full swing, working on splitting stove wood. Each fall, a truckload would be dumped in front of the cabin, and the Dreves brothers would go to work, splitting and stacking the logs in the woodshed.

On one particularly cold visit, Elly had her feet propped up on the wood stove's open oven door, but didn't notice when they had started to smoke! (Disclaimer: Art recalled that everyone had been drinking Manhattans, and were using icicles from the eaves of the house as stir sticks!)

One winter, rain fell on top of snow; leaving a 3/4" icy glaze. Art decided it would be fun to put on ice skates, but the moment he started down the road, he realized what was wrong with that idea: How do you stop? He recalls contemplating, as he went ever faster down the road (past Floyd Waters' place, past Hattie's place getting closer and closer to the river) that the only reasonable option — crashing into the mountain of plowed snow on either side of the road — would be especially painful, since even that was covered with a hard shell of ice. He even had time to wonder, "How am I going to get back up the hill? I don't have any ski poles, and I can't even walk on this ice in my stocking feet!" So, he "ditched" into the snow bank (fortunately, with little injury), and spent most of the afternoon tip-toeing back up the hill, using the tips of the skates as crampons — a very "slow go"!

During the fall hunting parties, Dreves brothers knew how to get great service from the snow-plow crews of the Town of Wells: By the time they got up to the end of Blackbridge Road, it was typically dark, and they'd been plowing for hours. The Dreves boys would see their headlights coming up the road, and always invited them in for a beer! :)

» ... and bits of Drama ...

Being in a remote location, Wells also was the scene of at least a few 'crisis moments'...

One time, Dot recalled a winter visit where it was exceptionally cold; something like 25 below zero. One morning, they found a nearly frozen and hungry Beagle on the front steps. Being a dog lover, of course, Dot took the dog in; they fed it bacon and bread. Later that day, when the snow plow showed up, they flagged down the driver and asked if he knew anyone nearby who owned a Beagle.

The driver (knowing just about everyone who lived or visited the area at that time of year), said another group of hunters had been in the area the week prior, hunting with dogs, and that this was probably one of theirs, since they had reported a couple of dogs missing. He took the dog with him, and, as Dot later learned, returned it to its owner.

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A summer gathering at the camp. L-R standing: Don, Carl, Jr., Holly, Vera, Millie. L-R sitting: Pop, Rick, Emma and Diane. Photo ca. 1961.



Emma, pushing "movie star" Diane in the stroller; at the time, she had roseola, a viral illness common among toddlers.



Pop also pitched in on "stove wood splitting day," although due to his stroke, he could only participate right-handed.

When Rick was an infant, still in a high-chair (probably around 1956), he knocked over and broke a small glass of orange juice on the tray. With jagged glass right in front of the infant, Art lunged to keep Rick from cutting himself on the glass, but managed to run his own wrist right over a jagged edge. His wrist began bleeding profusely, and Em (who could drive) and Elly (who couldn't) took a hastily tourniquetted Art to see Dr. Cole, "in town" in Wells. Elly recalls sitting in the tiny doctor's office with Dr. Cole, Cole's nurse, Em and Art. As the story goes, at one point, Dr. Cole tells his nurse to get a bottle of whiskey out of the cabinet. A very nervous Elly asks, "Is that for Art?" Cole replies, "No, it's for *you*. Calm down!" The cut wrist is stitched up, and they return to the camp.

In November, 1961, during one of the Dreves brothers' annual fall hunting trips, Art is cleaning his gun, and the cleaning rod slips, poking him squarely in the stomach, and in the process, perforating a stomach ulcer that, unbeknownst to him, was going to cause trouble sooner or later. Another urgent trip into town, where Dr. Cole does triage. Clearly, this is not something that can be handled with an office visit, so Cole calls for an ambulance to take Art to Amsterdam Hospital for emergency surgery, performed by a Dr. Spence. The surgery is successful in sewing shut the hole in Art's stomach, before serious complications could set in.

Meanwhile, Elly is at home in Williston Park with Rick and Diane when she gets the phone call from Bob, telling her Art is in surgery at the hospital in Amsterdam. Again, because Elly can't drive, she needs assistance, and recruits her aunt to drive her up to Amsterdam. Hasty arrangements are made for Marge (Cordes) Durkin and husband Jack to take care of the kids.

Rick and Diane spend several days with Aunt Marge and Uncle Jack. Rick has vivid recall of laying on a cot or sofa in their living room, not being able to sleep, watching the blinking neon sign just outside their window (they lived upstairs from a liquor store, which was always open late). Today, he describes it as a "film noir moment!" Diane remembers all of Aunt Marge's parakeets. Separately, Janet recalled Aunt Marge's taste for very detailed paintings with thinly-clad Greeks or Romans in togas. Marge and Jack's place was *a/ways* interesting!

But we digress. Art's perforated ulcer healed. He was finally released from the hospital, and brought home by Elly and her aunt. And the kids came home, too.

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Dot, Rick and "Ladybug," ca. 1959, in the yard in front of the cabin. Look carefully, and you can see Emma in the background (white dress), taking her daily walk down and back on Blackbridge Road.



LEFT: Roughly the same view as above, in 2019.

BELOW: The pole and pine tree visible above Rick's head, in 2019.



» The Neighbors

Rick recalls visiting Al Purdy, at the very top of West Hill, with Art, and taking open-top Jeep rides into the woods; there was always great low-bush blueberry picking up there.

Janet recalls "The Helves House" (a misunderstanding of 'Elves') — a tiny cabin in the glade at the bottom of the field, north of the Dreves camp. It was home to Floyd Waters who, in summer, was the local fire spotter. Each day, she remembers, he climbed a very tall fire tower with a little room at the top, and scanned the surrounding forests with binoculars for any sign of fire. Janet remembers being invited to climb the tower with Bob and Don, to help Floyd "look for smoke".

Many cousins recall walks up to the Stuart place, and to the beaver-dammed lake, and the Remington Camp, further on up the road from the Dreves place. All of that land is now part of the Adirondack Park. They also recall visits up to nearby Lake Pleasant, to see Eddie and Evelyn Cordes (Emma's brother and sister in law). They had a small red cottage, on somewhat swampy ground, right at the edge of the lake, on its south shore.

» Hattie

Carl Jr. remembers "Hattie's Place" — just down the road, toward the bridge, from the farm: "She was a reclusive old lady, but made delicious cookies..." Hattie was generous to neighbors: She supplied a hand-hewn beam to Art when he needed to fix the foundation of the camp. Rick recalls Art chaining the beam to the rear bumper of his car, and dragging it up the road from Hattie's to the cabin, where he muscled it into place under the north wall of the house.

Janet remembers her mom, Emily, wanting to make a cake for Janet for her birthday, but at that time, they only had a wood stove in the house at Wells. So Emily went down to Hattie's to see if Hattie knew how to bake a cake in a wood stove, and Hattie said, "Sure, I'll show you!" — and did!

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Rick remembers going down to Hattie's one very cold March morning (photo below, left) and breaking the ice in the syrup collection buckets on the maple trees in order to take some chunks home to melt on the stove, so they could have *real* maple syrup on their pancakes.

Wes Whitman's journal makes occasional references to visitors and neighbors. One entry of particular interest is from 1903, when Wes says "*I went and took Hattie to Northville. We went down to the deapo to sell Oliver's fur...*" Might this have been "our" Hattie, as a young lady?



Rick, down at Hatties, about to get some maple syrup.



Emily, Janet and the Mantai family in Maine, heading out for a day of water fun on the lake.

» Bob, and Maine

While Janet and Don were kids, the annual family vacation was driving to a Maine lake and spending two weeks in a lakeside housekeeping cottage. Janet and Ed Mantai and their kids Ken and Karen always had the cottage next to the Dreves. The Mantais and Dreves would get together in January to pore over a map of Maine and plan the location for that summer's vacation: a lake with good fishing and nice cottages (two bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, sitting area). These trips made great memories for Janet and Don: fishing, swimming, riding logs leftover from the prior year's log drive, catching frogs, learning to water ski using an old wooden door and a 10 horsepower motor (not an easy way to learn!).

Barb Goodwin, a teacher at Park Avenue school in Williston Park, where Don and Janet attended, became acquainted with Emily on the school playground while they were both



lunchtime monitors. They discovered that they both enjoyed fishing, and Maine lakes. Barb later moved to teach in Dover-Foxcroft, in central Maine. Her family had a camp (a local Maine term for 'cottage') on Sebec Lake. She invited the Dreves family to visit on one of its Maine vacations; the fishing was great. Barb later alerted Bob that there were lake front lots for sale. Although not yet near retirement, Bob bought 3 lots; he thought it would be a good investment (after all, he said, "God only made a limited amount of waterfront property").

«« Emily, Janet, Don and Bob in Maine, ca. 1951

the Dreves Family A WORKING HISTORY



The Naval Training Device Center's industry trade show exhibit, on display at the Center's 25th anniversary in 1971.



ABOVE: Bob and Em's pool at their Ensenada Drive home in Orlando, ca. 1967. **BELOW:** Dot, Emma, Em, Elly and Diane, poolside.



The Dreves Family in Florida

Just as the family migrated from Little Neck to Williston Park after the end of World War II, it went through a second migration in the 1960s. In the fall of 1964, the family learned that the Naval Training Device Center, where both Art and Bob worked, was being relocated from the Guggenheim Estate at Sands Point to Orlando, Florida. While not all of the Dreves Kids ended up living in Florida, the transfer did open a new chapter in the lives of many of their families, whether they came to reside with, or simply visit the Dreves of the Sunshine State.

» BOB

When Bob and Emily learned they would be moving to Florida in 1966, Don was attending the New York State Maritime Academy. Janet had married Bob Hall in 1964; they were living in Schenectady (NY). Em was not happy with the idea of leaving friends and family on Long Island. To make matters worse, just as they were about to leave for Orlando, Bob and Janet Hall announced that Bob and Em's first grandchild would arrive a few months after the move.

However, once they were settled in Orlando at 1215 Ensenada Drive, in the Rio Pinar golf community, things got better. They had an enclosed pool and patio installed in the backyard, and took up golf, and made new friends in the area. Walt Disney World and Sea World were being built in Orlando and, as Florida residents, they could get lifetime passes for both parks. They enjoyed going on their own, but it was also a lure to get the family down to Orlando for spring breaks and Christmas. (Janet recalls having to haul a Christmas tree from Delaware on the top of the car because her father declared that live trees were too expensive in Florida!)

» ART

Within the Naval Training Device Center, Art's unit was scheduled to move first, in order to prepare the Orlando facility for the rest of the operation. So, while Bob and Emily wouldn't move until the following year, in the summer of 1965, Art, Elly, Rick and Diane packed up and headed south.

Both Rick (then 10) and Diane (8) remember the "adventure" of their drive south from New York to Florida. Neither of them had ever been further south than New Jersey. Rick recalls leaving Williston Park on a sunny Thursday morning in August, after spending their final [warm and sleepless] night on Long Island with Emma and Dot at Meagher Place, since the movers had already taken everything out of their house on Primrose Road.

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Two 2019 Google views of the now nearly-abandoned motel in Summerville, SC where Art and Elly's kids got their first introduction to a thick southern accent. They also found out that swimming was more fun in warm water (notice the pool, at left in the aerial, is now filled in); and, they got their first introduction to the game of shuffleboard at the court on the motel's front lawn, opposite the pool. The one thing that apparently hasn't changed is the farm field behind the motel, which, in August, 1965, was full of ripe cotton -- another "first" for the New Yorkers heading south.



Rick and Diane, inspecting their family's new house at 2414 Summerfield Road. Art & Elly had it built in 1966.

On first day of the trip, they made it to Richmond, Virginia, taking I-95 south from New York. This was well before the era of GPS navigation or Google Maps. Rick remembers eagerly following their progress by flipping the pages of their AAA Road Club "Trip-Tik," a series of detailed brochure-size maps, bound together, with their route highlighted in yellow marker. The 1,100-mile journey to Florida traversed several dozen of these maps, each displaying perhaps 50 miles of the route.

On the second day, things became interesting. South of Richmond, the Interstate Highway System was still very much a work-in-progress; there, I-95 was a series of disconnected finished segments, with stretches of rural, two-lane, seemingly endless "back roads" in between. After a long day of hopping on and off the highway, they stopped for the night at a rural drive-in-style motor court in Summerville, South Carolina, where each guest parked directly in front of their room. It had a swimming pool on the front lawn. (That, Diane recalls, "was when I learned pool water didn't *have* to be ice cold!"). There, the family was introduced to the game of shuffleboard (later a staple of Dreves family vacations in Florida).

The motel also had an on-site restaurant (even McDonald's was largely a thing-of-the-future in 1965). Rick recalls the family getting dressed after their swim-and-shuffleboard, and sitting down in the restaurant for dinner. It was Friday night, and a tall, thin-as-a-stick waitress came over to tell the family about Friday's menu specials, but when she opened her mouth to speak, an almost unintelligible string of sounds came out. For the first time, in a genuine "Toto-I-don't-think-we're-in-Kansas-anymore" moment, Rick and Diane heard English with a strong Southern accent!

Saturday covered another six or so pages in the Trip-Tik, with a stop for the evening near Daytona Beach (Rick has no recollection of ordering dinner *that* night). On Sunday morning, the Dreves family finished their 3-1/2 day journey with a short drive into Orlando on the newly-completed Interstate 4. They arrived in downtown Orlando around 10 am, eager to get a look at their new town. Rick recalls there wasn't a single car on any of the streets in downtown Orlando, but the Spanish Moss on the huge spreading Live Oak trees, and the still-green fruit hanging thick on the orange trees were fascinating hints of adventures to come.

