

THE WATCHMAN

Celebrating the Life of Rudy Durrwachter
1931-2019



PRICE: 88 YEARS



LaRue (Rudy) Durrwachter - A View Into His Very Interesting Life

Rudy Durrwachter enjoyed life to the full. He loved his creator Jehovah, wife Darlene, his family and friends. It's clearly evident when you begin to scratch the surface of all that that he accomplished during his life we had to assemble it into a format much larger than a single piece of paper. What better format than a newspaper?

Not only did he himself appear in many newspaper articles over the years, but one of the jobs he enjoyed was that of marketing and advertising. It seemed like a fitting format to display all that he accomplished. Plus, the last name Durrwachter, which means; "The Watchman" in German, gave us a perfect name for this newspaper to reflect on his life.

About this Paper

This newspaper is a collection of Rudy's works, stories, recognitions, actual newspaper articles, and other stages of his life including his spiritual accomplishments as one of Jehovah's Witness. We hope you enjoy reflecting on the life of LaRue L. Durrwachter.

If you would like to share a personal story or two about Rudy with the family,

please use the following website to do so:
www.rudydurrwachter.com.

Thank you for all your support and encouragement during this difficult time.



Rudy Durrwachter was born in Jersey Shore PA May 31, 1931 to the parents of Albert & Verona Durrwachter. He was the firstborn son followed by two younger brothers and one sister. During this time his mother Verona was a school teacher in LockHaven PA, his dad was in the military and his grandfather ran a bakery.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

LaRue Durrwachter to Sing With Glee Club

March 10, 1956

State College, Pa., April 1 – The Penn State Glee Club will visit five cities on the annual Spring tour which opens on April 27 in York and closes May 1 in Philadelphia.

Frank Gullo, director of the Club, explained that other cities are included on the tour are Reading, Allentown, and New York, N.Y. In each of the cities the concert by the Glee Club and Varsity Quartet will be sponsored by Penn State alumni of the area.

Among the 52 members of the Glee Club are: Larue L. Durrwachter, 120 Wylie St., a senior in the Journalism department, first tenor.



Larue Durrwachter of the 1956 Penn State Glee Club

Civic Auditorium
Thursday 8 p.m.

RUDY VICTOR will sing in the Fiesta del Sol style variety show at 8 pm Thursday at the Civic Auditorium. The show is being staged by the Woman's Club. Victor, a native of Jersey Shores, PA, is presently in the Special Service branch of the US Air Force. He studied under Fred Waring and has personally sung for the president. Since being in West Palm Beach he has starred in "Frolics" of 1954." Elks Minstrel, "Air Base Frolics of '54," and numerous other productions.

650 Okeechobee Blvd, West Palm Beach, FL
33401

L. L. Durrwachter Tenor Soloist in Glee Club Tour

Larue L. Durrwachter, of 120 Wylie Street, will be one of the soloists when the Pennsylvania State College Glee Club makes its spring tour during the week of April 9.

Frank Gullo, director of the club, said today that Durrwachter would be the tenor soloist for the concert in Wilmington, Del., on April 12, and in Philadelphia the following night.

Durrwachter is a sophomore at Penn State studying journalism. He completed his freshman year at Lock Haven State Teachers College where he sang in the Glee Club and also with the Intercollegiate Chorus.



Paintings by Rudy. What couldn't the man do?



He was graduated from Jersey Shore High School in June 1946.

Missed the Live Show?

Don't Worry!

Recordings available at:

rudydurrwachter.com

**JS Native Given Promotion
by Michigan Mfg. Concern**

JERSEY SHORE – A Jersey Shore native who was instrumental in the development and design of many products for a Michigan firm has been named to fill the company's new position of assistant director of marketing.

Larue "Rudy" Durrwachter, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. LaRue Durrwachter, 317 Thompson St., formerly manager of the creative department at Amway Corp., in Ada, Mich., is presently in the marketing division according to Jay Van Andel, Amway board chairman.

A graduate of Jersey Shore High School with the class of 1949. Durrwachter attended Lock Haven State College and Pennsylvania University. He spent two years in the Air Force where he co-founded the first Air Force skin diving team.

