

Many years ago, one of the nephews made the comment that "this family has a family reunion every other weekend, so we really had a good chance to get to know our cousins". Now you are once again "getting to know your cousins" and we would like to add a few comments on the subject:

"REMEMBERING THE KIDS"
by the aunts

DUANE: When Duane came along, some of us were not much older than he was, so we looked on him as a younger brother who came to visit once in awhile. On one visit, Grandma Sauter was sewing a dress for one of her seven daughters and when this person came into the room to be fitted, wearing only a slip, Duane was so embarrassed that he crawled under the table and covered his eyes.

JIM: Jim was always the "rascal"...he didn't care what went on as long as he was happy. When he started to wear glasses at a young age, he wasn't going to let them stop him from rough and tumble play, so they were usually bent out of shape and a couple of times he had to be sent back to the schoolyard to find them, after coming home without them.

VERN: His first nickname was "Shimmal"...translated meaning white hair, but that was soon replaced by "Ole" because he looked more like a blond Swede than a Dutchman. Vern decided at an early age that he would NOT be a farmer, after tipping the plow in his first attempt at farming.

PATTY: Patty was raised with three big brothers, which gave her a chance to learn to stand up for her rights. It was a real change for Lydia to comb locks instead of crew cuts.

BETTY: Betty was so tiny when they brought her home from the hospital, we were all a little afraid of her, but we soon got into the act of spoiling her. She was quite shy until she borrowed a skirt from one aunt and a sombrero from another aunt and entered a talent contest, singing "Manana"...she did win a prize in her age group, but we thought she should have had the grand prize.

FRITZY & ROBERTA: These two little girls must have had a bad time after their mother died, living in a small house with a grandmother, a grandfather, two aunts and their father (part time). They must have wondered who to listen to. Roberta was a great one for always making teeny tiny items...the smaller the better. Fritzy took a couple of bad falls, but we'll let her tell you about those.

BURT: Better known as Peter when he was a youngster..he and Ole were buddies from the time they were very young...and still are. Burt's favorite pastime as an adolescent was candling eggs...just ask him.