

Dennis Teel Avery, son of Milburne Henry "Mel" (1902-1989) and Alice Nedra (Teel) (1907-1988) Avery, was born 24 October 1936,

Lansing State Journal,
April 5, 1954



DENNIS F. AVERY



NIKOLINE BRAUNER

WIN TOP HONORS—Dennis F. Avery and Nikoline Brauner have been named valedictorian and salutatorian respectively of Okemos high school class of 1954. Avery is the son of Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Avery of 3891 Okemos rd. Miss Brauner is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Erling B. Brauner of Arrowhead rd. He was a member of the student council in his junior year and was treasurer of that organization during the same year. He has also been a member of the yearbook staff for three years, chairman of the citizenship committee and played football for three years. She was a member of the student policies committee for two years and a member of the yearbook staff for two years and assistant editor of the school annual in her senior year.

Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan. Dennis was one of 4 siblings, all of whom graduated from Okemos High School; Jean (1935-2014) in 1953, Carol in 1957 and Lawrence (Larry), class of 1965. Dennis graduated in 1954 and then furthered his education with a journalism degree from Michigan State University. Four

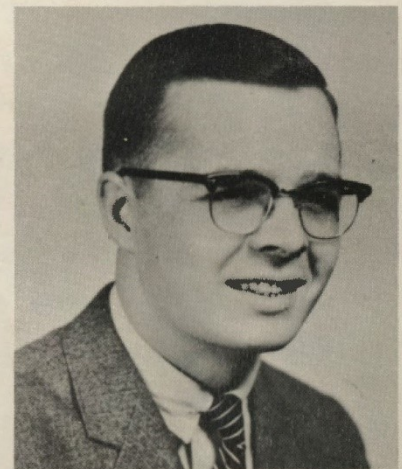
Okemos High School yearbook 1958

years after OHS, he was honored in the 1958 Tomahawk. His next achievement was an economics degree from the University of Wisconsin.

Dennis married Sharon Roslund in 1959. They divorced. On 11 July 1982 in Fairfax County, Virginia, Dennis married Ann Marie (Knoll) Kelly. The couple would happily celebrate 37 years together before Dennis' death 20 June 2020.

Dennis in many thoughtful ways followed in the footsteps of his father. Mel Avery, a 1929 graduate of Michigan State College of Agriculture and Applied Science (now Michigan State University), was a county extension agent for 33 years, mainly in Ingham County. Mel

DENNIS AVERY
O.H.S. Valedictorian, 1954
Honors Award from M.S.U., 1954
Assistant Farm Editor, WKAR, 1955-1957
Sigma Delta Chi, Journalistic Fraternity
T.V. Series for M.S.U.
M.S.U. Department of Publications
B.A., With Honor, 1957
Trainee, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1957, in Radio, T.V., and Publications
Graduate Assistant, Department of Agricultural Journalism, University of Wisconsin



instilled a love of farm, soil and environment in his son. It also was Mel and Alice who, in 1955, sold 78 acres of their farmland to the Okemos Board of Education in anticipation of building a new high school along Okemos Road. And Dennis' mother Alice, in the early 1940's, was a teacher in the Okemos School System and substituting into the 1960's. The Avery family planted deep roots in Ingham County.

Dennis was interred Green Hill Cemetery, Churchville, Augusta County, Virginia.

Bear Funeral Home, Staunton, Virginia

Dennis Teel Avery Obituary

Swoope - "The world became a less interesting place with the passing of Dennis Avery, a gifted scholar and communicator best known for his work on agriculture, energy policy, and climate change. . . Dennis was much admired and beloved by his countless colleagues and friends around the world. He will be sorely missed." Joe Bast, retired CEO of the Heartland Institute, Chicago.

Dennis was born Oct 24, 1936 in Lansing, Michigan to Melburne and Alice Teel Avery. He earned degrees in Journalism and Economics from Michigan



State University and the University of Wisconsin.

He began his career with the federal government in Washington D.C. in 1959, and took early retirement in 1989 as Senior Agricultural Analyst for the U.S. Dept. of State. Dennis received the National Intelligence Medal of Achievement in 1983 among his many other awards and honors.