While with the Air Force in West Palm Beach, Fla., during 1955-56, he appeared in various shows, singing and acting under the name, Rudy Victor.

When Durrwachter was discharged from the Air Force he joined the J. Walter Thompson Advertising Agency, Chicago, as a trainee. After two months, he wrote live radio and TV copy for commercials and later became production director of Schlitz national sales convention which toured the United States.

From the Thompson firm, he joined Wes Aves and Associates in Grand Rapids Mich., and in 1962 became associated with Amway Corp.

The Jersey Shore native has been instrumental in the development and design of many of Amway's 70 or more products ranging from spray shoe polish and car care products to washing machine detergents and toiletries.

Rudy is married to the former Darlene Flateau, of Chicago, and the couple has a daughter, Cindy Dawn, 7. They live in Grand Rapids where Durrwachter is an acting minister of the congregation, Jehovah's Witnesses.

Also a member of the same firm is George Brock, a chemical engineer, and brother-in-law of Durrwachter. He and his wife, the former Jean Durrwachter, also live in Grand Rapids.



BUSINESS ACCOMPLISHMENTS



*Business Accomplishments
with Amway*



Jersey Shore Man Appointed Creative Directory of

Jersey Shore, June 4—LaRue L. Durrwachter, son of A. L. Durrwachter, of Jersey Shore, has been named creative director of all agency functions of the John B. Van Domelen Agency, Grand Rapids (Mich.) advertising agency.

Mr. Durrwachter will be in full charge of all planning and campaign strategy for agency client and encompass all media—radio, television, newspaper, and magazines.

Mr. Durrwachter moved to Grand Rapids earlier in 1959 to produce local television programs.

Previously, he had been writer, producer, and account executive for J. Walter Thompson Company, at Chicago, where he produced and directed many stage and commercial presentations with prominent Hollywood movie stars as his cast.

Many of his television and radio commercials have appeared on such famous network programs as The Arthur Godfrey Show, the Bob Crosby Show, and the Gary Moore Show.

While in the service, Mr. Durrwachter also gained recognition in the entertaining

field. He toured with the air force show, "Tops in Blue," sang for the Alabama legislature and wrote and produced radio, TV, and stage shows for Florida audiences.

He is currently residing at 4470 Foxcroft Avenue, NW, Comstock Park, Michigan, with his wife and daughter.



THE ROAD TO LIFE

1951

After leaving the entertainment world, Rudy pursued a job in the Marketing department at the Amway corporation in Grand Rapids Michigan. Eventually he became the senior art director with a full team of employees under him.

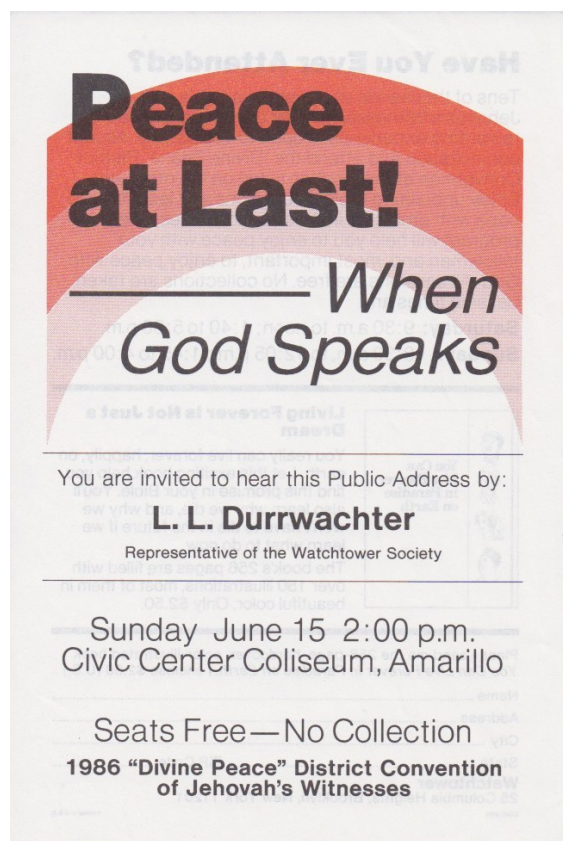
Being the people person Rudy was, he would get involved in discussions with his team on topics outside the normal scope of work. Apparently this one day he was talking to a co-worker about religion and death. Whatever the exact details of the conversation are unknown, but Rudy ended up making the comment; "What difference does it all make? We are all going to die and go to Hell anyways?"

