

Dear Cousin Kathleen ; RR3 Pt Rowan Ont NOE 1M0. 17th July '96

The endless minutes and hours spent at this computer keyboard in simply composing and editing the existing text of the above Autobiography, is or was well anticipated, but that's no excuse for putting it off also endlessly !

Because just now, this 'day after' a visit by 2 of sister Catherines's sons, ((Robert & James Park, (56 & 55 yrs of age this year in Feb & April)). With them was Ian, Robert's youngest at 14 yrs this Nov, and not yet grown up to the towering height of his half-brother Robin who at 21 this Sept, is brushing door lintels at 6'4". Their cousin, Daniel also 6'4" at only 16 this April, came with them too. His Father is Warren, who at 50 in April this year is Catherine's 3rd son. Warren has a daughter Catherine, (30 this Nov.) But a son Jonathan who despite much surgery in his infancy had a heart that finally gave out in Aug '95. He was only a little over 17 yrs of age. Ever philosophical, his parents and siblings, reflect that they can only rejoice in the deeply sensitive, intelligently outgoing life he lived he 'left' with them all.

Catherine's three boys are very much aware of their Leonard connection. James 'Leonard' Park, also most resembles W M L in appearance, and follows him in spirit too for he has become a freelance writer, preacher and lecturer on the Theology of Existentialism. Although James is Ordained within the Unitarian Universalist Church; while his grandfather, W M L, found expression in Methodism; in every denomination, as indeed in the life of Jesus the man; the same spiritual commitment needs to be followed. whether by rural pastor, street corner evangelist, or Student Chaplain, humans are challenged by their birthright to **BE the FREE AGENTS God created them to be.**

Robert's wife Barbara. and Warren 'n Patti, had other family to call upon as the **PARK CLAN** make their way by land and air to their "once in five year" Family Reunion. Their homesites literally span the Continent. Of Catherine's two step children. Betty, will be hostess for the week or so in this 1/2 decade, at her rural Nova Scotia cottage on Minas Basin at the head waters of the Bay of Fundy. Her full brother Douglas moved to Florida from California where 2 of his children still live. 2 of Catherine's 3 sons are in Minnesota (James & Warren) while Robert is in Wisconsin, all just west of Lake Michigan

WML fears he'll make this 'brief' outline of the Park clan, not so brief. He'll use one of the many '1996' copies of the PARK FAMILY TREE that Robert Park regularly makes for each of their 'reunions'!! Though it covers only Wilford Park's family that WML's sister Catherine married into. She was but the second of his three wives. In Wilford's 58 years of married life, he out lived the 1st two of them. In the first 8 yrs, "Lila" (Marshman) left him Betty and Douglas. These Catherine raised in her 20 yrs with Wilford, while leaving him, her three sons Robert, James, & Warren. In the next 30 yrs "Evelyn" (Hartman) cared for him, until he died, (Feb '85, @ 84 yrs of age). She had been a Medical Doctor from one of the Nordic Countries when she married him, and this Nov. will be 84 herself. She had married a second husband, "Erkki Leppo", since Wilford's death, who, since then, has also died at almost 87yrs yrs old this past April !!

..... here it is the 26th August '96, and despite WML's intention, yesterday, to wind up all this for a mailing-out today, he wanted to made error free copies of 'your Uncle Will's' (unfinished) auto-biography. It may have been unfinished but still takes 11 or 12 pages !! (depending on whether its typed out in 10 characters per inch, or 12 or 17 or even 20, though by that time a magnifying glass is needed, for most eyes that have been in use these 70 (+) years past.) So WML chose to print it continuously by what is called 'document on disk' command.

He'd spent 'so' much time getting it letter perfect. Computer print paper comes in 'fan-fold' packages, as many sheets as one wants to afford. Way back in the euphoria of the occasion of being given an surplus small computer printer 26 Aug '96 by Irene's neice, (down Dunnville way), WML bought a carton (of maybe a 1000 sheets) of fanfolds for \$40, which lasted for a few years, but then a sale came along at some discount store or other. and he bought a 2200 sheet carton for only comparative 'peanuts' price of somewhere under only \$10, (maybe it was only 5 or 6 dollars). 'So much for impulse buying' though the first purchase probably was gratefully received by the little local store owner in Dunnville 'way back then!!.

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(who is philosophizing now.) ('philosophizing' 'is' spelled that way but in looking it up in the big Collins Dictionary (that was WWL's birthday gift from Irene 'only' last March, '92) checked on the work in progress on his repairs to book's binding. He found that the interim gluing had stuck the wrong way, and had to be water brushed until soft so it'd pull apart, and that delayed lunch call a bit, until now its an hour or so, later. philosophizing indeed, its not a choice !!)

