

Memorial Book



In Loving Memory of

Rickey Michael Gay

(January 14, 1953 - March 27, 2006)



*"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal,
love leaves a memory no one can steal."*

Found on a headstone in Ireland.

This memorial website was created to remember our dearest **Rickey Michael Gay** who was born in **Albany, Georgia** on **January 14, 1953** and passed away on **March 27, 2006** in **Huntsville, Alabama** at the age of **53**. You will live forever in our memories and hearts.

Beloved husband, best friend, brother, uncle and my teddy bear. He was the eighth of nine children born to Irvin and Ethel

Gay. He is survived by me, his wife, Deidra Gay, his older brother, Robert Gay, sister-in-law, Pam Gay (wife to Robert), their daughter Brandi, and Brandi's daughter, Brianna. He also has an older sister, Ethelyn, who lives in CA. He leaves behind two nephews and a neice that were children of his younger brother, Danny who also passed away of the same disease. His

nephew and neice's names are Charles Daniel, Irvin, and Gabrielle Gay. He also leaves behind his best friend, Marvin Johnson, Lakeland, FL; whom he loved dearly and didn't get to see or talk to as often as he would have liked. He was also very loved by his mother/father-in-law, Robert and Janice Sutter, sisters-in-law (Susan Bell, Patty Badtram, and Missy Jacobs) along with their husbands and children. He also leaves behind his beloved dogs, Penny and Buddy. Penny was his baby. She was a rescue dog and he loved her to pieces. To read more about my beloved Teddy Bear, read his life story.

This is one of the last notes he ever wrote me after a hospital visit, prior to this last one.



"You are my forever!"



Honey, without you I am nothing and would care less if I lived or died. Knowing I have you to love and cherish means everything to me. Being in the hospital showed me just how much I need you and how much you care. I know I would be a shell of a person without you. You are my heart and soul. I am less than nothing without you. I will always love and cherish you, no matter what. I love tomorrow because you are that tomorrow. They say a person has a soul which is eternal. You are my soul. Thank God for creating such a heart as you. If anyone wants to find you, just follow my heart, it will lead you there!"

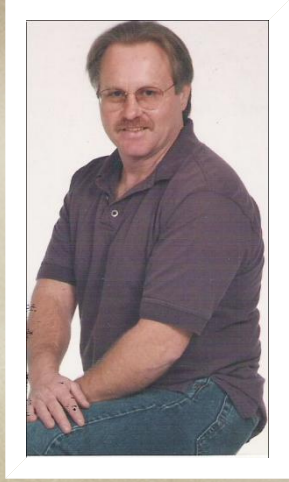
Rick was a wonderful man and always sending me emails with little notes or

cards. He will be in my heart forever. One day I'll join him 'Over The Rainbow'.

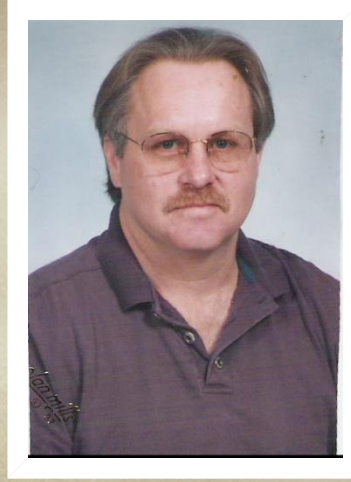
The image features two roses in a muted, earthy color palette, set against a textured, parchment-like background. The roses are positioned in the upper right quadrant, with one slightly larger and more open than the other. The overall aesthetic is soft and romantic.

Gallery

so sweet, so unforgettable...



