

## RICKY PRIOR

*from a letter to Mike O'Rourke from Ricky's brother, Bob Prior ...*



Richard Ray "Ricky" Prior was born July 10, 1951 to Dr. John A. and Helen Z. Prior, nearly lifelong residents of Upper Arlington. He was the younger brother of UA grads John A. "Jack" (1955) and Robert L. Prior (1959).

Rick could best be described as an exuberant little boy who took on life at full speed. He attended Sunday School at First Community Church and God became very real to him at Camp Akita. In sports, he played football like his older brothers. Had he lived, family members are united in their belief that his career would have been in television, probably in the production end of the business.

He was fascinated with TV, which was then a new technology. His brothers remember him and classmate Bill Barnett staging the "Bill and Rick Show" in the family basement replete with mock TV cameras. It was this fascination with television which ultimately led to his untimely death on November 10, 1963. He was trying to suspend himself to pretend he was flying, like his television idol, Superman. Unfortunately, he slipped off the work bench and became entangled with the ropes he was using.

Six months after Rick's death, his parents agreed to become temporary foster parents to a 6-year-old girl for "no more than three weeks." Ann never left. She was adopted by Rick's parents, spent all but her last two years in the Upper Arlington School System. Ann graduated from CSG in 1976, thus fulfilling Dr. Prior's declaration at the time Ricky died, "We have to make something positive out of something negative."