



Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



GARY DOUGLAS CLARK

October 13, 1938 - August 11, 2000

Stillwater High School Class of 1957

17th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 13, 2012

Gary Douglas Clark was born October 13, 1938 and passed away on August 11, 2000. He was a former KNX-AM radio newsman in California who helped establish the Associated Press Radio Network. He was much admired by colleagues, one of whom described Gary as "one of the hardest-working

guys in the business who never let anything slow him down." That "anything" was polio, which struck Clark at age 10 and left him needing canes and leg braces to walk. He began his radio news career at KSPI in Stillwater, OK, and KBIX in Muskogee, OK before moving to Santa Barbara, where he worked at stations KDB and KTMS from 1968 to 1978. Clark next moved to KNX, where he remained until 1988. Known for doing stand-up reports on Southern California brush fires right next to the flames, Clark became one of the all-news station's top reporters. He worked in the lead truck in 1988 when KNX provided extensive coverage of the Los Angeles Marathon. Clark also made broader contributions to his profession, working on a panel to update the Associated Press stylebook and, as a member of the wire service's Radio Committee, helping to form the AP Radio Network. Clark also served as president of the California Associated Press Television and Radio Association.

In high school, Gary was the football trainer under Coach Nate Watson who was extremely tough on the players and his trainer as well, but Gary capably performed his job. Classmate Wally Ingram remembers occasionally carrying some of Gary's equipment for him on the side lines and sometimes even loading Gary on his back and going up to the press box. Wally said, "Gary had that strength of character that you only find in a few people in your life. His polio never got in the way of his goals and inspirations."

John Tilley, another classmate of Gary's, said they played in a band together along with Wally Ingram and had a great time playing and singing for school events as well as some college parties. Gary was a pretty darn good guitar player according to John. He also said that Gary had every right to be bitter about his fateful encounter with polio but it was a very rare occasion that any of them saw him get down. He was a very positive kind of guy and a great deal of fun to be around. Many of his classmates probably remember his old oil burner with all the hand levers for the clutch, brake and accelerator. He was pretty good with all those levers in a drag race.

John Tilley said that there are probably hundreds of stories that could be told about Gary. Many of them would be funny because Gary would attempt almost anything. When he would get in a bind, he would end up laughing so hard we could not help but laugh with him.

Wally Ingram sent this side note: "Not long after Gary passed, I had to put down my dog of many years. My daughter found a Jack Russell pup and brought it to me. It had been kind of the "sickee" of the litter. She laid him in my lap. He looked me in the eye and I looked at him. He had that "spark". At once his name was and still is CLARK. Same spirit, feistiness and independent nature.

Gary Clark was loved by the Stillwater High School Class of 1957.

Presenter

Stan Ward, Stillwater High School Class of 1957