

Mabel Mikrot's Eulogy (5/6/22)

As with every relationship in life, we all have our own personal thoughts, memories or experiences with our loved ones. And this is true, also, with Mabel. She was a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend, relativeyou may have known her personally or maybe through the eyes of others. As members of her family, we decided to collectively share some of our sentiments of her with you today.

From Lori: I remember...

- Playing games with her, like Backgammon, Uno and Spoons.
- Mom was a good cook and we'd always have a home cooked meal for supper, which usually included a homemade dessert.
- It was a special day when she would make fresh bread or cinnamon caramel rolls.
- I remember dreading having to go along with her on grocery shopping days because we had to go to several stores to get the best price (which would often save her just pennies!)
- I remember as a child, every evening after dinner during Lent, mom and dad and all of us kids would kneel in front of the furniture in a dimmed living room and pray the rosary.
- Mom would often babysit for us, and when I got home I could see she had tidied up the house and cleaned out the refrigerator - she never made me feel less and it helped us a lot.
- when I was raising my kids, I remember thinking back to my childhood wondering where the heck did she store all the papers from school that all the kids brought home... and even the daily mail - she never had a pile of papers stacked on the counter or table, or hidden in a drawerI still don't know!
- Mom didn't like dogs and felt they belonged outside. One day when we were visiting her, our boxer dog, Sophie, sneaked onto their bed for a nap. I took a picture of it and made a "I'm Sorry" card and mailed it to mom. She really got a kick out of it.
- Or the time they were watching our little kids and Jessie (our little lasso-so dog). They had almost finished eating dinner when a visitor came. So they all went outside to talk, but forgot to bring the dog out with them. When they got back inside, the leftover roast was gone. The dog had jumped onto the chair to the table and finished off the roast. Mom was

shocked that the dog ate it all and was worried Jessie was going to be sickbut she didn't.

- Dean says he remembers at a family gathering, being so frustrated with her during one particular game of Uno because she was winning so much! He called her a "sh*t head" - all the other adults around the table gave him this shocked look until Mabel started laughing, then thankfully, everyone laughed.

Conrad: Some of my best memories with Grandma are:

- picking raspberries in the their backyard and picking strawberries in Hugo.
- the picnic lunches she'd make for us with egg salad sandwiches and Pringles while we were outside playing in the turtle sandbox.
- going to Fleet Farm and checking out the toys.

Tony: I enjoyed Grandma's meals, especially the large variety of bread she served. I also appreciated the candy jars that were always out for everyone to enjoy.

From Renee: I remember mom making me stand perfectly still by the sink for almost an hour while she put Bobbi pins in my hair.

When mom canned, I hated cleaning cucumbers and peeling tomatoes . Now I understand why she did it and I do it every year - delicious food all year long.

I remember leaving notes on the table for my mom and dad - and they couldn't resist drawing red circles around all the words I misspelled.

Tom's early memory of mom was going to Twin Points Supper Club where she taught him how to polka. He said I wanted him to learn before our wedding.

Eric: said his love for pecan pie came from Grandma when she'd make it for Thanksgiving - he can't remember having it before and very few times besides Thanksgiving.

He said, "I always saved up my nickels to use in their slot machine when we visited. And when I ran out, grandma always gave me another handful so I could keep playing.

Andy: Grandma would always offer to make us lunch and would point us to the snack cabinet in the corner of the kitchen.

Steve shared:

I can remember my popularity growing a bit in high school when mom took a job in the Harding high school cafeteria. The guys I hung around with would be hyped up for lunch because they could count on Mabel recognizing them and increasing their portions substantially. She would also occasionally double up on a vegetable for me and then smirk as she saw my frown and hear the snickers from the guys standing next to me

And from Jenny:

I remember when grandma did daycare for me when I was young. She made sure I was dry on my walk to school by taking a Hefty garbage bag and cutting holes for my head and arms.

And the special sprinkles she'd put on my morning cereal - later realizing it was yucky wheat germ!

And I remember:

- Having my 6th birthday at Chuck E Cheese with my neighbor friends. (Amy and John and Candy and Sandy) who lived by her house.
- Also, Grandma's desire for "purposeful" placement of all her things.
- And she had the best recipe for Hawaiian banana bread.

From Sharon: (the favorite, oldest daughter)

Growing up, I took it upon myself to assume the role of “paving the way” for my younger sisters. As a child, I was a good kid, who then turned into a very clueless, challenging teenager and young adult. I know that I was responsible for many sleepless, worrisome nights for my mom. And now, as an adult I realize that together (and in spite of me) we both survived it and learned from it. I’m hoping those experiences may have helped pave the the way for my sisters, but it certainly helped me as I became a mom. I’m so grateful for all I’ve learned about her and from her: her strong faith, wisdom, family values and traditions. She saw us through good times and hard times,; shared laughter and tears.

Some examples of those traits are:

Unless specifically asked, she never offered her advice or commented on how we raised our kids or how we handled our finances or the choices we made.....and when we asked for input, she was very diplomatic, honest and kind.

She was an excellent caretaker for our dad - preparing healthy meals, watching out for his health, nursing him back to health after several medical conditions... even agreeing to letting him have a cat (which was a HUGE deal!); we know he appreciated the care she provided him.

She has a strong faith. She would have us say Grace before every meal. They sacrificed and saved enough money to make sure all 5 kids were able to attend Catholic grade school, which was very important to them.

She was extremely organized - her recipes (usually hand-written) were kept by category (desserts, hot dishes, cookies, bars) in photo albums in alphabetical order. She had shelves in the basement for her canned goods (which we referred to as her “food shelf”) that were lined up by category (vegetables, fruit, soup...) then in alphabetical and chronological order, so that she always used the oldest can first.

She cut coupons and stocked up on stuff when it was on sale. She saved so we could participate in sports, camps and yes, even accordion lessons for me and Steve.

She was always generous with her time - she loved spending time with us, our kids and grandkids. They attended kids' concerts, games, graduations, etc. And many years back, Mom and dad often rode their motorcycle to come watch my softball games.

I remember taking her to medical appointments. And when we were done, we'd stop at the Dairy Queen for a butterscotch sundae. And every time, she'd say "oh, this is too much", I'd say "just eat what you can" and before you know it, I'd look over and yes, she ate the whole thing! She'd just smile at me, knowing this was our little secret!

She welcomed our spouses into the family. If she teased you, you knew she liked you. Mom and dad always asked about our trips and enjoyed our stories and pictures. Larry remembers the time we were on a motorcycle ride and his saddlebag caught on fire. That Christmas, mom gave him a ziplock bag with a bottle of water in it, labeled "Fire Extinguisher" for your motorcycle. He knew she loved him!

Life was hard for her the last few years. She suffered from dementia, osteoporosis and just recently a broken hip and shoulder from a fall - she was almost always in pain. But up to very end, whenever you left after a visit, she would "thank you very much" and "love you, too".

In Closing:

Although Mabel was a tiny, little lady, she had an enormous impact and influence on our lives. We are thankful that God shared her with us for over 91 years and will miss her deeply.