

# The Grandma Story

By Steve Durkac

In 1923, my grandmother, Mary, was asked to be the maid-of-honor for her best friend's wedding.

As the wedding approached in her hometown near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania Mary wondered what the best man might be like.

She had heard that Lou was a recent immigrant from Czechoslovakia and also an available bachelor, but he wouldn't be arriving until just before the wedding began.

During the wedding, Lou, the best man, took a liking for Mary the maid-of-honor. The day after the wedding, when Lou arrived back home in Ohio, he wrote a letter to Mary in Pennsylvania, asking for her hand in marriage.

Mary replied by mail, saying ***"Yes, but don't you think we should meet to plan a wedding?"***

They met a second time to plan a wedding. They met a third time to have a wedding.

64 years later, I sat in my grandparent's living room and I asked them what they believed to be the secret of their loving and lasting marriage?

They quickly told me two things:

First, they said they learned to live by the old adage that said, "Don't let the sun go down on your anger."

My grandmother explained ***"Most couples think the secret to a lasting marriage is in learning to love. We all learn to love. Learning to love is what brings us together, but learning to fight, and learning to fight fair, is what keeps us together. The real secret to a loving marriage is in learning how to fight together. After 64 years, we've discovered that it was through our disagreements, when we stuck it out and worked through it, those times made us closer and stronger."***

The second thing they told me was ***"We learned to become each other's best friends by doing everything we could together. When we stood at the altar and said 'I do,' we made a commitment for forever, but we lived that each day as best friends, and by the grace of God it has become 64 years of one-day at a time."***