



Dennis Jon Ackley

December 13, 1940 - March 18, 2010

Dennis Jon Ackley, "Denny", 69, died of cancer at home in Knoxville, Iowa on March 18th, 2010. Denny was born December 13, 1940 in Leon, Iowa. Denny retired from the Norfolk-Southern Railroad (Des Moines Union) in 2001 after 42 years of service. He was an avid golfer, boater, fisherman, and guitar player. He loved his family and friends and always had a smile, story, or song for them.

He is survived by his wife, Karen; daughters Denise (Matt) Yaske, Mindy (Todd) Wood, Stephanie (Scott) Arnold, and Monica (Jeff) Musolf; grandchildren Lanie and Max Kampert, Sarah and Abby Yaske; brother Wes Ackley; and nephews and nieces. He is preceded in death by his mother and father, Bessie and Russell Ackley; his sister Patricia Mangler; and his brother Gary.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 A.M., on Thursday, March 25th at the Knoxville First United Methodist Church. Visitation will precede the service at 10:00 A.M. A memorial fund to the Oral Cancer Foundation has been established in Denny's name. The family thanks Hospice of Pella for their kind help and support. Lyrics from a favorite song reflect the life Denny lived; "My whole life is a song and I'll share it with you now."

Tribute Wall



“ *Dennis Jon Ackley*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *Dennis Jon Ackley*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *Dear Denise, Mindy, Stephanie, Monica, I was so sad to hear about the loss of your dad. Aunt Rosie told me today and I am so sorry I was not at the visitation or the funeral. I love you all and want you to know that I am praying for you. May the Lord bless you and give you peace and comfort at this time.*

Dan and Valerie Hagman - March 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Karen, Joyce and I were saddened to hear of Denny's passing. I think Denny left a favorable impression on almost everyone he met. His smile and laughter were both contagious and sincere and he touched all those who were fortunated enough to know him. While he loved life, he loved you and his family more because you were such and important part of his life. We are sorry for your loss.
Tom & Joyce Wellendorf*

Tom & Joyce Wellendorf - March 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Dear Karen and family,
I was saddened to read about the loss of Denny. Though I haven't seen him in many years, I still carry fond memories of the times we shared...like the Heavenly Valley ski trip and him wandering into my bar ready to play his guitar and sing a favorite song to the delight of those present. Like the rest who have posted a comment here, his personality and friendship will long be remembered in the category of "how one mans life can be so enriching to the lives of those around him". I know Denny enriched mine.

My prayers are with you.

*On behalf of all who knew him at Scott's 'N Soda,
thank you for the time you and Denny spent with us.*

Scott Dickinson - March 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ Karen -
I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Denise Neumann - March 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Karen and Family,

My deepest thoughts go out to you today, Denny, was the best that life could give. Always with a smile, a song or laughter. I will never forget his laughter.
"People never know how special someone is until they leave, but maybe sometimes its important to leave, so they are given that chance to see how special that someone really is!"

Clint Herlein - March 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ *Denise Yaske & family:*

My condolences on the loss of your father. May you find peace in the comfort of family and friends. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

*Terri Taylor
Lincicum & Associates, CPA's
Ankeny, IA*

Terri Taylor - March 24, 2010 at 12:00 AM

NO

“ *Karen, Denise, Monica, Mindy and Stephanie so sad to hear about the loss of Denny. Neil and I look at the picture of Karen, Monica and Denny each day on the fridge, the three of you on the Bayliner at Lake City MN 2005. We always thought we would get Karen and Denny up to Northern Minnesota for a fishing trip. You guys were and will always be our best neighbors ever. We will never forget the great times, Denny's great singing and our first boat. Karen and girls you are in our thoughts and prayers and still hope that you will visit us up north. Jennifer and Justin also send their regards.*

Neil and Terri Olson - March 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ Dear Karen,
I am very sad to hear of the passing of my good buddy Denny. As you may remember, he and I grew up in the same neighborhood and graduated together from East High. I will always remember what a great and faithful friend that he was to me. He would always have something funny to say all the time. We shared a great many fun times together. I will always remember him for his honesty, integrity, loyalty, and enthusiasm. He was a wonderful person. He will truly be missed by all of us. You and your family are in my prayers to help you get through this time of grief. Very sincerely,
Gary Munoz

Gary Munoz - March 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

NP

“ To Denny's family. I am saddened to hear about Denny, I attended Amos and East with Denny and he was a sweet boy, with a wonderful, happy smile. It sounds as though he grew into a wonderful husband, dad and friend. Please accept my condolences Karen, you and your girls will be in my prayers.
I wish you peace which passes all understanding, and healing in your time of sorrow.
Nancy Phillips

Nancy Quick Phillips - March 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ *Denise, Matt, Sarah, Abby and the Ackley Family,*

Our thoughts and prays are with you all. May you draw comfort from the time you enjoyed together, the laughter, the success and the joy you had with your dad, grandfather and husband. May you find strength to celebrate the success of Dennis's life and the ending of suffering and the hope of heaven.

I didn't know your dad but Hadie had met him a couple of times and she remembered him fondly. He had quizzed her on her boating skills and was quite impressed that she knew so much about boating for a girl.

Please know that our family is here for your family at this difficult time and we understand what you are going through, thou that doesn't make it any easier. Take the time to greive but also reflect on the good times.

