

An afternoon with Michael

It was a perfect autumn afternoon for our visit to Salem cemetery. We purchased some flowers for our visit, and Mary and Lynn placed flowers on the graves of our grandparents, greatparents, aunts, uncles, and brother Michael. Michael has a small ground level stone, simply engraved as:

Michael Wayne Solano

Dec. 27. 1952

June 9. 1953

The visit (or visits) were overwhelming. We actually visited the cemetery twice: once to visit all of the



Michael's siblings sitting by his grave



graves of relatives we knew about that morning, and once to see the graves of related Klingers and Maurers we had only found out about that day. Our emotions ranged from sadness (from never getting to know Michael), to a sense of belonging (we never knew we belonged to such a large

family), to a sense of weariness (we would never be able to record all the information we needed in such a short period of time).



church was closed and locked. However, good fortune was smiling on us on this day, and a back utility door was not fully shut. We used the time for some photos, as shown below.

The Salem United Methodist Church adjacent to the cemetery held some interest as well. Not only was it the place of worship of many of our ancestors in the valley, but it was the place Grandpa Elias and Grandma Emma first met. As it was a Friday, the

Photo on upper left shows Mary and Alan on the cemetery grounds on a beautiful October day. Photo on lower left is the final resting spot for Grandpa Elias and Grandma Emma. Photo at right is Lynn and Mary inside the church

