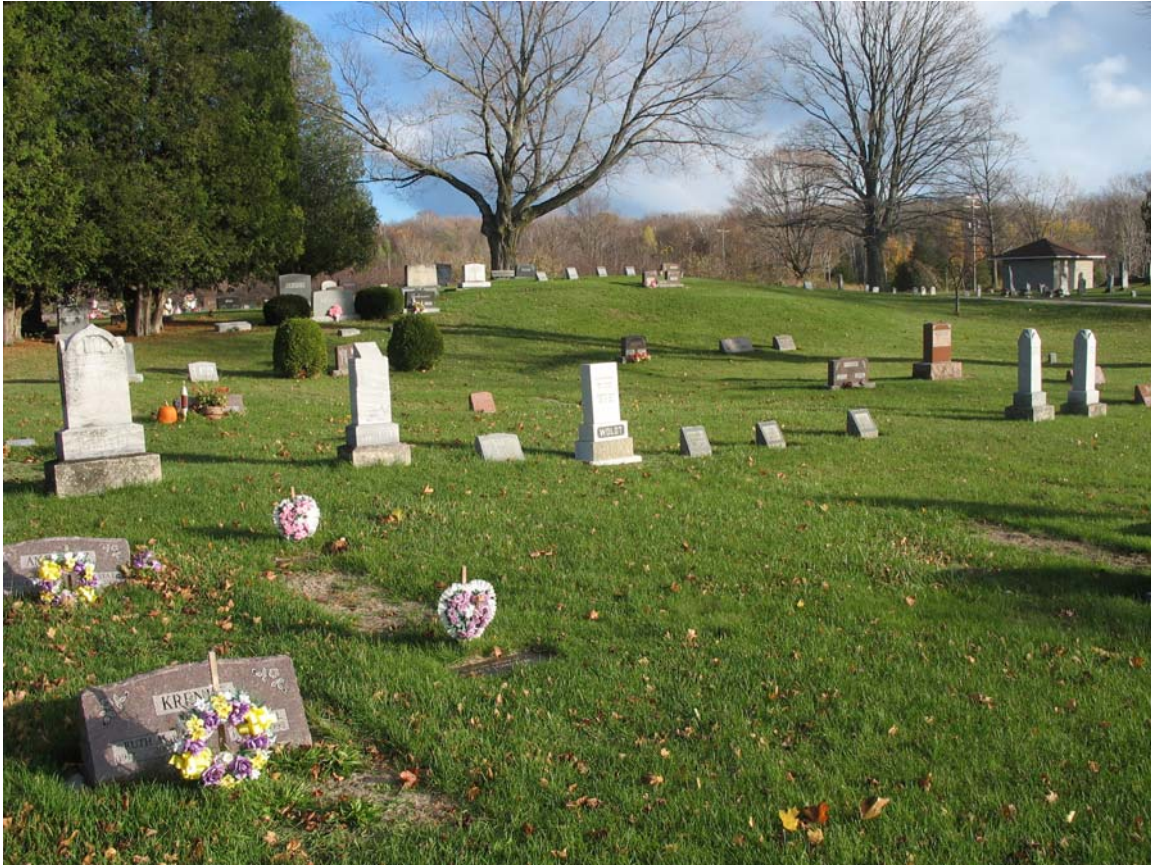


## **Mission Accomplished – We’ve staked our claim!**

**Decker:** The temporary head stone I made is in place to “stake our claim” on your plot and arrangements have been made to have your permanent stone engraved through the monument shop in Sturgeon Bay if and when you decide to go that route. I think it looks good and now that I have Sandy’s blessing might just be your permanent marker. It was made to compliment both Charles Woldt’s stone (one to the left) and your grandparents’ (August and Bertha) stones to the right, as well as Lautenbach’ stones behind and those along Hwy 42. It’s also the same color and design used by many of the Herbst in Jacksonport.