*God Bless,
Tom, Jacque & Hadie Gorgas*

Jacque Gorgas - March 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ *I Was saddened to learn of Denny's passing our thoughts and prayers are with you.I will pause for a moment of prayer Thurs at the time of the memorial service. Jon and Joan Horton Earlham, Iowa*

To Karen And Girls - March 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ Karen and girls,
So saddened by the passing of our favorite guitar-playing smiling-faced bearded friend. You and Denny have been so good to our dad, Jack. We can never think of Denny without his smile, and now in God's hands his smile is even wider.

Our prayers are with you. We are blessed to have had a friend like Denny.

Teresa Beghtol Dayton and families of Jack Beghtol

Teresa Beghtol Dayton - March 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Dear Karen, I was very shocked when I received the news of Denny's passing. As were all the crew here when I passed on the news. He was a special man and really made our trip to Iowa in 2004 with his good fun and nature, not forgetting the transport he provided with Ron.

We were planning another trip and all really looking forward to seeing Denny again.

His photographs adorns our pub walls and he provides magical memories for us all.

Karen you are in our prayers and we send our condolences to you and all the family from all of us here in Cruden Bay, Scotland.

Jimmy & the KIGL, Scotland - March 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Dear Karen and family,

I too worked for the Des Moines Union Railway and the Norfolk Southern with Denny, couldn't have asked for a more dedicated enjoyable employee. I will not be attending the funeral as I am in Phoenix, AZ currently, but you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Marla Barnes - March 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DE

“ Karen

So surprised and sorry to hear about Denny. You are both two of my favorite people. Denny was always fun to have around. Just so pleasant and happy. Be thankful you had him - he was special.

David Ertl - March 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ *My heart is broken and God has once again taken a true hero from all of us. Denny has always been my favorite uncle and to see him and hug him was bittersweet as no one came as close to being "MOM" to me as Uncle Denny..he was moms little brother but he looked and his sweet mannerism was identical to mom. He was a wonderful father and Denise, Mindy, Stephanie and Monica have been truly blessed with the best dad in the entire world. How lucky you girls were and i know you all 4 know that. God bless him..he is free from pain and has now joined mom and i am so sure she is a happy girl now being reunited with another brother..*

The world will never replace such a wonderful man. he really did enjoy life. and to us in sabula he will always be our "Jimmy Buffet" will his tunes and barefeet right off our Mississippi shores...he has created and left us with ever lasting memories. thank you uncle denny...j

Will be seeing all of you on Thursday. Love and God Bless

candi and jeff diercks - March 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ Hi Karen and Family.
I, Lloyd Reed, worked with Denny for 38+ years.
Had many laughs, jokes, etc thru the time. I retired in June, 2001
and am the same age. We
send you, the girls and grandkids sympathy. Be thankful for the
precious memories you have to carry you thru the years.
In sincerity, Lloyd and Carol

Lloyd and Carol Reed - March 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ To the family of uncle denny i am so sorry for your loss.I recently
lost my fiance' to a tragic accident on the railroad so i can kinda
relate to what your going thru.i never will understand why god takes
the best.i havent seen uncle denny in a while but sure remember his
smile.things will be extremely hard for everyone that was close to him
now that he wont be around.i am thinking of everyone of you
esecially his wife and children and grandchildren. i will be attending
the memorial service so i am looking forward to geting reaqaunted
with you all again.My thoughts are with you all at this time.
jamie diercks(jeff and candi diercks daughter: a nd VERY PROUD
granddaughter of Patty mangler

jamie diercks(jeff candi diercks daughter - March 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ We just heard about Denny's passing, and wanted you to know how
truly sorry we are! There are no word that will comfort you in this
time of loss, but please know that if there is anything I can do for
you, don't hesitate to ask. I know what you're going through after the
loss of Carroll. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers,
Love Sue, Brandy, Kerry and Bob Visser

Susan Visser andFamily - March 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ KAREN, I AM AT A LOSS TO WHAT TO SAY--YOU AND DENNY WERE THERE FOR ME WHEN SHAWN DIED, AND THAT MEANT ALL THE WORLD TO ME. YOU WERE THE BEST NEIGHBORS AND I COULD NOT ASK FOR BETTER FRIENDS. WE ARE WINTERING IN ARIZONA, AND WHEN I CHECKED THE PAPER TODAY, I WAS IN TOTAL SHOCK. YOU ARE IN OUR PRAYERS-- MAY YOU FIND PEACE AS LIFE GOES ON.

RICHARD & JOAN

richard white/joan miller - March 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *Dear Karen: I am so very, very sorry to hear that Denny has left us. He was an extraordinary man. I will always remember the good times together, especially at the pond. Donna Hylarides Whalen*

Donna & Rick Whalen, Wisconsin - March 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ *Dear Karen, Betty, & Stanton,
We wish to express our sympathy to all of you, now that you've lost your husband & son-in-law. Sure that he will be MISSED, but confident that you have special memories. We will be gone to WI, so will not be able to attend the visitation. Please know that you are in our prayers, especially, Karen, now that your thoughts turn toward spring & planting--as Dennis was always there to help. Sincerely,
Afton & Kathy Terpstra*

Afton & Kathy Terpstra - March 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Karen I am thinking of you at this sad time in your life. It will be 2 years in August since Marion's death and I remember you and Denny being here for Vicki and me. It was also nice visiting with you on the telephone when you called. Sincerely, June Slagter

A friend - March 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM