

Mark A. Means was Sandra's great grandfather. He was born in Illinois in October of 1861 and he died in 1954 at the age of 93 in Lewiston, Idaho. He was still alive when Sandy was a small child and she used to take afternoon naps with him. He was an amazing man and he remained in Sandy's thoughts and respect through out her life.

The life of Mark Means was a point of significance in the lives of Sandra's grandparents, parents and herself.

Riding into Lewiston astride a saddle horse in September of 1881, Mark Means was in search of "good soil" and eventually became the epitome of entrepreneur-public servant, the Horatio Alger prototype that Americans idealized but seldom saw.

He was a pioneer banker and merchant. He started the Mark Means Company in 1923, a supplier of grass seed, beans and peas and started a streetcar line in Lewiston and Clarkston in 1909, was mayor of Genesee, a state senator and a state commissioner of Agriculture and ran for the Office of Governor in Idaho in 1926. He was a great friend to the Nez Perce tribe. The farm land he purchased still benefits his descendants to this day. The life of Mark Means was a point of significance in Sandra's life and she was always thankful for this connection.

A second point significance in Sandra's life (and mine) was when Sandy's aunt, Betty McGregor, decided to invite both Sandra and myself to a dinner at her beautiful home in Lewiston on a pleasant summer evening in 1979. This is when Sandy and I first met. I met a woman that was very pretty, had a quiet self confidence and was obviously very intelligent. I fell in love with her.

We were married in June of 1980 and were blessed with our son in March of 1982. Both of our lives were forever changed by this fortuitous dinner in 1979.

The very last thing that Sandy and I discussed was the fact that we had a very good marriage. We loved each other, we respected each other and we never argued. We had a lot of laughs together and many wonderful experiences.

Sandra was most proud of her role as mother. She deeply loved Robert and dedicated her life to his upbringing. She used to reference a quote by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis:

“If you bungle raising your children, I don’t think whatever else you do well matters very much”

Sandra’s love of animals was intense and passionate. Our veterinarian once told Sandy that she took better care of her pets than most people take of their children. She rescued dogs and cats throughout our marriage and we were rewarded with pets that greatly enriched our lives and marriage. It was Sandy that taught me how to really love our pets and my life has been richer for it. Lucille the cat, Eugene the sheltie collie, Spot and Missy also shelties and Bowie the cat were and are rock stars in our house.

I had mentioned that Mark Means was an entrepreneur. Sandra also shared that gene with Mark Means. Not only did she manage her wheat farming and real estate interests, she started a restaurant in Spokane across the street from the Spokane Opera house in 1978-79. At one point, she needed to decide on a name for the restaurant and was seeking assistance from a friend that was working in Manhattan as an advertising professional with a top firm. After considering and rejecting numerous names, Sandy happened to mention her new dog, Eugene, in conversation with her friend. Upon hearing this, he said, ‘Well, why don’t you call it Eugene’s’. Sandy loved the idea and it was named Eugene’s but this is not the end of the story.

Later, after the restaurant had opened, Sandy acted as hostess, greeting customers and seating them at their tables. One day a lady arrived with some of her friends and was apparently trying to impress them by telling Sandy that she was a personal friend of Eugene and proceeded to ask where is Eugene? Sandy's reply was,

“Oh, he is vacationing in Hawaii”

I had mentioned that Mark Means was a public servant. Sandy also felt strongly that we all have a responsibility to give back to our community. She served on a number of boards, including the League of Woman Voters, Shalom Ministries Dining with Dignity, Women of the Water Power, Altar Society and Finance Committee of St. Andrews Episcopal Church and was a member of P.E. O. Chapter CL, the Spokane Historical Society, the Humane Society, the ASPCA and the Spokane Club and the Columbia Tower Club in Seattle. She also spent years involved with the local public schools that our son attended.

Opening Remarks

Thank you to everyone for being here today to remember to my beautiful wife, Sandra Paine.

Seeing so many loving friends here is a reflection on how Sandy lived her life and what type of a woman she was.

Thank you Father Redman for agreeing to conduct the Episcopal service and for your blessings and prayers during Sandy's illness.

And thank you to everyone that provided care and support in so many ways including cards, flowers, meals, phone calls, special get togethers over a dinner and drinks at the latest new restaurant in town and special holiday get togethers with best friends and neighbors. All these things were very much appreciated by Sandy and her family.

Closing

So, now we are at another point of significance. My life is forever changed and enriched by having known and loved Sandy Paine. She was quite simply my best friend. I will miss her everyday.

To my wonderful son, I hope one day you, too, find yourself a partner who is as beautiful as your mother was to me.