**I thank Sandy for her comments but I'll still consider this a temporary stone knowing how important it is for you both to make the final decision. *Following are excerpts from Sandy's email:***

Happy Thanksgiving Cousin,

"The stone looks great just the way it is ... you did a beautiful job ... I don't plan on changing anything on the stone. It will be the permanent one as far as I'm concerned and I am sure that it will be fine with Deck, also. The only things I would have done differently is the black that makes the lettering for WOLDT so bold ... but that is already done so I am sure I will get use to it. You really did a beautiful job and Deck and I both appreciate all of your loving help.

Hope you have a great day ... I have a turkey to get in the oven so I had better get going.

[sandy in seattle](#)

***Deck: The black background on "Woldt," was recommended by the engraver. It will fade in time especially if we don't seal it when we seal the rest of the stone next spring. The sealer brings out the marbling in the stone and preserves the color.***

**If you're asked why we went through the trouble of placing a temporary stone on the plot, use the following experiences I've had with those who manage Door County cemeteries:**

- **Although we paid for the plot months ago, the plot map I picked up for our VFW cemetery' committee didn't have your name in the plot registry. Now that the stone is in place it will be difficult for them to deny ownership. I'll follow up to make sure their records are up to date.**
- **When Bill Becker and I marked off our family plot after Dad died, we thought we were in the right place. Than about two months after his funeral we were notified that he was buried outside the surveyed section of the cemetery so we were asked to sign a waiver of liability incase we run into another grave when we open the remaining seven plots.**
- **When Joe Schneider's stepdaughter Julie Jacobson died, they couldn't afford a stone so I had one made after she had been buried for eight years with only a flat field stone to mark her grave. It's still her only marker.**
- **In Sturgeon Bay there is a cemetery behind the White Birch Inn that was long forgotten except by Dennis Bastar who cared for it until we Vet's in Door took it over and had markers and stones made to mark forgotten graves. In the 1970s many of the original stones were pushed into the than new bridge foundation.**





**I think your stone fits in well with the rest of the “Woldt” family stones. It’s a replica of Charles’ stone (second stone to the left), and has the same base as your Grandfather August’ and Grandmother Bertha’s stone (four and five to the right). As for the black background on Woldt, I might be highlighting the “Woldt” on all the stones along Highway 42 so they’ll all blend in. I’m planning to create a three generation acrylic plaque for the back of each stone to outline each persons heritage. *FYI, Chief Roy Oshkosh is buried next to Dad. I think it would be great to have Eloise’s Indian heritage documented on the back of your stone.***