"Rick



"Rickey



Rick



Rick, Me



"Our



"Our



Rick



Rick



"Rick



"Rick



"Rick



Susan



"Rick



Robert



Robert



Robert



"Rick



Robert



"Wedding



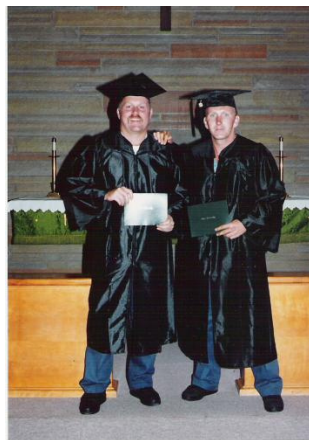
"Rick



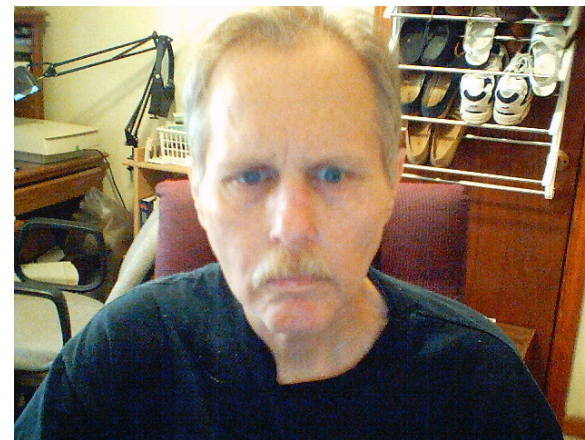
Michael, Me, and Rick (Mt Sano) From when we first started dating.



Rick's Graduation



Rick's Graduation



Rick Emailed Me This Not Long Before He Passed. He said, so I'd Have a Picture of His Pretty Face.



Rick & Debra Gay's
Dog Penny
08-17-05

Penny Gay (She was Daddy's Little Girl)



Rick & Debra Gay
Dog - Buddy
08-17-05

Buddy Gay (He's the youngest, and a Ham)

In our weakest
times God's strength
is ours to trust.
In our saddest times
His compassion is
ours to heal.
In all times His love
is ours to share.

From A Card I Found in his Wallet

The background is a textured, mottled brownish-gold color. In the upper center, there are two roses, one slightly to the left and one slightly to the right, rendered in a lighter, almost ethereal tone that blends with the background. The main title is centered below the roses.

Memorial Candles

our words, your light...

05/07/2007

Deidra Gay

We have a grand-daughter born 6 May 07, Moriah Avery. You would have loved to spoil her. Watch over her for me. Love and Miss You

04/10/2007

Deidra Gay

It has been over a year now since you left to go Over the Rainbow. I miss you more every day. Love Always

01/19/2007

Deidra

You would have been 54 on Jan 14th. I miss you so much. Love You Always and Forever!

01/19/2007

Silvia6234

12/27/2006

BRAVI

May GOD bless your SOUL

12/27/2006

Deidra Gay

I missed you this first Xmas without you. I can't wait until I can join you over there. Love You Always

12/01/2006

Deidra Gay

It has been over 8 months now and it still seems like yesterday. I can't wait until I see you on the 'Other Side'.

10/31/2006

Deidra Gay

It has been over 7 months now. I love & miss you even more. I wish I could see & talk to you.

09/27/2006

Deidra Gay

It has been 6 months today since you left. I love and miss you so much. I can't wait to be re-united with you.

07/17/2006

Deidra Gay

I love and miss you more each day. I look forward to when we can be re-united on the Other Side. Love Your Wife.

06/11/2006

Susan Bell

Thanks for being such a special part of our family. You gave Deidra so much love for which we can never thank you enough. Love ya!

05/26/2006

Patty Badtram

Thank you for giving my sister some very wonderful & happy years. We will miss you very much. Love you!

05/21/2006

Deidra Gay

*I love and miss you so much.
I wait for the day we are
reunited on the Other Side.
Take care my love.*

05/09/2006

jens

*This candle is lit for a good
man who brought joy to
Deidra's life with the time
they had together.*

05/02/2006

Deidra Gay

*I am missing you so much! I
love you and always will. I
can't wait until we are
together again. Your Loving
Wife, Soulmate.*

04/30/2006

Missy Jacobs

*We love and miss you so
much. Even though you are
in a much better place, I
know you will always be
with my sister too.*

04/28/2006

Erin

*May this light bring warmth
on cool evenings, comfort on
warm days, and guidance
through the beauty of the
heavens.*

04/28/2006

Linda Cameron

*...thinking of you Remember
one step, one day at a time*

04/27/2006

Theodore Tyson

*Surly Rickey will be missed
but through it all his Father
knows best. May God be with
you during these times.*

04/26/2006

Your Loving Wife

*I love and miss you so much.
You are the love of my life
and without you there is no
light.*

04/26/2006

Erin

*May this light guide you
while you rest in peace over
the rainbow. May this light
bring warmth and comfort
Deidra and your family.*

04/25/2006

Ruby Turner

May God bring you peace.

04/24/2006

Wanda Young

*Deidra, it was a pleasure
meeting you. Remember, in
the spring of your season to
come, you will blossom.*

04/24/2006

CAROL LANIER

*Our body's are only
temporary and fade away
with time. But the love we
give so willingly remains
with those we love so dearly.*

04/24/2006

Shelia Scruggs Howard

Deidra, may God continue to bless you and comfort you. You and your family are in my prayers.

