

## FOR OUR GRANDDAUGHTERS

Ever wonder how your Grandpa and I got together? Well, that part of my life story is probably the most important, and I'm sure your Grandpa would agree, sentimental guy that he is.

When I was 12 I took dance lessons where a very nice 15 year old boy played piano for the classes. I didn't pay any attention to him then, but time passed and one evening after class ... by then I was 15 and he was 18 ... we took the same bus home. He asked if he could get off at my corner and walk me home. (Weren't manners wonderful?) Well, goodness, that was a first for me! And besides that, he asked if I'd go to a movie with him the next Sunday and maybe have a bite to eat. Of course in those days you never accepted an invitation without getting permission.

Sooo, after he walked me home, I went in the house where Mom and Dad were in bed; after all, it was 8 o'clock. I went in their little bedroom and said, "Mom, you know that boy who plays piano at dance class? He wants to take me out." Mom looked at me and said, "HE wants to take YOU out?" Incidentally, I'd never eaten in a restaurant before, so Walgreen's sounded pretty good to me! Grandpa's Aunt Mary told me later that he'd visited her the very next day and said he'd met the girl he was going to marry. In later years Mom and I used to laugh because she'd try to deny I was only 15 when all this started ... and it continued till after Grandpa had served 3 plus years in WWII.

Along with being the love of my life all these years, Grandpa's piano playing is what got me involved in local theatre. See, he accompanied the very first musical at Peoria Players Theatre, and one day while he was going through the music from one of the shows, I said, "You know what? I think I could do that!" So I auditioned and got the lead, believe it or not. And as you girls know, I was smitten with 'sho biz' right off the bat. And Grandpa and I have been our very own "Lunt and Fontanne" ever since. (You may have to look up those names.)

And now you girls are 27, 24, 23 and 19, and Grandpa and I will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary soon. How blessed can we be—having all of you and each other too.

by Bonnie White

