# CLINGMAN-JONES 90<sup>TH</sup> FAMILY REUNION July 2 - 4, 2011 Jones Valley • Caddo Gap, Arkansas

Hello Clingman-Jones Family,

For a little newsletter writing inspiration I scanned a few of the early ones, and Arthur Jones' 1931 edition struck me as not only inspirational, but as capturing the Family spirit that makes our endeavor so very special and enduring. Eloquently written from the heart in the middle of the Great Depression when family was the only safety net, this call for Reunion carries a strong message of Family love and unity that is hard to match in today's world. The 1931 Reunion call is on the website as an attachment to Arthur Jones' story – read this, cousins, and you will be packing your bags! The 2011 Reunion, another milestone year, will be filled with the usual great Family camaraderie, fun activities, as well as the distribution of the Family cookbook – read further on how to get yours. Hope to see you all there.

## ~ Reunion Schedule\* ~

(all meals in the Grace Jones Palmer Dining Hall)

Tues. Wed. Thurs. Friday, July 1 <sup>st</sup>	Early, early arrivals – Enjoy more and help set up (arrgghh!)  6pm (early arrivals) – Burgers and Dogs from the grill		
Saturday, July 2nd	8am – Breakfast		
<b>0</b> / <b>0</b>	9am – Tour de Caddo Gap – 1 <sup>st</sup> annual bike ride		
	Noon – Sandwich Lunch		
	Enjoy the Valley a little, plan an outing, get your inner tubes out		
	2:30pm – 4 <sup>th</sup> International Inner Tube Contest – swimming hole		
	6pm – Evening Meal		
	Kick back, reminisce a little, listen or make music, and do some		
	Family visiting (NO fireworks during music)		
	8pm – Board games in the dining hall		
Sunday, July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8am – Breakfast		
	10am – Gospel Sing and Remembrance		
	11am – Family Business Meeting		
	Noon – Sandwich Lunch		
	2pm – Executive Board Meeting		
	6pm – Evening Meal		
	More music and sitting out enjoying campfires and reminiscing		
	9pm – 11pm Fireworks (in designated areas)		
Monday, July 4th	8am – Continental Breakfast		
	Point that vehicle homeward bound, or perhaps linger and enjoy the Valley a little while longer		

## ~ Family Cookbook ~

This in from Floss Diffie: Hey everyone, the cookbook is finally done! I want to apologize in advance for any mistakes you might find in it; I went through it many, many times and so did Joe, but as soon as I got it back I found two errors... GRR. Thanks to all who contributed recipes and to those who suggested so many excellent cookbook names. Clingman-Jones Family Recipes: Beyond the Cook Shack, suggested by Monica Stiles, was chosen for its uniqueness. When I asked why it was submitted, she wrote a very intriguing paragraph, which I included in the cookbook.

Remember, this cookbook (\$15) is a fundraiser for the Valley and you'll want to buy as many as you can – they'll make great gifts and keepsakes. I hope to have an autograph session at the Reunion where we all autograph each other's cookbooks. It may seem silly now, but in years to come, your great- great-grandkids can look at your signature. Maybe some of you who sent in recipes will bring samples to share with us this Reunion. They can help supplement meals – like muffins for breakfast, brownies for lunch, cake for dinner – I will be contacting you about this. Thanks again everyone, and remember... "Buy one for the Valley... heck, buy two or three!" For those not attending the Reunion this year, order your copy now from Flora Diffie, Rt. 4 Box 103-B, Duncan, OK 73533. Please make checks payable to Clingman Jones Family. The cost for ordering is \$15 plus \$2.50 for shipping costs. You are going to LOVE IT!!!

- Floss Diffie

## ~ Reunion 2011 Events ~

Each Reunion our Family members spontaneously organize many different activities, such as float trips on the Caddo, hikes up the Valley, music jams in the evening, or volleyball games, just to mention a few. However, we are fortunate to have some already planned events for those inclined to have an extremely good time. One is a repeat and the other a first timer.

- **International Inner Tube Contest** 4<sup>th</sup> annual, will be held once again, under the direction of Johnny Cameron. Last year's inner tube contest had many new events and was a fast-moving affair. Just bring your standard tube and water attire and you're set for some cooling off fun.
- Tour de Caddo Gap this fun bike ride, led by Gil Jones, will make its first outing this Reunion. So let's get that bike from the back of the garage, dust it off, pump up the tires, take a test spin around the block, and bring it on down to the Valley. Don't worry about falling behind because, due to my geezer status, I've already laid claim to being the laggard.

Due to masterful scheduling, the bike ride will start in the cool of 9am on Saturday, and the cooling off inner tube contest will be later the same day, at 2:30pm. Some, no doubt, will enjoy both.

