

PREFACE

In putting this book together, I have met so many wonderful people and to quote Darlene Dehnhardt, "I'm getting like Will Rogers. I haven't met anybody I didn't like." It's been an enlightening experience for me. All my life, I had considered myself a Burgess (my mother's family) until I started meeting so many of my Amos cousins. And no matter what part of the country I was in, I heard the same thing, "I can tell you're an Amos." I also was shown pictures of cousins I resembled and I have to admit, there is a very strong Amos line running through our family. It seems no matter how many other families we marry into and theoretically dilute the line generation after generation, that basic Amos line refuses to become obliterated. John Amos may not have lived a long life but he passed along to each of us an ever-enduring strain of genes that will always tie us together.

At the Amos Reunion on September 13, 1992, I met a California cousin for the first time. Her name was Lisa Applegate. We are close to the same age. Lisa looked at my draft and was surprised to see her name. She found me to say that when she saw her name, for the first time she felt connected. This had always been Momma's family but now it was hers. I hope after reading this, there will be more Amos relatives who will feel "connected" and have a better sense of who they are.

As you read you will see that we have not only been blessed with an abundance of children but we have had more than our share of heartbreak. We have had many tragedies in our family but we are a hardy bunch and those of us left behind do endure.

For any errors and/or omissions, I apologize. I know there will be many and I can only say I tried very hard to find everyone and place them in the proper family. I hope I have succeeded for the most part.