

CLARK NEWS

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DOES THIS SOLVE OUR PROBLEM?

After a silence of over half a year perhaps I ought to start out with some sort of explanation. Frankly, I never intended to keep silent for so long. I have had enough material here in the way of letters from the family to make up a Clark News a long time ago, but I haven't had any information about our research and while I have been waiting for it, I've been using the time for a few little items of my own. I have now decided that those few little items of my own can wait while I get back in contact with my family, before I lose my job. I haven't had any news to speak of concerning our research except an item or two that I will discuss later on in this issue.



Yes Sir
WERE CALLING YOU

What I have had is a little brainstorm so I really am getting this issue out to discuss it with you. You are all aware of the fact that we have tried for the past four years to hold Clark Reunions. We held three in Grantsville and one in Idaho Falls. All of them were too much work and none of them gave us the opportunity to actually do the things we ought to do when we hold a Reunion, get into this matter of research and family division of responsibility. We had programs and we ate and before we got to the business at hand, if we ever did, the thing was breaking up because somebody wanted to get on his way.

There are two things to do in such cases. The one is to drop the Reunion, which was my only intention as far as I was concerned after this last one. The other is to make it serve the purpose for which it was created so that it will be an actual benefit to the family, and go on with them to a successful conclusion of our work, which is the only proper way that I can now see to do it.

Why the change of heart? Well, I'll tell you why. Lois and I were in Salt Lake to April Conference and we were walking along South Temple about a block and a half east of the Temple Square when I saw a sign in a hotel window. It said, We cater to parties, banquets, etc. Well, I had just returned a few days before from a national convention of an organization to which I belong which was held in Chicago in the Palmer House. The Palmer House is one of Chicago's leading hotels and of course the personnel there are trained to perfection in handling conventions. As I watched the simplicity with which that huge convention was run off because all the details were handled by the hotel and the officials of the organization were free to devote all of their time and attention to the business of promoting the PDCA (Painting and Decorating Contractors of America if you're curious) I thought then, You know, if we, of the Clark Family, could adopt something like this on a scale suited to our needs, I think it would be something. So, you see, on that day when we were walking past that hotel the whole thing came back to me and I said to ma, Hey, wait a

minute. I got business in here. And I took off and left her.

I discovered that they have a lovely, but small, dining room. It will seat about 80 people. There were about a thousand of who ate at the Palmer House and I guess more than that when we ate at the Conrad Hilton. But anyway, this does have a neat little dining room and it is off by itself and the lady in charge said that we could have the dining room for the evening for our meeting etc and they would serve us dinner when we wanted it. We would pay so much a plate for the dinner and they wash all the dishes and cook all the beans. Now, ain't that sumpin'?

If this little idea appeals to you, I think it would solve our whole problem of Reunions. No work, no worry, no nothing. Just come and eat and let them haul off the dishes and then we go into our meeting. A small but neat and clean Hotel right there too for those that want reservations.

Now, there is another thought. Perhaps some of you would prefer a larger, or a more prominent place. There are banquet rooms in all the larger hotels in Salt Lake and in most of the better restaurants. I suppose that any of them could be reserved for that night, but I sort of thought this one might be a little easier on the budget. I know in Chicago our organization had to guarantee, for one banquet, at least 600 plates at \$8.00 per plate. Of course there was a lot of trimming thrown in such as a nationally known orchestra, and an hour long floor show with some pretty big names in it, and we can have some of that too, if we want it, but we'll have to pay for it. Then, we'll be tired when it's all over, and by the time we'll get ready for the business at hand people will be wanting to go home, and we'll be right back where we started from.

This little place will serve us for \$1.75 per plate or \$2.00, depending I suppose, on trimmings, but it will be food trimmings, no orchestra, and no floorshow. What I have in mind is to eat about 7:30 at night and when the meal is over have someone from the genealogical society, preferably Paul Royal or Kay Kirkham, since they are the only ones that I am acquainted with, come in and talk to us for about half an hour on genealogical work. I don't mean come in, as we would want them to eat with us, but have them talk to us, and then when they had gone, turn the time over to strictly Clark genealogical business and the matter of getting a functioning family organization and a family doing its own particular research etc. I feel that such a meeting, conducted every fall, on the Thursday night before October Conference would be a habit very well worth cultivating and one that would grow because it would be beneficial and entertaining as well.

There is another thought that some of you might have. We could have such a Reunion someplace besides Salt Lake. At some resort hotel, or some Park, or perhaps in one place one year and in another place another. What I think is, that we ought to have it in Salt Lake this October, and while we are there, and can voice our respective opinions, decide on what to do in the future. It's a family affair, you know, and I am not trying to run the family. Now, just one more thing. I usually plead in vain for opinions from you. Will you please, just this once, buy a 2¢ postcard and write to me and tell me where you stand on this one issue. If you will, I'll get out an extra issue of the Clark News just to apologize to you. Oh sob, sob.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN BROKE?

