

Grandma Memories

I am the 4th grandchild of Marve and Margaret Kruse and had the blessing of growing up seeing my grandparents all the time as they lived less than an hour away. We got to spend every holiday and birthday together and many just random Sunday afternoons to go over and fix a furnace or something. I thought I'd share some memories that I came up with.

My grandmother was very crafty always sewing things or making things for someone. Well, there was this one time she had an event where she needed to make a bunch of "Boo-boo Bunnies" out of wash cloths that could hold an ice cube. She had my cousin, Kristin, and I help out one afternoon and we did an assembly line of rolling up the cloths, gluing the cotton ball nose on and drawing the eyes on. I remember trying not to get hot glue on my fingers and the glue strings all over the place. I got to keep one of them and still have it today to think of her every time I look at it.



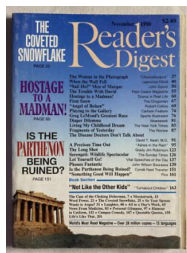
To go with her crafty side, I also remember her making beaded necklaces from rolled up magazines. I remember a 4th of July themed one that was red, white and blue. She would also make rugs out of plastic-colored bags. Many of our visits to her house contained sewing work to our clothes, either hemming or patching up a hole. She was mostly involved with her church making quilts and one time, we went down to Chicago to go see the quilt that she contributed to.



My grandmother also loved doing her shopping at garage sales and the store Venture. Because of her love for garage sales, I remember going around the neighborhood on my bike stopping at garage sales looking for things to spend my allowance money on. It was always interesting to see what gifts she would get you for your birthday or Christmas. There was one Christmas where Jason and I both opened up blue bath towels. We weren't sure what to do with them

finding it an odd gift but I ended up using it and it was a practical gift. I did enjoy the clothing store, Old Navy, in high school and my grandmother caught on to that and found a sweater at a garage sale that had Old Navy on the tag and was my size, so she got it for me and it was my favorite sweater from her as I wore it for many years after that.

Every time she and grandpa came over, they would always bring a bunch of magazines for us to read that they thought we would enjoy. I recall a lot of Reader's Digest magazines mostly. They always had a smell to them though, so we would always let them "air out" in the garage before we brought them in the house first. Then Grandma would offer to help out with whatever we were making for dinner. There was a lot of potato peeling. I also remember making rice Krispy treats with her and she would use her margarine instead of butter.



Then for other memories about her, there was a time they got a cat one time that they found. It was an orange tabby cat and they decided to name the cat FAH. It was a funny sounding name but it really stood for Found A Home. It was very sweet for them to rescue this cat and always exciting when your grandparents have a pet for you to come over and see.

We mostly played pinochle, no matter whose house we were at. I remember playing 5 handed with my parents and grandparents and hearts were trump on hand. I thought my grandma was out of hearts in her hand but played one and said "Grandmas always have hearts." It was a line that only worked that hand while hearts were trump and she wasn't out of them but I found it very memorable to stick with me. She would always also use the phrase "What's trump?" when we played and all family members can attest to her saying that one.

There was one time we were all visiting at our grandparents' house with Aunt Nancy and my cousins and we played the game Gestures, where you had to act out a word on a card. My grandmother got the word "amnesia" and was acting it out for us to guess by putting her hands on the sides of her face and that was it. No one could guess it and eventually she had to tell us her word was amnesia and she was acting like she had forgotten something. We all laughed so hard and would never forget it.

The last memory I wanted to share about my grandmother was that I was the last grandchild to graduate high school before she passed away. She almost made it to the following year for Eric's graduation, but the accident happened just a few weeks before he graduated. I got to

graduate high school in 2001 on her 80th birthday. She got to come see me walk across the stage and throw my cap in the air and then have a birthday party the next day for her at our house in the morning and then host my graduation party after it. The weather that day was so cold for June 2. It was cloudy and in the 50's. We had to pick up balloons for both parties and when we got back to the house with them, the balloons for my grandma got away from us getting them out of the car. We had to run into the house and tell her quick to look up to see them as they blew away. They were purple to match her favorite flower, the iris. It gave us a good laugh as it became the thought that counted.

I hope you enjoyed reading some of my memories about my grandmother growing up. It was a wonderful 19 years of my life and I wish I had more.