Well this particular co-worker (Jerry Clements) happened to be a Jehovah Witness and replied back; "Not if you knew exactly what the bible says Hell is". It was then that he taught what the scriptures say about hell and death and placed the truth book with Rudy.

Rudy stayed up that entire night and read the book from cover to cover, verifying what it said against the scriptures in the bible. What he learned was the truth about the condition of the dead and the hope for a paradise on earth and a resurrection. Bursting with excitement he began studying the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses. From that moment forward he didn't stop and never looked back, and pursued being a Jehovah Witness full time. Rudy made it a career and enjoyed teaching others about the truth and made himself willingly available to help further Kingdom interests here in Albuquerque NM.



The Barnettes - Found a house for the family when relocating to ABQ



Local Ministers To Turn Actors In Dramas

July 27, 1968

More than 30 local ministers will appear in a series of dramas being staged at the "Good News For All Nations" District Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses in Muskegon's L. C. Walker Arena this weekend.

Linley Rockwell, who is serving as convention manager, state that the program will focus attention on the responsibilities of teen-agers as Christians.

"From past experience we have found that serious drama is an excellent means of getting a message across," Rockwell said, "Therefore the drama joins the discourse, the discussion and demonstration on our program of instruction."

He explained that local Witnesses have been rehearsing 3 and 4 times a week for the past 5 weeks to have the dramas ready for the Muskegon event.

"By the use of serious drama you can reach into the ancient past through God's Holy Word and bring to life before the eyes of delegates moving reenactment of laws and principles that are as forceful in this 20th century as they were when first recorded," Rockwell concluded.

C. B Blackburn of 206 Ken-O-Sha, S. E. has been directing rehearsals of the drama to be presented Sunday morning at 11. He reported that the drama participants will be authentically costumed to depict the styles of the 11th century before Christ.

The convention opens officially today (Thursday) at 2 PM with the address of welcome "The Good News Has Brought Us Together."

The program includes-public baptism of newly dedicated ministers Friday morning at 9 with dramas being presented Saturday evening at 7 and Sunday.



Emil Janda, Jr., and Rudy Durrwachter, portray 11th century B.C. Bible characters in Witness programs at Muskegon convention.

'Godly Fear' district to conduct convention

Amarillo News-Globe

July 2, 1994

The 1994 "Godly Fear" district convention of the Jehovah's Witnesses is being conducted through Sunday at the Amarillo Civic Center Cal Farley Coliseum.

All sessions of the convention which begin at 9:30 a.m. today and Sunday end at 5 p.m. today and 4:10 p.m. Sunday - are open to the public.

Highlights of the convention include a baptism service at 11:30 a.m. today and a Bible drama at 11:30 a.m. Sunday.

The public is invited to hear an address on "Why Fear the True God Now" by L. L. Durrwachter, program overseer, at 2:10 p.m. Sunday.



Here I am Send Me

After Rudy was baptized as a Jehovah's Witness in 1958, he realized the most important work he could be doing now was that of preaching the good news of God's Kingdom. After a few years, he recognized that the organization of Jehovah's Witnesses was growing at a rapid pace and would need help in various areas of the United States. Thus, without hesitation he contacted the Branch Office in New York and asked where his family should help? They told him Albuquerque NM and the rest is history.

He quit his lucrative job with Amway in Michigan, sold his house and with the assistance of a brother in Albuquerque purchased a simple home via the phone (sight unseen). Once they arrived, he got to work and enjoyed many responsibilities in growing the kingdom activity here in ALBUQUERQUE NM.



One of the first friendships he formed upon arriving to Albuquerque NM in 1968 was with Jim and Priscilla Phillips who currently serve as Pioneers in the ABQ Winrock Congregation.

