

**BILL GILLIS**

*In  
Memoriam*



**WHERE TRIBUTE IS DUE:**

The early morning hours of Aug. 6, native born Quartz Hill resident Joseph Godde died quietly in his sleep at his 5552 W. Ave. M-8 almond ranch home.

To everyone who had the pleasant opportunity to meet him during his 64 years of existence in the Antelope Valley, he was just plain "Joe."

Past, present and future athletes at Paraclete High School forever owe Joe a debt of gratitude.

But for his generosity, the Westside Catholic high school maybe wouldn't have a gymnasium today.

Numerous residents of the Valley contributed in one way or another to the financing and construction of a gym at the Ave. M and 30th St. West campus.

But Joe was the most generous contributor.

Members of his immediate family won't go into specific details as to the exact amount, but figures range in at least the \$50,000 neighborhood.

While this isn't exactly a sports item, it's my understanding that Joe also donated 20 acres at the corner of 60th St. W. and Ave. M where eventually a Catholic Church will be built in Quartz Hill.

To members of the Catholic diocese in the Valley, a suggestion.

Why not name the Paraclete High School gym, the "Godde Gymnasium."

It would be a fitting tribute.

Again this isn't really a sports item, but rather a personal comment.

For about the last 10 years, Joe had prepared the deep pit barbecue beef for the annual Sacred Heart Church Barbecue at his Quartz Hill ranch.

Five days before his death, I drove to the ranch and took a picture of Joe beside the pit and sent him the negative.

From the Godde family last week a letter of appreciation.

"These are the last pictures we have of Joe so we are very happy to have them.

"His death certainly was a shock to us and we are missing him more and more as each day passes."

I can't improve on those sentiments.

