



Mr. Paul Clermont

December 21, 1944 - May 3, 2016

The Last Column

By Paul Clermont

To paraphrase Charles Dickens; I grew up in what I believe were the best of times, and in my case one of the best of places. One of the advantages of being diagnosed with Pulmonary Fibrosis is that this disease has given me enough time to not only "Get my affairs in order,"but to also write my final op-ed piece.

My parents Paul Arthur Clermont & Rita Evelyn Clermont (nee Peat) gave me the gift of life in Adams, Massachusetts on Thursday, December 21, 1944. I am happy about having had a full life, and not despondent over having to die. I take great comfort and solace in memories of: movies at the Adams Theatre on Friday nights, sipping Cokes at The Crest, shooting pool at Billy Guerin's pool room, swimming at Peck's Falls, and in Anthony's Pool, and growing up in a small town that I have always loved and that has, in turn, loved me back. I would like to thank the nuns at Notre Dame School in Adams for teaching me to read. They did however fail to teach me to write in the classic "Palmer Method". I was the only member of my eighth grade graduating class who did not receive a Palmer Certificate. My love of reading was nurtured by my parents as was my introduction to history by the first hardcover book I ever owned "Lee and Grant at Appomattox, by McKinley Kantor, a Christmas present from them in 1958.

The formal parts of my education took place at Adams Memorial High School and The School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. I acquired the remainder of whatever wisdom and knowledge I have from being a voracious reader; and travel destinations that have included: a great many of these United States, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Singapore, Haiti and many other Caribbean islands.

I also want to thank Martha Nordstrom at Berkshires Week, Tom Morton, Ruth Bass, Helen Southworth at The Berkshire Eagle and Claire Piaggi at The North Adams Transcript who encouraged me as a writer and a photographer. In my professional life, I worked as an illustrator with the Ordnance System Division of the General Electric Company, a construction worker, a wine steward (Sommelier if you prefer) a bartender, a photography teacher, co-owner along with Cheryl (my ex-wife and still a friend) of a successful photography studio, a photojournalist, op-ed columnist for the Berkshire Eagle and The North Adams Transcript, and finally as the author of 2 books. It appears that in my case, a career might have been somewhat a rather unimaginative idea.

I have been preceded in death by my parents, and my beloved younger sister Gail Sandra Clermont-Wellington. I am survived by my significant other, Susan Bradshaw of Melbourne, Florida, 2 children: my daughter Laurie LaVigne and her husband Mark of Adams and my son Adam and his wife Ruth Hon of Hong Kong, China, and by my Grandson Mark Therrien Jr. and his wife Caitlin of Stamford, Vermont, as well as several nieces and nephews.

I traveled extensively in my life, photographed and wrote about what I saw and experienced and was given the gift of being able to share it with others. I learned what I wanted to learn and loved who I wanted to love.

The love of my family and friends has truly eclipsed all of the successes of my life. A special note of thanks to Richard Shea and Joel Bolshaw whose love, advice and guidance saved my life.

If reading this brings to mind a photograph that I took or a column that I wrote that touched your heart, or tickled your funny bone, or made you just say

"What?" That's good enough for me.

Stop by at the services and re-tell stories I can no longer tell. Some of those stories may contain "R" rated material, parents of younger children should exercise caution.

And now it is time to give that gift of life back. Metaphorically speaking, I hope we shall meet again on the other side.

Funeral services and burial will be private for the family.

Calling hours are Friday from 4:00PM to 7:00PM at the PACIOREK FUNERAL HOME, 13 Hoosac St., Adams.

The family requests the omission of flowers and suggests memorial donations be made to Pop Cares, P.O. Box 482, Williamstown, MA 01267.