Third paragraph 'up' remember? (WWL forgets so easily) 'document on disk' command, means to print from text that has been electronically 'stored' on the computers main storage disk. So WWL assumed the printer would print out odd pages 1,3,5,7,9,11 on one side of six 'fan-fold' sheets, then by turning the long strip over he'd print out the 'even' pages 2,4,6,8, 10,11 on the backs of the 'odds'. And it did so quite dutifully.

But, WWL forgot that he'd given the (2) computers (the printer itself has its own minicomputer memory or "brain" as well as the main computer's "brain") a choice; WWL had been making all his latest alterations to the text on the screen. But it had been given the same 'filename' as had been given to the text in memory.!!!! So equally dutifully both (machine) brains decided to print out the previous version text, Sure there were some errors that sneaked through, and though WWL didn't 'need' any copies of the 'old' text, he still corrected them, as good enough spares.

By that time it was well past WWL's midnite snack hour, so he double checked the 'screen' version' text and put that in memory, to erase the previous, text, and keyed in the document on disk ommand to print pages 1,3,5,7,9,11 again. While the printer was 'zipping' (the sound it makes as it prints out the 60 odd lines per page) WWL carried on his snack preparations. Irene was a-bed for another 'single cover' hot night.

Then the printer changed its 'tune' the already printed sheets coming from the printer were curling over and starting to feed back in. Oh well four of the six sheets were passable even though the top title and page line of some of the pages, had shifted to the bottom line of the previous pages!!! So pages 1,3,5,7, could take (carefully watched) pages 2,4,6,8, print outs and 9,10,11 were individual print outs.

So bedtime was at 'only' 4 hours of the next day. By 9:30 hr WWL was up for his 71 "push pull ups" and weigh in, still at 125 lbs despite the generous (2 mugs full of veggies and roughages) his midnight snack. He didn't trouble to take his pulse after the push pulls, they take only 1 or 2 minutes, and the 150 pulse rate barely gets up before it falls back to normal 70 or so !!

Before '87 when he used his jogging track, 1/6 mile once 'round, this 5 acre "bushlot" here, (the entire lot is bush, including trees as high as 60 or 70 ft or more); 2, 3, or more 'laps' would keep the pulse up quite long enough to be measured. But his foot 'chop-off' made it much more of a chore to run, so he's settled for the in house 'push pulls'.

At first even 10 push pulls would be all the legs would take, Then he noticed that at 30 they seemed to complain, then it was 50, and now 9 yrs since the foot injury, they conk out at 70 if its within 90 seconds. Sometimes when he's still half asleep, he gets going so slowly that he racks up 100 push pulls before he wakes up enough to speed up and 'work at it' !!

His sister Evelyn had a full four day celebration put on for her 80th birthday, thanks to the ambitious imagination of her family. Included, was the episode when her younger progeny (including grandchildren of course), had hoped to be part of a package, that was introduced to Evelyn as 'being too big to be wrapped up'. Of course although almost small enough, they would not have submitted to 'being wrapped up'.

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But anyway Evelyn was invited to come out the front door to see the unexpected, all the way from Thunder Bay (to Ottawa airport the day before and kept overnight at one of Evelyn's girls' apartment elsewhere in the city) by Beaver Aircraft, 6ft 4in, standing on the front step wearing a great big grin, Jay Patrick Henderson, (46 yrs last January), Evelyn's second child (of her 3 girls and two boys).

Crowning the celebrations of course, subject of photographic proof by those who saw her ensconced in the glider at Rideau Valley Soaring School, was her *FREE FLIGHT*. The glider, with its pilot and passenger and tow cable are pulled up to speed by the powered airplane, so both take to the air together, where at sufficient altitude the towing cable is dropped by the glider as it 'takes to the thermal updrafts' to soar to even greater heights.

The pilot offered acrobatics, and/or a turn at the controls, to both of which Evelyn had the same answer, 'Nope' !! That Sunday afternoon before her actual Birthday, Monday the 27th May, must have been a good 'soaring day' for the pilot could give Evelyn the grand tour of sights on every horizon; the St Lawrence down North East from Montreal, and South where it enters Lake Ontario at 1000 Islands. West would be Algonquin Park with North Bay just on the horizon beyond to the North West.