Art and Elly built a new home in the Orlando suburb of Winter Park in 1966, which was the site of many memorable family gatherings, particularly in the wintertime when family members still "up North" would come down to see what the sun looked like, and visit the family.

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Diane and Bea (Cordes) Lorenzen, at the piano, ca. 1970. Watching (L-R) are Dot, Art, George, Elly and Emma. The older generation loved having Diane play "Songs from the Gilded Age" as they sang along.



Not long before Dot and Emma moved to California, she and Carol Profy, a doctor she knew from work, collaborated on a stop-frame animated movie featuring pieces from a life-size human skeleton (used to train new doctors). The short film was set to a popular tune of the day, "Dem Bones." The skeletal parts danced across the screen in time to the music, and was very well done. The film was a big hit with the family and friends. Unfortunately, Dot never kept a copy of the film.

Diane fondly remembers playing the piano in their house on Summerfield Road for Aunt Bea (Cordes) Lorenzen, Aunt Marge (Cordes) Durkin, both of her grandmothers, and many others. "Aunt Bea could really belt out a tune," Diane recalls. "I had a piano book of music called 'Songs from the Gilded Age, 1870-1900' and she loved all those songs. 'She's More to be Pitied than Censured' was one of them. Aunt Bea always finished that song with a rousing '*and a MAN was the cause of it all!*'"

In Orlando, Art was responsible for helping to manage the Center's move into what were formerly classrooms and barracks at the old Orlando Air Force Base, except by now, unlike his experience at Sands Point, nearly 20 years earlier, he was a manager, not a laborer. Not long after the Center got settled in Orlando, Art finally made the jump from tending to the facility, to tending to the product; that is, what the Center actually produced — training devices. He joined the team in "Configuration Control," responsible for making sure the trainers for each type of equipment were kept up-to-date; that is, any change to the actual aircraft, for example, was also made in the trainer for that craft.

From there, he advanced into Project Administration and worked extensively on developing trainers for the F-14 fighter, and several of its air-combat successors.

» DOT

By the mid-1960s, the Dreves Kids had scattered. Carl and his family were settled in Fullerton, California; George and his family were enjoying rural life in Hillsdale, in upstate New York; and both Bob and Art's families were moving to Orlando as part of the relocation of the Naval Training Device Center, where both of them worked.

Pop had passed in the fall of 1963, and Dot became increasingly responsible for the care of Emma, who by then was in her mid-70s.

And so, Dot and Emma decided to sell the home at 24 Meagher Place in Williston Park and move to California, to live near Carl, Sr.'s family in Fullerton. Dot recalled the adventure of packing up and driving cross-country with Emma, and Dot's Weimaraner, "Ladybug," seeing many new sights along the way.

In California, Emma and Dot enjoyed places like Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, and exploring places like Yosemite and other natural attractions in the Golden State.

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Read to your Cousin! TOP: 1959, in Emma and Pop's living room in Williston Park, Don reads to Rick. BOTTOM: 1969, in Art & Elly's living room in Winter Park, Rick reads to Kevin Hall.

But the distance from the rest of the family, still living mainly along the East Coast, was challenging, and so in 1968, they moved East again, this time to Florida, to be near Bob, Art and their families.

After renting a house in Orlando for a brief time, in 1969, Emma and Dot purchased a new home at 206 Waverly Drive in Fern Park, in Orlando's northern suburbs, while the house was still under construction. That home saw many Dreves family reunions, and frequent visits from Art's and Bob's families. The tradition of "Sunday Dinner at Grammy's House" was revived, and Art's children (Rick and Diane), in particular, fondly remember those gatherings.

Three of the five Dreves Kids were once again in close proximity (Bob, Art and Dot), and both Carl Sr. and George made regular pilgrimages to Florida, particularly in the wintertime, to visit. Dot and Emma also had memorable holiday visits from Emma's growing family of great-grandchildren.

The Dreves Kids in Retirement

» BOB

Bob always noted that the family moved every ten years to a new location: In 1946, to Williston Park on Long Island; in 1956, to the home on Sandra Court in Huntington Station, also on Long Island; in 1966 to Orlando; in 1976, to a new, lower-upkeep home at 1268 Palos Verde, a block behind their Ensenada Drive home, also in Orlando; in 1986 to a lakefront home at 541 Golden Arm Road in Deltona, FL, about 40 miles north of Orlando; and, in 1996, to the Village on the Green retirement community in Longwood, an Orlando suburb.

As Bob was nearing retirement, he began thinking more about the lots he had purchased in Maine. He got talking with the owner of a camp on the lot next to his property on Sebec Lake, and in 1971, reached an agreement to purchase that camp. He had a local builder reconfigure the place, creating 2 bedrooms, adding a bathroom (a decided improvement over the outhouse in back), and enclosing the screened porch.

Bob added a garage with a large "bunkhouse" on the second floor, where Bob's children and their families could come, eat lobster, swim in and paddle on the lake, and hike.



At a 1993 reunion at Bob & Em's camp in Maine, a "project": trimming a limb overhanging Bob's garage and bunkhouse. As usual, Art is the one up on the ladder. Supervising are, Bob, Carl and George.



Bob, ca. 2000, on the dock of his camp at Sebec Lake in Maine. The dock was lovingly rebuilt by Bob's grandson, Brian, in 2019.

Over the years, Bob and his grandchildren even built a fantastic family totem pole (see **Appendix E**). For Bob's family, Sebec became their 'Wells' experience.

After Bob retired in 1973, Bob and Em spent summers on Sebec Lake in Maine, and entertained large groups of friends and Dreves family over the years. The camp is still in the family, and as of 2020, was being used each summer by Bob's youngest grandson and 'summer buddy', Brian Hall, and his family.

In time, both Janet and Don established their own camps on Lake Sebec, with plenty of room for their children and grandchildren to come and experience the same joy and beauty that had brought Bob's family to Sebec in the first place.

Bob and Emily loved to take cruises, and over the years treated Janet, Bob, Don and Leslie to some wonderful destinations: the South Pacific, the Panama Canal, the Mediterranean (Italy, Greece, Egypt), Caribbean, Alaska, and Australia to Hong Kong. They also travelled with friends to Germany and Japan.

» CARL

Carl retired in 1978, and moved from Fullerton to Placerville, in the Sierra foothills in northern California. Carl, Jr., who by then was grown and working as a building contractor in that area, built a new home for him on 2-1/2 acres, on a beautiful hill, 13 miles outside of Placerville. Not long after he moved in, Carl Sr., recalled discovering a hole in his driveway. He began dropping rocks into the hole, and realized the hole was very large (he said it took at least 3 seconds for rocks to hit the bottom!). Checking his land deed, he learned there was a good possibility that his property sat atop an old, long-abandoned gold mine. A railroad right-of-way used to cross his property, as well. So, Carl decided to sell the house and move into another home "in town," in Placerville.

» GEORGE

George and Millie had a grand old home in Hillsdale, on 1.5 acres with a huge front lawn. George, Millie, Vera, Judie and Holly enjoyed that house until 1982, when George retired. George and Millie then moved to a new, smaller home they had custom-built on Mitchell Street, just outside of town. Once retired, George assisted Millie, who was working part-time in real estate in the Hillsdale area.

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TOP: The Dunlawton Sugar Mill, during Art's work
MIDDLE: Art excavating a wooden Native American canoe at Lake Apopka. **BOTTOM:** Art (white shirt) leading an excavation team from the Central Florida Anthropological Society. He served as CFAS President for several years in the 1970s.

They enjoyed taking scenic car rides to see the fall colors of New England, and visits to Maine to see Holly, her husband, Robin, and their boys. When winter came, they were frequent visitors to the Dreves family in Florida.

» ART

Art retired from the Center in 1979, after 35 years of service in various positions, finishing his career as a Program Manager in the Project Administration office at what by then known as the Naval Training Systems Center.

Retirement suited Art well. It gave him an opportunity to indulge his interests in archaeology, fishing, bottle hunting, and — what became one of his specialties — building intricate objects and 'scenes' *inside* bottles, all without cutting the bottle open (that is, everything had to go in through the very narrow neck of the bottle, and be assembled inside, using delicate wires, brushes, and a variety of other tools of his own design; one of his creations are shown at the beginning of **Appendix D**.)

Not long after retiring, Art and his archaeology cohort Keith Reeves got a contract to excavate and suggest restoration options for the historic Dunlawton Sugar Mill, in Port Orange, Florida (near Daytona Beach), built in 1830 and destroyed in 1835 during the Second Seminole War. The mill is now the centerpiece of the Dunlawton Sugar Mill Botanical Gardens.

Art also became well-known for his work with the Central Florida Anthropological Society, unearthing not only arrowheads, pottery and beads from sites in the path of Orlando's relentless growth, but also Native American wooden dugout canoes from the farm fields on the north side of Lake Apopka, about 25 miles northwest of Orlando. One of those canoes is now in the Florida Museum in Gainesville, on the University of Florida campus; another went into the collections of the Orlando Science Center, then known as the John Young Museum, which was named for Orlando's famous native son and astronaut.

In the 1970s, Art also received the assignment of designing and creating the new "Museum of the Apopkans" for the Apopka Historical Society. He enlisted the help of brother Bob, who by then was an accomplished canvas artist, to design and paint the dioramas and other backdrops to help tell the stories behind the many Native American artifacts Art had excavated along the shore of the city's namesake lake.

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In the late 1970s, Art asked brother Bob to help him with his project to create the original Museum of the Apopkans, in Apopka, Florida, to display many of the artifacts Art had excavated in that area. Bob produced at least a half-dozen large, beautiful murals, which adorned the museum's walls.



Art, on his retirement from the Navy Orlando credit union board of directors in 1989.



In 2011, Art, on the left, was honored to represent the United States Marine Corps in Orlando's Veterans Day Parade.

Though he had retired, Art continued to serve on the board of the Navy Orlando Federal Credit Union (today, "Fairwinds Credit Union"). He began serving as a member of the Loan Committee, back when the credit union was first established at Sands Point, in New York; and remained involved with the organization for 39 years, finally retiring from the board in 1989.

In later years, Art was active in the [Central Florida Chapter of the 1st Marine Division Association](#), serving as its Treasurer. He was awarded a brick, engraved with his name and service record, embedded on the entrance walk to the [National Museum of the U.S. Marine Corps](#) in Quantico, Virginia (which he had an opportunity to visit with his son, Rick, in 2011).

» DOT

By late 1970s, Dot had largely retired from nursing, and was continuing to care for Emma.

By 1983, it became necessary to find an assisted living arrangement for Emma, who was then 93; and so she went into a nursing facility near Art's family, in Winter Park (also an Orlando suburb). Emma Adelaide (Cordes) Dreves passed on November 20, 1987, at the age of 97.

In 2000, the extended Dreves family arranged a "surprise party" for Dot, for her 75th birthday, at Bob's retirement community in Longwood (another north-Orlando suburb).

In 2002, Dot decided to downsize, and sold the home in Fern Park, moving into the Lutheran Haven senior living campus in Oviedo, where she lived independently for 17 more years; Art and Elly joined her there, 11 years later.

Reunions and Recognition

» The more we get together...

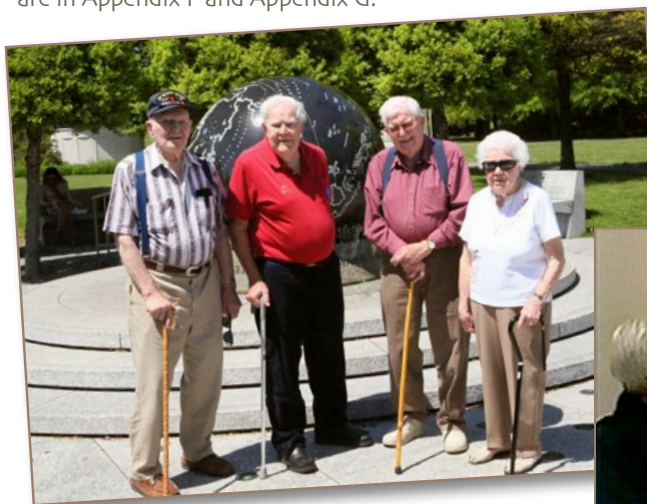
Family reunions, drawing members of the extended Dreves family from across the country and the generations, were held for Emma's "milestone celebrations" — her [80th Birthday in 1970](#) and [90th Birthday in 1980](#).

In later years, there were many opportunities for the Dreves Kids to visit their extended families, to reminisce and share fellowship, love and laughter. Each winter, for many years, George and Carl would fly to Florida to visit with Bob and Emily, Art and Elly, and Dot.

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The “Kids” at their 2010 and 2013 reunions (**above and below, respectively**). More photos from both reunions are in Appendix F and Appendix G.



RIGHT: All five of the Dreves Kids (L-R, Carl Sr., George, Dot, Bot and Art), in this frame from the video they recorded at Dot’s 75th birthday surprise in 2000.



There is an [epic video recording of all five Dreves Kids](#), made at Dot’s 75th birthday celebration. It is the last known recording of all five of the Dreves Kids, together. If you haven’t already, take time to watch it; laugh, love, and remember!

In the early 2000s, Art’s son, Rick, and his family built a “modern” log cabin on a mountaintop near their home in middle Tennessee, an “homage,” as Rick put it, to Wells. This was the site of another [Dreves Kids reunion in May of 2010](#) (and a principal reason for creating the first version of this Dreves Family History).

A final reunion of “the Kids” also took place in Tennessee, at Rick’s family’s home in Nashville, in [May of 2013](#), which many of the children of Bob, Carl Sr., George, Art and Dot (the children comprising the ‘Dreves Cousins’) were also able to attend. Some of the photos from the 2010 and 2013 reunions can be seen in Appendices F and G.

