



chapter 6.2

MICHAEL LEON HARTLEY

Lawrence & Mina's first-born (b. 1945 - 1998)

Written by Barbara (Hartley) Wilbert

...brother Edward recalls Michael liked to drive Corvair cars fast, and Michael once said "the faster you go the smoother the road is."



Michael & His Parents
in 1945.

Michael Leon Hartley was the first born child of William Lawrence and Mina Hartley. He was born on April 28, 1945, in San Pedro, California, where his father worked. Michael's early years were in California where three more of his siblings (Edward, Dayton & Virgil) were born. His dad, Lawrence, worked at the ship yards in Lomita, California.

After Michael's brother, Virgil, was born in 1948, the family moved back to Grandma Hartley's farm in western Douglas County, MO. For about a year, they lived in a small house on Grandma's "upper forty," a short distance from Williams Hollow where the original farm house was located..

Michael's brother, Johnny, was born there in the summer of 1950. Michael was five years old at that time. In the winter of 1950, Lawrence, Mina, and the five boys moved to Wichita, KS, where Michael's dad got employment in the airplane industry.

Michael attended Haysville public schools for his first few years, and then various other area schools before graduating from Andover High school in 1963. He started attending Wichita State University (WSU) but was then diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. As a result, he spent a few weeks in the hospital.

Having diabetes kept Michael from getting into the ROTC program at WSU. He left college and got a job at the Coleman plant; he worked there for many years.

{Flashback memory by Edward Hartley. Michael liked to drive Corvair cars and drive them fast. Once he said: "the faster you go, the smoother the road is!"}

{Flashback memory by cousin, Ken Brown. It was the summer of 1963. Michael had just graduated at Andover High School, and I had finished a year at Friends University. We both needed summer jobs, and Michael's dad, (Uncle Lawrence) said that the Coleman plant where he was working was going to hire some kids for the summer. Michael and I both went down--we felt sure Michael would get a job because of his dad, but we were hoping



Above, April 28, 1947—Birthdays, Michael's second, and younger brother, Edward's first. Michael got no cake for his first birthday--on that day, his mother was in the hospital having his baby brother, Edward. They were born on the same day, exactly one year apart.

Michael's Life in a Nutshell

- Born in San Pedro, CA in 1945.
- Schools: Haysville (KS) and Andover (KS) & Wichita State University.
- Worked many years for the Coleman Company and Boeing in Wichita
- Married Barbara Jean Cowan in 1985.
- Died of diabetes in 1998 and was buried in the Mulvane (KS) Cemetery

both of us did. Well, we both got jobs but Michael certainly got the best one--he was a fork lift operator and I slaved on quota-driven assembly line for the one-burner camp stove. We were on second shift (the hottest one) at the plant northeast of downtown. I'd see Michael maybe once or twice a shift driving that fork lift around the plant.]

On August 5, 1985, at the age of 40, Mike married Barbara Jean Cowan; they settled into his house in south Wichita. By this time Michael was working at Boeing Airplane Company. During their marriage they enjoyed going to play Bingo and spending time with family. He loved to play Texas 42, a domino game the Hartley family plays when they get together.

Sadly in 1998 Michael died from complications of diabetes at the young age of 52. He is missed by all of his siblings, he was a wonderful big brother!



Above, 1985—Michael's wedding day. Front, John Hartley, Mina (Bindseil) Hartley, Michael and Barbara (Cowan) Hartley. Back: Stephen Hartley, Edward Hartley, Barbara (Hartley) Wilbert, and Dayton Hartley.



Michael Leon Hartley, 52

Funeral services for Michael Leon Hartley, 52, of Wichita, Kan., will be held at 2 p.m. today (Thursday) at Faith Lutheran Church, Derby, Kan., with the Rev. Richard Boyer officiating. Burial will be in Mulvane Cemetery, Mulvane, Kan.

A toll crib stocker for Boeing, Mr. Hartley died at Wichita, Kan.

He was born April 28, 1945, at San Pedro, Calif.

