



Arthur Daniel Badgley

September 9, 1920 - April 12, 2015

On April 12, 2015 Art made his possibly final move on earth, kicked the bucket, scratched off or croaked as his old friend of the Sering gang would say. Born to Hubert A. Badgley and Ruth B. (Daniel) Badgley on September 9, 1920 in upper Alton, he was the eldest of three siblings. Clara Barton and Alton High School still bear the marks of his tenure. Horace Mann School was later razed and a replacement facility constructed after his lackadaisical attendance there. He was sent into the adult world with the June graduating class of 1938. A mentor of the first order, the late Emmett Nowlan furnished him a job in lower Alton repairing radios in the shop at 209 West 4th Street. Later, the late Al Renken gave Art a job at the Goulds Auto parts store on Piasa Street also in lower Alton (downtown as they say in the more elite communities). When the U.S.A. entered WW2 Art was eager to enlist, but his friends and neighbors selected him through the draft, and after a 6 month schooling hiatus at Fort Monmouth, N.J., he was sent to a remote installation in Agra, India hoping that his presence there wouldn't appreciably slow the war effort. After surviving 26 months of mosquitos and monsoons he returned to a hero's welcome in the U.S. of A. Later it was learned that the party with all the bells and whistles was for another person indeed. At various dates from 1946 to 1959 he was employed at Sears Roebuck as a field service person, at Al Renken Auto Service as a machinist, and Ben Ruyle Radio and TV service as a repairman. In 1959 Art opened his own small engine rebuilding shop in Godfrey. There he built a number of drag and circle track race engines until he

took down his shingle in 1997. 1947 during the month of November, saw him wed to his then child bride, Rosalie Buffington of Alton. To this union were born Hubert, Brenna Bishop, Kenton, Karen Port and Carol Badgley. At last count eleven grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren graced the family tree. Ruth Reed, Arts sister, survives; a brother Russell died in 1995. The days Art loved best were at Smartt Field, Parks drag strip or Alton Drag way, rest in peace old friends, and his Wednesday lunches with the FBI Gearheads. The remains will be cremated (bake and shake as Art calls it). Visitation will be from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Friday, April 17, 2015 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton. Graveside services will be at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, April 18, 2015 at Godfrey Cemetery with full military honors by the VFW Post 1308. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society or a charity of choice.

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ *Arthur Daniel Badgley*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Arthur Daniel Badgley*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *RIP Art. Our family to this day has many fond memories of conversations with Art and his witty humor. We are all priveledged to have known such a kind and talented man. Amen.*

Mike Todaro - April 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ Our family the Todaro's from Godfrey had Art build us several engines in the late 70s and early 80s. Being a teenager at this time my friends and i visited Art several times probably disturbing him, but he always took time to share his wisdom with us while we reviewed his collection of cars. At the time this consisted of several big block powered 4 door 57 chevys and i believe some 4 door Novas one which was a station wagon. These were Art's sleeper cars as he described one time he raced a KZ 1000 from the stop light in the 4 door 57. During one visit Art took several of us to the local back roads so he could demonstrate the power of the 57 4 door and it was a thrill i will never forget. Art was always entertaining and witty. I remember when paying Art he would say "decorate the mohagony" in a friendly way. Recently my father Ben Todaro made contact with Art after many years within the last several months and visited him reporting Art was as sharp as ever. Art continues to kindle many conversations between my father and i as we recall our many memories of that time. Rest in peace Art we always thought you to be a first class guy in our minds.

Michael T. Todaro - April 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Art was a good friend and mentor to many of us "car guys". He also had a rare talent: When asked a question, instead of answering, he would usually rephrase the question in a way that caused the person asking to see the answer for him or her self. That's the mark of a skillful teacher.
Art will be missed, but never forgotten.

Bob Schuman - April 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Rest with the Peace that you've known when you were first across the Finsh Line at the dragstrip. You've been good to a great many of us all thru your life.
Your spirit will be remembered as you are missed by all of us.

Jim Wiegand - April 16, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ I never met Art, but I think I would have liked to. If he wanted to get a last laugh out of strangers his obituary was a success. He truly had a wicked sense of humor! RIP

Allen Coalson - April 15, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Dear Badgley Family,

My deepest sympathies go out to you and your family for your loss of Art. Even when our loved ones seem to have lived a good full life, our time with them always seems to be cut short of our hearts desire. I personally find comfort in Gods promise to live forever, Psalm 37:29, under much better conditions on earth. May the God of all comfort bring hope to your hearts with his promise of a future resurrection, Psalm 147:3 and Acts 24:15, may these verses bring you comfort too. May you, also, in time find comfort in your husband and fathers cherished memories, and strength in the companionship of the life you shared together!

With heartfelt condolences,

The Munro Family

The Munro Family - April 15, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ with highest regards and most sincere sympathy , Art was a wonderful father, husband and neighbor ,will be always appreciated , lucky he's finally gone home !!

randy Liley & Family - April 15, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ R.I.P.

sally arbuthnot - April 15, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NF

“ Will be missed.A true gentleman.

Neil Fansler - April 15, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Goodbye Dad. You were my second Dad, and I learned everything I know about engines from you. RIP.

Don McQuaid - April 14, 2015 at 12:00 AM