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A Tribute To Bobbie Sue Shelton-Lonas

By Kristy Bolin

To Me, My Mom Is...

As we get older, we realize that we would be lost in this world without our Moms. From the beginning, they nurture us, feed us, clothe us, and then they send us out into the world to live. I cannot imagine my life without my Mom and the older I get, I appreciate her more each day. I appreciate all the things she gave me and did for me as a child, but mostly I appreciate the example she gave me of how to be the best Mom.

To me, my Mom is ...grounded. Bobbie Sue Redmon was born August 15, 1942 in Eagleville to the proud parents of Junior and Nina Redmon. She has an older sister, Hazel Rigsby of Eagleville, and a younger sister, Elaine Pitts of

Unionville. She has told us stories of her many adventures growing up in Eagleville, but there are two stories that stand out in my mind most of all. The first story starts out when her family lived on Main Street in the house near the creek (it is the blue house beside Las Fiestas). When Mom was 12 years old, she asked for and received a white and turquoise bike with a light and battery horn, and she loved this bike more than anything. She always parked it under the window on the front porch and one day, she came outside and the bike was gone. She thought someone was playing a trick on her by hiding it but after several days, she knew the bike had been stolen. After some time, the Rutherford County Sheriff called Blanton's Service Station and asked if a bicycle had been stolen from Eagleville. They found out that the police in Arab, Alabama had picked up a 14 year old boy riding the bicycle, and he confessed that he had stolen it in Eagleville. He had walked to Eagleville from Nashville, running away from



Bobbie Sue with grandchildren.....

home, and he stole my Mom's bicycle and rode it to Arab, Alabama. Someone from the Sheriff's office went to Alabama and brought the boy and bike back to Tennessee. At the jail, the boy even loaded my Mom's bicycle into my Grandmother's car for them and my Grandmother felt so sorry for the boy, she gave him \$5.

The other story involves one of my Mom's oldest friends, Linda Sledge. Mammy, my Grandmother, had sent them somewhere to get fresh eggs in her car and being two crazy, teenage girls, they were drag racing and the bowl of eggs broke on the way home. They knew Mammy would be mad so they came into the house and dropped the bowl of broken eggs, on purpose, and started crying so that Mammy would believe the eggs had been broken by accident as they were coming in the house.

To me, my Mom is ...loving. My mom married my Dad, Don Shelton, on April 21, 1961 at Eagleville Baptist Church

when she was 19 years old. A couple years later, my brother, Todd was born, three years after that, I came into the world, and two years after that, Carol Ann completed the family. I believe we moved from Shelbyville to Rover to the house that my parents built right after Carol Ann was born in 1968. Growing up, our mom worked at Jostens in Shelbyville but every evening, she would come home and lovingly help us with any school or 4-H project that was due. There were nights that I remember telling my Mom that we had a school program in a couple of days, and she would work through the night to make



Messages to Bobbie Sue

I first became acquainted with Bobbie Sue after the first issue of the Eagleville Times hit newsstands nine years ago.

Starting a newspaper in a small town I had hoped to have a column that would reflect on Eagleville's history. I'm not sure how it all came about but Bobbie Sue became involved and "A Step Back In Time" was created.

Bobbie Sue's column is a favorite and one reason why so many buy the paper.

I can't put into words how much I appreciate Bobbie Sue for the work and the love that she puts into each issue. Everything she has done for the paper is her contribution, never requiring any pay. Her generosity is rewarding for our entire town.

Thank you so much Bobbie Sue for your friendship and for your love of history.

You're always working to make sure you find just the right pictures for the paper. This month is your time to be the top feature.

Happy Birthday Bobbie Sue,
Debbie Ryan, Eagleville Times

I would like to wish my first cousin Bobbie Sue a Happy Birthday.

Just for all the work she does on the articles and to help anyone who is interested in tracing their roots. She is a wonderful person and a kind friend to all. We love you.

Aunt Katherine and Annette Chick

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A very young Bobbie Sue - 9 lbs, 0 ozs

Carol Ann or myself, and sometimes both, a new dress. And of course, the dresses had to match each other. She also lovingly spent many, many hours making my wedding dress at a time when she didn't have a lot of free time because Mammy was sick and passed away three months before my wedding. She actually hemmed the dress the morning of my wedding. My Mom quit her job at Jostens to take care of our Dad when he was sick, and she loved Daddy until he died in 1999. She found love a second time with Curtis Rowland, who was a high school sweetheart, and Mom lovingly cared for him while he battled cancer and later died in March 2003. She found love a third time with Sonny Lonas, a musician from Virginia that resided in Franklin. He met Mom at one of the College Grove Senior Citizens Friday night dances and they dated and married May 12, 2007. They still live in Rover and enjoy going to music festivals where Sonny plays the drums in a Polka band, and they enjoy traveling with friends. They recently left for a 9-day group bus trip to Colorado, but they had to return home after four days because of the wildfires there. When someone is as special as my Mom, there's no wonder love could find her three times when most people are fortunate to find it once.