04/24/2006

Pat Peake

It never makes sense to lose a loved one .. but, through God's love we maintain them forever in our hearts.

04/24/2006

Lewis Spencer

God has a special place for wonderful people like Rick, who brought sunshine into Deidra's life - he will be missed...

04/24/2006

Linda Riddle

I never knew you Rick but I know you made Deidra happy and for that I love you also. May you rest in the Lord's presence now.

04/24/2006

Pam Gay

We miss you very much. You are in our hearts and thoughts daily. We love you little brother, Robert & Pam

04/23/2006

Bob and Janice

May God find a special place in Heaven for such a wonderful man who was so good to and for our daughter. We miss you so much.

04/23/2006

Arilmoonflower

MAy the four winds blow you safely home. RIP.

04/23/2006

Erin

May this candle bring warmth and help you to find Deidra. The light you brought to her life will be forever bright.

04/23/2006

Betsy

Rest in peace in your place called here, there and everywhere...xoxo mamabets

04/23/2006

Tim

Wishing everyone some peace this day. Rickey seemed like such a great guy. Take care, thoughts and prayers. Tim.

04/22/2006

SANDRA DECKARD & BOYS

Deidra, just know in your heart you will always have an angel watching over you now... we love you and have you in our prayers.

04/22/2006

Erin

You are so loved. May the arms of the angels bring you peace and comfort to you and your family. Your light shines on.

04/22/2006

June and Butch

We love you.

04/22/2006

Aine Brown

*Your spirit will live on in
peace and joy.*

04/22/2006

Deidra

*For the love of my life, soul
mate, best friend, and
husband. I will love you
always and miss you
forever.*

The image features two roses, one smaller and one larger, positioned in the upper right quadrant. They are rendered in a soft, monochromatic style that blends with the background. The background is a textured, mottled brownish-gold color with subtle variations in tone and some faint, larger-scale floral patterns.

Condolences

from the deepest of our hearts...

Rie Davis

I feel your pain Peace be with you

May 31, 2006

I know your pain as I can feel it for you I know what you are going through because my husband Glenn passed away less then one month ago ... Peace be with you

Jens

So Sorry

May 9, 2006

Deidra,

My thoughts are with you. I know how you are hurting so. It is a lonely time for the living right now but not for the ones who passed. Keep your memories of him forever until you see each other again.

Saundra

Condolence

April 25, 2006

When somebody dies, a cloud turns into an angel and flies up to tell God to put another flower on a pillow. A bird gives the message back to the world, and sings a silent prayer that makes the rain cry. People disappear, but they never really go away. The spirits up there put the sun to bed, wake up grass, and spin the earth in dizzy circles. Sometimes you can see them dancing in a cloud during the day-time, when they're supposed to be sleeping. They paint the rainbows and also the sunsets and make waves splash and tug at the tide. They toss shooting stars and listen to wishes. And when they sing wind songs, they whisper to us, don't miss me too much. The view is nice and I'm doing just fine.

Carol Lanier

Condolences

April 24, 2006

May God wrap you in his embrace and grant you peace in knowing Rick is with Him now and made whole again.

Pat Peake

With Sympathy and Prayers

April 24, 2006

His love will comfort you.

Erin

a beautiful site, sight

April 22, 2006

I do wish you and your family peace at this difficult time. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. He is in your heart. Hold him there until you can once again hold him in your arms. My deepest sympathies.

Much love,

Erin

May you find peace in the midst of this loss.

Bob & Maryann

With heartfelt love & prayers,

April 22, 2006

Deidra & Family, At this time of pain and sorrow, may you find comfort in the Lord's everlasting arms of love. His grace is sufficient for all of life's heartaches. We are praying for you all to find comfort during this time of heartache...

**Drs James and Amy
Makemson**

With Sympathy and Prayers

April 22, 2006

How comforting it is to know That God will give you strength for the needs you face today. We were so sorry to hear of your husband's death. We know this is a very difficult time for you and your family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Drs James and Amy Makemson and Staff

Kroger Pharmacy

To Comfort You

April 22, 2006

May it ease your sorrow and comfort you, too, To know that others are thinking of you.
Your friends at the Kroger Pharmacy.

Vicki and Anthony

Your In Our Thoughts and Prayers

April 22, 2006

It's so hard to find the right words, But I hope you'll know somehow, My sympathy and very
warmest thoughts Are with you now. All our Love and Prayers.

