

Evelyn Sheldon - 85th Birthday Memory Letter
(June 12, 2009)
From Martha Ann (Ward) Miller

Dear Aunt Evelyn,

Lyann has asked us to write a memory letter for you. In the next couple of days I am just going to "jot" down memories, they won't be in any order, rhyme or reason..... There are so many memories of you and Uncle Johnny growing up....I remember seeing pictures and a short movie of Ken and I in your wedding. I often wished the dress I wore would have been saved, I would love to see it and have it now. I remember seeing your beautiful white satin wedding dress and beautiful veil in the movie, how pretty you looked that day! I was just looking at a box of old pictures and came across a picture of Ken and me all dressed up for the wedding and on mom and dad's porch.

I remember your tiny little dog "Neni", and remember the dog that you and Uncle Johnny got Ken, Bob and me one year for Christmas. MaKeBo was his name, after Martha, Ken and Bob. I don't know what happened to the dog, I remember what he looked like but can't find a picture of him.

I remember all of the holiday meals at your house in the basement. Everything was always so nice and the food was so delicious. Especially your oyster dressing for Thanksgiving!! You and Uncle Johnny seemed to be the center of our family, you kept our family all together. We always loved coming to your house! One time when us kids were small there was a Thanksgiving dinner at mom and dad's and I remember Ken, Bob and I dressing up Uncle Johnny. It was so funny, he was sleeping on the couch, it was so much fun! We would decorate him!! I remember Uncle Johnny would always eat with us kids at the card table for dinner.

I remember Grandma Sheldon in the kitchen in a wheelchair at your house on Cora Dr. How patient and caring you were with her, I think you were giving her crackers with peanut butter (?).

I remember once you and Uncle Johnny went to St. Augustine in Florida and brought me back a bracelet. I always loved that bracelet and wore it all through school and still have the bracelet. It has so many pretty colors in it. I still love that bracelet.

Oh, and I remember Uncle Johnny's fried carrots and your potato salad, and always your pies were just so delicious!! And still are, the cherry pie you made us in Florida was the best cherry pie I have ever had! I never could figure out how you made that potato salad so good!!

And out to Lake Nepessing....so many good times out there....fried green tomatoes, fried potatoes, fried fish....And the steep hill going down to the Lake and the Zinnia's that Ed Wagner planted were so pretty. And I remember Aunt Mammie and I sleeping together at the Lake and we had 8 blankets on.....and she always "hogged" the bed, I was always on the edge of the bed...and for Lyann's first birthday I can still see her sitting on the table out to the Lake and a birthday cake sitting in front of her...

I remember your mom and dad and your sisters, mostly Imie and Gene, I think he was a boxer...how nice your mom was..

And that you and Uncle Johnny are Tom's Godparents, I remember the Baptism service, gosh, that was 37 years ago....

And the tough times we all went through when my mom was so very sick, it was 37 years ago when she passed away. And I remember when Uncle Johnny passed away and his funeral was at the funeral home in Swartz Creek, and the song that was sung, "On Eagles Wings" I think the title was. It was about being your hero....it was so beautiful. We had Dad's funeral at the same funeral home because it was so nice for Uncle Johnny. Amazing Grace was sung at my dad's funeral.

And I remember your house on Cora Dr. with the nice screen porch, how we sat out there and had "cocktail" hour. The "cocktail" hour was so good we were full before dinner! And how one time you had a party and everything was so beautiful and everyone was there and you had a "cotton wood" tree in your yard or the neighbors and it was just like it was snowing!! Everyone got a "kick" out of that.....

And, oh, I remember the "Mock Wedding" for your 25th Anniversary!! What fun, remember, you were picked up in a dune buggy...and Larry Lewis was the preacher....he was so funny!! I remember my mom's voice being so "horse" at that time and that was the start of her sickness.....

Bob has a picture of you, Uncle Johnny, me and a man that we don't know who we can't figure out who it is.....It was taken in front of mom and dad's house and there was a little snow on the ground in a few places. Bob thinks it was about 6 months before you and Uncle Johnny got married.

All of these memories, I feel I have touched on only a few. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful family.....

I hope you enjoy reading this on your birthday and have a wonderful day....

Happy Birthday, Aunt Evelyn,

I love you very much,
Martha