

2. Mary, Lynn, and Alan's Excellent Adventure

After I started my Christmas surprise this past summer, I soon recognized I would need to make a trip to our original American homeland, the great state of Pennsylvania. The trip would include trips to visit Aunt Mill in Buck Run, the cemetery in Deep Creek Valley, and a trip to the Pittsburgh area. I began to get excited as I visualized the trip, and wanted to share the excitement. Mary, being only four hours away in Nashville, gracefully accepted both my invitation and my desire to keep it a surprise. The planning wheels began to move and we scheduled a weekend in October.

The excitement spread as Lynn, who was planning to come east in October, was recruited into the adventure. Lynn was given the tough assignment of making contact and arranging a meeting with the Pittsburgh clan. Lynn was not only successful with arranging a meeting with Aunt Dorothy, but also announced that Marie and Jean Shamay would be joining us! (I had never met a Shamay other than Grandma Mary- this was just too much!)

On Thursday, October 19, Lynn flew into Nashville and drove with Mary to meet me in Knoxville. Then we began our long drive together. We traveled to Buck Run, Mabel, Monroeville, and Pittsburgh. We saw Aunt Mill, cousin Dorothy, Aunt Dorothy, cousins Marie and Jean, and others. It was a wonderful, exciting time. Although we drove over 2000 miles in four days, the time just flew by. A brief journal of our adventures follow.



The three sibs starting their PA adventure



Buck Run: Although we are in the shade in this photo, you can still make out Pope, Dorothy, Mary, Alan, and Mill.



The ruins of the old theatre behind Aunt Mill's house, where we played as kids.