» Honors and Honor Flights

George, Jr., Art and Dot were all able to take Honor Flights to Washington, D.C., to visit the then-new World War II memorial and other veteran memorials. [Honor Flights](#) are conducted by non-profit organizations dedicated to transporting as many United States military veterans as possible to Washington, to see memorials to the veterans of major conflicts in American history, at no cost to them.

Art and Dot flew in 2008, thanks to the Central Florida Honor Flight group; George flew with Honor Flight Maine in 2014.

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Art & Dot with former Florida Congressman John Mica, during their 2011 Honor Flight visit to the WWII memorial in DC.



George, getting ready to fly on his 2015 Honor Flight with veterans from Maine.



Operation Giveback saluted Art in 2015 for his service.

George, Art and Dot were all taken to see the National World War II Memorial, which was completed in 2004, escorted by volunteer guardians, who helped them both on the flight and around Washington. Upon landing, their taxiing airplanes were be saluted by fire trucks, and were met by cheering crowds both in Washington, and upon their return flights home.

In 2015, Art was recognized by Operation Giveback, a veterans' support group, for his efforts, on behalf of his USMC chapter, to raise funds and awareness for children of fallen soldiers.

Lives Well Lived

By the beginning of the 21st Century, the Dreves Kids had lived, loved, laughed, cried — but most of all, had contributed mightily, in a positive and lasting way, to the legacy of the Dreves family. Their work ethic, the value they placed on family, and the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren they lived to see — and generations yet to come — owe them so much, and at the same time, can learn so much from their examples.

Even at the ends of their lives, they remained outstanding role models, as well as loving (and loved) family members. From here, the Dreves family will move forward with a tremendous amount of pride in what the Dreves Kids, and all of their ancestors, have done, and the confidence of knowing they learned from some of the best:

» BOB

Shortly after Bob retired from the Center, he gathered together with some other retired 'old timers' who with the idea of creating a chronological history of the Center, before the information was forgotten or lost in some storage room. They were given access to the Center archives, and a small conference room in which to work.

Their lunch break was typically at a local Italian restaurant, and based on the group's distinct preference for Italian food, they decided to name the project PASTA (Preservation Archival Simulation & Training Association), proving even engineers can have a sense of humor.

The project lasted many years and, at this writing (2020), is likely still going strong, as the Center will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2021. In 2008, Bob returned to the Center for a celebration and a gathering of those involved. It was a meaningful reunion for Bob, and his last visit to the Center.

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Bob returned to the Center for a final visit in 2008. The scroll depicts the history of the Center, as compiled by Bob's PASTA team. L-R: Vince Amico, Bob, and the Center's then-Commanding Officer, Captain Burris.

RIGHT:
Art joined Bob for the cutting of the cake. They both devoted the great majority of their careers to the mission of the Center.



By 1973, Bob had retired and they were spending summers in Maine. The lovely pool and patio they added at Ensenada Drive was becoming a summer maintenance problem, and they wanted a home requiring less upkeep. Because they had community of friends at Rio Pinar, they bought a lot, just behind Ensenada Drive, in a new development ('Rio Pinar East') at 1268 Palos Verde. Bob designed a new home and had it built there in 1976.

As Orlando continued to grow and become more congested, in 1986, Bob decided to move 40 miles north of Orlando, to Deltona. This home was on Lake Diana, at 541 Golden Arm Road. Here, Bob continued his love of cultivating roses, and planted many varieties; each day he would cut a rose and present it to Emily. The house was still big enough for the extended family to gather for Spring Break and Christmas, but the guests did have to watch out for the alligators that lived in the lake!

By 1996, Bob was tired of maintaining a home and convinced Emily that they should move to a beautiful retirement facility, Village on the Green, at 590 Village Place in Longwood, a north-Orlando suburb. There, they had a lovely 2-bedroom apartment, so the family could still visit and stay with them (but only 2 at a time!). The amenities included two daily meals in the dining room, weekly linen washing and house cleaning. The family joked that it was like a cruise ship, except it never moved.

In December 1996, they travelled to Newark, Delaware, where the whole family gathered for Christmas. It was a fun visit for all. Unfortunately, just a few days after they arrived home, Emily passed away unexpectedly, but peacefully, on New Year's Day.

Bob lived at Village on the Green until 2003, when he moved to Sacramento, California, to live with Ruby Altman. Ruby had been Bob's secretary at the Center in Florida; she and her husband Dave became part of the Bob's extended family, and attended many family gatherings; but by 2003, Dave had passed. For many years after, Ruby accompanied Bob to Maine when he stayed in the bunkhouse (guest cottage) at Janet and Bob Hall's camp, also on Sebec Lake.

Bob and Janet, Don and Leslie had encouraged Bob to move to an assisted living facility near them in the Tucson, Arizona area where they all had retired. In February 2009, Bob visited Arizona and agreed to move to a facility nearby. While he was staying with Janet and Bob, Bob was hospitalized briefly, and passed away on February 9.

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Carl, age 98, in early 2015.



George, age 95, in 2015.

» CARL

In his later years, Carl moved about 15 miles west from Placerville to Cameron Park, California, closer to Sacramento. He enjoyed collecting coins, panning for gold, going to the casinos in Lake Tahoe, and, of course, spending time with his family, both in California and on visits to Florida.

Carl's wife, Dodie, passed in January of 2006. Carl lived independently until shortly before he passed, at age 98, on April 22, 2015, in San Diego, California.

» GEORGE

After Millie died in December of 2008, her daughter, Judie (who lived in Copake, just south of Hillsdale) helped take care of George until he could move to Maine in April of 2012, to join daughter Holly, Robin and their family in their new home in Nobleboro.

There, George enjoyed trips to the casino in Oxford, Maine. He also enjoyed making periodic trips to Florida, to see Dot, Art, and Bob.

On the afternoon of May 1, 2018, at home in Nobleboro with his daughter, Holly (Dreves) O'Brien and her husband Robin, George laid down to take a nap, and passed peacefully in his sleep, at age 98.

» ART

Art made many visits to Rick and Deb's mountaintop cabin, enjoying explorations of the Tennessee countryside, splitting firewood with his grandsons, Harrison and Parker, going in search of geodes (crystallized rock formations) and good spirits (he always enjoyed a trip to the Jack Daniel's distillery in Lynchburg, Tennessee -- the only place in the world where that famous product is made!).

In 2011, Art and Elly made the decision to move from their home of 45 years at 2414 Summerfield Road, in Winter Park to the Lutheran Haven senior living community in nearby Oviedo, where they had an independent living unit.

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Art, fossil-hunting in the bluff below Rick's cabin in Tennessee with his grandson, Parker (2007).



All of the Dreves Cousins knew the therapeutic value of Aunt Dot's "wuzzies" -- a gentle rub on the neck and back, guaranteed to relax any child to sleep. To pass the technique on to the next generation, Dot organizes a "wuzzie conga line" at the Dreves family reunion in 2013. Leading the line is initiate (and Dot's nephew), Harrison, followed by veterans Holly (Dreves) O'Brien, Janet (Dreves) Hall, Dot and Nancy.

Unfortunately, Elly began to suffer a cognitive decline in 2015, and Art began to assume more and more responsibility for daily life, and for her care. In late 2018, Elly moved into a memory care facility on the Lutheran Haven campus, just up the street, while Art continued to live independently.

However, Art was by now 95, and his health was failing, too. In May of 2019 he was admitted to the Lutheran Haven nursing home, hopefully to recoup and receive rehabilitation therapy, but his body was, by his own admission, essentially worn out, although his mind remained sharp as ever, like many of the Dreves Kids, to his final days. Art passed after a brief hospitalization and stay at the nursing home, on June 23, 2019, having just celebrated his 69th anniversary with Elly on June 4th.

Elly is the only wife of the Dreves brothers to have survived her spouse, which says something both about the longevity of the Dreves Kids, and about Elly's own durability!

» DOT

For many years, Dot enjoyed her duplex at the Lutheran Haven campus, particularly visits from both her two "local brothers" (Bob and Art) and the two from afar (Carl Sr. and George Jr.), as well as their extended families.

After taking a spill in January of 2019, it became evident to the family that she needed additional daily care, and so Dot entered the Lutheran Haven nursing home in April. For a brief time, both she and Art were "hall mates," and she was able to be with Art on the day he passed in June.

Dot's health was also on a decline, and she passed on October 29th, 2019, at the age of 94, concluding the amazing and inspiring 105-year "Era of the Dreves Kids".

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Appendices

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When Art was assigned to his first duty station at Imperial Beach, California, in late 1942, he was issued a World War I Marine uniform (notice the signature WW I “doughboy-style” helmet) because wartime production had not yet caught up with demand.



By the time Art was reassigned to Point Loma, near San Diego, in early 1943, he not only had received a new standard-duty uniform, but also a new green winter service uniform, which he is wearing in this photo.

» APPENDIX A: Art’s World War II Experience

Art was officially inducted on January 23, 1942, after a three-week delay, due to an outbreak of measles at Parris Island, South Carolina, where he was scheduled to report for basic training. Art recalled the nervous excitement of boarding a train, and, instead of heading south, taking a very lengthy cross-country trip to Camp Pendleton, California, near San Diego; a shift that changed the entire trajectory of his time in the Corps. The train took a 12-day zig-zag route across the United States, collecting Marine Corps recruits at every stop.

It still being very early in the war, there was no modern equipment for the new recruits; Art recalled they were first issued World War I helmets, guns and other equipment. In fact, he said, one of their first assignments was to unpack, clean and reassemble World War I era Springfield rifles and Lewis machine guns that had been stored in Cosmoline, a thick grease corrosion inhibitor, used to preserve the rifles in near-mint condition. Even after basic training, Art was deployed in World War I-era uniforms; it would take nearly a year to ramp-up wartime production of newer uniforms and weapons.

After basic training, Art’s first assignment was to guard a U.S. Navy radio station at Imperial Beach, California, on the Mexican border. It was a secret installation, from which instructions were sent to ships at sea, throughout the Pacific. He patrolled the perimeter with a German Shepherd, who Art said “hated Marines” — bit nearly every one of his handlers, until they earned his respect. Art was never bitten by “Duke.”

Late in 1942, Art was reassigned to Point Loma, in San Diego harbor, to guard and manage the naval ammunition depot, which existed primarily to restock Navy submarines coming into San Diego to resupply. It was here that Art had an opportunity to join the [1st Marine Raiders](#), a.k.a. “Edson’s Raiders” — a commando-styled unit, intended to perform somewhat like today’s Navy SEALs, but never really deployed as such. However, an untimely foot injury thwarted Art’s efforts, an occurrence he later said was probably a good thing, as many of the men in Edson’s unit became casualties.

In early 1943, he was reassigned again to the [El Toro Marine Air Station](#), just south of Los Angeles. This was an airfield where combat pilots were trained. As with all training operations, planes would crash (here, usually in the unpopulated mountains just east of the airfield, over which training runs were conducted). Art’s assignment was to be on standby, and in the event of a crash, to hop in a Jeep, speed out into the mountains, locate and secure the plane wreckage, and report casualties (it was a large wilderness area; see Google Map).

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While bivouacked at Pavuvu, in a coconut plantation, everyone was required to keep a helmet on at all times. A falling coconut could easily deliver a concussion to an unhelmeted Marine!



Being a place to rest and recharge, Pavuvu had plenty of unique amenities, including this outdoor movie theater.

Art took the gunner's position on the "amtrac" landing craft his unit used to come ashore at Peleliu. The inset shows actual war footage of the Peleliu landing, with a gunner atop the craft. In 2015, Art re-created the scene inside one of his much-loved pieces of "Bottle Art"...



Later in 1943, after El Toro, Art was sent back to Camp Pendleton for advanced infantry training. His childhood Boy Scout and wilderness experience prepared him well for "surviving in the wild" — so much so that, after he completed his training, his superiors asked him to stay on as an Instructor, and train other Marines in those skills.

But Art wanted to go overseas, and "get in on the action." By the spring of 1944, the Marines were fully engaged with the Japanese, slowly pushing them back toward the Japanese homeland from territories they had taken in the South Pacific. Art got his wish, and joined the 1st Marine Division just after they finished operations at Cape Gloucester, near modern-day Papua New Guinea. Art's group sailed on the U.S.S. Wharton, a converted luxury liner — but conditions on the boat were anything but luxurious, with 8,000 men on a boat originally built for 1,000 refined guests, on a voyage that took 30 days.

By the time Art's group met up with the Division, it had retired to a staging area for rest, recovery and training — a lot of training — taking over a coconut plantation on [Pavuvu, in the Russell Islands](#). Art had many stories about Marines playing baseball with coconuts, and trying to keep enormous land crabs out of their tents and possessions.

It wasn't long, however, before the 1st Division was on the move again, this time 1,500 miles northwest to a [small volcanic island called Peleliu](#), part of Palau, in the South Pacific, where Art received [a wicked introduction to combat](#).

On September 15, 1944, Art landed in the [second wave of the amphibious assault on Peleliu](#), working as the machine-gunner on the amphibious "amtrac" landing craft. Japanese forces were well dug-in, having built a network of caves on the high ridges of the island, which they fortified with machine guns, grenades and other munitions.

[Heavy fighting took a quick toll](#); four days later, the original group of more than 200 was reduced to 90 able-bodied Marines. Peleliu, it turned out, would have one of the highest casualty rates of any battle in the Pacific Theater during World War II — nearly 70%.

Nevertheless, on September 19th, word came down that Charlie Company was to take Hill 100, a strategic knob of volcanic rock surrounded by sharp ridges and deep ravines.