27th July is Eric and Evelyn wedding anniversary, and '95 was their 50th, so the same spirit of Celebration brought friends and family from all around. That included Wesley & Irene, by way of sister Alice's big country house in the country east of Cobourg. She and her youngest, Graham joined the Ottawa 50th Wedding celebrations too. Some photos copies from Irene & Wes's cameras may turn up eventually in Evelyn's Album. So far Evelyn's films have been developed and printed, and sent to Wes & Irene, long before their films are even filled up !!!

Alice's preference is for the solitude of the country, where she was wont to keep a few goats, pheasants, & chickens (bantams included) for food and rearing, breeding stock etc. Now badly bent with arthritis she still drives her car, and cares for a few pets, an elderly cat or two and dog(s). Graham (Ross, Leonard, Cowan) 36 this last May, helps out when he's home. With a degree in Chemical Engineering, he did actually have a job in that field once, with a Rubber Co'y. Just now, a 'get by' job in Belleville lets him have an apartment there and can help at home on week ends. PS ... a later report the job had petered out !!

Her other children, Judith and Hector have outstanding 'linguistic' ability. It lets Judith (statuesquely 53 this Sept) remain single and secure as Languages Professor at a Three Rivers University in Quebec, Doris, (who used to be a curly red head & small like her Mother), is 50 this Sept. She's been a freelance writer, even including a stint with the U.N. as a translator. The man, 'Hilts', Doris was with, may be 'in touch' but not 'around' ! So their son Timothy (Leonard Cowan 'Hilts'), (16 this Sept) is given his Father's name by his 'Single Mom'!! But then look at the Leonard Family Tree Content Pages list, (enclosed). Our mutual Grandmother, Mary Ann Leonard was a single mom and gave my Father her birth name Mark, same as your brother had. !!

Hector and Hilda however, are married and have been, 'with children' where ever Hector has been 'posted' by the Canadian Foreign Service. Ottawa is his home base of course. but his linguistic talent has let him be sent to Russia, France, India, and even Brazil for a spell.

The names of the four girls; Moira, Hannah, Victoria, Georgia, turned up in WNL's first 'loose laced' family tree folder, (the same one WNL had when he used Kathleen's typewriter on a beginning of a Leonard Family tree folder of pages). on a scrap of paper labelled 'Hector's Children. Inserted at the same page, was a letter from Evelyn saying she couldn't get the info from Alice, or at least not their full names and ages. So WNL'll have to follow advice and get Alice's children's addresses on the "Bushouse" correspondence list !!!.

Come to think of it, there may be a few in the Watts' 'next generation' that might like to know of a Leonard ancestor, who 'pulled up roots and rambled'. A copy of this package will go to Jessie, whose address is likely the same as when Irene and Wesley visited back in '89.

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Just last week, one afternoon, Maurice Weekes, (born March 1915, making him 80 yrs old, first cousin on WWL's Mother's side) and his wife Altje (Ollie) came visiting from "The Maples" near Glencoe. That's where WWL's Mother (25 January 1875/1959) was born, five & half years older than Maurice's Father Herbert. He was the youngest of the family and inherited the Farm, which is now sign posted, a "Century Farm". the Weekes Family Bible is still used for family tree entries, though WWL's not examined it. Maurice seems to value anything ancestral, because when WWL gave him a copy of the "WML Autobiography", he was visibly pleased and said to his wife Altje, "Its Uncle Will's Biography".

But now again its another day, and as WWL reached out his arm to the light over this computer word processing keyboard, in order to read the date on his wrist watch, (the 27th a Tuesday this Aug '96), he noticed the burrs still tangled in his arm hair. That leads into a next story, 'cause he was looking under his Lebaron Chrysler, to see if and where the brake fluid was escaping. Sure enough a rusted out tube was leaking, seemingly to the left rear brake but it turned out to be in a cross over tube to the right rear !!

(Not long ago it would have been unthinkable!!!..... how long indeed has it been since WWL did 'all' the maintenance that vehicles, equipment, house & shop bldgs, the yard, needed, five years ? ten years ? only this year did WWL apply to the local council to have his business taken off the tax role after having paid a business taxes ever since it was only a few dollars 'a year' until now it's come to be some \$45 dollars 'every quarter year'

But now every so often WWL pays others their \$'s rate equivalent of \$40 \$50 or even \$75 an hour. though its unclear whether they're on the 'flat \$'s rate' per job (where the service man frantically figures how many 'flat rate jobs' he can find in any repair operation, in order to charge 'X' dollars for each one. But these shops find it pays them to have all the time saving equipment possible, dreadfully expensive as it is.

