



## “QUEEN FOR A DAY”

When Dad passed away, Mom, Jean & I made the arrangements for his funeral, with John Bradley, who was one of the men that lifted the flag on Iwo Jima. After we were done, we stopped for lunch. We visited about several things; Mom asked me how we could be certain that there is a heaven. I shared with her the story of the thief on the cross, who asked Jesus to remember him when He came into His kingdom. As we all know, Jesus told him that today he would see Him in paradise. That seemed to give her some comfort.

Here now 44 years later, the final arrangements have been made for her as she passed away May 24<sup>th</sup> at age 90. During that time I have observed a woman that developed a very strong faith in her Savior, through church attendance, Bible study and surrounding herself with like minded people. The seed were sown by her Grandma. She was especially fond the Ladies Bible group lead by Joyce.

"In his funeral sermon, mom's pastor talked about the various places she called home, describing each place with some details. He indicated how happy she was as she moved. His final thought was that all of these earthly places are just temporary and carried with it some hardships and problems. He went on to explain that where she is now, is the last stop, explaining the joys of being with the King in heaven.

I was thinking about the different places where we lived after we moved from Wittenberg where Dad was a farmhand. We moved to a home on Pearl Street (one block long) from there they purchased a home on Virginia Street, which is where her older children have most of the childhood memories. It was there as a 12 year old that I wrote to the producers of the television show called "Queen for a day." I shared with them all of the reason why I considered Mom as a Queen and asked them to bring her on their program to show the world. Never heard back from them and Mom never knew that I had written to them either.

After Dad passed away, a few years later she moved to Hudson Street with the remaining 5 children that were still at home.

There are so many stories that I could share. Sometimes I'm reminded of our life when we watch the Walton's. Like the time Jerry & I put a burr under Ann's saddle and she beat the living tar out of us at the same time. We let her because we were taught not to hit women.

The most important point in sharing this with you about Mom, is that her children, including me, Ann, Jerry(deceased), Marlin, Marilyn, David, Gloria, Gail, Ken, Bob and Karen, wish to encourage you to be alert for opportunities to serve the Lord, with prayer, your time and your talents. Participate in church attendance and Holy Communion, so when you reach your last stop, you will know that there is a heaven and this will be your home forever with the King, not the other place. Repentance of our sins and belief that Jesus Christ is our Redeemer and Savior is the key!