

THE FIRST DATE with MOMMY

After World War II, Dad was discharged with the first soldiers after the war. Those soldiers had the highest record of missions, days in combat, medals, and honors. The highest ones were discharged first.

Dad was discharged on August 15, 1945. Robert Newman, Uncle Bob, was discharged in November 1945. Dad did not see him much until New Year's Eve. Both Dad and Uncle Bob were invited to the Elks Lodge on New Year's Eve. They left there about 1:30 AM in the morning and stopped at a bar and had a couple more drinks. Then they stopped at another bar in Belmar and had some more drinks.

Dad pushed his drink back and Uncle Bob asked, "Do you want to quit?" This was about 5:00 AM in the morning. They went home, stumbled up the back stairs of Uncle Bob's house on K Street in West Belmar, and made a racket. When they woke up the next morning, Aunt Ethel, Uncle Bob's mother, just stood at the bottom of steps with arms folded not saying a word and just glared at them.

Uncle Bob was dating someone across the street but that didn't last. Uncle Bob met Elinor Quakenbush, Aunt Elinor, which he liked her. He asked Elinor, who worked in Ft. Monmouth personnel department if she knew someone who could date Dad. She said, "Yes, I do." They made the arrangements for all of them to meet at Elinor's house in Little Silver. The night they got together Dad walked into Elinor's house and Mrs. Quakenbush saw Dad, ran over, and said, "I'm glad to see you." She liked Dad very much. She gave him a big hug.

Elsie Tuzeneu, Nana, knew Mrs. Quakenbush along time. They were good friends. They have visited the Quakenbushes many times. There was a mud puddle outside near the house where they went ice skating. Across the street was a swimming pool and tennis courts. They played games in the front yard. Elinor remembered Dad and then introduced him to Marguerite, Mommy. He was nervous and very scared. He shook hands and said, "Hello," and thought that Mommy was kind of cute. The four of them left the house, and stopped at a bar to get a drink and get acquainted. Dad only remembered that he was the only one who had a car. It was a Graham – a lower model of a Graham Page, a fancy car. Uncle Bob drove and they took Elinor home. Then they dropped off Marguerite, Mommy. Dad and Mom were in the back seat. Mommy opened the door and stepped out and stuck her head back in and said, "I had a nice time." Dad could only think to say, "I will call you and we can get together again." Dad

was a little scared and uncertain at that time. He thought that Mommy was nice and very cute.

The next time Dad and Mom went with William deSante, Uncle Bill, and his friends and they all got together with Richard deSante, Uncle Richard, and his date. They went to the 'Tally Ho' bar in Eatontown. When they were ready to leave, Dad recalled, that Uncle Richard left him with paying the bill. Dad was upset because he just had enough money to pay. The next time they got together they used Dad's car. Uncle Bill went off to do something. While Mommy and Dad waited for him to return, Dad was going to park the car. As Uncle Bill left and walked off the curb, Dad saw him slam the door so hard that Dad thought that he was going to break the window. Dad was upset at Uncle Bill for slamming the car door and wondered, "Why would anyone do that to a borrowed the car?" And so with these first impressions the seed was sown for the basic in law relationships.