At that time, Charlie Company was commanded by a 25-year-old Massachusetts native, Captain Everett Pope. At about noon, Pope's company was ordered to move on Hill 100.

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Combat photos of Peleliu, showing (top) the hellish terrain confronting the Marines; the causeway approach to Pope's Hill (middle); and the tanks that were unable to navigate the causeway (bottom), with Pope's Hill clearly visible in the distance.

The following description of the battle is a synthesis of Art's oral history recollections, combined with online research and newspaper accounts from the period:

Though reduced by casualties to just 90 men, Charlie Company was in as good a shape for this mission as any of the depleted rifle companies. They approached Hill 100 – later known as Walt Ridge, and still later, "Pope's Hill" – through a swamp flanked by shell-torn tree trunks which, as combat reports of the time described them, "juted skyward like broken fingers".

Reaching the road at the base of the hill, they were almost immediately pinned down by machine-gun fire from the right. Firing from only 50 yards away, a Japanese machine gunner was situated on the other side of a pond where the Marines could not get to him. Unable to move forward and taking additional casualties, Pope requested permission to pull back, regroup, and move across a causeway flanking the the edge of the swamp, with tank support.

It was late afternoon before Charlie Company was able to renew the push. The tank support did not live up to expectations. Trying to negotiate the causeway, the first tank slipped over the edge and stalled. A second tank ventured out to extricate the first and slipped over the other side, blocking the causeway to any more armored support.

Leaving the tanks behind, the Marines resorted to rushing across the causeway by squads, pausing briefly at the foot of the hill, then starting the very steep scramble up, backed by mortars and machine guns. Here and there a blasted tree, stripped of its branches, juted skyward, but there was little cover for the approach.

Enemy fire from Hill 100 and surrounding heights took a heavy toll on the attacking Marines, but by sliding around to the right, some two dozen survivors, including Art and Captain Pope made it to the summit. There, to add to their frustration, they found their maps were wrong: Hill 100 was not an isolated knob; it was merely the nose of a long ridge dominated by a higher knob only 50 yards to their front, which was well fortified with Japanese positions.

Pope understood he now had a major problem on his hands. Exposed to fire from the high ground to their front, as well as crossfire from a parallel ridge to the west, he was in a very precarious position.

As twilight fell, the Marines took what cover they could among the jumbled rocks. Their perimeter on the summit was very compressed – about the size of a tennis court by Pope's reckoning – perched on the edge of steep slopes. They had no ground contact with the rear (though they did have radio contact with command) and only had what ammunition they'd

the Dreves Family A WORKING HISTORY



Combat photos of Marines on Peleliu, having limited cover, while taking heavy fire from Japanese gunners on the hills above.



Maine native Captain Everett Parker Pope, Art's commanding officer. Art and Pope were two of only ten Marines to survive the all-night battle on Pope's Hill.



One of several memorials to the 1st Marine Division that have been erected on Peleliu. "The First" received a Presidential Unit Citation for its work on the island. Capt. Pope received the Medal of Honor. Art was promoted from Corporal to Sergeant.

been able to carry up in the initial assault. Noted the Charlie Company war diary, "The line is flimsy as hell, and it's getting dark. We have no [phone] wires and need grenades badly."

The Japanese went for Pope's men after dark, and they kept coming. At first, they tried to infiltrate the Marine perimeter; then they began a series of counterattacks, each with 20 to 25 men. How many there were and how often they came soon dissolved into a confused blur of darkness. "The whole night was mixed up," recalled Pope.

Most of the enemy thrusts came down from the higher ridge. Pope had some radio contact with battalion and received some illumination. What he really needed was artillery support, but he was too closely engaged to call in fire from the big guns.

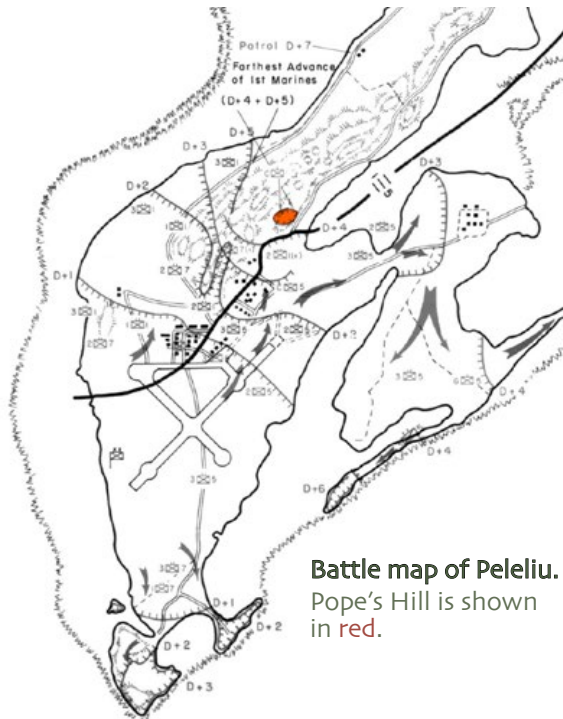
At one point, two Japanese suddenly materialized near the position defended by Lieutenant Francis Burke of Scranton, Pennsylvania, Art's immediate superior officer. One of the Japanese ran a bayonet into Burke's leg. Burke tore into his attacker, beating him senseless with his fists. Another Marine Sergeant, James P. McAlarnis of Kentucky, meanwhile, went to work on the second Japanese soldier with his rifle butt. They tossed the bodies over the precipice.

Pope's Marines managed to largely repel the repeated Japanese attacks, but as dawn streaked the sky, they had taken serious casualties, and were running perilously low on ammunition. "We used rocks," recalled Art, "not to try to hit them, but you'd throw a rock in their direction; it would clatter down the side of the hill, and they wouldn't know if it was a grenade or not, so they'd wait a minute to see if it was going to explode. So we'd throw several rocks, and then toss one of our remaining grenades, hoping that would slow them down a bit." Private Philip Collins of Gardiner, Massachusetts, picked up Japanese grenades before they exploded and tossed them back. "He did that until one exploded in his hand," reported Pope.

As the fighting became hand-to-hand, Art recalled that they pitched some of their attackers bodily over the steep cliffs; this was also reported by other Marines, in their memoirs.

Spotting two enemy soldiers climbing the slope to his position, Art recalls heaving an empty grenade box at them, then opening up with his rifle (this detail was included in a combat correspondent report about the battle, in the Marine Corps *Chevron* newspaper of December 2, 1944, but did not identify Art by name).

the Dreves Family A WORKING HISTORY



By daylight, down to 10 men and out of ammunition, Pope received orders to withdraw. The order came just as the last Japanese assault began to sweep the survivors off the ridge. Those who could, scrambled down the slope as fast as possible. There was no possibility of using able-bodied men to evacuate those wounded during the night. Anyone who could not get down on his own was doomed. Art was fortunate not to have been seriously wounded, and made it to the bottom of the hill.

Behind them, Japanese infantry could be seen against the skyline where the Marines had been only moments before. Making their way through the light scrub at the base of the hill, they dodged streams of enemy tracer rounds whipping through the brush. Pope's radioman was killed by his side as he talked on the phone. They kept moving – fast – until Pope, Art and the other survivors found cover behind a stone wall near the causeway below.

Of the 90 or so men Pope had at the beginning of the assault, only he, Art and eight others made it down safely. Of those, many were wounded, including Pope himself. Sometime during the fighting, Pope had taken a spray of shrapnel in the legs and thighs – an injury he dismissed as “not consequential.” He walked off Peleliu, the only company commander in the 1st Marine Battalion to retain his post through the entire operation.

» The Two Thousand Yard Stare

According to Wikipedia, the phrase was popularized after *Life* magazine published the painting “Marines Call It That 2,000 Yard Stare” by World War II artist and correspondent Tom Lea. The painting, a 1944 portrait of a nameless Marine at the Battle of Peleliu, is now held by the United States Army Center of Military History in Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C. About the real-life Marine who was his subject, Lea said:

He left the States 31 months ago. He was wounded in his first campaign. He has had tropical diseases. He half-sleeps at night and gouges Japs out of holes all day. Two-thirds of his company has been killed or wounded. He will return to attack this morning. How much can a human being endure?

In 2018, when Art's son, Rick, asked his father for his thoughts about this picture, and about Lea's quote, Art replied, “yeah, that's about right.”



the Dreves Family A WORKING HISTORY



Art, during his 2011 visit to the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, VA. **INSET:** The memorial brick in the entrance walkway to the museum was placed in Art's honor by the Central Florida Chapter, 1st Marine Division Association, just before he passed in June of 2019.



Combat photo of ships arriving off the Ulithi Islands, the staging area prior to the U.S. invasion of Okinawa, just south of Japan, on April 1, 1945. This view is very similar to what Art describes in his oral history -- thousands of ships of every size and description, gathering for an massive invasion, about which the troops had yet to be briefed.

Pope's survivors were still pulling themselves together later that day when the 1st Marine Regiment Commander, Louis B. "Chesty" Puller, walked up to Captain Pope and told him to attack again, this time up a ravine alongside the ridge they had just lost. Pope replied that he had only 10 men able to attack, adding something to the effect that "I'll be damned if I'd send my 10 men, in their present condition, on a suicide mission." Art recalls Pope and Puller staring each other down for a few tense seconds. The order was rescinded. (Rick, Diane and the entire Dreves family are very glad Captain Pope stood his ground!)

Captain Pope later earned the Medal of Honor for his actions at Hill 100.

In January of 1945, Art was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Art once again saw Captain Pope at a Charlie Company reunion in Charleston, South Carolina, in the 1990s. Pope immediately recognized him. Art recalled that the two had a long and interesting conversation about the events of September 19th, 1944.

After Peleliu, Art's unit returned to Pavuvu for several months to regroup, and take on new personnel. During that time, they were also directed to take two additional weeks of intense tactical battle training in the jungles on nearby Guadalcanal (which, by then, was a huge U.S. military installation; the battle for control of that island was several years earlier).

In early March, they received orders to pack up and leave Pavuvu, and that they would not be back. They were told another big engagement was coming up, but nothing more.

Art recalls sleeping on deck many evenings during the voyage north (it was too hot in the lower decks of the boat). One morning he awoke to find the ship anchored off the Ulithi Islands, surrounded by hundreds of other U.S. ships. This was simply a staging area; after a few days, once all ships had arrived, the fleet sailed again for its objective.

On Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945, Art's unit, along with other forces, landed in the second wave on the beaches of an island called Okinawa. Thanks to several days of "decoy bombing" on the opposite side of the island — to fool the Japanese into thinking the landing would occur over there — the actual landing encountered no resistance. Just as on Peleliu, however, the Japanese forces on Okinawa were dug in, deep inside the island; so the battle was yet to come.

the Dreves Family A WORKING HISTORY



Combat photo from Wana Draw on Okinawa, where Art survived more night-time grenade fights and hand-to-hand combat, just as he had encountered on Peleliu.



Photos from China, post-war, clockwise from top left: Art, with the look of a Marine who's glad combat is over; top right, ditto; lower right: Art, receiving his Purple Heart for wounds suffered on Okinawa; lower left: Emerson Platero, Art's company's [Navajo Code Talker](#), who stayed with C-1-1 until they were sent home in 1946.

His time in post-war China, Art recalled, was some of the most interesting of his time in the Marines (once he and his company got over the disappointment of not being sent home immediately upon Japan's surrender).

During the ensuing 82-day battle for control of the island, Art was involved in several intense enemy engagements, most notably on May 14th at Wana Draw, where every Marine in Art's Company was either wounded or killed. Art took shrapnel in his foot and backside, which earned him his Purple Heart. Much of the action at Wana Draw involved night-time grenade fights; banzai attacks; and hand-to-hand combat. Charlie Company also saw substantial action in the course of securing Shuri Castle.

If you'd like to hear more from Art about all of his World War II experiences, including many interesting moments not related here — like the time he found one of his boyhood friends from Little Neck, "Jake" Jacobsen, working a 155 mm Howitzer gun on Okinawa — or the time he mis-fired his Tommy gun [a type of machine gun] when he suddenly discovered three Japanese soldiers in a thick fog, at close range — [watch the second video in Art's oral history](#).

Art was still on the northern part of Okinawa on August 14, 1945, when the word came that Japan had surrendered, and the war was all but over. Naturally, everyone in Charlie Company assumed they would be going home, and would enjoy a ticker-tape parade. But the high command had other plans for them. The Company would be assigned the task of repatriating Japanese who had taken over portions of northern China back in the 1930s.

Art's unit was sent to Tientsin (today, Tianjin). Art encountered no resistance from the Japanese in China, but did have several engagements, including fire-fights, with the Chinese Communists, who were attempting to take power; this was, in effect, a Chinese civil war. Watch the third video in Art's oral history series to hear some of the fascinating incidents and details of his time in China, such as the time he protected a Japanese businessman and his family from aggressive Communist Chinese soldiers, and received a thank-you letter and dinner invitation as a result.

After two years of island hopping, and several months in China, Art returned stateside and received an honorable discharge on February 14, 1946. When asked about future plans on his discharge form, Art opined that he wanted to be a farmer in Connecticut.

Clearly, Art was ready to return to his roots.

the Dreves Family

A WORKING HISTORY

» APPENDIX B: Wells Camp Rules

The Dreves Kids each had a share in the ownership of Wells, and so there had to be rules, to keep everybody on the same page...

Rules Concerning Farm at Wells, N.Y.

BLACKRIDGE ROAD
WEST HILL,

2.

