

Gordon Hirschy and Serita Jo Clark were 4-H members in LaGrange County, Indiana, in the middle to the late 1950's. Gordon participated in his 4-H work with the Topeka, Indiana, clubs under the direction of Edgar Franklin. Serita Jo did her 4-h work in Lima Township, Howe, Indiana, under the direction of Mrs. Pauline Gunthorp.

Both Gordon and Serita Jo were 4-h members the first year that the new Lagrange County 4-H fairgrounds were started where it is located today; the north east side of LaGrange, Indiana. Both Gordon and Serita Jo were members of the LaGrange county 4-H junior leaders club. Gordon's main projects were swine, dairy, and baking. Serita Jo was involved with many of the home economics projects of 4-H. Both members attended the national 4-H club congress in Chicago, Illinois. Gordon was there in 1960; and Serita Jo was there in 1961. As a note of interest, Gordon, had the grand champion angel food cake in 1960 at the Indiana State Fair.

As was stated, both were involved in the county junior leaders club. In the late 1950's, the junior leaders' club decided to make welcome road signs for the LaGrange county state roads and us20 highways; welcoming travelers to LaGrange county through the 4-H clubs of the county. Gordon and Serita Jo were two participants of that junior leader project.

Gordon was educated in the Topeka school system; Serita Jo was educated in the Lima school system in Howe, Indiana. Therefore, Gordon and Serita Jo were not high school sweethearts; but they were strong and happy 4-H sweethearts through the 4-h junior leaders club.

Gordon's father was killed in an accident on December 15, 1958; his junior year in high school. Upon his father's death, it was necessary for Gordon to take over the milking of the cow herd; and still maintain his studies and continuation of playing baseball and basketball at Topeka high school. Through all of this and until he entered Purdue University in the fall of 1960; Serita Jo and Gordon maintained their strong, happy, and loving relationship as 4-H sweethearts throughout this period.

In the fall of 1960, Gordon entered the school of agriculture and was inducted into the Circle Pines co-op house as a full member to live in the house throughout his college career. At the time Gordon entered Circle Pines, he had 33-house brothers. He still communicated with Serita Jo at this time in the fall semester.

Cooperative house, like fraternity houses on college campuses, usually have fall and spring dinner-dances. (It should be noted here that Serita Jo is a year younger than Gordon). So therefore, Serita Jo was still in high school at Lima High School while Gordon was in his freshman year in college at Purdue University. Gordon extended an invitation to Serita Jo for the fall dinner-dance of the Circle Pines house; but with Serita Jo still in high school, her mother, Mrs. Clark, felt that she should not join the men of Circle Pines for their fall dinner-dance!!! So Gordon went by himself!!! From that point in time, the deep, happy, and loving affair weathered apart. Serita Jo went her way; and Gordon went his way.

Shortly after Serita Jo graduated from Lima high school; she went to Business College. Shortly after Business College, Serita Jo married her husband of 47-years before his death. Serita Jo and her husband had two children; a son Scott and a daughter Jill. Serita Jo's husband worked for Navistar. So therefore, Serita Jo and her family resided in New Haven, Indiana, for a period of time. When Navistar transferred to Springfield, Ohio, Serita Jo and her family went to Springfield to live. Springfield is a three hour drive from Fort Wayne and northern Indiana.

Gordon graduated from Purdue University School of Agriculture and Purdue University of Insurance and Market Management in the spring of 1964. He married his first wife August 8th, 1964. She deceased December 1st, 1983; and left Gordon with two sons, Matthew and Kurt. Both sons were students through the Lakeland school system in LaGrange, Indiana. Both boys were strong 4-H members in LaGrange County during their young years in LaGrange County. Gordon was a businessman in LaGrange until 1998.

Once the boys were through college and established themselves in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Gordon lost his second wife; Gordon sold his business and his 80-acre farm and went to Fort Wayne, Indiana, to join the boys. Gordon had gone to auctioneering school before leaving for Fort Wayne. Once in Fort Wayne, Gordon became a real estate broker. Since 1999, his life has been being a real estate broker and auctioneering. He has been single for a long time!!!!

One Sunday afternoon in August 2018, Gordon received a phone call from Scott, Serita Jo's son. He asked Gordon numerous questions and wanted to know if he was single. Gordon told Scott that he was single. Scott said that his mother, Serita, would like to talk with him. Gordon told Scott that his phone was always on and that the door was always open for anyone. Scott said good-bye to Gordon and hung up...

About an hour and half later, Serita Jo called Gordon. They talked, reminisced about the 4-H days--60-years ago, about our pasts, and even talked about the future a little. She was hunting for a friend to communicate with by phone and by e-mail. Gordon told Serita Jo that his door was always open and that she could come and see and visit him anytime that she wanted. The following Wednesday, after the Sunday phone conversation, Serita Jo was at Gordon's door step!!!!

The last few years, Gordon had been praying to God for an angel from heaven to join him for his golden years. Believe me, God knows what he is doing and does!!! Gordon never ever thought that his angel from heaven would be his 4-H sweetheart of 60-years ago. Serita Jo chased him down and now they are golden years' sweethearts!!!!

Since the day that Serita Jo has shown up at Gordon's doorstep, they have done much together. They believe that they started their golden sweetheart years just where the 4-H sweetheart years stopped 60-years ago. In fact, they have been on a trip out west already and traveled 6300 miles in 22-states. The motto of 4-H is to make the best better. Gordon and

Serita Jo are just two great, good, loving 4-H sweethearts that are determined to make their golden years together as a couple better!!!!

4-H stands for head, heart, health, and hands. Gordon and Serita Jo are going to make their golden years better!!! They still have good hands; they both have good health; they both still have good heads that think well; and they have loving hearts that they can share much love together in their golden years!!!! In closing, Serita Jo just chased Gordon down!!!!