



Preston G.

January 5, 1937 - May 7, 2011

Preston Garth Gee, 74, passed away on Saturday, May 7, 2011, at Seasons of Life hospice in Woodruff, Wisconsin, following a seven-month illness. Preston was born on January 5, 1937, at Marshfield, Wisconsin, to Rosabelle and Garth Gee, a Presbyterian minister, and was the second of five children. He attended school in Shawano and Crandon until moving to New Berlin, Wisconsin, where he graduated from Waukesha High School in 1955. He attended Carroll College in Waukesha and graduated in 1959 with a B.A degree in psychology and sociology. He then attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where he earned a Master's Degree in Social Work in 1961.

Pres married Christina "Jody" McMichael on June 16, 1962, one week after she also graduated from Carroll. After a brief time of employment in the area, the young couple moved to Meadow Vista, California, where he was employed at DeWitt State Hospital in nearby Auburn for four years and then was Executive Director of the Tri-County Family Service Agency in Yuba City, California. In 1969, the family, now including a daughter, Lori, and a son, Rob, moved to Ashland, Wisconsin, where Preston had been hired by the North Central Guidance Clinic. They bought a home in Bayfield in 1970 where they lived for 35 years. A devoted husband and father, Pres treasured what life in Bayfield offered his children: the lake, music, team sports, swimming, skiing, reading, art, the school and 'driving on the ice road,' for example. The family

was active in the Bayfield Presbyterian Church.

Over the years, Pres worked for various mental health agencies centered in the Chequamegon Bay area but also serving outlying counties. He provided psychiatric and family counseling and led seminars on effective parenting and teaching. On two different occasions, he established his own private practice. In 2005 Pres and Jody relocated to a retirement community in Minocqua, Wisconsin, and enjoyed the quiet reflection such a life can provide.

He served as Chair of the Urban Rural Community Council at the Bayfield schools in the 1970s and was a member of the Bayfield School Board. He was a member of the National Ski Patrol at Mt. Ashwabay (Port Mountain) for ten years. He was a National Park Service volunteer on Manitou Island, part of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, as well. Preston earned his private pilot's license and flew regularly over the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California and over the beautiful Apostle Islands of Lake Superior. An avid swimmer, he enjoyed the clear cold waters of Lake Superior as often as possible. Music, particularly jazz and classical, was one of the joys of his life. Along with his wife, he was an original member of the Chequamegon Area Choir and sang with the Rittenhouse Singers in Bayfield for about ten years.

Preston was preceded in death by his parents, Garth and Rose, and two brothers, infant Alan Richard and Paul Stuart, a Marine killed in Viet Nam. He is survived by his beloved wife of almost 49 years, Jody, and his loving children, Lori (Greg) Mercer of Lynnwood, Washington, and Robert (Erin) Gee of Middleton, Wisconsin. He is also survived by four grandchildren - Thomas and Cameron Mercer and Chris and Katie Jo Gee - and two brothers, Peyton Gee, of Woodruff, and Richard (Donna) Gee of Minocqua.

A memorial celebration of life will be held at the Bolger Funeral Home, 212 West Chicago Avenue, Minocqua, on Saturday, May 14, with visitation

beginning at 9:30 a.m. The memorial celebration, led by Rev. John Green of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania (formerly of Bayfield, Wisconsin), is at 10:30 with a time of fellowship afterward. Casual dress. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial gifts to Pres' favorite radio entities (Wisconsin Public Radio, National Public Radio, or WXPR Radio in Rhinelander), Dr. Kate Hospice of Arbor Vitae, Wisconsin, or your own favorite charity.

Tribute Wall

MM

“ Preston's light will continue to shine in all of us. While he will be missed by those of us on earth, he lives on with our Lord. We love you Gee family!
Monica, Michael and Devan

Monica McClain - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

P(

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Patsy Zemke (Olson) - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

S(

“ Jody and family, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts are with you.

Fred & Suzi Schulz
Lorie Starr and family

Suzi Schulz (Gee) - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

AM

“ Dear Jody, Lori and family, and Rob and family,

Our hearts are filled with sorrow over the death of Preston. We have such wonderful memories of our almost 50 years of friendship. We love you and hold you close in our heart. A candle burns brightly in our entry hall in memory of Pres and with prayers for all of you.

Love,
Jerry and Audrey

Audrey nd Jerry Mueller - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

RT

“ Jody, I'm so sorry to learn of Pres's passing. You and your family have my sincere sympathy. It is a happy thing to see that John Green will officiate at the service. I'm sorry I can't be there, but I will be thinking of you. Happy memories of all those Rittenhouse Singer performances and the banter during intermissions. My best to you.

Robert Tucker - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

SB

“ Dear Jodi, Lori & Rob:

I was so sorry to read about Preston. My sincere condolences to all of you. He was a dear man. I will only assume it was something rather sudden as it wasn't all that long ago that Jodi and I happened to run into each other at County Market. And what a pleasant surprise that was. My memories of all of you when I taught at Bayfield are special. Lori I'll never forget that great trio performance at State! Perfection at its best! There are a number of families/students that remain close to my heart and certainly the Gee's are one of them and I know Preston was so proud of you all of you...and certainly Jodi, you had a relationship that I always admired. I will be thinking and praying for all of you during this tough time. Cherish the memories. He was a great husband, father, and friend to many. Far too young to be called to the Lord's table but who are we to question. I also lost a sister to a cruel disease called Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (attacks the lining of the lung) a year ago today at age 70 so I know how tough it is to say goodbye to someone you love that has so much to offer and want to do yet in this world. Take care. Jodi if you are ever in Ashland again...please call me. I'd love to get together with you.

Shelly Brevak - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

BC

“ *What happens when we die is a secret. Preston now knows that secret. He is in our thoughts and prayers*

Bill and Kathy Carr - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

JP

“ *We shared many wonderful songs together, any number of fond and often funny moments, a little G&S, and more than a little magic. He'll be missed!*

Jerry & Mary Phillips - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

JB

“ *How sweet are the memories of Preston and Jody singing "Do You Love Me?" at the Rittenhouse.*

Of course, they so loved each other! And we all loved, and will remember, Preston.

Janet Bewley

Janet Bewley - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

BG

“ *I love you and miss you, Unk.*

Love always, your "Dunk"

Bethany Gee - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM