

One-Liners.....That Changed My Life!

4 *“The Old Rugged Cross”*

My mother was a 5’4” giant. Born into the family of a largely self-taught pastor father and homemaker mother, she grew up wearing left-over clothes from missionary barrels, and left home at age 16 to work in a bank. She played an enormous role in my life.

She clothed and fed us, taught us, nursed us when we were ill, helped get us get to church and encouraged us in everything we did. I suppose everyone has nostalgic childhood memories that affect us throughout life. One of mine, is our family gathered around an upright piano in the dining area of our old farm house during the depression years of the 1930’s, as she played and we sang a few simple old hymns, including *“The Old Rugged Cross”*. The melody, words and memories are still strong 80 years later.

Mom was an encourager. Whatever we wanted to do, whether it was raising animals, buying a pony or later a car, singing on a radio Amateur Hour, or joining up to fly during WWII, she was enthusiastically for it!

She wanted us to live our own lives. To be released to reach for anything. Never overly protective, even when she watched me prepare to leave for overseas shortly after a memorial service for my oldest brother who was killed in an air crash over England.

The song she played was beautiful and the words are strong. But it is actually a memory hook that gives me a renewed thanksgiving for a mother who loved us enough to sacrifice all those years raising us, and then let us go to become men. What a gift!

From Grandpa With Love

A Note From the Writer

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2016 Marvin J. Martin