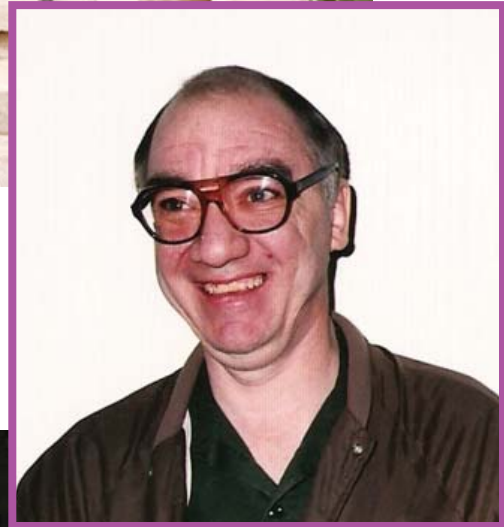
Surviving are his wife, Barbara; six brothers, Edward Hartley, and Johnny Hartley, both of Wichita, Kan., Dayton Hartley, Derby, Kan., Virgil Hartley, Los Angeles, Calif., Steve Hartley, Mulvane, Kan., and Richard Hartley, Belle Plaine, Kan.; two sisters, Susan Malo, Niceville, Fla., and Barbara Wilbert, Derby, Kan.

3/5/98

Michael's 1998 Obituary.



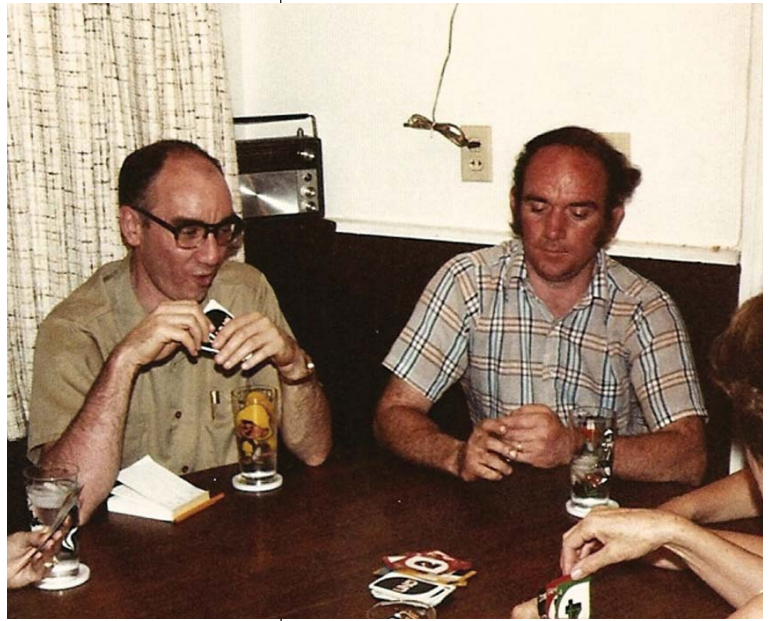
Above, Michael (center) with his mother, Mina, and brother, Virgil.



Above, cousins at the Hartley Family Reunion in Wichita KS in the early 1990s. (L-R: Michael Hartley, Kenneth Brown, Iris (Brown) Durham, Sue (Luttrell) Masters with daughter, Tameria, behind, and Dayton Hartley seated on far right.

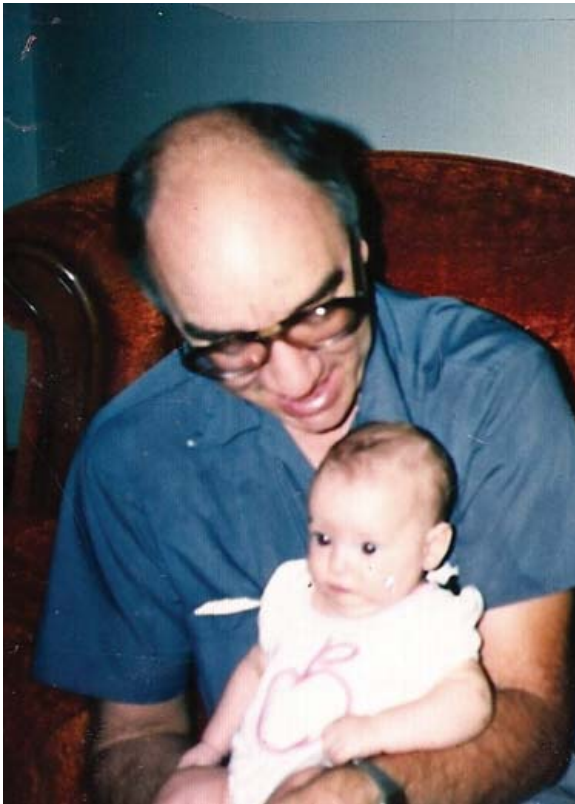


School Days 59-60



Above: Michael (in glasses) playing a card game with his brother John and other family members. From the look on his face, Michael was about to win.

“Uncle Mike” holding nieces



With Barbara Wilbert's Marisa who was born in 1994



With John Hartley's Katie, Christmas, 1979