

*Landscape Design by Sara*

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Theresa Davis  
117 Linden Court  
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

September 1, 2003

Dear Theresa,

I am writing you this letter to thank you for your idea to plant a tree in Recreation Park in honor of my father, Skip Ungrodt. My brother Tom, brought the newspaper article that was in the Ann Arbor news up to our family reunion in Washburn Wisconsin this summer. It brought tears to my eyes. The picnic was so dear to my father and my Grandparents.

I have so many fond memories of the picnic.....

Searching for coins in the sawdust pile on the army oilcloth tarp

Playing softball

Relay races

Grandpa saying the Blessing

and just plain good food and fun !

I know Joanne Hurler(Durant) too and Dad and she were very good friends. When I was cleaning out his memorabilia in his condo, I found clippings of the past articles about your long standing neighborhood picnic. Joanne and he always shared their picnic and childhood stories. He was so proud of his roots in Ypsi. We went over to my Grandparents house every other Sunday after church. They would come to our house in Ann Arbor on the other Sundays. Grandma showed me all of her beautiful annuals and perennials in her garden- many Primroses, Garden Phlox and Hollyhocks. We used to play hide and seek under the old Norway Spruce in the back yard. We always liked to hide in the root cellar in the basement too! My Grandma and my Dad were a huge inspiration to me to later become a Landscape Architect.

The Woods Road Neighborhood Picnic created such strong memories, that I found myself, two years ago, planning an annual neighborhood picnic in our Olathe Colorado( yes, the sweet corn capitol of the west!) farm community. Apparently there had been an annual get together in the 30's,40's and 50's and people stopped gathering in the 60's. Well, we had a sawdust pile with lots of coins, a people scavenger hunt ( that helped the kids teams get to know the background of the folks there), relay races, water balloon tosses, hula hoop twirls, croquet, and great food! 100 folks attended and we all fit into

our farmyard !

So..... keep up the tradition and it will spread to others as they move through life. Fellowship and fun are what seem to keep the neighborhood fabric strong.

I prepared a landscape plan for my Dad's Ideation office on Washtenaw and we both became fans of Ginkgo Trees- the oldest deciduous tree on the planet. There are 3 of them on that property. One on my property here. He also loved red fall colors of Sugar Maples and Red Maples. I would love to see a Ginkgo Tree planted in his honor if they are not too hard to find at your nurseries there. Ginkgo biloba. There are many cultivars- they are all males- the females have very "odiferous" fruit and are illegal in most towns.

I have enclosed \$50 to help purchase a tree. I hope to come and show it to my children when I am in Michigan this winter. I miss my Dad terribly and I know that he will be looking down from heaven and smiling while all of the Picnic fellowship continues. I'm so glad that Tom, Bob, Brud and some of my sister, Sue's family will be attending.

Cheers to another 60 years!

God Bless You.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sara Ungrodt-Eichhorn".

Sara Ungrodt-Eichhorn