



News of the Month for August, 2007

Memorial High School Class of 1959

Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Dear MHS Classmates,

It is with a sad heart that I write to you about death this month. Several people from our class or relatives of class members have died during July. Death has come softly and quickly to some, but others have had a long and difficult time. Their obituaries are posted on the website, and we thought you'd want to know. Since we take most of our information about classmates and family from the Eau Claire newspaper, the *Leader-Telegram*, these are the only deaths of which we are aware. If there are others that should be added, please let us know.

If you go to the *Later Years* section and then click on "Memorial," you will find an obituary for our classmate, Jim Klawiter, who died on July 13, 2007. Jim certainly had a busy life and many happy years, but he had to spend his last months in a nursing home. Our thoughts and sympathy go out to Jim's family at this sad time.

In the same section, you will find that Barbara Erickson Kleist has been added to the "Memorials." Barbara died on February 14, 2004. However, we did not know about her death until this past month. A more recent picture of Barbara is posted, but we do not have a copy of her obituary. If anyone has information about her death or an obituary, please send us a copy.

Sadly, there are some obituaries posted in the *Other Stuff* section of the website on the "Bulletin Board" also. George Long's sister, Kristine Long Schwartz, died on December 10, 2006, in California, and a graveside memorial service was held for her on July 21, 2007, at Rest Haven Cemetery. In addition to that, Lonnie (Peterson) and Bill Perry's grandson, two-year-old Jacob Perry, of New Auburn, died on July 16, 2007. His obituary is in the same section. And, on July 27, 2007, my brave and beloved sister, Faye Gabrielsen Lokken, passed away at her home on Riverview Drive in Eau Claire. Her obituary is on the "Bulletin Board" also.

Of course, as I write this letter today, the tears are running down my cheeks. It is hard to have the people we love die and face life without them. And, at our age, we are going to encounter more death more often. We can only hope that we have cherished other people while they lived and have lived our lives to the fullest so that we can look at death head-on when it comes because we, too, will be part of our "Memorial" list someday.

Carolyn Gabrielsen Barstad
cjbarstad@charter.net

4292 Mill Ridge Circle
715-835-5080

Eau Claire, WI 54703