Moving to Swoope in 1990, he began an international consulting and lecturing career as Director of the Center for Global Food Issues. His 1995 book, "Saving the Planet: The Environmental Triumph of High-Yield Farming" was used in classrooms throughout the world. His 2007 NYT bestseller, "Unstoppable Global Warming: Every 1500 Years" co-authored by S. Fred Singer "became the Bible of the fast-growing 'global warming skeptics' movement" (quote: Joe Bast). His last manuscript, "Climate and Collapse," will be published posthumously.

He loved his wife and family and his wonderful and loyal friends. He revered history and research to search for truth, even

Lansing State Journal, Nov 9, 1950

when truth is uncomfortable, and had a sense of humor that made knowing him a delight.

He died June 20, 2020 of the effects of Glioblastoma, which he bravely endured for 13 months.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, a sister, and two brothers-in-law. He is survived by his wife, Anne; sons, Adam of Phoenix, AZ and Alex (Jakki) of Staunton; a daughter, Amy, and a stepson, Kevin Kelly of Richmond; a brother, Lawrence Avery (Linda) of Triangle Lake, Oregon; a sister, Carol

12 Ingham Entries Ready for Contest

Twelve young vegetable growers from Ingham county will take part in the 10th annual \$6,000 production-marketing contest of the National Junior Vegetable Growers association, it was announced Thursday by Kenneth Ousterhout, state N. J. V. G. A. leader.

They are: Eleanor M. Kowalk, Doris V. Kowalk, Margaret Ann Black, Claude E. Holmes, Robert W. Holmes and Clarence W. Prentice of Lansing; Edna M. Doolittle and Dennis T. Avery of Mason; Julia M. Carr of Webberville, and Alfreida Frost, Maurice A. Rykert and Barbara N. Webster of Williamston.

In the contest the youths will be seeking the nation's junior vegetable growing crown plus a share of the cash awards and scholarships being offered by A. & P. food stores.

Avery Koch, of Sequim, Washington State; and five beloved grandchildren (Anna Kelly, Autumn, Meadow, Ethan, and Noah Avery).

The burial service at Green Hill Cemetery will be recorded and broadcast on www.bearfuneralhome.com at 6 p.m. Saturday, June 27. A Celebration of Life will be held at a date to be determined. Memorials may be given to Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2001 North Coalter Street, Staunton, VA 24401 or a charity of choice.

THE CLIMATE CHANGE WEEKLY

This issue of *Climate Change Weekly* presents a memorial to Dennis Avery, who passed away on June 20. The thoughts below, by those at The Heartland Institute who knew him best, show his impact on our lives and his influence on agricultural and climate research and policy, an impact that will continue long after Dennis is gone.

It is with no small amount of sadness that I learned Dennis Avery had passed away. I had known Dennis going on 20 years, going back to my time as a senior fellow at the National Center for Policy Analysis (NCPA)

Lansing State Journal, July 23, 1963 when I first began to investigate biotechnology and its potential to feed the world's growing population while minimizing environmental harm. I learned a great deal from Dennis writings on this topic, which ultimately served as a basis for some of my own work in the field, including the study "Biotech versus Precaution in Europe and America: Killing the Golden Goose."

MSU Grad Wins Writing Award

A Michigan State University graduate was one of four editors in the nation honored by the American Association of Agricultural College Editors.

Dennis T. Avery, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Avery, 3841 Okemos Road, Okemos, was honored for "conspicuous contributions to a higher standard in communications."

Avery, who graduated from MSU in 1957 and received his master's degree in journalism in 1958 at the University of Wisconsin, is an editor with the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington.

Dennis and I began to correspond first via e-mail and then in discussions over the phone, becoming friends as well as colleagues. I found him to be both a gentleman and a scholar. By the end of every conversation or exchange I had with Dennis, I had always learned something new and

important. Dennis was always complimentary of my work and seemed genuinely glad to hear from me each time we spoke.

Our working relationship led Dennis to request that NCPA publish a short



version of his and S. Fred Singer's then-unpublished manuscript, "Unstoppable Global Warming: Every 1,500 Years." John Goodman, president and founder of the NCPA, readily agreed and charged me with editing the document to NCPA's standards and style. The result was a policy report on "The Physical Evidence of Earth's Unstoppable 1,500-Year Climate Cycle," a work of which I remain proud of having had a hand in producing.