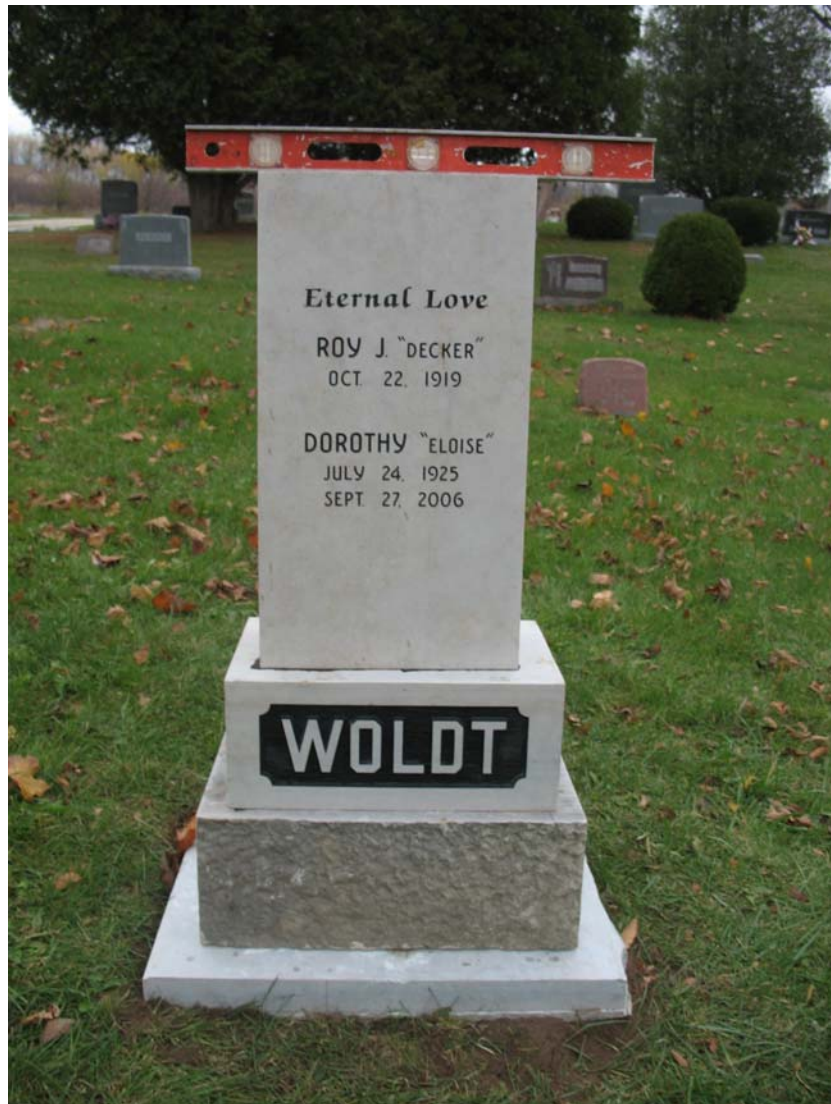
**A comment to my family: For those who think I suffered lifting the stones in place? Know that Christine used a stone boat to place the foundation and than I used a series of lifts and levers to roll the “Woldt” stone on top the base and tilt the “Eternal Love” stone upright. After everything was in place I brought in some heavy lifters or at least heavy weight Godchildren to approve the project. *Following are a few pictures to document this family affair.***



**Christine “Woldt” Tierney demonstrated how to use a stone-boat.**



**By positioning the trailer on the uphill side, I was able to slide, roll, and tilt stones into place.**



**I than brought in a level given to me by Attorney Jeff Patza, son of Lee and Christie Patza to make sure everything was squared-off and on-the-level. *Jeff is my Godson. He gave me this level as a Christmas gift on his second birthday. It still works and so does Jeff!***



**To make sure it was perfectly level, I flew my Godsons, Attorney Richard “Rick” Tierney (my sister Christine’s son) and my nephew Attorney Ryan Doherty (my sister Wendy’s son) in from Florida and Michigan respectively to verify the stone stands level. Needless to say we had to make a few corrections.**





*We than had Christine make sure it was level and taking a lesson from Stone-hedge she made sure it will cast a shadow over home-plate at the Egg Harbor Ball diamond on Deck's birthday.*



*We also took time to level Dad's stone and Great grandfather August and Grandmother Bertha's stone.*

- *Decker: Following is what I sent you when you were in Washington with Sandy. I've added pictures and information about your sisters Betty' and Clara's stones to include a notation of how they placed William Bastar's autograph on the main stone marking the Bastar plot in Algoma. Jeff Bastar and I where there on Veterans' Day 2007 to honor veterans such as your brother-in-law Roger Bastar.*

**On a bright sunny day in June 2007, Decker and I set out to visit the final resting places of our much loved ancestors. In the process we hoped to study options for Deck's future head-stone and family monument.**

**Deck considered many locations and finally decided on a single plot in the Egg Harbor' cemetery next to his father August, down the hill from his brother Fritz and sister Myrtle. There, friends could easily yell HI from the road and his enemies might be discouraged from peeing on his ashes.**





**We considered spreading his ashes in the sandbox or on the pitchers mound and behind home plate at the Egg Harbor ball-diamond, but Marcella and Jeannie Sawyer voted that down. We also considered spreading his ashes on the putting green at Horseshoe Bay golf course but that too was voted down.**



