

JULY 9, 2011

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In Remembrance of Julie
By her Sister Laura May

Good Morning!

Thank you for coming to celebrate Julie's life. Can you hear me? The reason I ask is because Julie told Susan and I to speak up loud and 'No crying!'

She planned her Service four weeks ago. You know her, she always wanted to know what was going on and what would be happening. Always in control.

Please forgive me for saying I, we, they, she, he, so many times and I may say something that has already been said- but I don't think you'll mind.

"She is not here. She is with the Lord".

Let me tell you a little about her childhood and adult life.

Julia Florence Brown was born June 5th, 1924 at 244 Stockbridge Road, Greenbush, Massachusetts.

After kicking her twin brother out into the world, she arrived a few minutes later. They were small, 4 or 5 pounds, each, and put into the wood stove oven to keep them warm.

I've been told many times how much they weighed, but Sidy would have said, 'You don't listen!' Mother always said Sidy's head was not much bigger than a teacup.

She was named after our two grandmothers.

Perhaps you're wondering how the twins got their nicknames. When our older sister, Cody, began to talk she tried to say 'Sister' and it came out sounding like 'Sitty' and 'Brother', 'Brub', which came to be 'Bub'.

When Sitty got older she changed the spelling to SIDY -- Sidy.

23 months after the twins, along came baby sister, Laura May.

In our growing up days, we all got along very well. We played baby dolls, paper dolls, tidily winks, marbles, hopscotch, jump rope, Red Light, cards and all the kid's fun games and, my, how we loved to play school! Sidy was usually the teacher.

Our school dresses were made by Mother and Grandma Toty, a wonderful lady and friend. Cody's dresses were always blue, Sidy's were green and mine were pink or red. We sure hated the black stockings and garters. They couldn't be taken off until May 30th, (Decoration Day.) The four of us attended Jenkins School where we had a cousin and a neighbor as teachers.

We had many birthday parties, even though Cody says she never had one. We made May baskets and filled them with candy and cookies. Mother drove us around to our school chums.

During our Grammar School years, we three girls took piano lessons. Sidy and I didn't last too long but Cody went on to be an excellent piano and organ player. Sidy then took up the squeaky violin. I guess she did all right for a while but I don't remember too much about it- only the noise.

We had ponies - 'Julia and Laura'. Dad named them and one of them had 'Billy Starlight'. We can't remember which one it was. We loved riding in the pony buggy. We girls never rode horseback much. Bub had his pony 'Tony'. What wonderful times we had putting on horse shows in the field, next to the house. We also loved going to Brigg's in Hanover to watch Bub in the gymkhanas. When he was older we'd go on a Sunday afternoon over to AR Parker's in Bridgewater to watch Bub and Dad play Polo. That was special. We loved our brother.

Many Sunday afternoons we'd go to Brant Rock to Estes Candy Kitchen for Buttered Popcorn, candy kisses and checkerberry, chocolate and fine Molasses Bars. Oh, how we'd laugh at Grandmother because she'd gotten the fine Molasses Bar crumbs all over her, especially her fur coat.

Some Sunday's we'd go to Hanson to Dad's parents. We just loved riding with Dad because he'd sing the old songs like 'Eastside, Westside'. Sometimes we'd chime in with him.

When we'd go to Rockland for shoes at Lelyveld's, quite often we'd go across the street to Peterson's Drugstore, sit on the stools at the Counter. Sidy would always order an egg salad sandwich. Of course she could always get that at home.

We attended Sunday school, here, at the church. Sidy was a Sunday school teacher as a teenager and later in her adult life. Our Sunday school picnics were at the Glades, at Minot. We wore wool bathing suits - Oh, how they itched! The color was probably black. Such fun we had competing in the 2-legged race, potato sack race and wheelbarrow race. The winner got a ribbon. Later on the picnics were held at Mayflower Grove where there was a pond for swimming, a Merry Go Round and other rides.

Our winters were cold and lots of snow - nothing like today. We enjoyed the Pung and Sleigh Rides. Sidy wasn't much for ice-skating on Greenbush Pond (Old Oaken Bucket Pond). She'd slide once in a while down Old Driftway. The Town would close it off as well as other hills. Just don't get caught sliding down Bridge Hill into Greenbush!

I guess it's time to enter Scituate Junior High grades 7 & 8 and then thru the double doors into High School grades 9 thru 12. Lasting friendships were made along the way. Especially a wonderful girl named Irene Jacobson Donelan, now living in Tampa, Florida, Sidy's closest and dearest friend. Irene's daughter, Terese is here today. Terese was like a second daughter to Aunt Sidy.