Over the years, Rudy enjoyed the privilege of being an Elder, Pioneer, Substitute Circuit Overseer, Assembly Overseer, City Overseer and Presiding overseer for Jehovah's Witnesses. He also had the privilege of teaching the Pioneer Service School, Elder School and gave featured public lectures at District Assemblies where there were 5,000 in attendance. He also enjoyed twice volunteering to work temporarily at Bethel headquarters. One of those visits included refinishing the chairs at the Stanley Theater.



One of the things he enjoyed the most was people. He enjoyed teaching others about Jehovah. He took to heart the scriptures and was known for being hospitable and assisting anyone he could no matter their age, status or circumstances. Never did he tire or complain of any spiritual responsibilities that were asked of him. He never said "No" to theocratic assignments, but was able to care for them without sacrificing the needs of his family.

He lived the truth, he never hesitated to speak about Jehovah and he took every opportunity that came along. Growing old was a curse for him, because he hated being slowed down in his service to Jehovah. He lived a life of self-sacrifice and it is evident by all the lives that he touched in one way or another.

His example will forever be cherished and imitated by his family and all those who knew him.



Rudy was one of the first to spearhead the work of preaching on the Reservations, particularly the Navajo and LaGuna. One experience he had was trading an Indian Chief the Live Forever book for a 6 pack of beer.



With his family at his last memorial:

Wade, Tori, Teddi, Cindy, Rachel, Stella, Jeremy, Darlene, and Rudy

FISHERMAN & FISHER OF MEN

A COLLECTION OF HIS STORIES FROM "LORD OF THE RAINBOWS"

I told you so!

"There's a big trout in this hole!"
"How d'ya figure?" Jim Phillips queried.

"We've been taking trout out of every nook an'cranny of this river until now. I caught a small one at the tail of this long hole and a couple out the upper entry...but nothing in the hole itself. Been my experience that when that happens, a big trout occupies the hole and chases—or eats—every thing out!"

Jim Phillips and I had been having a ball catching stocker trout with salmon eggs all morning, in the San Juan River just north of Pagosa Springs (so much for being a fly-fishing purist). We found some easy-to-fish holes that were loaded for our two teenage non-angler daughters. We planned for them to have a ball making easy catches for an evening fish fry.

After supper, Jim and I decided to do some more fishing and headed for the river. Jim started just below the big hole (where I figured a lunker lingered) and I headed a 100 yards upstream to fish back toward him.

I caught a half a dozen foot long trout on the return leg and soon was facing Jim on the high bank side of the big hole, where he was

slap scale". I stood, transfixed, at the air space just occupied by the magnificent rainbow.

Jim shouted, "That's the third time he jumped!"

"No Kiddin'...I told you there was a big trout in this hole!" Gosh I love when I'm right! which is about once out of a hundred times when it comes to outguessing my wife; three out of a dozen times with my kids; and, so far one out of one with Jim.

Probably the fondest memories I have of fishing over the past 50 years were the episodes when we improvised to catch wily trout. One instance that comes to mind changed my way of fishing for a long time on a special river.

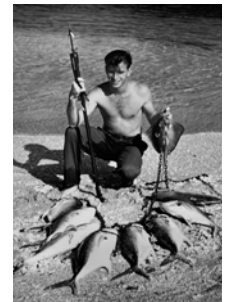


It started with my former son-in-law, Gary. He is a unique individual who is not content to copy the methods used by anglers fishing near him. Where I'll usually ask what's working today, Gary will remark, "I've got a yellow & black thing-a-ma-jig I wanta' try today," and proceeds to go against all prevailing angler wisdom... hauling in one big trout after another until I rapidly switch to his rig-a-jig to join in the action.

It was his desire to try something different that had us catching trout so fast and furious in New Mexico's famous San Juan River, we thought they would outlaw us.

Or worse yet, some frustrated

angler would chase us off the water....due to our consistent success at catching fish after fish, cast after cast while standing right next to him.



intently floating salmon eggs through its deep flow.

When he saw me, he yelled loudly over the water noise.

"Hey, you were right. There is a big ----," he was spreading his arms to demonstrate about a yard width and before he could say "trout in there," the water exploded in front of us.

The huge trout cleared 3 feet of water and floated an aerial layout that would make a spring board diver's heart stop. I swear he was trying for the lead in "A river runs through it." He just hung there, and hung there, and *hung there...* Defying gravity as only a monster rainbow can.