After I joined The Heartland Institute, Dennis remained a go-to-guy on agricultural matters, and though we did not correspond as often as in the past, I enjoyed seeing him at multiple International Climate Change

Conferences. Most recently, I conducted a podcast with Dennis in 2019, discussing one of Dennis's favorite topics, "Feeding the World's Poor and Restoring Wildlife Habitat."

Dennis, I will miss you!

— **H. Sterling Burnett** <https://www.heartland.org/news-opinion/news/dennis-avery-a-life-well-lived-in-pursuit-of-the-betterment-of-humankind>

H. Sterling Burnett, Ph.D., is a Heartland senior fellow on environmental policy and the managing editor of Environment & Climate News.

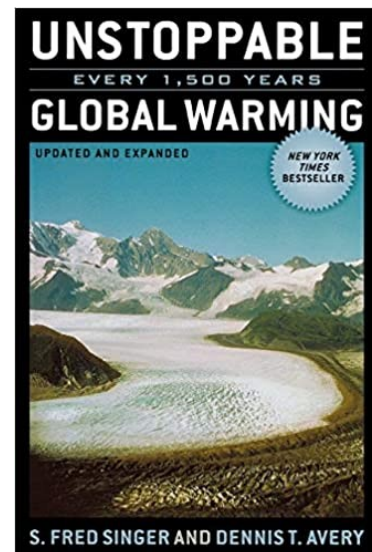
Special To Climate Depot

Dennis Avery, coauthor of *Unstoppable Global Warming – Every 1,500 Years*, has died

By Paul Driessen

Another giant of science, history and scholarship has left our world. Dennis T. Avery died June 21 at age 83. With the passing of this "gifted scholar and communicator, the world became a less interesting place," former Heartland Institute president and CEO Joe Bast commented.

Avery's career was indeed remarkable for its breadth and depth. Born in 1936 in Lansing, Michigan, he earned degrees in journalism and economics from Michigan State University and the University of Wisconsin, then worked for a variety of federal government agencies before retiring in 1989 as Senior Agricultural Analyst for the U.S. State Department. Among his many other awards and honors, he received the National Intelligence Medal of Achievement in 1983.



Dennis T. Avery, a former Okemos resident and son of retired Ingham County Extension Director **Mel Avery**, has been awarded the National Intelligence Medal of Achievement, the nation's second-highest intelligence award.

Avery, of Vienna, Va., and a senior agricultural analyst in the U. S. State Department, was raised on his family's farm at 3841 Okemos Road, and graduated from Okemos High School in 1954 as valedictorian. He is also a 1957 Michigan State University graduate and earned a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1959.

Avery and his wife have four children. His sister, **Jean Paulson**, lives at 2834 Deerfield in Lansing. . . .

[Lansing State Journal, Feb 12, 1984](#)

After moving to northwestern Virginia in 1990, he launched the Center for Global Food Issues and began his international consulting, lecturing and writing career. His farming operations practiced no-till agriculture, which utilizes biotech seeds and herbicides to help preserve soil structure and organisms, moisture, organic matter and nutrients, thereby improving drainage and soil biodiversity, while reducing erosion. Avery practiced and studied what he wrote about in his books and articles.

His 1995 book *Saving the Planet with Pesticides and Plastic: The Environmental Triumph of High-Yield Farming* was used in classrooms throughout the world. His 2007 New York Times bestseller, *Unstoppable Global Warming: Every 1500 Years* (coauthored by S. Fred Singer) became "the Bible of the fast-growing 'global warming skeptics' movement," Bast said. (Dr. Singer died in April 2020 at 95.) Avery's last manuscript, *Climate and Collapse*, will be published posthumously.

For many years he monitored developments in world food production, farm product demand, the safety and security of food supplies, and the sustainability of world agriculture. As a staff member of the President's National Advisory Commission on Food and Fiber, he wrote the Commission's landmark report, *Food and Fiber for the Future*. He traveled widely as a speaker, testified before Congress, appeared on many radio and television news programs, and was often quoted in publications like *Time* magazine, *The Washington Post* and *The Farm Journal*.

