

# Slate Belt History From The Archives of Donald Jones

*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

## Happy Birthday Donald

### 9/5/2020



I took this photo of Donald Jones at his 94th birthday party at Tom & Carole's 'Cross Roads' restaurant. In the background is his friend Lucy Flinn.

'Happy Birthday' from all of us at  
Blue Valley Times

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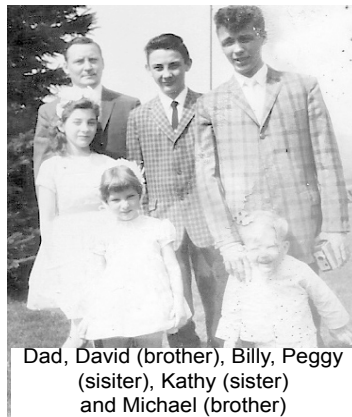




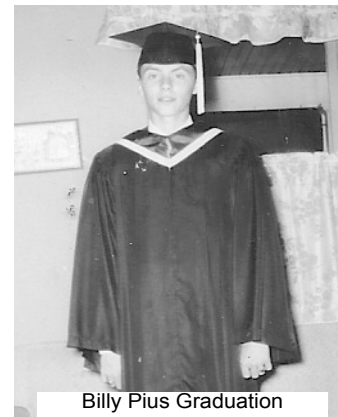
Mom and Dad



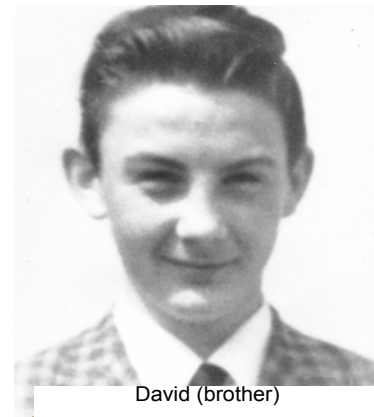
Billy age 7



Dad, David (brother), Billy, Peggy (sister), Kathy (sister) and Michael (brother)



Billy Pius Graduation



David (brother)



Daughter Andrea with step sons Mike & Mark



**William E. Ortoski**  
September 11, 1942 - April 28, 2016



Wife Mary Louise and Bill

# Son, Brother, Husband, Father, Grandfather, Friend

By Michael Ortoski

Billy was the first born into a family of seven children in Pittsburgh, at the age of 13 the family moved to Saylorburg in (1953). Bill attended Pius X H.S. one of the great times in his life and graduated in 1960, then graduated from Churchman's Business School a few years later.

A few (of many) memories that come to mind was his persona of a well-educated, best dressed, hip in every era (Nauru jackets, Hippie leather vests, bell bottoms, 3 piece suits) person. He once was sent to the principal's office for wearing a flower in the lapel of his jacket like Frank Sinatra by one of the Nuns.

Sinatra was his favorite singer/actor/comedian, you could always bet on hearing Frank in the background when you visited him.

His trademark slicked back 50's hairstyle never went out of fashion for him, just a little grayer as he aged.

His love for cars was a passion for him, Always owned a Cadillac, except one year when Dad convinced him to buy a Buick. Big mistake it was in shop constantly, traded it in first year and Dad never heard the last of that one. While working for an auto dealer he drove lots of sports cars the 'Dune Buggy' was the head turner. Bill loved racing and back then it was all 'Nazareth Speedway' around here. He got to be the 'Flagman' for a few years and bumped elbows with all the drivers including Mario Andretti his favorite racer.

He got his chance to be a race driver on snowmobiles. Dad and I were

his pit crew, he was known in the drivers circles as 'The Scorpion Man' he drove Scorpion sleds on oval and drag tracks. He raced professionally for a few years for John Deer snowmobiles locally.

Back when I was going to college and needed a summer job Bill hired me in as a driver at the quarry where he was Forman. He told me "you work here and see what hard labor is, you'll never drop out of college" he was right "and also don't tell Mom what you do because it's dangerous around here."

Those two summers were great, we spent 5 days a week together. Instead of just being the kid brother he would throw his car keys to for a 5 buck wash we talked and joked like old friends, oh the quarry stories. Billy loved golfing, he started at

small 9 hole in Sciota where he played leagues for years and got a trophy for a hole-in-one, he taught me at age 8. To this day it's my favorite sport because of him.

In a large family we all have our own memories these are just a few of mine. All in all, he was a revered "big brother" to his siblings and loved ones to the end and beyond.



Anne, William, Addison, Rylie



Michele, Michael (brother)



Peggy (sister)

**"He was a revered "big brother" to his siblings and loved ones to the end and beyond."**



L to R : Billy, Dad, Kathy (sister), Mike, Grace (Mother in law), Mary Louise (Wife)



L to R : Pete, Andrea (Bills Daughter), Alexia, Nikolas



Wife Mary, Sue, Mike step son, Bill, Andrew, Dylan



Noah, Ethan, Sheila, Isabel, Gabe



L to R : Emily, Erica, Megan, Adrienne



Alicia and Brother Tony



Bill, Andrew, Dylan, Grace



Quinn, Shane



Jessica, Brent