**To make sure we'd considered all options or "touched all bases", we decided to tour the county and see what our ancestors did with their remains, what monuments they chose, and what inscriptions they preferred. We started in Sturgeon Bay at "Bayside" cemetery where...**



**Deck's Mom, Anna Herbst, (first married to August "Dick" Woldt) and than to Frank Hembel.**



**We than headed back to Egg Harbor to checkout Deck's only brother Roland August Ernest Woldt's stone or as I call him "Dad" and everyone else called him "Fritz"! We than checked out...**



**Deck's sister Myrtle's stone (Married to Ben Patza) and headed over to Bailey's Harbor to meet up with Bill Becker and check out Deck's sister Clara's stone (Clara, Bills Mom, was married to Levi Becker).**





**While in Bailey's Harbor, Bill showed us Mary's stone which was fashioned after the stone used for Sheriff Hollis "Baldy" Bridenhagen and the new stone behind Aunt Myrtle's stone in Egg Harbor. Note the solar votive light, brass plaque, planters, mobiles and...**



**“We love you Mom” engraved in the base.**



**I than traveled to Algoma with Jeffrey Bastar, nephew of Deck’s sister Betty “Woldt” Bastar who married Roger Bastar son of William and Grandson of the Bastar’ patriarch William Bastar who’s signature is engraved on the main family monument.**







**Roger's VFW plaque is on the back of his head stone. There is another Bastar' monument in the older section of the cemetery. Note that Betty died on her birthday.**



**The Bastar's have a number of great monuments throughout the cemetery. To make sure we had a good sampling of family monuments, Deck and I went to the cemetery in West Jacksonport and checked out the head stones for Deck's Uncle Doc and Aunt Lydia Schmidt.**



**After paying our respects for Uncle Doc (Nicholas Bernard) and Aunt Lydia, we checked out the stone for Nick Bley' before checking out.**





**the head stone chosen for Deck's Uncle Art and Aunt Sylvia. Sylvia was Deck's Mom's youngest sister. We than checked out...**



**Valentine Herbst, who started it all! While in West Jacksonport we also check out...**



**Lena and Bill Herbst's stone, and...**



## **Nick and Emma Bley.**

**To round out our research of monuments, head-stones and inscriptions, we went to the Judville cemetery and checked out Herman, Hilda and Roger's final resting place.**



**We visited many more sites and eventually returned to Egg Harbor to consider either a monument similar to Deck's grandparents (August and Bertha) as they had the same "Woldt" base common to many stones we saw.**



**We ruled out a bench seat like the one I made for Julie and Joe Schnieder (Note I spelled Julie wrong and how faded the lettering is without a darker background).**





**In the end, Deck decided on a temporary stone similar to Charles Woldt. Guidelines we discussed included making sure “Eternal Love” was engraved at the top and while birth-names Dorothy and Roy needed to be on the stone, both “Eloise” and “Decker” would also be included. That was recommended by cemetery officials as it helps genealogists track family records.**