## ~ Thank You Volunteers ~

Many, many thanks again this year to all our Family members and others who stepped forward this past year to do what was needed to maintain the Valley and move our endeavor forward. It may have been weed whacking, cleaning up brush, sign painting, fixing toilets, or responding to emergency support needs to overcome the devastating flood last May; the volunteers always came through. Not the least is serving on the Executive Board, an activity that is not limited to just attending one meeting that goes on too long at the Reunion. Pulling together; doing what needs to be done, is what Family is all about.

## ~ Memorial Day Weekend - Getaway & Fix-up/Reunion Prep ~

This year's Jones Valley Memorial Day weekend get together will be May 28-29. This is a great time of the year to enjoy the Valley, have fun, and help out a little with other Family members, going after a few needed maintenance items. Also, the standard good stuff, like a round of golf at the Glenwood Country Club (open to the public), hikes/walks, and enjoying the Caddo (fishing/canoeing), quickly come to mind. In addition, there are plenty of places for a good meal in the area. So, get your Reunion fix started early by joining with other Family members to take care of a few items that really won't get in the way of enjoying plenty of Memorial Day recreation, and then, when the Reunion rolls around, you'll have that ownership satisfaction that some call sweat equity.

## ~ Family News ~

#### • Additions to the Family:

- Claude Jones: Aeris Olivia was born to Summer and Don Engel on November 17, 2010.

#### Announcements:

- Fannie Jones Chandler: Gavin Geatches and Tessie Thomas will wed on July 30, 2011 and honeymoon in St. Lucia.
- Arthur Jones: Holly Nichols and John Gervais will wed on October 22, 2011 and perhaps honeymoon exploring the West Coast.

#### • Celebrations:

- Lee Jones Chandler: Ben Augustine and Deborah Russell were married on September 9, 2010, followed by a honeymoon trip to Mexico. Welcome to the Family, Deborah.
- Arthur Jones: Brian Nichols and Tina Tran were married on January 8, 2011, their 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a couple in –where else? Las Vegas. They became engaged at last year's Reunion. Welcome to the Family, Tina.
- Mattie Jones Chandler: Mary Chandler Hewitt celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday last December 31 at a party thrown in her honor at her church surrounded by family and friends. Mary is alert, enjoys walking and an afternoon drive.

#### • Achievements:

- Susan Ellis, received recognition as "Elementary Teacher of the Year 2010" for her School District.
- After having no opponents in the last election, Gil Jones has announced he will not seek re-election as Judge of the 33<sup>rd</sup> District Court of Texas in 2012. He'll keep his gavel warm with some visiting judge work and get in some serious bicycling time, since Lance Armstrong has retired. "Someone has to fill that gap," says Gil.
- After 24 years, Bob Geatches has terminated his 9 to 5 commitment as Director of Pharmacy with East Texas Medical Center in Athens to pursue other interests, which might include some golf, travel, more Jones Valley time, and that famous "to be determined."
- Whitfield Diffie will be inducted into the National Inventors' Hall of Fame in Washington, D.C. on May 4 and formally named a Fellow of the Computer History Museum, in Mountain View, California, on April 30.
- Perry Cameron, age seven, won third overall in the Louisiana State Gymnastics Championships on March 19<sup>th</sup> in level four age group. Congratulations, Perry!

#### New Ventures:

- Don and Summer Engel have forsaken Houston and now are in the business of manufacturing snowboards at Big Bear Lake, California.
- Joe Diffie's first bluegrass album, *Homecoming*, is now available, along with *Homecoming: The Diffie Family Cookbook*, at www.JoeDiffie.com.
- Jennifer Jones' son and his wife, Matt and Leslie Andrews, who were so helpful last year during the Memorial Day cleanup, have been relocated to Tyndall AFB in Panama City, Florida. She is serving as a Public Health Officer and he is an AWACS instructor.
- Alex Bowman Baker completed his Air Force service and will be attending Oklahoma's Northeast State University this fall. Thank you for your service, Alex.

Congratulations to all.... Yes, cousins, there is good news out there!

## ~ Release of Liability Waiver ~

A concern for many years has been the Family's possible exposure to liability lawsuits and the disastrous effect this would have on the Family and Jones Valley. This year your Executive Board took action and the four members who are lawyers developed a Release of Liability Waiver to be read and signed by Family members who visit Jones Valley. Though visionaries, our founding ancestors could never have imagined our current litigious society. Your help in signing the waiver will do much towards avoiding future legal issues and protect the Family and Jones Valley for the generations to come. In advance of the Reunion, the Waiver will be available on the Family website to read, print, sign, and either bring to the Reunion, or mail to me: Mike White, 6512 Topeka Road, McLean, VA 22101. It is important that everyone attending the Reunion read and sign this Waiver, either in advance, or upon arrival.