***Les Miller/Staff,State
Farm***

Condolences

April 22, 2006

We and so sorry to learn of Rickey's passing. Please share our condolences with your
family. May your memories bring you comfort in the days ahead.

Staley Colvet DDS

Condolences

April 22, 2006

Knowing Rick has been a blessing for me. I hope and pray for good times for you.

God Bless

The background is a textured, mottled brownish-gold color. In the upper right quadrant, there are two roses. The one on the left is smaller and more tightly curled, while the one on the right is larger and more open, showing its petals. The roses are rendered in a light, almost ethereal tone, blending with the background.

Shared Memoirs

all the gray you turned into colors...

Susan Bell

The first time I met Rick was in July of 1998. I went to visit Deidra and I have to admit, check out this man who my sister kept talking about. I was curious about him because you have to understand my sister. She is EXTREMELY picky about men and I could not believe that she had found one who had "passed the Deidra test." She and I visited for several days and Rick was all she talked about. When he came to her house after a long week at work you could see the love on her face towards him. I got to visit with him for the weekend and I was in awe of how good Rick was to her. I prayed I would find a person half as good. The love these two people brought to each other was amazing.

Rick brought so much to our family. We were fortunate enough to have him be a part of our lives for such a short time but he brought a lifetime of special memories for each of us.

The last time I talked to Rick it was to wish him a Happy Birthday. My last words to him were "Love Ya." I thank God for giving me that last chance to tell him. One day we will all meet again "Over the Rainbow."

Deidra Gay



Rick and I met on-line at American Singles. We were both searching for something. We emailed back and forth for short while, then started chatting on the phone for awhile, then decided to meet in person on Sep 13, 1997. Rick lived 2 hours away, so he would come see me on the weekends. One night (I think in Oct) when he was saying good night on the phone from his home, he said "I love You". I said it back without even thinking about. When we saw each other again,

we talked about it. Yes, we did love each other, it just hit us like a ton of bricks. We weren't expecting it. We had both found 'that one', that you look for all your life, your soul mate. We dated for awhile, and then Rick asked me to marry him, and of course I said yes. We were married in Pigeon Forge, TN on Jun 5, 2006. Rick moved to where I lived. Rick wasn't feeling good by the time we married, but we didn't yet know what was wrong. It was a couple of years before we found out he had Hepatitis C and cirrhosis. Even though Rick was ill the whole time we were married, and we really couldn't go anywhere or take trips (vacations), etc together since he felt so bad, our life together was wonderful. It was just the two of us. My family lived 12+ hours away, and Rick's parents had passed many years before. He brother and sister-in-law lived 2 hours away. I would do it all again, even knowing the outcome. He was the best part of me and my reason for being. He was my purpose in life. I can't imagine my life without him. He sent me an email one time that said "We may have had only a second together, but we end up with forever". I will try to hold onto that and know that we will be together again one day.

Bob and Janice

We are truly blessed to have had Rick for a son-in-law even though the time was far too short. He taught me (Bob) so much about computers, but mostly he taught us both about patience and helpfulness to others. He never got impatient with our slow learning about computer stuff. He was willing to answer any questions no matter how bad he felt. But mostly we appreciate his goodness and kindness to our daughter Deidra. He pushed himself even when he felt so bad to help her as much as possible. They were truly the love of each other's lives. The world has lost a very good man. Heaven has gained a great person. We will all miss Rick so much, but are thankful for the time we did have.

Bob & Maryann



We are so thankful to have had a small part in Rick's life. He blessed us and our family in so many ways. He gave of himself as he spent many hours building, repairing and just walking us through computer troubles. I remember the times he even came all the way to Tennessee to help troubleshoot our system. He gave of himself even during some of his most painful days... We count it a blessing to have known him for the time we had. One of the most memorable emails I received from Rickey was how God was really moving in his life. It was such a blessing and I wish I had it to share with you, I believe Rickey really did experience a peace that only God can give us. He truly was a great man and we know that he and Deidra loved each other very much. We will miss him so much and our hearts ache for his wife and family.

The image features two roses, one smaller and one larger, positioned in the upper right quadrant. They are set against a textured, mottled background of warm, earthy tones, including shades of beige, tan, and light brown. The roses are rendered in a soft, slightly faded style, blending into the background.

Life Story

every hour, every thought, every smile...

January 14, 1953

Born in **Albany, Georgia** on **January 14, 1953**.

March 27, 2006

Passed away on **March 27, 2006** at the age of **53**.

This is a song that Rick started to write, but didn't finish.

