

F'LULA'S
KITCHEN

By
Chris Kristie

F'Lula's Kitchen. Copyright © 2014 by Chris Kristie

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Dedication

To my best friend and husband, Ed, who read my first draft and gave me the best review. His words inspired, directed and gave me the hope of bringing this story into fruition. Thank you for believing in me and realizing this was a story to be told.



F'Lula was a real Gem

To qualify as a gem, the specimen should be hard and tough to resist scratching and have beautiful clarity, colour or 'fire'. Value is based on rarity and rare quality.

- www.gemrock.net

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Prologue

Have you ever thought about what your identifying markers are? It can be the way you wear your hair, your style of clothes, the people you choose for friends, or maybe your job. You might be referred to as Joe the cab driver, Ann the school teacher, or Dan the sports writer. Dolly Parton wrote about her coat of many colors, Dorothy from Wizard of Oz had her red shoes. My boss was always talking about having to wear many hats in performing her job duties.

I retired from nursing after 38 years of working in the medical field. My friend asked me if I missed it and I said, “No, I was ready for a new identity.” Anytime I was introduced, people would say, “This is Chris. She’s the Nurse”. I appreciated my career and all that I learned and experienced but I wanted people to know I am more than just “the nurse”.

I have been blessed with many talents and the ability to execute the various skills given me. It is in this manner that I am often recognized as being like my mother, F’Lula. I think she was multi-tasking right from birth. She was interested in life, in experiencing it and not afraid to try new things. I believe that is what’s needed for a person to be good at doing many varied things and doing them well.

It takes many words to describe F’Lula: wife, mother, homemaker, friend, nurse, gardener, fisher, hunter, and music maker. She was a beneficial presence everywhere she went. My father always commented after she passed, “I miss her presence.” She, too, was a wearer of many hats and the one she was most remembered by was her bonnet. This was just another thing connecting her to the house that she always made into a home for her family.

I am Christine, the writer of this story and the youngest of seven children born to Clarence and F’Lula Burr.

A Love Begins

The year was 1936. It was spring time, when trees filled with sap, flowers and shrubs blossomed and love was in the air. Clarence and Lula had known each other from school and community functions. Clarence had come a courtin' Lula but her father did not approve of him much. It seemed he had a reputation of being a favorite among the ladies.

Lula did not let this deter her interest in this man with his winning ways and funny stories. So, as was fitting for that time, their love grew and Clarence wanted to marry this fine maiden. However Lula's father did not agree and even went so far as to forbid the union of these two love birds.

Clarence loved a challenge and Lula was a fighter for what she believed in. The two took matters into their own hands and eloped to Chesterfield, South Carolina on May 2, 1936.

Times were hard as the country was still in the Great Depression that had begun following the stock market crash of 1929. Herbert Hoover was president then. I have often heard Mama refer to the "Hoover Days", which began a time of real hardship for our country.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was president when Clarence and Lula married. He set one of the many records they would see in their 63 years together. Roosevelt's term as president lasted longer than any other president's in history with him serving from 1933 to 1945.

Roosevelt's "New Deal" approach would spur economic and agricultural growth for the country and for this young couple as well. They were both raised on farms and knowledgeable about growing tobacco, cotton, and the vegetables for their tables. They were also accustomed to hard work and preserving their harvest.

This was a time when morals and family values were important. Working together for the same goal was imperative. Making a profit and preserving it was life sustaining.

Their life together began during the hard times of The Great Depression, survived World War II, the Korean War and rockets to the moon. Clarence and Lula had seven children, born between 1937 and 1949.

Lula told her daughters many times they only had \$7 to start out with. They were able to buy a farm wagon full of staples needed to set up their home in rural Wadesboro, North Carolina. Knowing what staples were needed to set up their kitchen was second nature to Lula.

The kitchen was the hub of the home, the control center where family would come together. Stomachs would be filled with great foods, minds nourished and groomed from the unity and discussions of the day. Family would share in the chatter, discuss current events and get to see Father and Mother together. Personalities were welcomed and expressed; characters were formed and family values established. Traditions were begun that would be the catalyst to carry and sustain the family through its next generations.

Certificate of Marriage

186

State of South Carolina }
County of CHESTERFIELD }

Probate Court

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that on the 2ND day of MAY, 1936,

CLARENCE W. BURR, age 23 and

LULA MELTON, age 20 were

united in the Bonds of Matrimony by L.M. CANNON, MINISTER

at CHESTERFIELD, South Carolina, as shown by the records

of this Court.

Witness my Hand and Seal of said Court

this 20th day of May, 2014

A TRUE COPY

ATTEST:

Edwin M. Davis

EDWIN M. DAVIS
Judge of Probate
CHESTERFIELD County