

TROUTVILLE Tidbits



Brought to you by Friends of the Park

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In honor of Fathers Day, June 15, this month's issue of the "TROUTVILLE Tidbits" is dedicated to one of Troutville's finest Dads.....June Graybill.

Let Me Tell You About My Dad

By Anne Graybill Vassar

His given name was Emory Allen Graybill, Jr., but many of you knew him as "June". You may have known him through his business, Rader Funeral Home - he was honored and humbled to serve in that capacity. Maybe you knew him as a politician - he was the first Mayor of Troutville and was the first Supervisor to represent the Valley District. He loved his town and his county. Maybe you knew him as a deacon at church - he was proud to be a member and deacon at Troutville Baptist Church.

But I had the joy of knowing him as a Dad. Every child should be so blessed. I would like to share a few things you may or may not have known -

- He was born in the historic Fincastle jail where his dad resided as a Deputy Sheriff.
- He was reared by an aunt and grandmother when his dad died and his mother moved to New York City with his siblings.
- He married my mother, Lucille Painter, in 1941, and started his career and family, but volunteered to serve in World War II because he felt it was his patriotic duty.
- His favorite color was blue.
- He tucked his children in at bedtime and got them up in the morning...often with a piggyback ride.
- He had a pool built for his family because his job was 24/7...family outings were infrequent. He was not a swimmer. The only time he got in the pool was when he accidentally rode the lawn mower in. Many children learned to swim in that pool.
- His favorite vacation spot was always a beach....still not a swimmer.
- He was most comfortable in a suit, white shirt and tie.
- He loved new ties. A shopping trip always produced at least one new tie!
- His favorite hymn was "Because He Lives."
- He was the original "Mr. Clean," always picking up after himself.
- He was very disciplined in his habits...eating wisely and walking two miles daily, often at the Town Park.
- He was a life long Democrat!
- He loved the New York Yankees and saw them play many times.
- He always had a dog, didn't like cats...until one followed him home.
- He loved to picnic at the Peaks of Otter.

In his last year, I would enter his house daily to find him sitting at the table in the family room. I would give him a kiss on the cheek and he would spin around and say, "Do it again." I wish I could "do it again." He was warm, nurturing and loving, with a delightful sense of humor and a way with words. I cherish the memories.

Happy Father's Day!

In Memory of Emory Allen Graybill, Jr.

April 8, 1910 - December 8, 2005

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