

Velma Schoening Golightly

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April 1979

Aunt Velma was around a lot so I remember her better than any of Mom's family.

She was married to Earl Golightly, who was quite good looking. They had one daughter Shirley. Both were hard working and had goals, the main one to have a home built like they wanted, this was accomplished with a lot of sacrifice and denial. The house still stands on the corner of 27th and Ky. Ave. in Paducah.

They both worked for Duboise Pharmaceutical Company for a lot of years, Aunt Velma was bookkeeper and stenographer. Before she went to work for them she worked for Dad, don't remember just when.

For some reason they quit and Uncle Earl went to work for another Pharmaceutical company as a salesman. He was transferred to Atlanta so they moved down there.

I guess about a year later she wrote Mom and told her Uncle Earl had got involved with a woman that worked for one of the doctors that was his customer, as far as I know this was all that was said, other than a divorce, a lot of hurt and bitterness. Aunt Velma picked up the pieces and went on with her life, she never talked about it at least to me.

However, when he died the woman he had married wanted Aunt Velma to bury him due to the fact she was Catholic and the church would not recognize the married due to the divorce. She told me she had refused I'm not sure that she even knew where he was buried.

She and Shirley moved back to Paducah, she worked for Barger and Golightly (no kin ) a produce company and E. A Cave REalty.

Eventually she bought another house on 21st. street between Ky. Ave. and Washington St.. This is where Shirley and Jack raised their family, also where I lived for a year after Carol died and I took the children back to Ky. with me.

By this time Aunt Velma had sold the house to the church, it was only 3 houses away from St. Paul Lutheran Church where I was a member, now there is just a parking lot there for the church.

AS I said she picked up the pieces and went on with her life, she still had a young daughter who was dependent on her. She worked hard and was a good manager, she did a lot of hand work to make her home attractive, she had a huge garden each year, canned and froze food, she had a freezer full of prepared meals and she could set you down to a feast in less than an hour. She was always inviting folks home for lunch or dinner, she was a gracious hostess and loved company. of course this was after Shirley and Jack had moved to their own home.

Many times she called me to come and eat with her, she had a big pot of beans or soup or had just fixed a roast, most of the time this was for evening meal. This was when I first went back to Ky. in 75, between then and 77. She died in April of 79, after Carol who had died in March. This is why I was able to live in the house as the church had bought it some time previously with understanding she could live there rent free as long as she wanted to.

She is buried in Memorial Gardens.

Of all Aunts she was my favorite, due to the fact she took a interest in me as a young girl, being of a big family and 7 boys and a sister much younger than I I was kinda by passed a lot of times. I went home with her a lot of times on week ends, as I grew older I was able to help her a lot when she had to work on the week ends.

When I got my first job at the Shoe Factory office I lived with her until she moved to Atlanta, it was very inconvient for me to live at home for my home was in the country and getting to work was a problem.

When I became engaged and was leaving ~~to~~ Ky. to go to California to be married, Aunt Velma had a very lovely Tea for me.

She was always there when I needed her and good to me, but she was good to all the children. Marie lived with her for awhile when she went to work, and Ralph lived with her when he came home from the hospital.

She was a thoughtful, considerate and loving person, her mother lived with them a lot of years, actually until they lost their jobs at DuBoise, they moved back into their little house that was on the back of their lot and which they had lived in while the big house was being built. Grandma went back to Tn. and lived with her twin sister. She died there.

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