Thus WWL finds that repairs that would take him days, to do 'by hand', can be done in hours or less. On the other hand WWL's work very seldom had to be redone, for he took time to avoid problems. Most problems arose when customers became impatient and insisted on ending their jobs too soon. But WWL's mere \$6 hourly rate brought them back. 'That' & WWL thinks they enjoyed his explaining just what was to be done and then be carefully done, still at a small fraction of the high speed, high priced shops' prices !!

Irene had taken the car this morning to her volunteer clerking job at the local Thrift Shop, but after a 1/2 mile on her way noted that there was almost no braking to be had. Returning she got WWL to take her into Port, and bring the car back for check over. So for a day the car had to be used with the brake warning light 'on', with the dual brakes 'half' working the front brakes only.

For instance this rusted out brake line was right beside a fuel line that a shop replaced as part of a \$300 odd fuel line and other 'stuff' operation, But 'they' never took time to notice it. Anyway by phoning around, WWL found shop where he can get the tube replaced tomorrow at 13:00 hrs. That was after being given an appointment for 10:30 hrs on Thurs. at another shop but at that one he can 'finally' correct the failure of still another shop to correctly repair the emergency brake system, despite an almost \$400 bill. some years ago.

So all that 'll be over by tomorrow night when WWL's called to a meeting of the Committee who head up the Erie Presbytery "Caribbean Workers Outreach Project" or "C.W.O.P" for short. Just about this time the First Jamaican Lay or Clergy Pastor will have been met at Toronto's Pearson Airport, for the trip back to the Simcoe area. The schedule faces a great variety of variables.

Two host families, provide homes for the two Pastors' four or five week terms. The second Pastor arrives so the two pastors work together for a week before the first returns to his pastorate or other Jamaican job, (from which they're given leave of absence).

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Then the second remains to the end of the harvest season mid or late October. The Committee, the Pastors Workers, Farmer Employers/Growers, face all these and especially the seasonal weather for growing and harvesting of tobacco, market garden produce, apples and other fruits harvesting engage up to 2000 Caribbean Workers.

Actually WWL's not put it all down in explanation before. The Project 'sort-a-grew like Topsy' (if you remember your "Uncle Tom's Cabin" reading, from which WWL thinks it might be a quotation), over these past 9 or 10 years or more. WWL's role is to make reports from "Erie Presbytery" to the Conference World Outreach C'ttee. via his Mission letter of reports to Erie Presbyteries' 39 Pastoral Charges, at each Presbytery Mtg. (6 times a year)

(plus copies for Secretary and the United Church Women's President, as well as the director of the Christian Learning Centre. Each centre has its own name, this one is called "Five Oaks". That latter happens to be within Erie Presby boundaries, but is one of 3 or 4 across Canada each serving a number of the (12) Conferences of the United Church, plus the "Great Circle Conference" of First nations people).

But Hamilton Conference of UCofC, is replacing its Conference C'ttees of 'Presby. Reps., with Networks. The First Networking Day was its Birthday, but from its plethora of voices, only a second Networking Day was agreed to. At that mtg there were seventeen specific named Networks set up. Since then, WWL, in his 'reports to presby' letters, has welcomed the idea "Networking" as the practise of writing reports and commentaries, to exchange with other members of each named Network, via a round robin sort of newsletter, or some centrally assembled information magazine for distribution either at Presbytery mtgs or other means of reaching every congregation of individuals.

There might even be a chance to get this letter away today this 13th (to make it into a lucky day) of September '96 It's taken some time to get these pages checked for errors. The filename 's been put at the top of page one, 'cause WWL 'always' resents the time taken to search the directory for the its name and call it up out-a (computer) memory. The letter had been begun as an addition to the WML1871-'64, filename, but when it got so long it needed its own name. Here goes for a trial print out, vs proof reading etc.

WWL's spent a lot of time writing his reaction to the first exchange, (on Anti-Racism) he's had with the new concept, called Networking. But he's found that the contact person had no idea at all of the short comings of the old system and the mtg was but a repetition of the old, cross fire type of meetings, (less charitably known as shouting matches). He'll have to write a very 'charitable' report on it for his 'reports to presbytery' plus what should have been done with the very good material on 'anti-racism'

But he found he could write five pages more on the subject, (ultimately condensed to about two or three paragraphs or more) tied in with the part anti-racism has in the Vision of Righteousness. So he's put it in his 'DWOCNF.RPT directory' under filename 'NETWORK.'96'

But now to printout a proof of this again and then on to study of the Leonards' Family Tree, to come up with a latest version.

Yours truly, Wesley (Weekes) Leonard