Then he crashed with a splash that hit "10" on the Beaver-tail-

The first time I fished about every other trout stream in New Mexico was a year later, when Jimmie Hartley (owner of Albuquerque's famous "Dog House" drive-in restaurant) offered me a deal I couldn't refuse.

If I'd teach him how to fly fish, we'd try a different river each week and he'd cover the meals and transportation. He had read every book on fly fishing, but in his own words, "was lacking the fishing exposure." One of the books he'd read was by my former Michigan dentist, Carl Richards, on nymph fishing. After I told him how I had weekended in Carl's cabin ---with shelves full of jars of nymphs (taken from the river flowing past his door), he couldn't wait to hit the streams a-runnin'.

Every Wednesday, Jimmie would pick me up and we'd try another fishing spot. Every night he'd broil a sirloin over an oakwood campfire and we'd gobble the steak by hand... washing it down with a bottle of burgundy.

During that summer I'd taught Jimmie how to cast a dry fly without hooking his—or—my ear; cast a country mile without snapping off the fly; chew on a fly to make it smaller; roll cast in tight quarters; recognize trout lairs in a stream; and set the hook without jerking the jaws off the trout.

At season's end, Jimmie graduated with honors...catching a 17-inch brown in the Rio Chama without my help...except for the applause.

Needless to say, Jimmie and I became regular fishing buddies and have slapped many trout steam with our flies over the years.

I surprised Jimmie one fall on a salmon fishing trip to Michigan by stopping at my former dentist's office in Comstock Park. His eyes really bugged out when author Carl Richards, DDS, shook his hand and started relating how he and I night-fished for browns together, on the Rogue River.

Until then my first time fishing stories to Jimmie had just been one-sided, but good ol' Carl now verified that the stories were actual.

Guess that proves it's not always true what they say about anglers: "The tail of the fish gets longer with the telling of a tale," (unless two anglers are trying to "out-tale" one another, right?).



WEDDINGS & ANNIVERSARIES



Chicago

1955

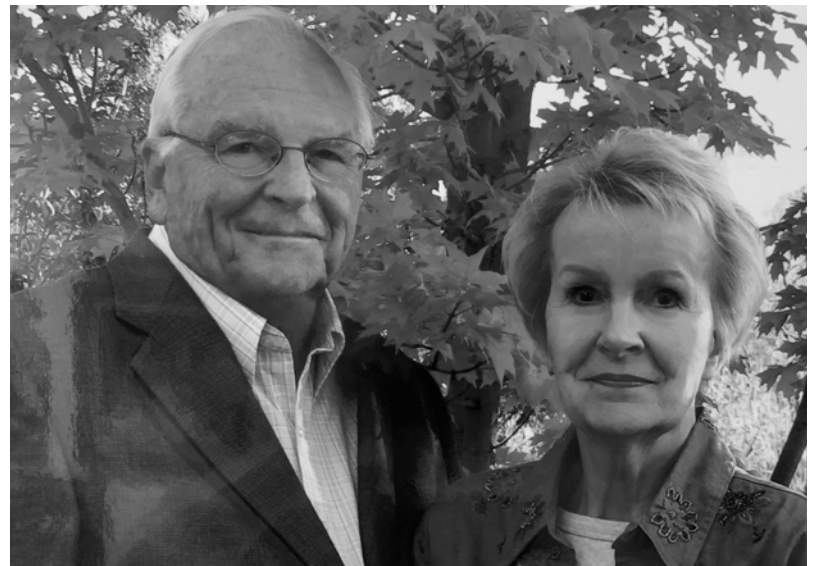
Rudy and Darlene met at the Aragon Ballroom in Chicago. Darlene would go every week to dance and meet people (*that's what you did during those years before the internet*). At the time she was dating a pilot, so spent every weekend flying in planes. Upon returning, she would go to the Aragon Ballroom to continue meeting people and enjoy ballroom dancing.

Rudy, being the outgoing charismatic young man that he was, also enjoyed socializing at the Aragon Ballroom. Then one evening, Rudy Durrwachter noticed the beautiful Darlene Flateau, but couldn't get near her all night because she was constantly surrounded by suitors.

