

Mary's Memories

Intro

I was showering last night, close to Christmas on 12/21/23, and a couple of thoughts came to mind. First, it sure was a boring night. Thinking about that, I was amazed that I just loved it. Spending boring hours with Mary tonight and I loved it? What could be wrong with just vegging with the love of your life on a cold winter night? I truly enjoy every minute we spend together these days. We really don't know how many are left.

Next I thought back to the Story Worth book I wrote a few years back. I thought I should have it on my website, so I will add it tonight. Along that line, Mary never did anything like that so I decided to add this to my web page. Over the boring winter, I will add to this as we go. Since it is close to Christmas, I will start there. Additions will be added above the previous entry.

January 19 2024

Today we will write down memories from the early years visiting Grandmother Fern and Grandfather Edward Schnell. She and her brother and 2 sisters were of elementary school age at the time. We are talking the early to mid 1950s. Mom packed a lunch mostly sandwiches and sometime brought the Coleman camp stove to cook burgers and dogs. I remember those. They ran on white gas, whatever that is.

They all packed into the car. Mary always got the back seat center. Off they headed to route 219 to Olean, NY. After an hour they stopped and had their lunch. They did not want to impose on the grandparents for food. Back on the road to Grandma's house.

They all went in and visited and played with what ever she had. They always walked up the dirt path going up a hill down the road a bit from her house. In the summer they picked strawberries.

Grandma had well water with the old egg smell, sulfur likely. No one liked it, so it was only for when you were desperate. The family did not go very often so they all looked forward to going. The stays were short, probably a couple hrs. Everyone back in the car for the ride home and dinner to end the day.

December 22 2023

We talked about Christmas time when we were kids and I put the memories down here.

Mary remembers as a child that they always has a real tree. Dad bought it already cut, he put it up, and then his job was over. Like everyone else the number of ornaments grew over time. She does have a couple of tin ones from her mom. They had lots of Santa ornaments. She has a couple of those as well. Ruth likely has the bulk of the rest. Maru should ask Ruth for a couple more so we can pass a few to our kids.

Christmas mornings they walked to church, then ate breakfast. After waiting for dad to get up they finally opened their presents. The wait to open those gifts was difficult. Each kid got maybe 2 or 3 gifts. Clothes were sometimes gifts and if one of the kids got a sweater, all of them did. Same with the dolls for the girls. If one got a doll, so would the others. They always seemed to get socks too.

They also decorated a small artificial tree for grandma and grandpa who lived upstairs. They would go up and get a treat later that day on Christmas. Unlike my family, most of hers lived a good distance away. I would have uncles and aunts and cousins visit later Christmas day, but that was not the case for her.

Mom usually had a turkey for Christmas. Turkey was a rare treat for them. Dinner included turkey, cranberry jell, mashed potatoes, gravy, a veggy, and stuffing. Dessert was pie. Dinner was a lot of work for mom but she was an excellent cook. I can attest to that.