

GARDNER NEWSLETTER

Spring 2014

Issue 66, Volume 17



This issue of
The Gardner Newsletter
is dedicated to the memory of

Clayton H. Gardner

(12/26/1920 - 04/21/2014)



Uncle Raymond Remembers His Brother, Clayton

Raymond Gardner was very close to his brother, Clayton. Read about their wonderful relationship within the pages of this issue.

Original-Gang-of-Ten Member, Clayton Gardner, Passes Away

Clayton Gardner, second son of William and Olive Gardner, passed away on April 21, 2014. Read more about Clayton's sad passing by turning the page.

Clayton Gardner's First Interview in the Gardner Newsletter

Uncle Clayton granted the Gardner Newsletter its very first interview way back in the winter of 1998. Read it again in this issue.

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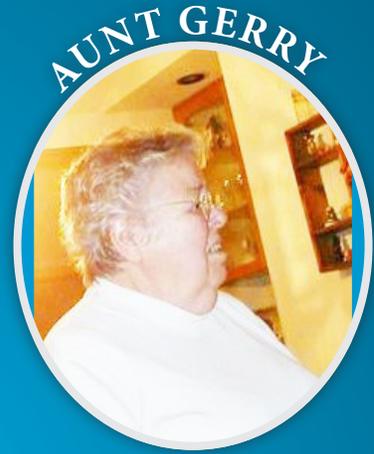
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CLAYTON'S OBITUARY PUBLISHED IN *THE SEATTLE TIMES*

Clayton Henry Gardner of Edmonds, WA died on April 21, 2014 with his loving wife, Geraldine, at his side. He was born to Olive and William Gardner on December 26, 1920 in East Charleston, VT. He grew up on a farm near Island Pond, VT and attended school in East Charleston and Lyndonville, VT. He served his country in the US Army during [WWII](#) working as a topographic draftsman at the rank of Staff Sergeant. Following the war, he returned to Vermont, obtained more schooling and became a math teacher. He met Geraldine and they married in 1948. Thereafter, he

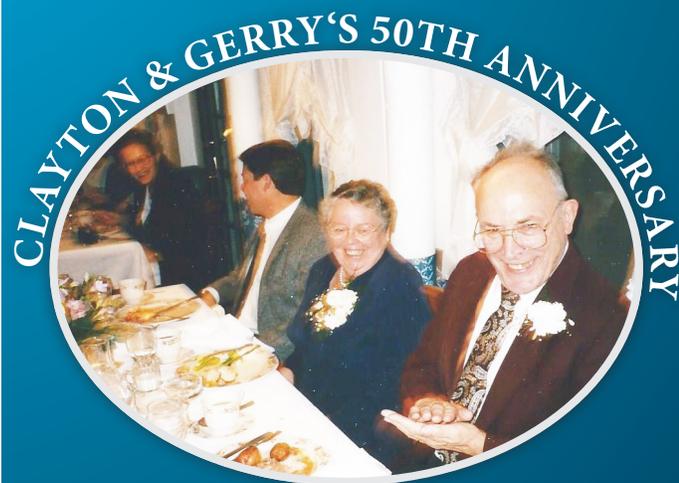


obtained his Bachelor's Degree from Boston University, his Masters Degree from the [University of Illinois](#) and worked toward a doctor's degree at Columbia University Teachers College. He was Chairman of the Math Department at White Plains High School in NY following which he worked as a math editor for Silver Burdette Publishing Company in NJ. When he retired he moved to Edmonds 27 years ago.

Clayton is survived by: his wife of 65 years, Geraldine; two children, Ronald Clayton Gardner of Seattle and Brenda Jean Gardner of Ledgewood, NJ; two grandchildren, Tara Le Gardner and Ronald Kuan Gardner; two sisters, Beulah Griffes and Lois Cardwell; and brother, Raymond Gardner.

Clayton enjoyed spending time with his family, playing chess and volleyball, reading, working on the computer, and tinkering around the home. A tribute to Clayton's service in the Army will be held May 19, 2014 at Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, WA. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Published in *The Seattle Times* on May 11, 2014

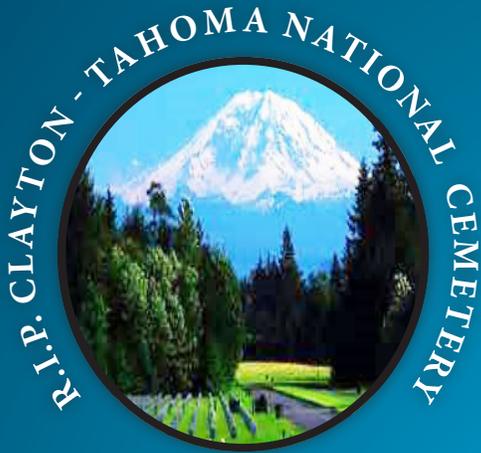


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When I was in the sixth grade, our folks decided to send Elizabeth and Lois to Lyndonville to live with Grandma and Grandpa Lang while attending Lyndon Institute where Lois was a freshman. They often came home on weekends. Lois usually took me aside and told me about some not very nice things that had happened during the preceding week. (Lois was always nice and did no bad things.) I was greatly pleased to think that my older sister would confide in me.

