

“Small Precious Gifts”

By Lex Shuler

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My Grandma and Grandpa, Winnie and Lee Shuler, were married for over 60 years and were the best example I can think of for a love story. They were respectful of each other and each knew their partnership would go through to the end without question. They trusted each other and their life long partnership. One of the things that held that relationship together was their practice of giving each what I call “small precious gifts”.

I think Grandma provided these gifts every day with a pat on the shoulder when she walked by, fixing something that was Grandpa’s favorite or just let him be himself. Grandpa brought home to Grandma things that he found in the woodlands as he wandered about. Things like a big acorn, a hummingbird nest, a pretty rock or fresh bloomed flowers. It didn’t matter if it was worthless, she knew that he was saying I love you with every gift.

One time Grandma stayed in bed one morning, not feeling well. Grandpa asked if there was something she would like to eat. She replied, “maybe some cereal”. Grandpa looked in the cupboard and found that there was no cereal, so he put on his overall jumper and walked to Alma and bought her some cereal and returned. That would be a hike of about five miles one way, as a crow flies!

They didn’t have much in the way of the world but they had something better. The love and understanding of each other’s needs and the simple way of filling those needs with “Small Precious Gifts.”