Tribute Wall

CV

“ *What a very sad day to learn of Paul's passing. He will be deeply missed. My sincere condolences to all his friends and family.*

Carl Villanueva - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

PG

“ *Adam and family - I am so sorry for your loss. Although I only met him a couple of times, I remember him as a great guy, and I know you will miss him after losing him too soon. My sincerest condolences.*

Pamela Green - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

LW

“ *I saw Paul at our 50th class reunion in Adams and he would still make me laugh. Such good memories of us dancing to La Bamba - Paul lived life well , his persoanlity always shown through. Thinking of you Paul from here i Big Sky country Montana- how you would have loved this place*

lindsay williams-heaslip - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

LW

“ *I am so saddened to hear of the passing of Paul. I was lucky enough to have taken a photography class with him and still think of him fondly when I use the "old" camera. The world is a better place having had Paul in it and will truly miss him.*

Linda Wooten - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

PN

“ Sorry for your loss, Mark & Laurie. My condolences to all of his family...”

Paul Nowicki - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

DM

“ Mr. Paul Clermont

Donna Merletto - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

SB

“ Paul was a thoughtful and caring person. I enjoyed his stories and memories from his book "Time Pieces." He was a great friend to Hubby Harrington. Now the two of them can't create masterpieces together.

susan Holmes Brady - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

CL

“ We were so sorry to hear of Paul's passing. Our condolences to his family and friends. Caren and Andy Les

Caren Les - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

JA

“ Laurie & Adam it has been many years since I've seen you or your dad, but the thoughts of Laughs, with Sunday mornings coffee and donuts still brings smiles to my face, he was a good man. Jack A, Onset, Ma.

Jack archambaultJackArchambault - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

JR

“ I met Paul when I worked at Quality Printing Company - he entered our calendar contest. Very talented photographer. we became friends and I met his wife Cheryl - they then photographed our wedding. Did a fantastic job. We kept in touch for quite a while. Very nice man - great soul!Jun Roy-Martin

June Roy-Martin - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

TR

“ A great man, who always took the time to say hello whenever we were near. I'll remember his smile and his laugh, they were infectious, till we meet again Paul.

Tom Rlays - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

HS

“ Adam Clermont, I am so sorry for the loss of your father. He was an amazing individual and an outstanding photographer. I hope you find some comfort in the fact that your father will continue to guide you and comfort you from the other side.

Holly Saunders - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

LL

“ Paul, my cousin was always full of life and fun. So sorry for your loss.

LORRAINE Lepel - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

NB

“ So sorry to see that Paul has left us...although this last essay was reflective of the person I briefly knew...kind, generous, humble, grateful, talented, and more. Sympathy to his family and friends. He has left a legacy that will hopefully comfort you.

Nan Bookless - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

LB

“ *Paul, rest in peace. an old friend from Adams...*

Linda Beckwith - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

CF

“ *So sorry to read of Paul's passing, but what a touching obituary he wrote. We new him for many years mostly as a photographer as he captured some of our family events. We are retired from The Williams Inn and he was often there with one group or another taking pictures and making friends. We are privileged to have his books and found them thoughtful and full of his honest experiences. He was a wonderful person and we enjoyed knowing Paul. May he have left you all some wonderful memories.*

Carl and Marilyn Faulkner - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

PH

“ *To the Clermont family:Paul was my friend, neighbor, and had a greatlove of life and his family.He will sadly missed by everyone. He help me and The Alert Hose Co. in layout a cover for the 100th Anny. booklet. Peace and love to all.Paul & Elaine Horbal*

Paul Horbal - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

DW

“ *To the Clermont family- Paul was one of the nicest people I ever met. He socialized with anyone that gave him a simple hi. His books , in all their simplicity were clearly written from the heart. Paul,will be dearly missed by many. RIP ,Paul.*

Dot Wandrei - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

LR

“ Laurie, Adam, Cheryl, Mark, Susan (&Family) I am so sorry for your loss. He loved you so! Paul was a great example of human kindness. He turned his life around and made a difference in the world. His many interesting stories that touched so many hearts. He so loved the Berkshires and it showed in "Time Pieces." A book that touched so many people. He was a master at his craft. In his last days he finished his last book just before he died. It is a must read and will truly make a difference in so many lives. It is a book of great importance. Paul, I love you. You are kind, brave and will always be my hero. God Bless you. May you rest in peace. Linda M. Richardson

