

## MEMORY

It was a long time ago--almost forty years. He was just back from Culver Military Academy for the summer. We were both sixteen. It was at an amusement park that we first met. In fact, we never met. His father was a part owner of a large amusement park. He and his father drove up in a car with the chauffeur. The rest of the girls and boys in the crowd knew him, so, in the excitement of seeing him home for the summer, they thought that I knew him, also. So, there we were, just feeling awkward.

They had a ride called "The Tub", so we all got in and rode five or six times. After riding that many times, if you did not know everyone when you got in, you sure knew them afterwards. Each time we went around he seemed to get nearer to me, and when it stopped and got off, he said, "I'm going to marry you some day."

I said, "Why you sure are silly. I don't even know you."

Yes, after he finished school--six years later--we were married. Four years later we had a son, and we lost him at twenty-nine. We never did have much in the way of luxuries, but we did have each other and that was everything. The first war came along and he was shell shocked and gassed and was home most of the time. That drew us closer.

He loved to write, and one day he said, "Marie, it won't be long until we will be married fifty years. I feel so bad I know I won't be here then, so this poem is for you, save it."

I put all of my eggs in one basket,  
When I fell in love with you.  
I knew love was fickle  
And it might get me in a pickle,  
But I was in love, and I gambled on you.

Now we are having our Golden Wedding  
Because my gamble on you has been true,  
And I am paying a tribute to you,  
For it has come true.  
Fifty years of love and devotion  
To a wonderful sweetheart like you.

I have just lost him. We did not make the fifty years together, but before he died, he said, "Thanks for loving me all these forty years; wish we could turn back the time and relive them over again".

What would we do if we did not have memories?