Dennis was a frequent speaker at climate change conferences hosted by The Heartland Institute ([available on YouTube](#)), contributed to the *Climate Change Reconsidered* series produced by the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), and traveled to Katowice, Poland to join other scholars in presenting contrarian, real-world opinions on climate change at the United Nations 24th Conference of the Parties (COP-24) in December 2018.

Countless people read his informative and entertaining articles on energy, environmental and agricultural issues, and on climate changes throughout history, as warmer periods helped civilizations to flourish, while little ice ages and droughts caused many to disappear.

I was honored to edit and distribute some of his columns, and delighted to hoist occasional beers with him while we discussed these topics and the sad decline of civil, civilized discourse and debate over them in recent

years. As Joe Bast observed, “In an age when angry exchanges between partisans get much more attention than scholarship and debate, Dennis maintained a dignified but not silent presence. He was a true gentleman and scholar, willing to calmly and patiently explain complex issues, even as others tried to shout down or cancel opposing views” – or even prosecute and jail anyone presenting those views.

My family and I spent a glorious day on his farm, feeding and enjoying the animals, savoring a delicious dinner prepared by his delightful wife and Center for Global Food Issues associate Anne, and chatting on into the night about multiple topics. His friends remember him as “inquisitive, articulate, energetic, humble and well informed” – as much as for his “ready smile and quick dry wit.” Dennis was admired and loved by his family and his many colleagues and friends around the United States and world. He revered history and conducted lengthy, painstaking research in search of the truth on every topic he addressed, even when truth was uncomfortable.

Dennis is survived by his wife Anne, sons Adam and Alex, daughter Amy, stepson Kevin, brother Lawrence, sister Carol, and five grandchildren. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Memorials may be given to Covenant Presbyterian Church (2001 North Coalter Street, Staunton, VA 24401) or a charity of choice in his name.

We will all miss him, but his amazing legacy will live on.

Paul Driessen is senior policy analyst for the Committee For A Constructive Tomorrow (www.CFACT.org) and author of books and articles on energy, environment, climate and human rights issues.

<https://www.climatedepot.com/2020/06/25/another-giant-of-science-has-passed-rip-dennis-avery/>

The Heartland Institute

<https://www.heartland.org/about-us/who-we-are/dennis-avery>

Dennis Avery passed away on June 20, 2020. He was 83.

Dennis Avery was a senior fellow with The Heartland Institute, director of the Center for Global Food Issues, and a senior fellow of the Hudson Institute. With Dr. S. Fred Singer, he was coauthor of *Unstoppable Global*

Warming - Every 1,500 Years, which spent weeks on The New York Times best-seller list in early 2007.

Avery was the author of *Global Food Progress 1991* (Hudson Institute, 1991) and *Saving the Planet with Pesticides and Plastic: The Environmental Triumph of High-Yield Farming* (Hudson Institute, 1995). The second edition of *Saving the Planet* was published in 2000.

Avery wrote a weekly column on environmental issues that was widely regarded across the country and internationally. He was quoted in publications ranging from *Time* and *The Washington Post* to *The Farm Journal*. Avery's article, "What's Wrong with Global Warming?" was published in the August 1999 issue of *Reader's Digest*.

Avery studied agricultural economics at Michigan State University and the University of Wisconsin. He held awards for outstanding performance from three different government agencies and was awarded the National Intelligence Medal of Achievement in 1983. He monitored developments in world food production, farm product demand, the safety and security of food supplies, and the sustainability of world agriculture. As a staff member of the President's National Advisory Commission on Food and Fiber, he wrote the Commission's landmark report, "Food and Fiber for the Future."

Avery traveled the world as a speaker, has testified before Congress, and appeared on most of the nation's major television networks, including ABC's *20/20*.

A thank you to Larry Avery for informing OHS Alumni of his brother's passing.

1954 Okemos Tomahawk

DENNIS T. AVERY

*He can't bear to see the
women stand in the busses,
so he closes his eyes.*

Yearbook 2, 3, Editor 4

Football 1, 2, 3

Track 2

S.R.A. Treasurer 3

Play 3, 4

Citizenship Committee

Chairman 4

J.E.T.S. 3