Later on our folks moved the whole family to Lyndonville because the schools were much better there

than those in Charleston and our folks no longer had to pay tuition for Elizabeth and Lois. Lois was now a sophomore and she would often bring a friend home from school to stay overnight. Several times she brought a beautiful girl named Margaret Sutton and I played checkers with her.

When I entered Lyndon Institute as a freshman, Lois and Margaret were seniors. I would quite often meet Margaret in the corridors during the changing of classes. She would always give me a great big smile and I was very much appreciative of Lois making me acquainted with the beautiful Margaret.

One time, during my freshman year, I told some of my male friends that the pretty girl sitting in the back of the outside row was my sister, Lois. They said, "No way! She is too pretty to be your sister!" I said that I could prove it by walking back there and talking to her. They knew that I was shy about speaking to older girls; and if I talked to her, she must be my sister. I walked back and told Lois that my friends said that she was too pretty to be my sister. Lois smiled and waved to my friends and thanked me for the compliment.

Clayton Gardner (10/09/07)



AUNT BEULAH REMEMBERS HER BROTHER

Clayton was ten years old when I was born. So by the time I was old enough to know what was going on, Clayton had left for college.

I do remember him coming home for visits. He was so tall and handsome and smart! He usually did some work at the house to help Mama and Papa when he came home for visits. One time I remember that he did some extensive electrical wiring at the house.

He was drafted into the army during the Second World War. He was involved in the "Battle of the Bulge" which was when the Germans almost surrounded our troops. I believe it was in France. Clayton and the soldiers, who were making maps, had to quickly take all their equipment and maps and leave for safety, which

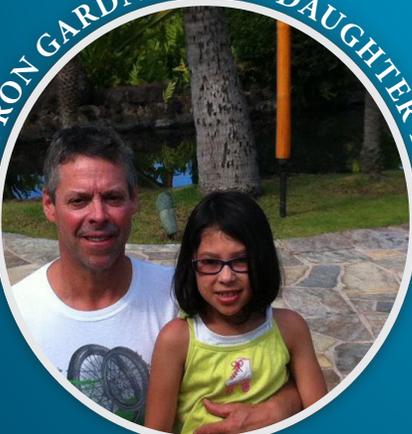
they were successful in doing. It was a happy day when the war was over and my four brothers, Raymond, Adelbert, Earl and Clayton, came home.

Clayton and Gerry have been married for 65 years. I just learned from Lois how Clayton and Gerry met. Clayton was renting a room from Gerry's parents in Springfield, VT, - so that is how they met. And I understand it was love at first sight!

Clayton was a math teacher and even wrote a math book which was published.

I recently talked to Gerry after Clayton passed away, and she said he was a wonderful husband - the best she could possibly have!

COUSIN RON GARDNER AND DAUGHTER TAYLOR



COUSIN BRENDA GARDNER



UNCLE RAYMOND'S U.S. ARMY PICTURE



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OVER THE YEARS, UNCLE CLAYTON CONTRIBUTED MANY ARTICLES TO THE GARDNER NEWSLETTER



Uncle Clayton was such a good friend of The Gardner Newsletter! He regularly sent written or e-mailed contributions to be published. Perhaps the most notable of Clayton's writings to the newsletter is the series he created on "Cars I Have Owned." He sent in pictures of each car and the relevant personal stories that accompanied each one. That series garnered lots of comments of appreciation and praise. Be sure to peruse through old issues of the newsletter to read these interesting articles.

Every single issue of the newsletter can be downloaded by going to www.gardnernews.org and clicking on Greta's Interactive Page.

Uncle Clayton granted The Gardner Newsletter its very first in-depth interview from any of the Original Gang of Ten members! The full interview was printed in the debut issue published way back in the Winter of 1998. Here are some excerpts from that interview.

Just how well do you know your aunts and uncles on the Gardner side? (If you're not a cousin, are you really that acquainted with the productive and interesting lives of Will and Olive Gardner's progeny?) Probably not. To help remedy the situation, here is the first of GFF&G's series of in-depth articles with one of the original "Gang of Ten" – Clayton!

GFF&G: The Gardners are often perceived as being "hearty New Englanders." When you moved to the Pacific Northwest in 1987 you shattered that perception. What EXACTLY do you like better about that area of the country and what do you miss about New England, if anything?

Clayton: We like the mild winters. We

like the friendly people. We like being near our son. We like the courteous (for the most part) drivers. We like the Puget Sound views. We like the snow-capped mountains.

