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Organizing my life and things that tug at your heart

Wednesday, October 09, 2013

People deal with grief in different ways. After Dad died in 1997 Mom moved in with us, but kept their house and everything in it just as it was. DH & I would check on the place and take care of routine upkeep, but inside it was like stepping into a time warp. Even the calendar on the wall was 1997.

Ten years later she finally allowed me to take 2 carloads of donations to Goodwill. Still, she kept the house, which was now a record of her life.

When Mom passed away in 2011, I started gradually. As I went through her things I passed over those items that really reminded me of her and donated those that didn't hold much personal meaning. Each pass over the last two years resulted in additional trips to Goodwill.

Yesterday, I got deep into little used closets. On a top shelf folded neatly in a plastic bag I found this.



It's a simple cotton dress and I never saw Mom wear it, but it triggered a memory. Back in the 60s Mom showed me that dress and suggested that I might want to wear it since it looked like something being worn at that time (paisley prints). As a teenager, I really put down that suggestion. I wouldn't wear THAT! I never saw the dress again until now.

Going through old albums I see that Mom wore that dress as a teenager. Looking at it closely, I see that it was homemade. I know Mom didn't sew. Most likely it was made by my grandmother and probably on this.

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Grandma taught me to sew on this old treadle machine and I think of her whenever I walk by it.

So that 70+ year old dress is one of those items that “tugs at my heart” and I’ll keep it for a while. Perhaps I’ll store it in a drawer of the sewing machine that created it.

Note: In the photo I’m wearing the 50 year old anklet that I wrote about October 5th – but as a necklace. All I needed to add was a 7 inch chain extension and now it no longer is hidden away in a drawer. I also should remember to keep my head still during snapshots.

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CHANGINGHORSES

Very thoughtful blog. Very cool dress and memories. Thank you.
2784 days ago



CD11026554

Lovely words about special memories. Thank you for sharing.
2804 days ago



DOVESEYES

What a wonderful blog, memories are so rich and worth so much.



As a child it was BORING to hear Mum's stories of childhood but now they are so precious to me.

so glad you got to find the dress.
2804 days ago



MERRYMARY42

such a nice story, and yes, I would keep it forever, I am a keeper of course some people would



say I am a pack rat, I guess it depends on how a person looks at it, 🙄 but loved the story,
2804 days ago



MARYJEANSL

That's such a beautiful story - I'm sure your mother was grateful that she was able to keep her house as it was. And it's a beautiful dress. I'm glad you have such a special memory.
2804 days ago



TRAVELGRRL

Great blog! It's fun to see things come full circle. I know you appreciate that dress MUCH more now than you did in the 60's.
2804 days ago





ADARKARA
 what a wonderful memory!
 2804 days ago



LOLATURTLE
 what a beautiful heirloom!
 2804 days ago



WILSONWR
 It sounds like you have dealt with the passing of your parents very well by tackling those emotional things over a period of time. It's great you can look back on those memories and great times together.
 2804 days ago



CD13136117
 What a special dress and I'm glad she kept it for you! Who knew??
 You look great and have fun with your treasures!!
 2804 days ago



DR1939
 My grandmother had the same machine.
 2805 days ago



GINIEMIE
 Wow, that is so precious a memory. I'm glad your mom kept the dress, it probably meant a lot to her to have stored it after you refused it. Isn't it marvelous that it fits you-and to think you have such a fine looking treadle machine.
 I had one my DH gave away to his SIL who liked antiques back when we moved to FLA. I was not happy then and was even more disappointed that she sold it (after I moved to GA and could have had a place for it).
 I loved that machine, that I bought from a little old lady who was showing me all the attachments she had for it "dearie" . She just couldn't use it anymore-I don't think she wanted to get rid of it anymore than I did. Steve just thought Fla humidity would destroy it.
 Memories are precious, but the most important ones are in your heart my friend.



2805 days ago



WATERMELLEN
 What a pretty dress, and it looks to fit you perfectly! What a lovely blog. It's wonderful that you've been able to transition the "old house" items slowly and respectfully in accordance with your mother's wishes.
 2805 days ago



KELLIEBEAN
 So pretty! What a sweet memory. Too bad we don't appreciate things when we are younger.
 You are a wonderful daughter!
 2805 days ago




CD14270285
 How neat was it to find that dress? I was with my mom yesterday for a birthday, and this blog brought up a lot of the feelings I have with her now. Time is kind of precious.
 2805 days ago



GARDENCHRIS
 such sweet memories...
 2805 days ago



ONEKIDSMOM

 You know, the older I get the more I appreciate what I did NOT appreciate as a teen / young adult. So I totally get the dress and what emotions it might have evoked in you.



Thanks for sharing a very personal connection!
2805 days ago



CD3892454

As someone who lost her parents recently, I can really relate to your blog. It is a lovely dress,



with a long history of loving memories.
2805 days ago



SUNSET09

You are to be commended for honoring your mom's wishes for so long as many would have tried to talk her out of keeping the house. Those are great memories and thanx so much for sharing your story. These are things we need to think about for ourselves as well. What a memory



and you're wearing that dress and necklace well!
2805 days ago



MISCHAKEO

That was a sweet moment. I would keep the dress as well. You look cute in paisley!
2805 days ago



CD13545024

Wow talk about all the wonderful memories that are coming back to and the dress is cute!
2805 days ago



CD12146214

Your blog tugs at my heart as I am in the process of trying to downsize the contents of my Mom's house and it is like walking through memory lane.



You look great in the dress though....
2805 days ago



TORTOISE110

What a sweet blog. Thank you!
2805 days ago



ELRIDDICK

Thanks for sharing
2805 days ago



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