

# Small Town Girl Meets *City Slicker*



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Country living at Tonkawa, Oklahoma ended when eleven of my family members moved to the small town of Blackwell, just a few miles north. Our papa had found work at the zinc smelter.

Through the years I heard about Bethany Peniel College (now Southern Nazarene University) and enjoyed hearing quartets and others representing the college. I knew that's where I wanted to go.

I loved college life at Bethany and was now beginning my sophomore year. We were allowed to sign up to eat at whichever dining room table we wanted. I picked a table and talked my cousin into signing up with me. The host and hostess at our table were called "Ma" and "Pa" and the rest of us were all brothers and sisters. One of those brothers was a guy from Kansas City, named Roy Simpson. I felt quite at ease around him, because he was very friendly and kind-hearted. Besides he had a girlfriend back home. When we met each other going from one class to another, we always called each other "Brother" and "Sis."

On one of Roy's trips home he decided it was best to break up with his old girlfriend. Soon after, he asked me for a date to a Holiness Convention in Oklahoma City and then to Wednesday night prayer meeting. He teasingly says that I kept my hands in my pockets, so he couldn't hold hands with me. I admit I did have some pretty high standards about dating. As you might imagine we had dropped the "Brother" and "Sister" titles by then.

We dated on and off until the school year ended. For some strange reason we didn't exchange addresses, so we didn't get in touch with each other all summer.

The next September I was sitting in Bethany First Church and spotted Roy. Evidently he saw me too and made sure we met after the service. What an interesting time we had catching up on what had transpired with each of us during the summer! We had definitely missed each other and dated steadily that school year. The next year we were engaged and married in the summer of 1956.

I'm so thankful that God led us together and blessed us with four wonderful children and their spouses. What a privilege to have eleven precious grandchildren!

This small town girl and city slicker boy are grateful for the great adventure of sharing our lives together these fifty years!



Twerp Week at BNC