# ~ Valley News Catch-Up ~

- Diffie Cabin In the final stages of construction at the 2010 Reunion, this modest structure was completed in the fall, with the final touches being a beautiful staining of the log exterior. The cabin, all envy aside, was duly christened with a Thanksgiving gathering of the Diffie clan.
- Nelson's Retreat Off the radar a little because of its location, is Nelson and Micah Cameron's (almost) completed cabin, up the Valley about a half mile, just past the first creek crossing. It was begun over a decade back by Heidi Fogden with timber frame construction from New Hampshire, later using timber cut from the Valley with a portable one-man sawmill. Nelson took over the project in 2002, and has seen it through. The cabin is beautifully positioned right where a spring waterfall trickles down to the creek. This is truly a rustic getaway to the beauty and serenity of nature.
- Braswell Cabin Larry and Paula's cabin upgrade and expansion is 95% complete. The original cabin was built in 1944 by Wilma Highsmith as a WWII homecoming present for her husband, Lloyd. This renovation has turned a one-room cabin with a storage room, into a totally new concept with two levels, three bedrooms, and a living room now warmed with a wood-burning stove and topped off with an antique German stained-glass window!
- Low-Water Dam The low-water dam's structure, although appearing solid, had incurred what appeared to be some minor damage from the major storm that hit the area last May. Also, the safety railing had been damaged beyond usability. After extensive review by the Executive Board, the decision was made to install a new railing, repair the damaged portion of the dam, and further bolster the structure with cement extensions. This important project was led by Joe Diffie, with help from Larry Braswell.

# ~ What to Bring ~

- Bug spray chiggers!
- Musical instruments
- Lawn chairs
- Cameras
- Board games challenge!
- Inner tubes (auto/truck)
- Water survival gear
- Bicycles for the ride
- Photo albums/Pictures, especially of past Reunions
- Those bringing children as guests should have a document authorizing emergency medical care, should it be needed
- And finally, leave any big city suburban stress behind!

## ~ Places to Stay ~

Because lodging accommodations are limited in the Glenwood/Caddo Gap area and tend to book-up early for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday, get a reservation pronto if you are not staying in the Valley. Use area code 870. Hickory Hills Cabins is near the Narrows, and their reservations are made through the Caddo River Camping and Canoe rental. The Bean Creek Cabins are as close as you can get to Jones Valley without being in it.

Lux	356-2277	Caddo River Ranch Cabins	334-2598
Ouachita Mountain Inn	356-3737	Riverwood Inn	356 - 4567
Caddo River Motel	356 - 4117	Hickory Hills Cabins	356-5336
		Bean Creek Cabins	260 - 4365

## ~ Fireworks ~

The paramount concern with fireworks is safety – children must have adult supervision when setting off fireworks. Secondly, do not set off fireworks where the result will trash the creek or swimming hole. Third, please do not set off fireworks during music. Fourth, all fireworks trash and debris must be picked up or it will be mailed COD to the Family Line representative.

## ~ http://jonesvalley.us ~

Following Cousin Gil adding the "Ancestor Book" feature, which lets us add stories and documents about our ancestors, some serious work has been done on our Family website – especially with the Arthur line by Gail Suggs. Gail's work on Arthur and his children inspired other of Arthur's descendants to jump in and fill out their information. Arthur lived an extremely interesting life and the stories are fascinating. Now, thru our website, these stories are accessible – thanks Gail. This is going to get better as we put pieces of this rich history together. Thanks to Gil Jones, the website is available to us all. The software, a free package that Gil has spent considerable time tailoring for our use, can be a bit cranky, or not very intuitive, but it is worth the effort. Give it a try, don't give up, and you can make it work for you – I am proof of that.

### ~ Remembrance ~

Over this past year, we lost two dear Family members: Jim Bowman and Claude Cameron, both with decades of Reunion and Jones Valley history, and now at rest in the Family Cemetery. Though neither was able to attend last year's Reunion, their spirits were there with us, and their memory will be forever with us. Their passing serves to remind us of how quickly life passes, and relationships built on Family love and ties need to be appreciated. Joni Mitchell's words "You don't know what you've got till it's gone" certainly ring true here.

## ~ Your Annual Plea ~

We are so fortunate to have Family members who contribute financially well over their "fair share" and regularly step forward to provide the funds needed to meet unforeseen expenses. A recent example: When the Executive Board was advised that extending the dam repair to include needed safety and strength improvements would exceed our current financial capability, several members stated that the project should be done right and they would help with the additional funds needed.

Now is your opportunity to step up and contribute, at whatever level possible for you, to the support and preservation of your legacy. You are a shareholder — only in our corporation; you send in the investment and the dividends you receive in return are so many, including the right to say, "My Family has this unique endeavor in rural Arkansas, near a little town called Caddo Gap......"

Yes, I can help support the Reun	nion and Valle	ey. Enclosed is my contribution, a check for
\$ (Make payable	to Clingman-	Jones Family)
Comments:		From:
++++++++++++++++++		+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
	(Send it in	i way:

All checks and change of mailing or email addresses should be sent to Mike White, our Secretary/Treasurer:

Mike White 6512 Topeka Road McLean, VA 22101 703-448-9681 Mike.Lynn7@Verizon.net

~ Thanks So Much For Your Help ~