Revision #1 Feb. 1952

I. MEMBERSHIP AND SHARES

1. One full share - \$500.00
2. Each family member must signify their intention to share if they desire to participate by initial payment of \$25 toward their share
3. Those members who cannot purchase a full share (\$500.) will be obligated to contribute at least \$100 per year until a full share (\$500.) is acquired. These contributions may be made in convenient payments any time during the calendar year.
4. The membership shall be limited to five family units unless all members agree to an increase in membership.

II. FINANCING, DUES, and ASSESSMENTS

1. It is anticipated that all operating expenses such as taxes, assessments, improvements, and maintenance and operation charges will be met from receipts and capital in the working fund.
2. If operating expenses cannot be met by funds on hand, an assessment shall be made against each member equally without regard to the paid up value of the share or shares held.
3. A fiscal record of contributions to shares, assessments, and receipts from rental charges or other income as well as a record of all disbursements, charges, payments, and refunds shall be maintained by one member elected as Secretary-Treasurer.
4. A separate bank account shall be maintained for all funds. This account shall be under the control of the Secretary-Treasurer who shall be the only member entitled to issue checks against the joint account.
5. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining records on insurance, taxes, assessments, and all charges which accrue to the property as well as engage in any necessary correspondence for property protection etc.
6. Dues in the amount of \$36.00 per annum, payable semi-annually, shall be assessed against each family member unit.
7. An annual meeting shall be held as soon as possible after the start of the calendar year for the purpose of reading the Secretary-Treasurer's report and determining the dues, assessments obligations, and operating procedures for the coming year. At this time the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer shall be rotated successively among family members.

III. OCCUPANCY REGULATIONS

1. The keys for the property shall be held by the Secretary-Treasurer and all reservations for occupancy shall be made by members thru Secretary-Treasurer. Reservations for members shall be on a first come, first served basis. In case of conflict in reservations, the

members who are in conflict will have to resolve the conflict by mutual agreement.

2. Any non-member desiring to occupy the property will have to be sponsored by a member. The period of the reservations must be approved by all members. In case of conflict of reservations between non-members and members, the latter shall have an indisputable priority without appeal from the non-member or the sponsoring member except that any reservation previously approved for a non-member may not be arbitrarily changed within two weeks of the effective date.
3. Joint occupancy of the property by members, or by members and non-members will be arranged by mutual consent and agreement between members affected.

IV. RENTAL CHARGES

1. There shall be a basic rental charge of \$1.50 per day for each day of occupancy for each family unit.
2. Members with one full share (\$500) shall be entitled to occupy the property at the basic rental charge rate.
3. When the premises is solely occupied by a non-member group the charge shall be at the rate of \$3.00 per day per family unit. No more than six (6) persons shall be included in this rate. Each additional person shall be charged at the rate of \$1.00 per day.
4. When the premises is occupied by non-members jointly with a member or his family the rate for non-members shall be \$2.00 per day for a group up to six (6) persons in a family unit. At the discretion of the occupant member this rate may be reduced to \$1.50 per day dependent upon the work contribution of the non-member family. Each additional non-member (above the 6 in the family group) shall be charged at the rate of \$1.00 per day.
5. Individuals not in a family unit shall be charged at the rate of \$1.50 per day.
6. There shall be no charge for occupancy made on any member or non-member who occupies the premises for the primary purpose of work on the premises.
7. All rental charges shall be payable to the Secretary-Treasurer immediately after occupancy is completed.

the Dreves Family
A WORKING HISTORY

» Wells Camp Rules (continued)

3. Revision #1 Feb. 1952

V. IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE

1. All improvements shall be planned by a joint meeting of the members.
2. All proposed improvements involving expenditure of organization funds shall be budgeted for by the Secretary-Treasurer and shall only be undertaken by specific approval of a majority of the members. In case of a tie vote the proposal shall be dropped.
3. Maintenance requirements may be reported and proposed by any member. Expenditures for maintenance shall be approved by a majority of the members.
4. Emergency maintenance and repairs should be undertaken and funds expended as required by members as the emergency occurs. The extent of this maintenance must be determined and undertaken on the responsibility of the member discovering the requirement.
5. Routine maintenance may be undertaken and funds expended at the responsibility of the member discovering the requirement, and is subject to later approval and reimbursement in accordance with Item 3, Section V.

VI. EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

1. All equipment and/or utensils contributed and placed on the property by one of the members shall be available for joint use by all.
2. All equipment and/or utensils to be purchased with organization funds shall be approved by a majority and shall be available for use by all members.
3. Any food or expendable equipment stored on the premises is available to all members on a replacement in kind basis, or by reimbursement to the treasury of a fair value.
4. All equipment, utensils, tools, and materials donated to or purchased for use on the property shall be considered as belonging to all the members jointly and shall be available for their use on the premises. Such equipment, etc. shall not be removed from the property for personal use except with the expressed consent of all members. In no case shall such equipment be removed from the premises so as not to be available during the occupancy of a member or a paying non-member without the expressed consent of the occupying member or the member-sponsor of the paying non-member.

VII. OTHER

1. Any exceptions, changes, or additions to the foregoing rules may be made by unanimous vote of all family member units.

the Dreves Family

A WORKING HISTORY

» APPENDIX C: Bob's Wells Business Journal

Bob Dreves served as the Wells business manager and accountant. His records give a glimpse into what happened while the Dreves Family owned 'The Farm'...

LOG FOR PURCHASE OF TAYLOR PROPERTY WELLS NY.

Oct 22, 23¹⁹⁵⁰ Visited property - Carl, Bob, Mom, & Pop. \$2500 price just
Oct 25, Drafted letter to Taylor making proposal. \$25 deposit.
Oct 30 Received Taylor's answer - same price \$2500 - no furniture etc.
Nov 7 Drafted letter to Taylor making counter proposal for addt.
\$100 for cash.
Nov. 17, 18 Visited property - Carl, Bob, Em & Davis; - received papers
(deed - tax bill - map) - discussed details of terms, closing
date etc.
Nov 20 Turned matter over to H.B. Moore, Attorney, to draft
Contract for sale & forward to Taylor.
Dec 9 Taylor signed contract - signed it and returned it.
to H.B. Moore.
Dec 14 B.A.D. & Em signed contract for sale and gave addt \$250.
on deposit. -
Apr. 5 '51 Went to Taylor for permission to use place Apr 14-15
Apr 10 Taylor replied negative.
May 14 Checked B. Moore re progress of purchase documents.
His & Pop info rec'd from Taylor. Title search incomplete.
May 25 Visited Moore - turned ch for 25 to MAIDER, MAIDER, -
SMITH Gloversville for title search by County Clerk -
John Pleasant \$25.00 RGD.
May 26 Closed - & took title at Wells. RGD = G. A. D.
May 29 Contacted Niagara Mohawk Power, Gloversville
Mr Geo. Fryer. Paid 2.50 service chg & filed
inspct. certificate.
June 23-25 Installed floor lights & fixtures and cable
Constructed well - George, Carl, Bob, Ed Manhai,
Bill Scholtz, Pop, Mollie & kids.
Filed installation record with G. Fryer - Niagara Moh.
Aug 2 ERECT. INSPECTION MADE
Aug 24 " " APPRO

Jul 1952 - Annual Meeting.

1. Revised rules concerning rental charges.
2. Established plan for long range indoor improvements.
3. Voted to place 1952 assessment at \$11.00 per member.

Jan 1953 - Annual meeting

1. Established plan for improvements 1953.
 - a) Purchase ladder - done
 - b) Continue crosscutting and chinking outside
 - c) Remove ceiling in 2nd floor
 - d) Obtain local estimates on toilet & septic tank
 - e) Check stove
2. Voted to place 1953 assessment at \$15.00 per member.

1/23/53 Wrote to Mac Nash Northville - ordered 1000 White Pine seedlings
for delivery 25 Apr '53 or 15 Apr '53. Injured about 2000 trees.
ORDER TOO LATE could not be filled.

2/10-11/53 Work party George, Carl, Bob, Elly, Em, & Pop. Painted screens,
Rebuilt large bedroom, fixed well cover, painted toilet walls
& Gallup offered to take softwoods in lumber gone.

4/13/53 Signed contract with Gordon Gallup for cutting of lumber &
for Conservation Dept estimate.

4/53 Deal with Harris re use of tractor & rental \$10/yr in barn. / No money received

1/18/54 Gallup started cutting but postponed 1st pay of \$50.
Ordered 2000 white pine seedlings for delivery in April.
7/25/54 Spoke to Gallup re wood. He delivered 1/2 cords 11/1/54

Requested delivery up to 6 cords. ~~He has cut +~~
removed 1 load. Will start cutting again April 1954
and promises to make first payment then.

the Dreves Family

A WORKING HISTORY

» Bob's Wells Business Journal (continued)

March 1954 Annual Meeting.

1. Voted no assessment for 1954
2. Planned to work on bedrooms
3. Will look for linoleum for kitchen,

7/4/54 Gallup delivered 1 cord hardwood (total to date 2 1/2 cords)
Spoke to Gallup re cutting - No market at present. He
received \$2/1000 ft. for 1 load hemlock removed 1953.

Conservation Dept planted 2000 seedlings May 1954

George, Ed Mantai + I removed old wallboard + ceiling on
2nd floor and installed partitions.

7/3/54 Installed Electric Range (GE. 94KW) in kitchen

7/9/54 ^{Stone install.} filed inspection request with N.Y. Board of Fire Underwriters
Albany Dist. 57-61 State St. Albany N.Y.

Aug 1954 J. Stewart constructed road to his property and is
building camp. Dreves Jr. granted permission to dig
sand on hill.

9/6/54 R. Dreves discussed possibility of linking road with J. Stewart
+ L. Simon. Agreement reached to lock chain. Party with
tractor advised that permission to use road would not be granted.

10/4/54 Wrote to J. Harris re tractor on property + expenses.

10/4/54 Wrote to G. Gallup re settling account and requesting wood.

10/13/54 " " " " " " " " " " " "

11/29/54 Installed Kerosene (Duo-Horn) Stove in Living Room.

12/1/54 Saw Gallup who promised additional pine wood. States he took
2 loads leftward saw logs ~~and~~ ^{and} 1 load hardwood
sawlogs.

④

1955

JAN. 1955 - GALLUP DELIVERED WOOD (Reported by Dot 1/8.)

APR 55 - WOOD NOT DELIVERED AS EXPECTED

5 FEB 1955 ANNUAL MEETING DECISIONS.

- 1) Increase insurance coverage - \$500 on house - \$500 on pers. prop.
- 2) Decided to plant 1000 trees. (White Spruce)
- 3) Work on kitchen - living room - paint downstairs bedroom

30 APR. 1955 PLANTED 1000 WHITE SPRUCE SEEDLINGS ^{GEORGE} ART - 800

12 MAY 1955 Letter to Gallup req. payment of acct.

21-22 OCT Art + Bob Constructed kitchen cupboard + 1/2 wall,
Bedroom doors + prepared oil storage tank.
Requested 1 load ^{red} Hardwood from Reynolds (Wells)
" 55 gal kerosene ^{from} Stuart (Wells)

17 NOV. Art, Bob + Pop visited County Clerk Office in Speculator
to check previous deeds concerning ~~the~~ origin and
resale of property, limitations of deeds, right of way,
mineral rights. Following info was obtained from
Clerk.

BOOK #39 PAGE 269 records that property
on LOT 359 Benson Township was held by State of N.Y.
for back taxes = 33.51 - 40 acres (I. FELLOWS EAST PART)

82.66 - 68 "

116.17 108 "

TOTAL

PROPERTY SOLD BY NATHAN MILLER COMPTROLLER NY STATE
TO CARL KEY HAMPTON COUNTY CLERK (1903)

Deed dated March 29, 1902

Recorded February 9, 1903

Conveys 40 acres + 68 acres in Lot 359 Benson Township.

the Dreves Family

A WORKING HISTORY

» Bob's Wells Business Journal (continued)

(5)

1956

- Feb 2 1956 Requested seed aid in tree planting
 4/1/56 Carl & Bob repaired Smith roof of house.
 4/6 ART & ELLY PLANTED TREES 1000 WHITE PINE. Filed claim
 to Warren County Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation Committee
 Hudson Falls, NY.
 8/20 Recd U.S. Treas. ch for 1400 for reforestation.
 9/1 Arthur replaced 1 beam in cellar
 11/10-11/18 Hunting party proceeds 69.00
 11/18 Visited Mrs. A. Freeman ~~and~~ land Tax Collector (Wells) to
 discuss rumored sale of old Whitman place. She promised to
 request info on this and other tax sales in West Hill vicinity from
 "Bud" Karuth Deputy, County Treasurer Ham. Co.
 11/26 Wrote Conservation Dept re road use.
 11/26 - 11/26 STATE REBLAZED AND PAINTED MARKINGS ON PROPERTY LINE
- 1957
- 1/15/57 Wrote Mrs. Freeman re discussion of Whitman Property
 and info from Bud Karuth Nov 1956.
 4/26-27 Geo. & Bob Planted 1000 white pine 1000 ^{Red-Jack Pine} ~~japonesced~~
 trees near Wells via Express - Heeled in by 7 Waters 4/17/57
 5/2/57 Wrote to District Forester to inquire about trees cut on land during
 winter
 8/19/57 GAD Jr. reported new cuttings on property.
 8/19/57 Closed out Meadowbrook Nat. Bank joint acct for farm on
 acct of high carrying charges. Balance Received by R&D 1109.
 To be held in escrow by R&D for payment of bills.
 11/10/57 PLACED NEW CONCRETE WELL COVERS ON WELL
 11/11/57 ORDERED 1000 BALSAM FIR @ 500/1000 FROM CONSERV. DEPT.
 11/27 CUSKER DEPT ADVISED NONE AVAILABLE.
 12/1 Recd and CUT AND STACKED 2 CORDS FIREWOOD FROM EUGENE WILSON
 12/1 Hunt. Trip. George D. Jr. Pop, Art, Hank, Lou, Ed, Martin, Geo. Krause,
 Ben Curran, Bill Schell, Bob 3 Buck
 12/1 ART SMIT 1 DOG ON "DOG DAY"