**Decker confirmed the spot he wanted next to his Dad and I set out to quarry and engrave the stones.**

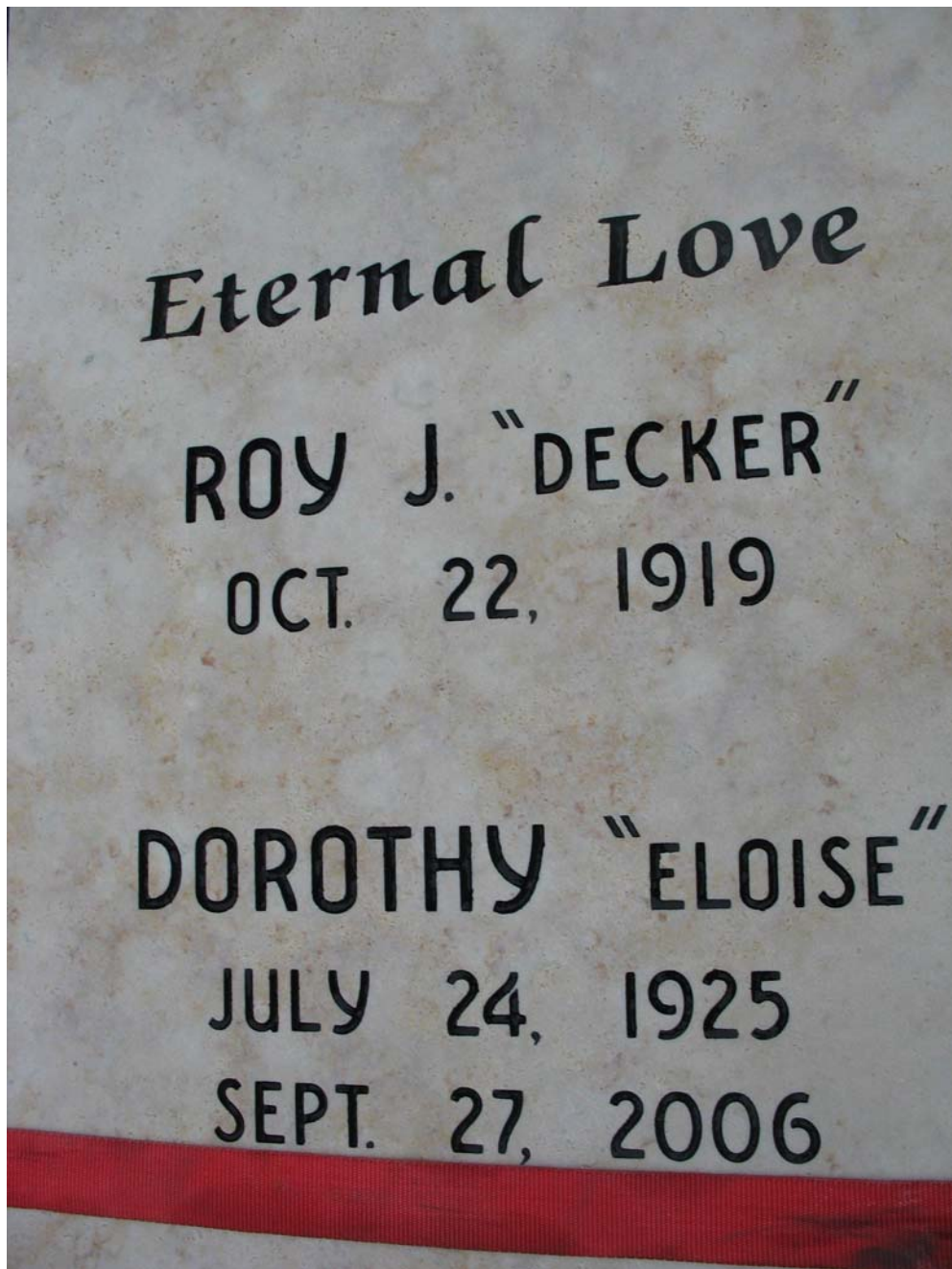


**Once cut and polished I hauled them to Two Rivers to be engraved.**



**We started with the lower stone and darkened the background so it'll be easy to read from Highway 42. Then, I made sure we engraved the upper stone with "Eternal Love" at the top and, at the recommendation of monument engravers we included "Roy" and "Dorothy" for genealogical and cemetery record keeping and "Eloise" and "Decker"**

for those who only knew them as “Deck and Eloise” from Pampa, Texas!



The base and foundation slab was cut and as you already know this stone has been set in place and leveled. It makes little difference whether this stone is a temporary marker or becomes a permanent monument. What's important is it's now a part of our family history!



*To Decker and Eloise Woldt with love --- Rich Woldt*