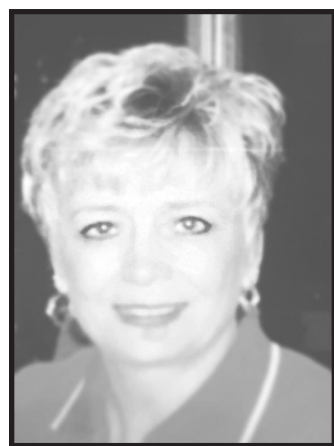


# An Easter Egg Hunt



## Times Remembered

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At an early age, I remember spending Easter Sunday attending church with Granny Ethel at Crooked Christian Church. After church we went to my Aunt Lyda's and Uncle Preacher's Arvin's house for dinner and an egg hunt.

It was Easter Sunday morning so we got up bright and early and began to get ready for church. This year my sister and I wore bright yellow matching dresses with white organdy collars that Mom made for us. Mom made sure our patent leather shoes were spotless, sashes on dresses were tied, and every hair was in place. We looked quite spiffy in our Easter outfits. We were met at the door of the church by cousins and kin folks.

We were antsy all through the service. We tried to sit still and listen but I kept day dreaming about finding the prize egg at the egg hunt. It seemed

like the service would last forever. As soon as the last hymn and closing prayer was prayed we were out of our seats and ready to go to Uncle Preacher's house for the egg hunt, but we had to eat dinner before we could hunt eggs.

Mother and all the aunts had been busy preparing a feast. The table was loaded with all kinds of food; ham, deviled eggs, green beans, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, corn, baked apples, desserts and granny's coconut cake that she always brought, it was so delicious.

After lunch, we were ready for the hunt. All the kids had brought colored eggs, there must have been a hundred, in bright colors and all were decorated pretty. The one that caught all the kids attention was the big gold egg; the prize egg that contained money. Aunt Gin from Ohio always did the prize egg and put money inside. I always admired her; she was a teacher and wore pretty clothes. Growing up I thought she was rich!

We were told to go to the back bedroom where the kids stayed while the adults hid the eggs. No peeping; one of the mothers made sure of that..... once the word READY was heard we bolted out the front door, down the drive, and across the field to the school house yard. You would have thought there was a million dollars hid in the grass. It was like running the 100 yard

dash! We searched through grass, briars, and thickets trying to find the most eggs and the prize egg. I found my basket full but I didn't find the prize egg; I truly don't remember who found the prize egg but it had a \$5 bill in it.

Even though we had ate dinner we still ate boiled eggs all afternoon. I didn't eat eggs for a while after Easter.

Easter was such a happy time then.....we were with grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. We truly enjoyed each other. The kids played tag, hide and seek, red rover and softball. Uncles pitched horse shoes, played croquet or played music. I remember Uncle Charles playing the guitar.

Families don't get together like they used to.....many work, play ball, or just don't visit. I truly miss the reunions and celebrations. All of my aunts and uncles are gone except one, Ann Arvin, sweetest lady you will ever meet. I love her a lot. I spent a lot of time at her house growing up with her kids, Mill, Doug and Roy Gene. She even taught me how to ride a bike; minus a few wrecks in the rose bushes.

In closing, I lost my parents thirteen years ago and miss them terribly every day. I lost my sister, "Tootsie," in November that saddened my heart terribly. But I know I will see them again; BECAUSE JESUS AROSE AND HE LIVES!! HAVE A HAPPY EASTER!



Pitching horseshoes was regular entertainment for the men of the Arvin family after Easter dinners. Left to right, are Charles Arvin, Roy D. Arvin, Preacher Arvin, Albert Newton, Beverly D. Arvin (pitching horseshoes) and Donnie Arvin.

## Rosemary Gaines looked death in the face and did not flinch



**America's Heartland**  
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For years, Rosemary Gaines has been clipping these columns out of her local newspaper and stashing them away. It's a humbling thought that she considered each one a treasure to be preserved.

You see, Rosemary has been a great friend to me, an encourager, and in this world that can so easily tend toward negativity, a friend like that is truly a blessing.

Well, Rosemary graduated to heaven in March, completing her journey through this world and venturing boldly into the next. I visited Rosemary almost daily in her final weeks. She was 89 and her health was failing. What I saw in those visits was a remarkable woman who looked death in the face and didn't even flinch. For Rosemary, a committed child of God, death had lost its sting, because she knew what and who waited for her on the other side.

What a courageous woman Rosemary was. I was reminded of the passage from 1 Corinthians

15 that says: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

John Wesley, a preacher from yesteryear, once observed that "Christians die well." What he meant was that Christians leave this world with a supreme confidence that Heaven awaits, that there is no reason to fear.

I had always said of Rosemary that she was proof dynamite comes in small packages. Not quite 5-feet tall and weighing less than 100 pounds, she was one of the biggest people I ever knew.

So, in honor of Rosemary, I thought it might be fitting to share with you portions from a column I had written some time ago that speaks to the kind of courage the Lord gives his saints as they prepare to leave this world. It went like this:

Perhaps you heard about the wife and husband who interrupted their vacation to go to the dentist.

"I want a tooth pulled, and I don't have time for Novocain," the wife said. "I'm in a big hurry to get back to the beach. Just yank it out quickly, and we'll be on our way."

Needless to say, the dentist was quite impressed.

"You're an incredibly brave woman," he said. "Which tooth is it?"

The woman then turned to her husband and said: "Go ahead; show him your tooth."

That old joke has been getting laughs for a very long time. How ludicrous is the notion that a wife

would be willing to put her husband through the pain of having a tooth pulled without Novocain just so she can get back to sunbathing.

It's easy to be brave when it's someone else's tooth.

You realize God wants us always to be brave, no matter the circumstances. And we can be - if we put our trust in him, knowing that he is right there with us no matter what we're facing.

God tells us: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

He's there because he loves us. One of my favorite Bible passages speaks to this: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword? (Romans 8:35). "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:37).

You might have reason to question the love of a spouse who would turn you over to a dentist to get a tooth pulled without Novocain, but you'll never need to question the love of God.

Rosemary never ever questioned God's love for her, and that gave her a courage that was a great example to everyone around her.

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