To me, my mom is ...giving. My mom has always been very giving of her time to help others. When we were little, we had brother/sister neighbors that our parents helped care for. They lived in a dilapidated house without running water or electricity, and we would be forced to go visit or help do something for them. I can remember sitting in the neighbors' house and watching rats play but my Mom never complained when she would help them or take them places, even though they may not have smelled so great since they didn't have water to bathe. There would also be times when Daddy would call Mom from school and ask her to take a sick child, not one of the three of us, home or to the doctor so she would leave her job to do so. And let's not forget the many, many times she taxied us



Bobbie Sue, Len Redmon & Junior Redmon

to various 4-H functions, ballgames, and MYF church functions without a complaining word. From visiting Carol Ann and me at 4-H camp in Columbia on Parents' Day and letting Carol Ann come home because she was homesick to the care package she sent me on Valentine's Day to MTSU my first year in the dorm even though I came home every weekend, my Mom has always been giving and has been a good example for me as to how to serve others. Of course, I can't leave out the fact that she was very giving when it came to punishment also. Mom was usually the bad guy when it came to discipline so we would usually be asked, "Do you need a whipping?", but before we got the chance to answer, a fly swatter, yard stick, or paddle ball

paddle would find our legs. We thought we were dying at the time, but now I'm thankful that she loved us enough to discipline us.

To me, my Mom is ...intelligent. My mother is very intelligent and loves to research genealogy. It takes a very patient person to research years and years of data and to compile the information in a form for future generations to benefit from. When we were younger, our Mom would announce on a nice, lazy afternoon that we needed to go find a grave at a cemetery. My sister and I would give each other the "Oh no, do we have to go?" look, but we knew better than to argue so we would go with her. We would also roll our eyes when she would come home from an auction sale with family photo albums of people she didn't even know. When we would ask her who they were, she would just say, "I'm not sure, but it was so sad that no one wanted their family pictures so I bought them." Mom has always enjoyed collecting family heirlooms and antiques. I remember saying when I had my own house, I would never have other people's used furniture in it, especially furniture from dead family members, but she instilled in us a sense of family, and now we all appreciate any family keepsake we receive. One of our most treasured possessions is a notebook that my Mom and her sister, Hazel, completed for each Redmon family member in 2002. They spent many, many hours and numerous printer ink cartridges to prepare The Redmon Family History which is full of information and pictures dating back to our oldest ancestors in 1816. This notebook is one heirloom that will be passed from generation to generation.

To me, my Mom is ...hardworking and fun. I believe my Mom is one of the hardest working women I have ever met. Growing up, we grew tobacco, and if anyone knows anything about growing tobacco, you know it is one of the hardest and dirtiest jobs you can do. She never stood back and watched anyone work. She helped Daddy plant the tobacco by driving the tractor, she topped the plants, and she cut and speared the tobacco, all in the heat of the summer and usually faster than most of the men. I love the story of the day she was driving the tractor while Daddy and Uncle Robert were setting the tobacco. Daddy got a little angry at her because he thought the rows were not straight so she quietly got off the tractor without a word and went into the house. I'm not sure how long they sat there before they realized they needed to find another driver for the day or they needed to do some apologizing. Usually when the first cold snap of winter came along, it was time for the tobacco to be stripped so she would gather all of us to help, and of course, we rolled our eyes as we went outside in the cold. I have to say we were usually motivated to help with this job by the fact that we would receive the tip money when the tobacco sold at market. The tobacco jobs were in addition to taking care of the home and our family, working at Jostens, teaching Sunday School class and VBS crafts at church, working the garden, and the many day to day tasks mentioned earlier. Of course, she could also find time for fun. Snow days were always so much fun...especially on the weekends when everyone was home. We could not wait to get out in the yard and make a snowman and usually Mom was there helping us build the best one or helping us ride the sled down the very small hill beside the house. We didn't take many week-long family vacations because of the tobacco, but I do remember our vacations to Florida and Gatlinburg and we swam a lot at the pool at Henry Horton Park during the summers. I can remember several Saturdays, we were awakened and told to get ready, not knowing where we would be going, and we would go to fun, interesting festivals for the day. These days, we enjoy our girls' weekends to Gatlinburg and our games of "Show and Tell" after a day of shopping. Blake, Maria, Taylor and Brent also enjoy any fun days they get to spend with Nanny, especially when she cooks their favorite breakfast of biscuits and gravy.