Linda Richardson - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

BB

“ To the Clermont Family, Our deepest condolences. I have known Paul most of my life. He always had a passion for life and passed that along to all that crossed his path during his journey here on earth. A memory I would like to share. Many years ago on a warm autumn day there was a knock at our front door, there stood Paul. He wanted to take a photo of my clothes hanging on the line with the mountain in all its colorful glory as a backdrop. We talked for sometime about my grandfather's restaurant (Ed 's Lodge) and when he worked there washing dishes as a teenager, growing up in Adams and how lucky we were. R.I.P. dear Paul. Your final words touched our hearts.

Barbara Bessette - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

JC

“ Adam , I am so sorry to read about the passing of your dad. He seemed to be a fascinating man, with a great sense of humor. I believe my contact info for you is outdated. If you are still in the States, please contact me through fb, or Ray has my numbers. I would love the chance to see you and Ruth, if you have even a minute to spare. My thoughts are with your family.?”

Jennifer Rose Carlo - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

BP

“ Dear Laurie and Adam, What a life your Dad lived. I wish I could attend the Calling hours but I will be out of town.He used to stop by my office on regular basis to share a joke or a story. I will always remember him fondly.My Condolences,Bernie Pinsonnault

Bernie Pinsonnault - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

CB

“ Losing a cousin and a wonderful person is not easy. We grew up together and had wonderful times. Over the years our times together were few but he knew how much I cared. Will miss you Paul.

Carolyn Bator - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

MM

“ My deepest condolences .. I knew Paul when we were both very young .. I have many happy memories

Maureen McKinnon - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

PM

“ Laurie, Mark & Family We are so sorry for your loss. We know losing our parents is very hard to bear. We are thinking of you at this sad time. Love Peg & Paul

Peg & Paul Mekdei - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM



“ I am sorry to hear of Pauls' passing he always make you feel welcome. He enjoyed life to the best. Harold Dupee

June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM



“ Laurie and Adam, I am so very sorry for the loss of your Dad. May your memories carry you through your grief. I remember the good times of being your friend and neighbor in the block on First Street.

June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM



“ i had the pleasure of meeting this great man. Of course i have a signed copy of his book. I have never read a better obit and would like to offer my condolences to his family. Happy trails Mr Clermont.

June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM

DM

“ I first met Paul & Cheryl "The Clermonts" back when I was a junior in high school when they visited our class at HVHS and was blessed enough to intern with them as I made my way through college. It was with Paul's blessing that I struck out on my own opening a studio in town right nearby. To learn from him was such a gift. He is and will remain a intricate part of the weave that makes Adams such a wonderful hometown, our town. I hope that a photo of him will reside right next to the photos that have graced the walls of the Red Carpet restaurant for nearly 30 years (I remember him framing all of these amazing memories) as he truly is one of my favorites in the amazing cast of characters that is Adams, Mass. As I get older there are fewer characters I recognize as a new generation takes center stage, but Paul will always remain one of the most vivid in my mind. His legacy is not just in his writings, his photography, his work, but in his family & in his friends -all valued so much by him. Godspeed Paul. I know a piece of you will live on forever in the beauty you shared in our hometown and in your friends and loved ones who will never let your impact fade.

Debra Aulisio Mahar - June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM



“ I had the great honor of knowing Paul. He was very encouraging to me and to my wife, who is also a writer. He took the time to read my wife's writings and offered his support to her as a fellow writer. He was also invaluable to me in my recovery from a disease we shared. I only knew him for 5 years, but it was a real honor and a privilege to do so. I hope to see you again, Paul. Russell Bidwell Betty Bidwell

June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of grief. May your memories bring you comfort.* ”

June 07, 2018 at 11:30 AM



“ *May God bless you and your family in this time of sorrow.* ”

June 13, 2016 at 12:00 AM