"Song of Me"

I've Learned of Hate

I've Learned of War

I've Learned of Love

and So Much More.

You say I am what I have learned.

To me and tomorrow there is no concern.

I am but a speck of light traveling through infinity."

April 22, 2006



Rickey Michael Gay was born in Albany, Georgia on Jan 14, 1953 to Irven and Ethel Gay. He was the eighth of nine children which consisted of five girls and 4 boys. From the oldest to youngest: Betty, Lavada, Ethelyn, Raymond, Rachel, Robert, Rickey, and Daniel. As I write this for my darling husband, there are only two left, Robert and a sister in CA. Rick lived in GA, Lakeland, FL, Ohio, and AL. I meet him Sep 13, 1997 through American Singles. He was living in Jasper, AL and I was living in Huntsville, AL. We fell in love quick, but waited to marry until Jun 5, 1999. Rick had 4 degrees in Computers and Business, but he loved working construction. He loved to be working outside. He was use to working hard, up to 16 hour days until he started feeling really tired all the time and feeling like having the flu all the time. He was feeling bad when we were married and was sick ever since. It took the doctors 2 years to find out he had Hepatitis C which had caused cirrhosis, by the time they figured out what was wrong with him. Rick had to quit working and go on disability around July 2000. This was really hard on him. He was use to working hard and wanted to provide for me and do his 'part' . He just couldn't. He had to stay at home because most days were spent in bed. He would help around the house as much as he could, cooking dinner for me, doing laundry, taking care of the house when he was up to it. Rick was in constant pain and in and out of the hospital. On top of the Hep C and cirrhosis, he had 5 bad disks in his back. I don't know how he got through each day in such pain, but he did. He fought the fight as long as he could, but his body finally gave out and he passed away on March 27, 2006 in the hospital from a massive internal infection. I'll add more as I get more information from his family and as I am up to it.

April 25, 2006

This was found on Rick's computer. He didn't get a chance to finish it, unfortunately:

"Rickey Michael Gay's Life"

"I am sitting here in early October of 2005 and decided to write a little about my life and how it was, to me. I have often thought about my life while lying down about to go to sleep. I tell myself I need to write down what I can remember so if anyone ever wants to know anything about me, maybe, they can get an idea of what it was like growing up in the south just before the civil rights era and on into the new millennium.

I started my life at the Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, Ga. It was January 14, 1953. My family and I lived off the main road of Sylvester Road. Last time I was there it was across the street from the Arrow Shirt Factory. We lived in a small trailer park where my aunt Bell lived. There was a family owned grocery store on Sylvester at the point where you drove into the trailer park.

I remember the store, because you could buy an ice cream cone for a nickel with one scoop of your choice of the three different flavors of ice cream available during this time in history. The flavors were strawberry, vanilla, and chocolate. For a penny more, you could buy an additional scoop of ice cream. You could buy as many scoops as the cone would hold. I only remember being bought a cone by my aunt once.

My father's job at this time was that of a mechanic. He worked for himself out of a small garage in the park. I do not remember it, but have seen pictures of it. I remember my aunt's trailer. It was a small AirStream. I do not remember the one we lived in. That was about all I can remember of my first few years. From here we moved to a nice brick house in Albany. The youngest of my sisters, Ethelyn, (I had four older sisters, one old enough to be my mother), who was a lot older than me still lived with us. She was dating a guy named Spiro, who she later married.

I was around three years old at this time. I remember a lot of what happened when we lived

here. I remember one day when my parents had gone off somewhere and left my oldest sister Betty and her husband Bill in charge. Bill decided we were not minding him, so he decided to spank us. I told myself I would get back at him when I grew up. By the time I was an adult the spanking really didn't seem like that big a thing so I let it go. I remember my older brother Robert being allowed to go to the Christmas parade, but was told I was too young to go. I started bawling. My youngest sister, Ethelyn, told me she would take me to see Bambi at the local theater instead. I was elated. To this day I do not remember anything about the picture. I remember watching my parents putting presents under the Christmas tree so to tell us Santa had put them there. We knew there was no such person as Santa Claus. I do not remember that Christmas day or any of the presents we received. I also remember Ethelyn and her then husband Spiro took me to spend the night with them so they could play mommy and daddy. I do not remember what happened there, just that I went to their apartment to sleep over. This is where my younger brother, Daniel Raymond, was born, on December 3, 1958. My older brother was upset because my father was leaving us, going to the hospital to pick my mother up after having Danny. To calm him down my father told him he was bringing a birthday present home for him, since my brother's birthday had been a couple of days before. When my father walked in the house with my mother carrying Danny, my father looked at Robert, while he was pulling the blanket away from Danny's face, he told Robert that here was his birthday present. Being seven years old, Robert, did not quite understand. My father then told him that Danny was born on the same day as he was so he was like a birthday present. Robert wasn't too happy about this. He just turned around and walked away. I also remember one time my mother was pregnant with Danny and was lying down to relieve the heat. I came running in the house and told my mother it was a certain time, by the clock, and my mother, just to satisfy me told me I was right. I was elated considering I could not tell time.