As you can see, my Mom is a very special person. She has been and still is such a wonderful example of what a Mom is. We hope she knows how much she is loved by all of her family and we wish her a very Happy Birthday!



Sonny & Bobbie Sue Lonas



Christmas Eve 1968 at Mammy's



Who has keys to your house?

The Contractor? Sub-Contractors? Realtor? Your Kids? Your Kids' Friends? The Neighbors? The Neighbor's Kids? Your In-Laws? Workmen?...

Happy Birthday to the most wonderful mother any son could ever have. You have given us so much in our lives from band-aids on skinned knees, to advise on life's difficult challenges. Kristy, Carol Ann, and I, along with all the rest of our family are blessed to call you our mother because of the love you have given us all our lives & to anyone you thought that needed your help. I am so proud of all your accomplishments, but most of all I am really proud to call you my Mama.

Your loving son,
Todd Shelton

~~~~~  
"An amazing lady"  
that fits you to a T  
you are that and  
much more to me.

The mother to my hubby  
the Nanny to my girl  
God blessed us all  
by putting you in His world.

A great example  
worlds best cook  
A fun sexy grandma  
who's still got "the look"

May this be your best year yet  
with laughter-filled days  
We all want to say I love you  
in our own silly ways.

Happy Birthday!  
Rhonda Shelton

Nanny,

Where do I start you mean so many different things to me! Friend, hero, grandma, and the list goes on and on. I LOVE all of the crazy but soooo much fun things we have had done over the years. We have danced in the movies, made insane pictures and we always have to go shopping!! I can still remember when I was little you used have a candy down in your kitchen and when I wanted a piece but mom said no you always went and got some form me and there was always suckers in it(those were my favorite and i think you knew these because that is what you always gave me). I am very blessed by God to have you in my life and I get to call you Nanny. Thank you for all of the GREAT memories over the years!! I love you and always will.

Love, Maria Shelton

~~~~~  
Happy Birthday to an amazing lady. Bobbie Sue is the aunt everyone dreams of having. She has been there for me during good times and bad. She has held me while I cried on her shoulder and comforted me when I needed it most. She has celebrated the joyful events of my life with me and encouraged me. She is the aunt you know you can count on to drop everything just because you need her. I would like to think I am special and she only does these things for me, but the truth is, she does this for everyone. I am proud to say she is my aunt but also proud to say she is my friend.

Wishing you love and happiness on your birthday and every day of the year.

Deb, Garry and Family

Bobbie Sue,

We want to wish you a Happy Birthday. Your column, "A Step Back In Time" is very much appreciated and enjoyed.

Johnny and Peggy

~~~~~  
Happy Birthday Bobbie Sue!

Thanks for sharing your knowledge & tales of the past!! What a wonderful contribution to the Eagleville Times!!! We love it!!!!

Emy Joe & Keith Bilbrey

~~~~~  
I've been knowing Bobbie Sue and all her famiily since she was in the second grade at Eagleville. She is loved by all who know her. I wish I had a thousand friends like her.

Tom Hatcher

~~~~~  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY Bobbie Sue

Thanks for all the columns "A Step Back In Time" brought back a lot of old memories.

You are a great gal. Have a good one.

Jim and Ellie Wilkinson

~~~~~  
To our dear friend Bobbie Sue, who is in many ways, "Eagleville's historian".

From one historian to another,

Robert Bettus Hay

~~~~~  
Happy Birthday Bobbie Sue

I love reading your articles. Thanks for all of the time you devote to the Eagleville Times and our community.

Robyn Warf

~~~~~  
Happy Birthday - Keep on Dancing!!

Love from your "brother" Wendell and Mary Ann

~~~~~  
Happy Birthday from the Friday Night Dancing Group:

Wendell & Mary Ann Warf, Sammie Massey, Clady Jones, Lynda Sledge, Bobbie, Charlie Bennett, Shirley Harris and The Friday Night Band

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Happy Birthday Bobbie Sue.

We have swung through a lot together. Here's wishing many more years.

Jane Shelton

~~~~~  
Happy Birthday Bobbie Sue

Hope you have many more.

John & Thalia Perrell

~~~~~  
As we all know, she is an amazing woman who knows no boundaries when it comes to helping others. There are so many wonderful qualities I could mention, but her compassion and strength are two qualities that I admire most about her. The love she has for family and friends, and the strength to continue on, through good times and bad, are immeasurable. She is the glue that holds our family together.

It is by her example that I strive to live my life...

I love you Mama,
Happy Birthday!
Carol Ann Hodge