Well, if you haven't, you are now. We have had over \$200.00 in our family treasury for a long time, over a year, I guess. I was in Salt Lake recently and I went up to talk to our family researcher and while there I asked her if they needed some money. She said that they still had a small amount to our credit, but if we had some it would be well to get it in to them. She explained it this way: If a researcher gets into our area and begins to find some good leads he can stay right there until it has been traced to the end if there is money on deposit. If there is only a small amount, he is not authorized to go farther than the money will cover, and he might not get back in that area again for some time. She said that \$200.00 was not a bit too much to have on deposit.

I haven't sent the money in yet. I think I ought to wait and see if anyone objects before I send it all in, but if anyone doesn't object after I get this issue into your hands, I'll take it as a sign of your approval and I'll send the money we have in to them. If you feel that I should send a smaller amount or if you have any comments on it, I'll wait for you and be guided by your wishes. If you all approve I'll send it in.

That, of course, brings up another matter. We ought to get our fund built back up again. They might need some money one of these days and we might not have it, so I feel that we ought to be doing something about that. I do sincerely suggest that each of you contribute what you can and let's try and get another fund built up.

CANADA WAS HERE:

Since I last wrote my wife and I have had two groups of Clarks call on us from Canada. The first group was the family of Walter Olsen and his wife LaRue. With them were their son John R and his wife Helen and a younger son Marc Kent and a young daughter Karen Lee. They refused to eat or sleep but we appreciated having them stop.

The second group was the wife and children of Frank Olsen. Frank Olsen's health would not permit his coming but his wife, Emma and their son Gordon and his wife Mary Ann and two younger boys, Wayne and Merlin were here. We persuaded them to eat and stay the night so that we had a very pleasant visit.

Some of you might be coming through this little town some day. If you do we hope you'll stop and get acquainted. We've got beans if you want them and we've got beds if you want them. If you don't, we'd still be glad to get acquainted with you.

ABOUT THAT FAMILY BOOK:

Some time back we were going to compile a family history. Anybody want to know why it hasn't been done? Nobody sent me any information to put into it. All I can see to do now is keep on printing the Clark News with whatever information we get and someday, when we get enough in all back issues to make a book, we might do that. In the meantime, some of you have some history, diaries, etc and we are not getting them published. Please send them in so that the rest of the family can have a look too. Your own life's stories are needed too. If you haven't written it yet, you ought to get started on it. You might die, you know.

NEWS NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE:

Ezra Clark of Oakley, Idaho passed away recently after an extended illness. Saul Clark of Burley, who has been sheriff of Cassia county for a number of years has recently been appointed United States Marshall for the state of Idaho. Donald Clark of New York City is graduating this spring from college there. His father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Clark of Oakley went to New York for the event. Rex Price of Idaho Falls, a lad whose interests in the past have leaned strongly but not always toward genealogical work has now been appointed a member of the North Idaho Falls Stake Genealogical committee. Mark Price, seven year old of yours truly, whose interests have also leaned, didn't lean far enough the other day when the kids tipped over an iron swing. He's now wearing a cast from his ~~XXXXXX~~ knee to his toes. Parley Clark of Oakley was in Idaho Falls the other day with his wife Alice and their daughter Anne. Mark (the Cast) Price, was sentenced recently to learn the Beattitudes for fighting with his little brother. He quotes, Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comfortable. Charles Clark of Oakley who is Patriarch of Cassia Stake, Bishop of the Oakley First Ward and co-owner of the Oakley Merc and Central Market has come to the conclusion that some people have too much to do. Claude P. Wrathall of Provo recently had to write three times to see if he could find out anything about the Clark family he didn't already know. I finally got his letter answered with the information that he knew everything I knew except that Thomas Henry Clark's mother was Sarah Flain.

NAMES MAKE THE NEWS:

A paper called the Clark News ought to have news in it about the Clark family members. In the course of time I meet a few of the family members and I learn all I can from them about other family members but even then all I have to print is a small representation of a really large family. I am not pleading. I am not arguing. I am merely stating what ought to be an obvious fact. If the Clark News is to contain news of the family, or biographies of the family, or history of the family, then the members of the family have got to submit it to me. News of births, deaths, occupations, marriages, visits, trips, as well as a million other items make up interesting reading. If you will appoint one person in your own town of the Clarks who live in that town to be Clark News reporter you will do yourselves, your fellow Clarks and your posterity a favor. Grantsville, Oakley, Canada, and several other places have enough Clarks to warrant a reporter in each place. I suggest that you get together there and appoint one.

HOW OFTEN DO WE GET THE CLARK NEWS?

At first I tried to mail one every month but it took too much time. I have gradually neglected it until now about twice a year is all I get done. I am of the opinion that once a month is too often and twice a year is not often enough. Henceforth the Clark News will be printed January, April, July, October. Due to a lot of other duties I'll have to print them up as I go along so they'll be ready by the above dates so if you want to send me any information, don't wait until the printing date to do it. Do it as you can, at least once a month would be better. I can't get on schedule now until October, but will get one issue out as soon as I hear from you on the problems of this issue so you'll all know what to do about the fall Reunion. Each of you should feel it your duty to write me about that matter at once.