Sidy played Field Hockey and Basketball. Sidy and Bub took Dancing lessons at the school with Anna Garrity. Sidy loved to dance.

After graduation in 1942 Sidy went off to college, for a short term, and Bub went into the Service.

Sidy worked for the Rationing Board, which I think was over Burke's News Stand and Moderne Market on Front Street.

In 1945 Sidy met a Sailor Boy, William Hoffman, who was stationed at The Glades. Bill was from Struthers, Ohio, near Youngstown.

It must have been love at first sight! They were married December 19th, 1945 in the Parsonage, across the street.

Oh! What a snowstorm that night! Bill had to borrow a pair of the neighbor's hip boots! Soon they were off to Ohio where they were off to meet Bill's family. Sidy was accepted with love.

Julie is what Bill and his family, relatives and friends called Sidy. It took our family a long while to get used to the change. Sidy's classmates, and our relatives and some friend still call her 'Sidy', to this day.

After 4 or 5 years they returned to Scituate with little Richie. For some reason Dad wanted his girls nearby.

I moved up from Marshfield and Cody was living in Scituate. The Hoffman's and the Houghton's lived on Greenfield Lane in a two family home. Johnnie Fitts moved them back to Scituate.

In the early 1950's both of us moved to 240 and 244 Stockbridge Road.

By that time little Billy had arrived and Fred and I had Tommy. Bill and Julie loved my little girl until their princess, Jane, was born in 1955. We baby-sat for each other.

Soon Julie was ready to join organizations. We were both active in the Jenkins's PTA, Young Married Couples Club of our church, Sunday School Teachers, Scituate Estrusco Associates and the Scituate Bowling League, (Tuesday mornings.) Julie belonged to the PM Club. Later when she took up golf Julie belonged to the Ladies group at Scituate Country Club. From what I have heard was a pretty good player. She was proud of her 'hole in one'! She let you know it by the lovely necklace she wore. That was won in Florida in 1985.

Julie and I competed against each other in bowling. I believe I was a better bowler.

Another competition was running for the 'Queen of Hearts'. I'm sure you all remember the 'Heart Fund Month', in February. Scituate had a Heart Fund Ball, which helped the Heart Fund Association. Guess who won? Not me! The Queen was picked by the one that received that most money!

Bill started the Scituate Concrete Pipe business in 1959 ...on a shoestring. Julie was very proud of him, as she was of her two boys, Richard and Billy for taking over the business.

After hopping from house to house for many years, (Bill was great for that!), the children were grown and on their own. Bill and Julie decided to move to Florida. After sitting around down there, they finally settled on Evergreen Country Club in Palm City where Julie resided.

She would come to Scituate to visit a couple of times a year, or more, if needed. Most every time, she would get her classmates together for lunch at P.J.'s, her favorite place to eat. Oh, how she loved their chicken coquettes on Wednesday or Saturday.

Julie never sent a card without a lengthy note.

I will miss her calls 4 or 5 times a week...unless there was Tennis or Golf matches on, you wouldn't hear from her until they were over. She was never interested in sports until they appeared on T.V. She knew everyone's names whether it was golf, tennis, basketball, baseball or football.

Julie loved to travel. She went to Australia to visit Bill's nephew, David, many times.... never minded going alone.

Thank you, Larry, for being her friend, golfing together and going on the cruises with her...especially the Panama Canal Cruise she enjoyed.

Julie was kind, loving very likeable and generous and warm in friendship, a friend to all.... quick to answer, sort of gruff at times, and could put you in your place. She had her faith and was very courageous. Just a wonderful Sister.

We have had great memories. We laughed, we played, we fought, and we cried together...also memories not so great.

Keep your Special memories in your heart, as memories live forever.

The Woman I Call Sister

The Woman I call Sister
Is someone who is there
The Woman I call Sister
Is someone who always cares
The Woman I call Sister
Can make you smile when times are blue
The Woman I call Sister
Is someone very true
The Woman I call Sister
By choice, is my best friend
The Woman I call Sister
Will be there till the end
The Woman I call Sister
Is the blessing from God above
The Woman I call Sister
Is the Sister that I'll always love

Thank you Richard, Helen, Billy, Jane and Grandchildren for the Love and Care you gave to our sister.

May She rest in peace.

Service on July 14, 2011