

Below is a series of emails sent to Bob Sloane and myself from Casey's sister Karen:

Sept. 28, 2011

Hi Jim & Bob:

As the subject says, this is Casey's sister, Karen. Long time, huh? I'm afraid I have some bad/sad news to deliver to you. Casey died this past Monday evening about 7p at St. Joseph's hospital in Bangor. I don't know if you knew, but, almost 3 weeks ago, he fell during the night on his way to the bathroom and was taken by ambulance to the hospital where they discovered he had broken 3 ribs. After that, he went downhill rather rapidly, finally passing from kidney failure and other things. His son, Paul, who found your emails for me and whom I'm cc'ing in this email, and daughter Katie have been there with him for the past 3 weeks, which was of great comfort to him and them.

Casey will be cremated tomorrow morning (Thursday). There will be no services, other than Paul & Katie having his neighbors over to listen to his music and look at pictures in memory of him. Some of his ashes will be scattered off the top of Cadillac Mountain (where we scattered some of our parents' ashes), some will be taken and scattered in Idaho, and some will be taken and scattered here in San Francisco - all the places he loved.

I don't know when you were last in touch with Casey, but do know you have been over the past few years, and we wanted you to know of your long-time friend's passing. We - his children & siblings - are so very sad, but thankful that he is no longer suffering. Casey said that on a scale of 1 - 10, his life was a 9.9 and we are thankful for that. He was greatly loved, and will be forever missed.

Hope you both are doing well.

Best,

Karen Knowles-Pearce

Sept. 28, 2011

Hi Jim:

Thanks for your note. I do remember the (entire!) LaCrosse family; please give my best to Marylou. You certainly have my permission to add Casey's passing to the website. I'm copying Paul, and if he disagrees, he can answer here.

It's too bad you didn't make it north this year, but Casey had been battling illnesses for a couple of years, and would have had difficulties getting out of his house. Luckily he had some good neighbors who were invaluable in their care and friendship for him, and we are extremely grateful.

Good luck with your new home, and if you ever make it to San Francisco, please look me up. If you like it, we'll take you for a sail on San Francisco bay.

Karen

Oct. 3, 2011

Hi Bob,

Thank you so much for your response, Bob. I'm sorry that you didn't get to see him this year, but he'd been fighting illnesses of varying types for about 2 years now. About 3 weeks ago he fell while walking to the bathroom at night, and was taken to the hospital with broken ribs. He never recovered from that, and his health really went downhill rather quickly after that. Luckily his son, Paul, who lives here in San Francisco, and his daughter, Katie, who lives in Idaho were fortunate enough to be able to be back there with Casey since September 12, and they really value that. They were very fortunate to have been able to do so, and that they were there for and with him to the end. We're all very thankful that Casey did not "linger" or suffer any longer than he did, and we feel him smiling down on us. We're sad he's gone but thankful we had him in our lives. He was a great love, and will be forever missed.

I fondly remember you Three Musketeers, and - as the younger sister - thought you three were just the coolest guys in the world. Casey was very happy to see you both again and he sent me the "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" pix of you three at your get-together. Of course it brought a smile to my face and it made me very happy that you all had a chance to see one another again.

I live in San Francisco, with my husband, and LOVE it here. I'm definitely a "west-coaster" and feel so at home here. Of course I've now been here since 1972, so I should feel so!

Thanks for your email, Bob. We appreciate your words and thoughts.

Best,

Karen Knowles-Pearce

Oct. 2, 2011

This video is unlisted on my account, meaning only those with this link may view it:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGV_ANA9-04

Katie made this beautiful table arrangement Friday or Saturday night. Tonight, Sunday, we had Rebecca and Matt and their kids over for a delicious dinner and shared memories and pictures of my Dad.

It was very nice, with the fire burning and the kids running around, banging on the electric piano while some of Casey's favorite jazz played in the background.

Katie remarked afterward how she could feel him smiling down on us. I noticed halfway thru the evening no one was sitting in his chair. I felt he was sitting there leaning back with his arms folded, his legs kicked out and his boots crossed one over the other, smiling at all of us with that twinkle in his eye.

You touched so many lives so beautifully, you will be forever loved and remembered, Dad.

Love, your son,

Paul