Winters: Much less snow than New England. No below zero days. I do miss the snow as I like cross country skiing, but I don't miss having to drive in it and having to shovel it. During one of our few snow storms, I was thinking how great it was that I did not have to drive in it when my chess friend called and said he and his wife had to get to Lynnwood to catch a tour bus and no taxi would come. He wanted me to take them. I did with no trouble, but saw plenty of inexperienced snow drivers in trouble.

People: We lived for 27 years in New Jersey and hardly knew our neighbors. Here we are friendly with all our neighbors. In New Jersey, I took my dry cleaning to the same place for 25 years and the clerk was still asking me for my name every time. Here I don't have much of any dry cleaning, but the clerks in stores are very friendly.

Son: Probably the biggest reason for moving out here.

Drivers: In New Jersey, when you signal to change lanes, the drivers speed up to keep you out. Out here, for the most part, when you signal to change lanes, the drivers slow up and let you in and you do so with a courteous thank you wave.

Views: Plenty in both places.

Snow-capped mountains: None in New England, but here the Olympics to the west, the Cascades to the east, Mount Rainier to the south, and Mount Adams

to the north. Some day they may erupt. That is one of the things there is no need to worry about in New England. Also, we are in an earthquake prone area and have our earthquake supply barrel full of emergency supplies just in case.

GFF&G: Much has been said about the sorry state of education in America today. As a former teacher and successful educator, do you agree with that perception? What advice would you give to young people who have expressed a desire to enter the teaching profession?

Clayton: I think that education in America needs much improvement but it is not in as sorry a state as some would like you to believe. Much depends upon the quality of the teacher. One should not go into teaching unless they are willing to work hard and accept the idea that helping young people to grow into healthy and informed adults is more important than earning lots of money. If you want to make lots of money, become a doctor, a lawyer, an engineer, or a Bill Gates.

GFF&G: In keeping with the theme of our first issue, what do you see ahead for you and your family as the year 2000 approaches?

Clayton: I don't see much of anything changing for us as the year 2000 approaches, unless this new multilevel marketing project takes off. And it looks like it will.

Of course, we cannot complain about what we now have. We are much better off than most people.

Our children, Ronald and Brenda, are both doing well.

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WHAT IS A TOPOGRAPHIC DRAFTSMAN?

During World War II, Uncle Clayton served as a topographic draftsman. A topographic draftsman was the person who went out ahead of the troops and would draw what the terrain was like before advancing. Basically, they were scouts who checked things out ahead of the troop movements and drew pictures to give the command people an idea of what was out there. Now we have satellites to check out the terrain, but such things weren't available in World War II.

THROUGH THE YEARS UNCLE RAYMOND REMEMBERS HIS BROTHER, CLAYTON



My father had a 1929 Model Ford when we were growing up. It seems as if that car would never quit! When we would go for a ride, Clayton would ask if he could drive.

On one occasion, for some reason, we had the minister's daughter, Teresa, with us. Clayton didn't ask to drive then. He was in the back seat with his arms around Teresa! It caused my father to ask Clayton, "What would you rather do than drive?"

I was introduced to the game of chess by Adelbert when we were in high school. Then, again, Adelbert and I played a few games when we got out of the service. At the end of World War II, Clayton was in France and I was on the island of Okinawa. Soon after we got home, Clayton married Gerry in 1948 and I married Margared in 1950. We went our separate ways, but got together often.

Some of the places we met over the years reveal a lot about Clayton's life.

SPRINGFIELD, VT - Clayton is teaching school and boarding with Gerry's parents. I was nearby in White River Junction, VT.

BOSTON, MA - Clayton was going to Boston University and I was in Reading, MA.

BENNINGTON, VT - Clayton was teaching school and I was able to get off the RPO (Railway Post Office) in Bennington, VT.

REUNION OF THE ORIGINAL WEDDING PARTY AT CLAYTON AND GERRY'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



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BURLINGTON, VT - The end of my RPO run was in St. Albans, VT. I was able to backtrack to Essex Junction and take a bus to South Burlington where Clayton lived.

CHARLESTON, VT - We both visited the homestead often,

WHITE PLAINS, NY - Clayton is teaching school there.

CHATHAM, NJ - Clayton is teaching school there and my RPO run ended in New York City. I was able to take a train to Chatham.

GREENSBORO, VT - Clayton and Gerry's 50th wedding anniversary.

FT. MYERS, FL - Clayton and I both belonged to a postal chess club. Some of the members got together once a year.

EDMONDS, WA - Did Clayton move to Edmonds to get away from me?! IT DIDN'T WORK!

Those are some of the places where we managed to get together over the years. We were almost always able to find time to play chess whenever

we met. Around 1973, we started playing chess by post card; and when e-mail became available, we played using that. We had two games of chess going for over 40 years! Clayton won more than I did.



Last Group Picture Taken of all The Original Gang of Ten and Their Spouses - 1985

Uncle Clayton has his left hand on Aunt Gerry's shoulder, - the last couple on the right.

Send in your articles for the Summer 2014 issue!