(6)

1958

- 5/20/58 Work party ART - GEORGE - BOB - POP to open camp.
 Repaired log siding on south side removed rotted wood & reinforced
 with cement & brick. Repaired damaged roofing. Removed rotted
 log siding on south side of shop & erected brick & cement column
 for support. (over cattle building)
 Preston Simon, inquired about posting property line
 adjacent to stream to prevent trespassing across stream.
- 11/20/58 Arthur purchased one share of farm from Pop.
 AUG. 1958 Art replaced ~~the~~ sill & 1st log on northwest side of house & 1st door
 11/13/58 Work party BOB - GEORGE - EM - JANET - DOJ.
 1. Replaced sill log & 1st log on north side between kitchen
 door (outside) and living room window - (formerly under
 concrete facing)
 2. Removed old roofing on shed overhang on shop east side.
 Replaced with new roofing.
 3. Patched storm window, sanded and touched up
 paint.
 4. Added trim to large bedroom & hall - removed
 some paper from ceiling in small bedroom
 5. Framed out rock foundation exposed in kitchen
 (from Aug repairs) and added insulation.
 11/9-11/12 Hunting party - no buck - no shots
 Game posted sign to P. Simon.
 11/14-11/12 Art - Bob - Bill - Hunting - Art got 1 doe on "doe day"

1959

- APRIL 2 - Memo to all members re assessment.
 JUNE - P. Lorenzen discovered house had been entered
 and keys stolen. Kitchen window broken - no
 other damage or loss. Reported to State Police
 10/1/59 Em, Bob, Art & Donnie & George Chinked living
 room wall completing refinishing of all interior
 walls. Put Celotex on living room ceiling & built
 room divider section between living room & kitchen
 on wall side of room. Posted property.
 11/10-11/13 Hunting party Geo. - Hank - Lou Art - Bob. - saw doe only
 11/27-12/1 "ART - BOB - BILL S - SAW NOX"

the Dreves Family

A WORKING HISTORY

» Bob's Wells Business Journal (continued)

1960

- Mar. - J. Stuart Jr offer to buy lumber accepted
Apr - Offer to give barn to friend of Preston Simons - No reply returned
July-Aug. Received payments from Stuart for lumber
Sept. - ~~Sept~~ = 158.18 Hardwood : 3684 bd ft hardwood 92.10
Aug 25/6 Put on Aluminum roof - south side of house
Art - Bob - Jack McClintock
Sept 1 - Recd letter from Truman Brown for sale of acreage
Answered by indicating possibility of ~~east~~ side of
Devoise only and suggested possibility of trade off
for lake front property
Sept. 8 - GAD Sr received fore call from A. J. ALCTA - 231 PARK PK
BKEYN Phone Maine 2-7843 - Offered to buy all
land + house \$4000.
Sept 10-22 - Several calls resulting in an offer of \$4000 later
revised to \$500 which was rejected. 9/26/60
Oct 1-2 Finished Aluminum roofing - north side + Cap
Art, Bob, Geo.
Nov. 11-19 Hunting party. Harris Camp donated
an new G.E. Electric Fry Pan as goodwill for
trespass + parking privileges.

1961

- July 1-4 Art created west wall of house
Aug 1 - Art/Bob created East side of house + finished
ceiling tiles in lower bedroom. Art painted
outside trim on doors. J. Stuart assisted in repair
of dam collapse replacing boulders
Aug 3 - Art/Pop discussed sale of acreage to State
Conservation Dept in response to Art's letter
of July 1961. State Conservation Dept represented
by Mr. Mullett - Northville office offered \$900
for 100 acres - \$25/acre for land on west side
Devoise 15/acre for land on east side Devoise.
We will retain approx 10 acres included in area
north of east/west line approximately at well.
from Devoise to west boundary and all buildings.
All owners signed agreement.
Oct State returned agreement
Oct J. Stuart Jr cut white pine on Devoise Creek
based on understanding of 1960 without notice.
Nov 10-18 Hunting trip Art, Bob, Pop, Lloyd Spahr
Bill Green Geo Jr. Henry Hedesheimer. Art + Bob assisted
in Remington Club dine which got a bpt truck near 3 Pond. Mt + Hotel.
Nov 12 J. Stuart Jr paid \$125. for white pine.
Nov 18 Art suffered an attack of ulcers Taken to Amsterdam
Hospital 8 PM by Bob + Dr Cole in Wells F.D. ambulance. Emergency
surgery performed by Dr. Spencer.
Nov 18 Visited Art on way home - condition good
Dec 5 J. Stuart Jr check returned for insufficient funds.
Letter to him requesting reserve

the Dreves Family

A WORKING HISTORY

» Bob's Wells Business Journal (continued)

1962

Jan-Mar - Unsuccessful attempts to obtain funds due from J. Stuart Jr. for lumber. Contacted father - no action.

Aug. - Signed final deed and papers re sale of land to State.

Oct. Rec'd check from N.Y. State - \$185. - for sale of 100 acres. Apportioned shares to all members, preserving 1962/63 dues.

Nov-10-14. Art, Bob, H. Ward, W. Greene, L. Spahr, B. Dreves Jr., Duncan Cranford, Hank Messner, Lou Rasper, H. Hedebrandt hunted. Duncan Cranford missed 1 buck. Wherein and Bob got a 4 pointer.

Nov 23-26 Art, Bob, Don Dreves, Bill Schultk hunted - no shots.

Nov. Art posted FOR SALE SIGNS.

Nov. 22 Responded to inquiry of H. Paul - Gloversville re sale price of property. Asked \$5500 - furnished

9

1963

Oct. - Art, Bob, Lou Rasper, Hank Messner, Bob Reynolds. Repaired well - new sill, Painted windows & storm windows & trim, outside. Repaired upper story in shop with cable tie.

Nov 13 HUNTING TRIP. Lou Rasper, H. Messner & Spahr, Duncan Cranford, H. Hedebrandt, H. Ward, Art & Bob, D. W. Greene, George D. Art shot 1 doe on doe permit.

Dec 7-12 Hunting Trip. W. Schultk, H. Ward, D. Ward, B. Dreves, H. Hedebrandt, Art & Bob.

Dec 10. Ray Kundle appraised property for ^{P.P.s} will.

1964

OCT. ART, GEORGE Repaired washout under wood shed at foundation wall. Silt continues to wash into basement below south foundation wall. Wall is bulging inward displacing floor beam supports. Installed toilet fixture in house. Worked on spring box and installed new pipe.

OCT. Harold Ward. installed new fluorescent lights in kitchen and dining area.

Nov. Woods closed account of drought. Hunting plans disrupted. Art, George, Bob & Harold Ward hunted at Keene Valley 2 1/2 days. Woods opened at Wells. 1/2. Returned to Wells for 1 day - No luck. Art & Geo. brought Plastic hose & water pump.

Dec. 11-14 Returned to hunt. - Art, Bob, George, Stanley, Bill Schultk, Jack Sammis. Schultk shot 2 doe Sat/Sun. with Bob.

11

the Dreves Family

A WORKING HISTORY

» Bob's Wells Business Journal (continued)

82

1965

July. - Work party to repair South foundation wall & replace roofing paper on Shop over storage area. Art, Bob, Harold W, Bob Hall

Aug 24 Executed Rental agreement with H Ward with option to buy in 1 year. from 9/1/65

Nov 14-30 Hunting trip - Schulte, ^{H.} Ward, Don Ward, H. Kuntzell, George, Bill Green, Ed Haag, Lou R. Hank M.

1966

Rented to H. Ward - No hunting party

1967

Rental agreement expired Aug 31 1967. H Ward declined renewal. B. Viola made offer ^{for food} but

later declined. Bob Inspected camp Aug 1967 Everything in good condition. Turned over maintenance and sale responsibility to George

(13)

7/16/67 Wrote to H Ward about (no word) rent for 2 months and intentions to purchase.

8/20 Phoned Ward to inquire intention since I had no response to letter. Ward stated he wanted to complete purchase deal but wanted to await Don Ward's return from Camp. (about 10 days)

3/18/67 Letter setting forth details and account balance due for 67

9/9 Phoned Ward to get decision. Ward cannot exercise option.

9/10 Called E Viola to advise avail. for purchase. Viola will draw up contract for sale and send \$250 deposit on terms previously stated in correspondence i.e.

1. Sale price \$6000 - incl. furnishings
2. House ^{shop} and all land west of road.
3. ~~full~~ furnishings.
4. Option for first refusal on all land east of road

11/9/67 Viola reneged on purchase

2/9/68 - Viola contacted George & made \$500 offer for entire site

3/23/68 George advised he received cash for sale of property and transferred title to Viola

3/24/68 Advised Niagara Mohawk to discontinue service & sent Viola a copy along with Underwriters inspection receipt for elect. install.

the Dreves Family A WORKING HISTORY



One of Art's retirement "hobbies" was building intricate objects, structures and even scenes inside bottles, maneuvering all the pieces in, one at a time, through the bottle's neck. Over the years, he made several "Bottle Art" works featuring the Whitman cabin at Wells. Here is one early attempt. In the top photo, looking roughly north, you can see not only the cabin, but also the rock dam and surrounding vegetation. Looking in through the bottle neck (bottom photo), you see the front of the house, complete with the small maple tree that used to grace the otherwise treeless front yard.

» APPENDIX D: Timeline, Wells History

- 1872 Oliver Wesley Whitman takes out a mortgage, presumably to buy land on West Hill
- 1878 "Wes" Whitman family moves into new log home on West Hill (Whitman is 36)
- 1880 NY Farm Census shows Whitman owning 155 acres of land on West Hill; only 4 are cleared.
- 1896: Whitman begins hewing beams and making shingles in preparation for a barn-raising in the summer of 1897
- 1897: Barn is raised in June; shingling complete in July; finishing work takes 'til end of year
- 1903: Whitman is foreclosed by state for non-payment of that year's taxes; Whitman negotiates a mortgage (to pay back taxes) with a relative of the Hamilton County Clerk (but never fully pays it off; this surfaces when State of NY does title search to buy 100 acres from Dreves in 1962)
- 1911: By now, Whitman has put an engine in his workshop; is making money doing machining; son Oliver (now 36) is an accomplished trapper and is becoming known as an excellent Adirondack Guide.
- 1920: Wes Whitman dies at age 79; son Oliver and his wife, Eva, continue to live in house
- 1935: Oliver Whitman dies at age 60; Eva likely wants to sell; Everett Taylor buys the property from Eva, sometime in the next few years, for \$1800.
- 1945: For several years, starting in 1945, Everett Taylor tries to interest General Electric, Republic Steel and other parties in leasing mining rights on the West Hill property, as Taylor believes there is a large deposit of commercial-grade magnetite (magnetic iron ore) on the property. He engages Republic Steel geologists, who tell him July, 1949 that the deposit is low-grade, and not of commercial value.
- 1950: Everett Taylor sells 108 acres, including house and barn, to the Dreves family for \$2500
- 1954: Dreves family begins reforestation upper pastures and fields cleared by Whitman; planting at least 7,000 seedlings over the next 3 years
- 1958: Carl Dreves moves to California, but keeps share in property

continued »»



» Timeline, Wells History (continued)

- 1961: Art Dreves perforates a stomach ulcer during Dreves brothers' annual hunting trip; taken by ambulance to Amsterdam for emergency surgery, which is successful
- 1962: Dreves family sells 100 acres to the State of New York, for inclusion in the Adirondack Park, for \$1900
- 1962: Notation in business records for the property: "Art posted FOR SALE signs"
- 1962: Buy offers received, none accepted
- 1963: George Dreves, Sr. passes at age 76
- 1964: Bob and Art Dreves learn they are being transferred to Florida; moved in 1965-66.
- 1965: Dreves family rents the property to Harold Ward, with an option to buy before 8/1967.
- 1966: Unknown to Dreves, Ward removes barn wood siding, leaving barn unstable
- 1967: Ward declines to purchase or renew option; Gene Viola makes, then withdraws, offer
- 1968: Gene Viola accepts Dreves offer of \$6500 for all property, house & barn. Closed on 3/23.
- 1970s: Barn finally collapses; Viola replaces it with a smaller but functional concrete block bldg.
- 1990: Gene Viola dies suddenly; widow Pat buries him on property, behind barn, as he wished
- 2020: Pat Viola is still living full-time in the house on West Hill, 52 years after first moving there

the Dreves Family

A WORKING HISTORY

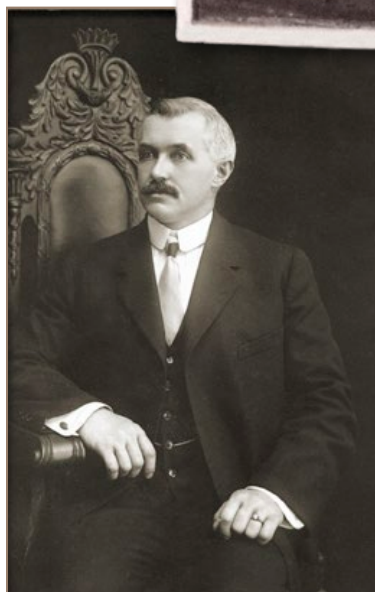
» APPENDIX E: More wonderful Dreves family photos

» Emma and Pop, in pictures...