Finally, there was an intermission which gave Rudy an opportunity to walk up to Darlene and ask her to dance. Unfortunately, during the intermission the only music that was played was from a classic pipe organ. Darlene said "I don't dance to pipe organ music". He confidently replied, "Don't listen to the pipe organ music, listen to me!" That conceited approach must have worked, because the rest is history. They dated for a year, got married and spent 62 wonderful years together.

Rudy's classic marriage advice:

"It's your own damn fault"



Albert and Verona's 50 year anniversary

FAMILY & OBITUARY

Noisy Apartment Living

The Albuquerque Tribune
September 10, 1969

Things aren't as quiet as they used to be at the Western Village Apartments, 3925 Ortiz Court NE, since these four boys were born to four families in the complex. They are (from left) John Clark Bonnett, son of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Bonnett, born Aug. 24; Frank Anthony Riccio, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Riccio, born Aug. 26; Michael Frances Lindsay, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frances Lindsay, born Aug. 27, and Jeremy Durrwachter, son of Mr. and Mrs. LaRue Durrwachter, born Aug. 29.



Durrwachter Family circa 1971

Born May 14, 1931 in Jersey Shore PA, son of Albert and Verona Durrwachter. He is survived by his brother Lee Durrwachter, niece Shelly, nephew John Brock, wife Darlene, son Jeremy and daughter Cindy, as well as many grand children and great grandchildren.

He attended Penn State college, joined the military to become an Air Force pilot and eventually was transferred to the Navy.

While attending college he became a professional opera singer. He was trained by the same person who taught Mario Lanza and Fred Waring.

While in the army he sang in glee clubs, he was part of the first scuba Navy diving team stationed in Palm Beach Florida.

He eventually left the military and moved to Chicago. He met Darlene in 1955 while ballroom dancing and fell in love immediately.

He was the senior art director of Amway in its early days and was responsible for naming and designing some of the products that are still used down

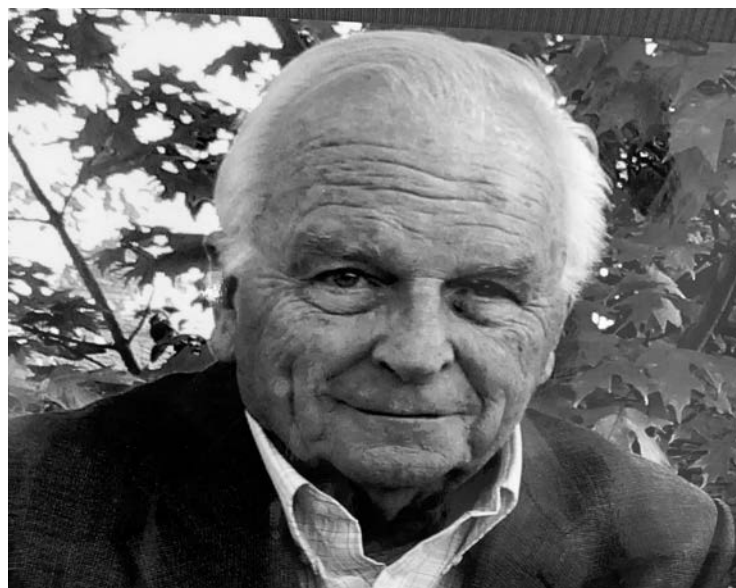
to this day. He learned the truth from a coworker when working at Amway.

He played the trumpet, clarinet, saxophone, harmonica and piano.

He enjoyed painting and photography and he loved the great outdoors. Fishing was his favorite outdoor activity, in fact, he and Jimmy Hartley invented flies that are now used by fisherman all over the San Juan river.

He chose to live a simple life, always stayed self employed in order to be available for theocratic projects. Over the years he worked in janitorial, he sold tire plugs, auto parts, tied fishing flies, repaired carpet cleaning machines, delivered products across the southwest to convenient stores, sold Niagra vibrating chairs, worked on prescription glasses, advertising projects, logo design, car batteries, anything that would support his service to Jehovah.

He passed away on Wednesday June 19, 2019.



Left: His last Lobo's game Right: Pictured with his grandchildren



Please Visit rudydurrwachter.com for more memories, audio and to share a story.