We moved from there to a house on Register Avenue. At this location we lived in a house

that had been converted into three large apartments. It was one of those old southern mansions that the owner could not rent out like it was, unless being made into what it was. The old uptown mansions did not have the land, which came with the plantations so they would be converted into rooming houses or converted to apartments, such as the one we lived in. It made it nice because my grandmother and aunt rented the other two apartments.

I remember quite a bit of the happenings at this location. I remember my cousins who stayed there with my grandmother. There was Barbara Ann, Carolyn, and Johnny. All of them were around ten years older than me. I love every one of them. I remember one day I went to turn on a light, which was a bulb holder with a cord running to the house for power, and was instantly locked on to the bulb because of being shocked. Johnny heard me yell and ran down to where I was. I had to stand on top of a picnic table to be able to reach the bulb. Johnny reached up to grab me and then he too was locked in the power of the electricity. In the mean time Barbara Ann had ran out of the house to see why I was yelling and saw Johnny get locked on to me. She was the smart one. She ran back into the house and unplugged the light cord. As soon as it was over Barbara Ann made sure we were all right and then began to laugh at the site of us with our eyes about to bug out of our heads thinking we were about to die. There were other times I remember like when I caught Barbara Ann smoking and she got me to take a puff. I told myself I would never do that again. I surely lied then. I began smoking at around the age of fifteen and have not completely quit yet. I did quit for a year-and-a-half at one time and then again for about six months about six months later. I am sure there were many more, but cannot remember them at this time. While at this location, I remember getting a piece of ice; I was sucking on, stuck in my throat. I was frantic. I knocked on my Aunt Bell's screen door and she looked up from her ironing. I could not hear any thing and was very scared. Seeing I could not understand her, my aunt, bent over almost touching the floor. I understood and copied her. Immediately, the ice popped out and bounced of the porch. My aunt went back to

ironing, acting as though nothing happened. My feelings and admiration for her grew a thousand fold. I remember one Christmas when my father was out of work. We did not even have a tree. My father went and borrowed change to enable him to buy a little wind up helicopter for my brother and me. On one night my father came into the house caring two of my sister's children. They were babies at the time. The other three of her children just looked at us. A family called the Bacons also helped move the children into our house. My sister had left the children at their house and ran off with some man. My father told Mr. Bacon that there was no way he could afford to take care of the children. He told him how he was out of work and could barely feed us. The children stayed at our house while the Bacon's went and got in touch with the welfare agency. The two babies were adopted out, but the older children were sent to an orphanage in Springhill, Tennessee. We did not see the older ones again for about ten years.

I have all kinds of memories of the last place we lived. I fell in a fishpond in one of the neighbor's yards. My older brother, Robert, and one of his friends were with me. I remember looking up from the bottom of the pond and seeing things floating on the surface. I realized I was standing on the bottom of the pond and pushed myself up to the surface where my brother caught my hand and pulled me out. We had a lot of dogs there. One was very special to my brother. It was a black lab puppy . One day it was hit by a car and Robert took it really bad. I remember seeing him sitting on the front porch looking out in the street and crying. I just turned and walked away. I figured Robert would want the dog buried in our little graveyard we had started for pets, or any other animals, which died on us. We had buried a cat, gold fish and several other animals that I don't remember. He said the dog was too messed up, from being hit by the car, to bury.

I remember starting school here and being put in one classroom then being moved to another. My teacher's name was Mrs. Dill. Being young children we all made fun of her name.

I remember during recess that there was a merry-go-round where the boys would let it get going as fast as could then run and grab hold of the bars around the merry-go-round and then pulling ourselves onto the seat. Our legs would be horizontal because of the force, which was produced by the speed of the merry-go-round. When I was in my late teens we returned one time to the house and walked down to the school. I stood there looking at that merry-go-round and the sliding board and thinking about how small they actually were. In the first grade they seemed so large. "

Our Deepest Sympathy
WWW.LAST-MEMORIES.COM