Pop, at his King's Highway store in Brooklyn, ca. 1912.



After Pop's stroke, around 1939, they sold the confectionery business and moved a block behind the store, to Van Nostrand Court. where they remained 'til they moved to Williston Park in 1951. **Above:** two scenes from "the Court".



Pop's oldest brother, Gus, in happier times, ca. 1900.

Gus struggled with an alcohol addiction and, despite Pop giving him employment and encouragement, made poor life choices.

According to an oral history account from Carl, Sr., by 1920, Gus was living at the Salvation Army in Manhattan; it is presumed he died some time in the 1920s, as there is no further record of him in any public records beyond that point.

Emma and Pop's 40th wedding anniversary dinner, June, 1952

L-R, standing: Marge (Cordes) Durkin; Bea (Cordes) Lorenzen; Dodie (Booth) Dreves; Jack Durkin; Paul Lorenzen; Carl Dreves, Sr.

L-R, sitting: Emma (Cordes) Dreves; Emily (Swan) Dreves; Elly (Meissner) Dreves; Art Dreves; Dot Dreves; Bob Dreves; and Pop.



the Dreves Family

A WORKING HISTORY



Sunday night dinners at "Grammy's" in Williston

Above: Emma, Rick Dot, Diane & Art (Pop standing), 1959.

Above right: Diane (in Pop's chair) and Art, 1959.

At right: Diane and "Ladybug," ca. 1962.



Easter at "Grammy's"

Emma, Dot, Elly and Vera; Rick & Diane in front.



Above: Pop, loving life (and a good cigar!) at Wells.

Right: Pop and Carl on Collins Avenue in Williston Park. Janet watches Carl Jr. and Vera, playing with pots.



Another Sunday night at "Grammy's"...

L-R, standing: Vera and Janet.

L-R, sitting: Don, Judie and Holly
(infant Rick in Judie's lap)
Photo ca. 1955.

the Dreves Family

A WORKING HISTORY

» Bob & Em, in pictures...

Appendix E (continued)



Bob and Emily,
pre-wedding,
October, 1937



Bob & Emily's camp on Sebec Lake in Maine.



Inset: Janet (Dreves)
Hall, washing the wild chokecherry harvest for jelly
making. Bob's family has been making chokecherry
jelly since he and Emily bought their camp in 1971.



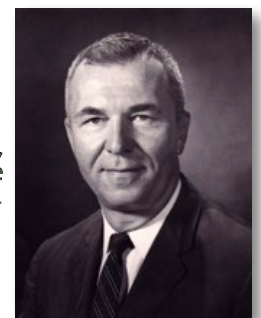
The Dreves Kids have a Maine reunion. L-R: Bob, Art, Dot, Carl Sr., & George.

Who knew
that reading
microwave
instructions
could be so
much fun?
Bob and Em
get cookin',
ca. 1993.



Bob and Emily and the totem pole at
their camp, 1986. The figures from
top to bottom represent their five
grandchildren: Wolf (Kevin Hall),
'O-man' (Brian Hall), Owl (Kelly Hall),
Fish (Jen Dreves), Thunderbird (Amy
Dreves).

Portrait of Bob,
taken for the
Center, ca. 1968.



the Dreves Family

A WORKING HISTORY

» Carl, Sr., in pictures...

Appendix E (continued)



Carl & Dodie "hamming it up"
with hot dogs, ca. 1941.



Dodie, Carl, Jr. and Carl,
Williston Park, ca. 1945.

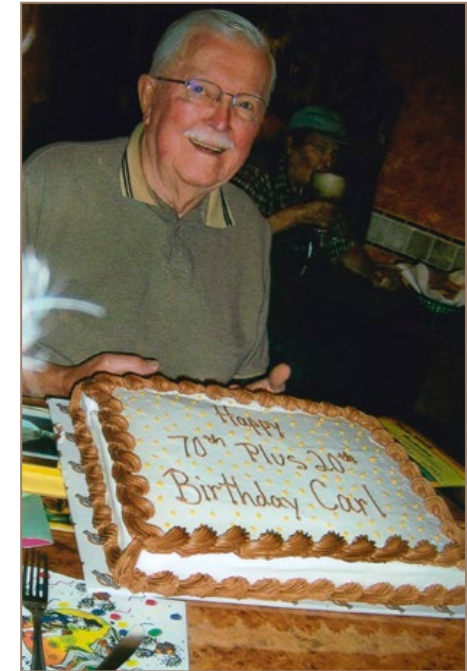


Carl Sr. (wearing
cap) and children
(L-R) Carl, Jr.
Ginny and Nancy,
in 2013.

Carl & Dodie at
VanNostrand
Court, ca. 1939



Carl and Dodie, on
their wedding day, January 1940



Carl, celebrating his "70th + 20th" birthday
in 2006.

the Dreves Family

A WORKING HISTORY

Appendix E (continued)

» George Jr., in pictures...



George and Vera (Ferrer) on their wedding day in June of 1941.



After Bob and Art were transferred to Florida, it fell to George to sell the family's property at Wells. **Above and above right** are two photos from a visit they made to the property around 1980, after it was sold to Gene and Pat Viola.



George, Emma, Millie and Holly during one of their final visits to Wells before it was sold in 1968.



Art, Millie and George, digging clams and hunting for old bottles in Florida, 1968



George, at home with Holly and her family in Maine, in 2015

the Dreves Family

A WORKING HISTORY

» Art & Elly, in pictures...

Appendix E (continued)



Art and Elly's wedding, June 1950, at the Lutheran Church in Little Neck.



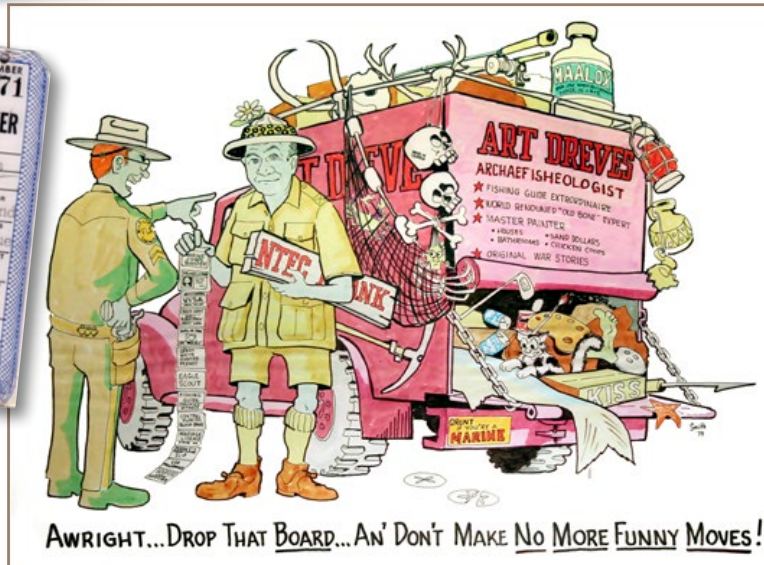
Elly and Art, 1977; they were married for 69 years.



During his time in the Marine Corps, Art had occasion to work with several different kinds of animals. Horses were great for getting to the remote sites of training aircraft crashes at El Toro, CA; and "Duke," a German Shepherd with an attitude, was Art's "weapon" while he was assigned to protect a secret Naval radio station at Imperial Beach, CA; both around 1943.



Art worked for the Center, with all its various names, for 36 years. Art's daughter, Diane (Dreves) Soliwoda, also worked there for 28 years before retiring in 2013.



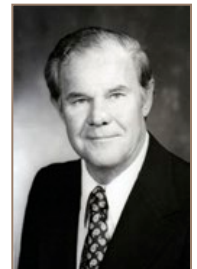
This caricature, given to Art at his retirement celebration in February, 1979, captured most of his many and varied interests. The implication, of course, was that in retirement, Art would *never* be bored...



Perhaps Art's favorite activity during his 40 years of retirement was being outside, working on a "dig site", looking for arrowheads, pottery or even ancient canoes. Here, he lines up survey stakes for an excavation at one of his favorite sites near Lake Apopka, Florida.



1951



1968



2017

the Dreves Family

A WORKING HISTORY

» Dot (and Emma), in pictures...

Dot's adult life was so intertwined with those of her parents (particularly her Mom's, in her later years) that it is difficult to celebrate Dot without also celebrating Emma...

Appendix E (continued)



Dot's Bayside High School graduation photo, 1943



Dot, in 1957, with her newest niece, Diane, and not-so-new nephew, Rick



Oh, how "Grammy" (Emma) loved having the family all together, particularly for special occasions, like here, in 1964, at the wedding of Bob's daughter, Janet, to Bob Hall. **L-R, back row:** Jack Durkin, Marge (Cordes) Durkin, Carl Dreves Sr., Nancy Dreves, Dot Dreves, Elly (Meissner) Dreves, Evelyn (Lospinosa) Cordes, Edward Cordes. **L-R, front row:** Emma (Cordes) Dreves, Dodie (Booth) Dreves [facing right], Emily (Swan) Dreves, Ginny (Dreves) Cruz, Diane (Dreves) Soliwoda, Rick Dreves



...and oh, how Dot loved her pups! Here, two photos of 'Jingo', ca. mid-1950s. **Top:** Dot, Emma and Jingo in the doorway at Meagher Place in Williston; **Bottom:** Dot, Elly (Meissner) Dreves and Jingo at Wells.



Above Left: In Florida, Dot and Emma built a new home at 206 Waverly Drive in Fern Park, a north-Orlando suburb. **Center:** George, like Art, Rick and others, came to visit but spent the afternoon raking mounds of pine needles off the roof of the house, which was in a majestic pine forest. **Right:** Emma, doing her best to promote home-grown Florida Citrus in the backyard at Waverly Drive.



the Dreves Family

A WORKING HISTORY



Dot, through the years:

Top Row: Shortly after moving to Orlando, Dot broke her leg, but it healed in time for her 43rd birthday (1968). **Middle:** Preparing Sunday Night Supper for the "Orlando Dreves gang," just as Emma always did in Williston Park; and collecting "U-Pick" strawberries, which she enjoyed doing with Art. **Bottom:** Did Dot finally find a boyfriend in Jack Daniel, the whiskey maker, during a 2003 visit to Tennessee?



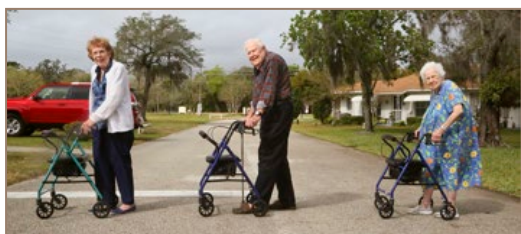
The family assembled, for Emma's 80th birthday (1970). *Standing, L-R:* Emily (Swan) Dreves; Elly (Meissner) Dreves; Diane (Dreves) Soliwoda; George Dreves; Millie (Rhodes) Dreves; Emma (Cordes) Dreves; Jack Durkin; Bea (Cordes) Lorenzen; Dot Dreves; Art Dreves, behind Marge (Cordes) Durkin; Rose Swan; Elsie (Meyer) Meissner; Rick Dreves. *Seated/kneeling:* Carl Dreves Sr.; Bob Dreves.



The family assembled, for Christmas, 1975. *Back Row, L-R:* Dot Dreves; Rick Dreves; Leslie (Kane) Dreves; Don Dreves; Art Dreves; Janet (Dreves) Hall; Bob Hall. *Middle Row, L-R:* Rose Swan; Elly (Meissner) Dreves; Emily (Swan) Dreves; Bob Dreves, Brian Hall [in lap]; Amy (Dreves) Mielwoczi [hanging on]; Jen (Dreves) Swantz; Emma (Cordes) Dreves; **Front Row:** Diane (Dreves) Soliwoda; Kevin Hall; Kelly (Hall) Wilke.

the Dreves Family A WORKING HISTORY

» Dot and “The Haven”...



In 2002, Dot moved to Lutheran Haven, a senior living campus in Oviedo, northeast of Orlando.
Top: Dot, Deb (Tidmore) Dreves and neighbor Lee Pertl. Until her 94th birthday, Dot took almost daily half-mile strolls with Lee around the Haven campus. **Middle:** Elly & Art also moved to Lutheran Haven in 2013; here, they, with Dot, did their best impression of the Beatles’ *Abbey Road* album cover. **Bottom:** Dot, with family gathered, celebrated her 90th birthday there in 2015.

» Emma, the “Birthday Girl”...

Appendix E (continued)



Emma’s milestone birthdays were always celebrated with family, from near and far, as at her 80th (1970), at Bob & Em’s home in Orlando. Emma is just happy to have the five kids together, unaware of the hijinks going on just behind her...



90th (1980), with great-granddaughter Amy (Dreves) Mielwoczi and Dot



95th (1985), with all of her children, at Emma’s assisted living center



97th (1987), with Bob, Dot & Art, a month before she passed

the Dreves Family A WORKING HISTORY

Appendix E (continued)

» Dreves Kids, World War II service portraits...



All five of George and Emma Dreves' children served during the Second World War:

Top Row, L-R:

- Arthur was in the U.S. Marine Corps
- Robert was in the U.S. Navy
- Carl Sr. was in the Army Air Corps

Bottom Row, L-R:

- George Jr. was in the U.S. Army
- Dot was in the Army Nursing Corps



» Walter Kronke, the sixth 'Dreves Kid' to serve...



Walter also served in the Army during World War II.
Above: On a visit to see Aunt Emma (Dreves) Hess (L), along with his mother, Anna (Dreves) Kronke (R).

the Dreves Family A WORKING HISTORY

» APPENDIX F: Photos, Dreves Kids' Reunion, 2010

In 2010, the four remaining Dreves Kids reunited at Rick & Deb's cabin and home in Tennessee.



