

1977

## In Memory of Earl Boyd, by Rollie Barsness

Rollie Barsness

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EARL W. BOYD

(1918 - 1977)

Earl and Muriel Boyd were two of our dearest friends - I think of them almost every day.

Earl and his family moved to Edgerton, WI when he was very young; we became friends when we were about five years old - we lived almost next door to the Lutheran Church where his Dad, who was an accomplished musician in his <sup>own</sup> right, was Pastor. I remember Rev. Boyd entertaining us kids on the musical saw - we were ~~were~~ intrigued.

Earl, a great guy, a wonderful friend, and like his father - an accomplished musician. He played the clarinet, saxophone and piano

In addition to being a musician, he was also VERY good at many sports - football, basketball, golf and tennis - I played all these games with him, but he ~~was~~ always "just a little better".

I have never forgotten, nor forgiven, the U. S. Army (33rd Illinois Division) for stationing ~~him~~ his outfit at Hiroshima, the site of the first atomic bomb blast. A few years ago his younger daughter, Joanne, checked <sup>with</sup> someone and was told that over 82% of his outfit died of cancer!

The last time I saw Earl, he and his dear wife Muriel had driven from Charleston to Stoughton, WI (20 miles south of Madison) to visit her Mom. He called to see if he could drive to Madison and we could play golf. After we completed 9 holes we came to my house; we had a soft drink and talked. I had retired about two weeks earlier (6/27/77) because my job (I was Auditor/Comptroller of Madison Newspapers, Inc.) was killing me I was hospitalized twice for diverticulitis. I explained what it was and he thought that might be what was troubling him, because he had similar symptoms. He went to his doctor when they returned home - but it was not - he became one of the 82%.

The first week in October, 1977, my wife and I drove to his funeral. He was a dear friend for over 50 years, but both he and his dear wife are gone; we loved them both.

## A Special Note...

TO: Dwight Vaught or Katherine Henry:

Beverly McDavitt sent a note some weeks ago, but I have had house guests for the past three weeks and just could not get the enclosed written - I HOPE it is, or any part of it, what you want about a very dear friend.

Also, please excuse my typing - I am 94 years-old and not the typist I used to be.

Gallie Barsness

