

X -- TED

To a small boy a grandparent can be the most wonderful person in the world. As it happened, Ted spent his early childhood as his grandpa's shadow in Indiana following him around and helping him do his chores. Grandpa explained so many things to Ted. As it was, Grandpa Reaves was Ted's ideal. The things that Ted learned on the little farm stayed with him all of his life.

It became necessary at the age of nine for Ted and his sister, Iona, to join their mother in California. It was a very sad good-bye. It was a traumatic shock to both Ted and Grandpa.

His Mother had been living with her folks, Gramma and Grampa Warner in Ontario. Not too long after Ted arrived in California his Mother became quite ill and was hospitalized with tuberculosis.

Gramma Warner was not a well woman and I presume it was too much for her to take care of the two youngsters so she put them in an orphanage in Los Angeles. Why Gramma Warner did it we will never know but she told Ted and Iona that their Mother had died.

After being in the orphanage for some time Iona was adopted out to some private party. The orphanage was Ted's home a while longer. One day a middle-aged woman came to the orphanage. She took Ted home with her to help her with the chores in her boarding house. Ted was chamber maid, kitchen helper, cleaning woman and everything a person could do in a large boarding house.

He found it necessary to sit up until midnight in order to get his school studies done. In spite of that he got good grades. At age sixteen he got fed up with that way of life and joined the navy.

Ted's Mother being alive finally found Iona. They then tried to find Ted. This mission was successful but it took them quite some time to get him out of the service of Uncle Sam. He had lied about his age to get in so they finally got him released.

After spending a little while with his Mother and Iona he was out on his own. He went to high school and finished his junior year at a Catholic school in Ontario before his navy experience.

In 1923 Ted came to Watsonville and made his home with Dr. George Herbert and wife, Kitty Herbert. They had an older son, young Charles whom we later called Chuck.

It was while Ted was living with the Herberts that I met him. We fell in love and were married in 1930. In 1932 unfortunately we lost our first baby, little Jerry, with pneumonia.

In 1933 God blessed us with another darling baby boy. We called him Ronald Theodore -- Ron for short and Theodore for Ted.

After ten years of married life we located a lovely little home in the country which was called Green Valley. That was in October of 1940.

In April of 1941 our three little nephews came to make their home with us. After a very unfortunate experience Chuck made his home with us in Green Valley also. My Mother's health failed and she also was welcomed into our big home. I failed to mention one of the most

important events of all. That was our little Bobby's Daddy who was killed in an automobile accident in 1928.

When Ted fell in love with me he also fell in love with Bobby. Through the ongoing years Bobby was his pal and they almost grew up together. Grandma Aldridge said that his own father couldn't have been a better Dad to him than Ted was.

Bob was thirteen years of age when we moved to Green Valley. Lloyd, our nephew was eight, Jimmy was six and little Ralph was three years of age.

Believe me, there was never a dull moment in that house in those days. Along with boy scouting Ted sent for lessons, such as: taxidermy, fly tying for fishing and leather craft work. Our boys were so enthused with their hobbies it didn't give them much time to get into mischief for which we thank God.

Ted was such a wonderful Father and looked up to him as someone very, very special. What one of the boys got the others got in equal amount.

Ted never gave up on his own education. He always had a book of knowledge in his hands reading some type of worthwhile learning. Outside of the funny papers Ted's reading was definitely educational. He became adept and mastered all types of work such as: electrical work, plumbing, mechanical work, farming, carpentry, cabinet making, ?? bricklaying, orchard work (pruning, thinning, picking, etc. of the fruit) and even cooking, making jams and jellies. So much of this knowledge and hobbies have rubbed off onto our boys and now that they have homes and families of their own they are following in their Father's footsteps by doing all of these jobs that would cost a fortune if they had to hire it done.

Ted was very, very proud of his family. When his grandchildren came along and he became Grampa that was the height of his glory. Later on his grandchildren called him Pappy. That was his pet name.

In September of 1991 I bade my darling good-bye but never forgotten. We had been married just a few days less than sixty-one years.

Our little Green Valley ranch is still in operation although the family has moved out and I at the present time am not staying there. However, I am at home there off and on at intervals. Danny, our dear grandson, his wife, Rita, and their two children, Lisa and Elijah keep the home fires burning.

Danny is a chip off the old block. He loves farming just like his Pappy did. I'm sure my darling, wherever you are, you can look down on your loved ones and see some of your handiwork as well as your love for all animals and all creatures. Your spirit is with us in Green Valley as well as in the wilderness and the wilds which we all loved and still love. As I said Ted, darling you have played a big part in the lives of your children, your grandchildren and even your great-grandchildren -- God bless them all.

February 1994

#####