George and Carl Sr. arrive for the reunion at Rick & Deb's cliffside cabin in Altamont, Tennessee. No porter service – everyone carried their own bags!



On the porch at the cabin: George, Carl, Art and Dot.



Rick's son, Harrison, put on a rock-climbing demonstration for the "Kids". **L-R:** Carl, Harrison Dreves, Art and George.



Art, George and Carl watch from their perch atop the cliff in front of the cabin.

the Dreves Family A WORKING HISTORY

Appendix F (continued)



This gathering was the impetus for creating the original "first edition" of the Dreves Family History. Each of the "Kids" received a copy.



The reunion included plenty of sightseeing in the area. This photo of George, Carl, Dot and Art won first place in the Tennessee Electric Cooperative's 2011 photo contest saluting our country's veterans – and why not, with such inspiring subject matter!



Carl and George, standing atop a 60-foot natural sandstone arch in nearby Sewanee, Tennessee.

Dot, George, Art and Carl exploring the property at Rick and Deb's place.

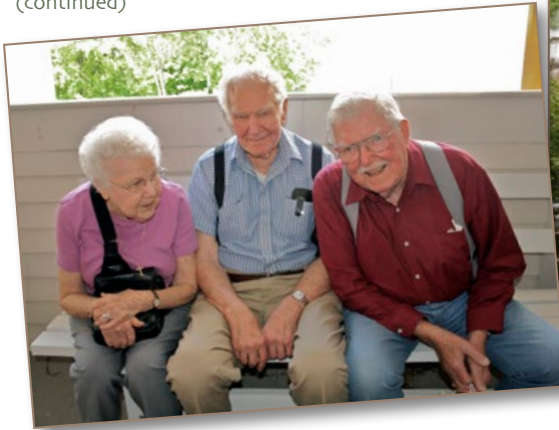


One of the reunion's many "field trips" took Art, George, Carl and Dot to Fall Creek Falls State Park, which has Tennessee's tallest waterfall, at 256 feet.

the Dreves Family

A WORKING HISTORY

Appendix F (continued)



Above, George, touring the Jack Daniel's distillery in Lynchburg, TN, is very curious about why this building is labeled "Mellowing"... but one sniff of what's in the distillery's vat provides a delicious answer.

At left, Dot, George and Carl await a Southern family-style lunch at *Miss Mary Bobo's* boarding house, also in Lynchburg.



George, Dot, Art and Carl on the front steps at Rick and Deb's home in Nashville.



Dot, Art, George & Carl, all enjoying an ice-cold Coke on the front porch of Rick & Deb's cabin.

While they were in Nashville, the "Kids" had lunch at the *Loveless Café*, part of a renovated 1950s-vintage motor-court and diner.

At right, the "Kids" try out a touristy "photo-opp." (We added Bob, at bottom center; he had passed the year prior to this reunion, but was well-remembered throughout the weekend.)

Walls of the diner are adorned with the autographed photos of many of its famous patrons, including Walter Cronkite, Ronald Reagan, Paul McCartney and others.



the Dreves Family

A WORKING HISTORY

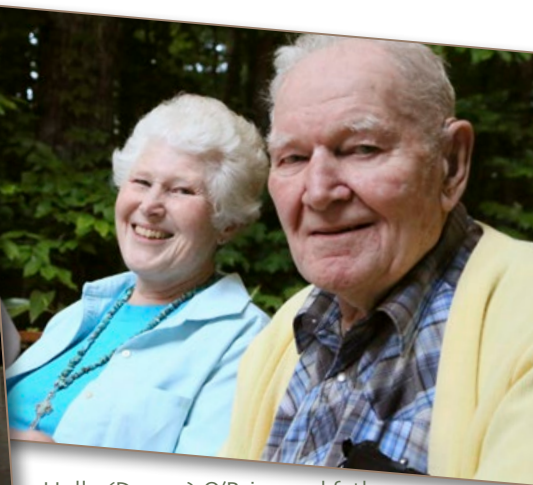
» APPENDIX G: Photos, Dreves Kids' Reunion, 2013

In 2013, for Art's 90th birthday, the four remaining Dreves Kids, and some of the Dreves Cousins reunited, one more time, at Rick & Deb's home in Nashville...



Above: Rick & Deb propose a toast to Bob, to begin the final reunion of the Dreves Kids at their home in Nashville, Tennessee, in May of 2013. This was also an early celebration of Art's 90th birthday, which he officially celebrated on November 2nd of that year.

Right: George and Carl set up a rather sizeable game of checkers.



Holly (Dreves) O'Brien and father George came to the reunion from Maine.



Art made a fashion statement with his red sunglasses. Grandson Harrison Dreves is to his left.



Carl and Art get into a spirited card game as Deb (Tidmore) Dreves looks on.

the Dreves Family

A WORKING HISTORY

Appendix G (continued)



Tennessee's World War II memorial was an important stop on the Dreves Kids' itinerary. **Above:** George, Art, Carl and Dot. **Below:** Art studies the panel describing wartime action in the Pacific, a topic he understood on a personal level.



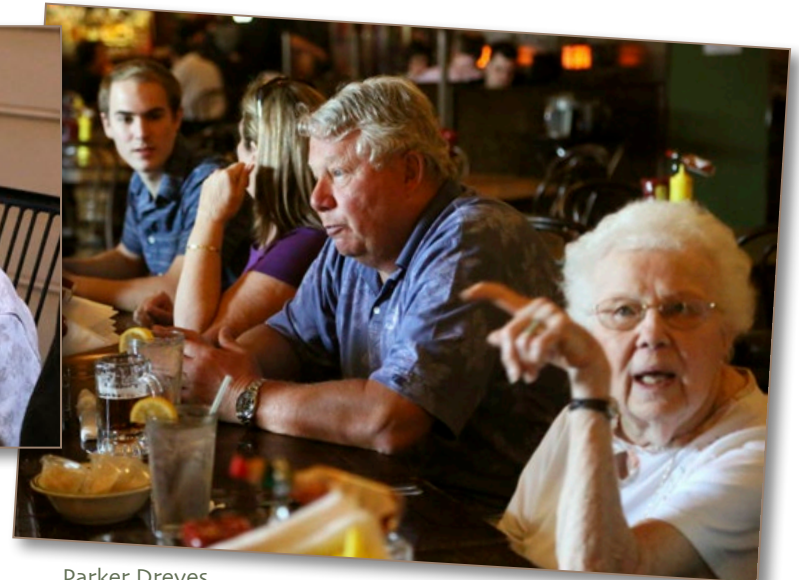
Art provides supervision as Leslie (Kane) Dreves and Janet (Dreves) Hall help prepare ice cream sodas, in honor of the Dreves family's confectionery history.



Above: Nancy Dreves and Dot enjoying conversations with the family after dinner. Most of the Dreves Cousins were also able to attend the reunion.



"Dancing Dot" and Harrison Dreves provide a bit of fancy footwork as Janet (Dreves) Hall cheers them on.

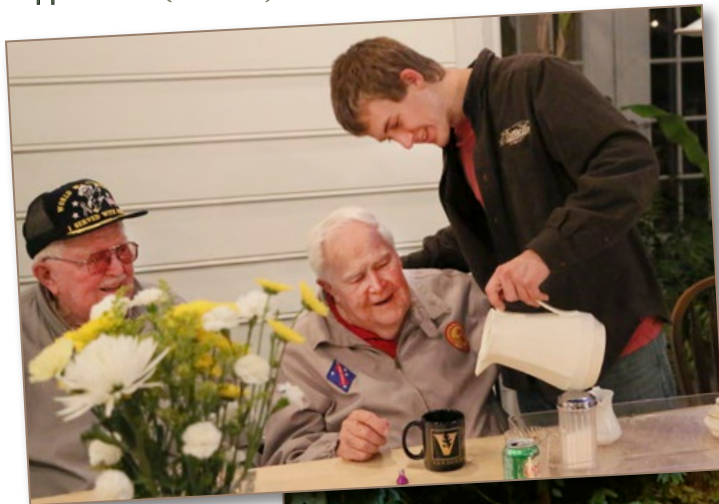


Parker Dreves, Leslie (Kane) Dreves [facing away], Don Dreves and Dot Dreves enjoy after-lunch chatter at the Gerst Haus, an authentic German restaurant in downtown Nashville.

the Dreves Family

A WORKING HISTORY

Appendix G (continued)



Fifteen Dreves family members attended the reunion, requiring outdoor seating for the gathering. The May weather was cool but dry, and patio heaters kept the conversations warm and comfortable.



For Dot, ice cream sodas have always been serious business. Here, she tunes out the hustle and bustle of the reunion to focus on the more important matter at hand.



Having just visited the Tennessee World War II memorial, Art Dreves gives Bob Hall recollections of his wartime action in the Pacific, over platters of bratwurst at the Gerst Haus in downtown Nashville.



Carl and Elly (Meissner) Dreves, having a lively indoor conversation in the kitchen



Janet (Dreves) Hall, Leslie (Kane) Dreves and Don Dreves have a spirited debate about exactly how much whipped cream is appropriate for topping for an ice cream soda...

the Dreves Family

A WORKING HISTORY

UPDATED as of June 1, 2020

Thanks to everyone who provided information, not only for this page, but also for the Dreves Family Tree on [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)!

» APPENDIX H: The Dreves Cousins and their families

While the full stories of the lives and adventures of the Dreves Cousins will be the work of a future Dreves family genealogist, here is a brief chronicle about them, and their immediate families, in order of birth. (Dates are birth dates unless otherwise indicated):

Judith D. Goudie (Blevins) May 23, 1939
married James Blevins on Dec 21, 1958

Children:

Debbie Mildred Blevins (Maher) Feb 20, 1965
Heathar Elizabeth Blevins (Jensen) Jan 2, 1963

Janet Elizabeth Dreves (Hall) Nov 25, 1942
married Robert Hall on Aug 8, 1964

Children:

Kevin Robert Hall Apr 13, 1967
Kelly Elizabeth Hall (Wilke) Mar 17, 1970
Brian Christopher Hall Oct 18, 1972

Carl Edward Dreves Jr. May 6, 1944
married Martha Lou Rodriguez on Oct 2, 1965

Children:

Jay Steven Dreves Nov 9, 1967
Brett Scott Dreves Jan 10, 1969
Darin Miles Dreves Nov 9, 1976

Vera Ann Dreves (Willi) Jun 8, 1944
married Lawrence Forneris on Aug 17, 1964

Children:

Catherine A. Forneris (Burkett) Apr 17, 1965
Dorothy Emma Forneris (Guiza) Mar 17, 1969
Andrew George Forneris Mar 1, 1970
married Robert Willi on Nov 10, 1985

Nancy Ellen Dreves Sep 25, 1945

Donald Arthur Dreves Apr 23, 1946
married Leslie Kane on Oct 25, 1969

Children:

Jennifer Lynn Dreves (Swantz) Feb 16, 1971
Amy Elizabeth Dreves (Mielwocki) 23 Apr 1973

[Sandra] Holly Dreves (O'Brien) Dec 22, 1947
married James Rhyle in 1969

Children:

James Rhyle O'Brien Dec 16, 1970
married Robert O'Brien on Dec 10, 1972

Children:

Robin Watson O'Brien Jr Apr 16, 1974
[William] Desmond O'Brien Feb 12, 1978
George Campbell O'Brien Feb 12, 1978

Richard Arthur Dreves Jan 8, 1955
married Deborah Tidmore on Dec 14, 1979

Children:

[Frederick] Harrison Dreves May 7, 1991
Parker August Dreves Mar 29, 1993

Virginia Ann Dreves (Cruz) Dec 29, 1955
married Larry Cruz on Oct 27, 1990

Diane Ellen Dreves (Soliwoda) Apr 27, 1957
married Bruce Soliwoda on Nov 8, 1986

Children:

Richard Michael Soliwoda May 18, 1994

the Dreves Family A WORKING HISTORY

» APPENDIX I: German Expressionism

In comparing stories of growing up in Dreves households, the Cousins noticed the adults in each household had their own interesting assortment of German and other unique expressions. What follows are recollections of the Cousins (generally as small children) of what they heard, and what they understood these expressions to mean:

RICK: “Du esel, du” was a favorite in my mother’s family. Literally, “you donkey, you” but I believe it was intended as “you ass, you”.

JANET: I sometimes heard ‘Beschissen’ (=shitty) and ‘dummkopf’ (=fool, although I think my Dad used it as ‘stupid’); we heard both a lot; the last one was usually directed at Don or me.

DIANE: According to Dad (Art), lots of supposedly German expressions were “made up” by the Dreves Kids, just to be funny, such as “vas schmaz ga-pop”. Another “made up” one — “schwat”, in Art’s household, usually meaning “dusty” “dirty” or “filthy” [in the lack-of-being-clean sense!].

DON: While not exactly a German expression, I remember how Grammy would occasionally scold with “you *dasn’t* do that!”

JANET: Dot and Art had made-up names for each other when they were kids, which we usurped (with permission) for our family pets. The Hall family dog (female) was named “Muffin Dukenschadel” in honor of Aunt Dot; and the kitten we acquired shortly after Muffin was named “Morty Klutchenherring” after Uncle Art. I, too, loved the sound of the names; they just made me smile (and still do!)

RICK: Another “not exactly German” expression of Grammy’s, probably a hold-over from growing up in the era of gas lamps (before incandescent lighting): When Grammy wanted you to turn on a light, she would say “please *make* a light.” I never heard her say “turn on a light.”