Lucie Mae Richards

Lucie Mae Richards was born Lucie Mae Young on April 1, 1927 in Cantwell, Missouri. Her father was James A. Young, her mother was Pearl E. Young. She was the youngest of four, sister Marie, brothers Jim and Chuck. At that time her father was a partner with and operated the General Store.

In 1933 when she was six her father sold his share of the General Store, purchased 80 acres of land and a log cabin in Wisconsin. From there they moved to a farm in Eagle River, then to De Sota, Missouri. Then they got their first home in the county of Lake of the Woods 22 miles east of the town of Baudette, Minnesota on the Rainy River near the U.S. Canada border. After a year they moved into Baudette, and a few months later 7 miles from town into a big farmhouse on the Wabanica River. Later they moved into another house on the Rainy River just 2 miles from Baudette.

Mom told me it was a hard life, they all had to pitch in and work hard to eat and survive the cold winters. They hunted for food, cleared land farmed and fished. This was not long after the great depression and they moved around a lot.

After the General Store, moms father owned farms, a couple of diners and a gas station. Mom remembered working at the family diners as a young girl.

Moms brother Jim was twelve years older than she was, Jim played the saxophone and organized a band starting at the age of thirteen that played dances, fairs and events. Their Dad played the drums and was good. Music was Jim’s livelihood as he studied, performed and eventually finished his carrier as the head of the music department at Fullerton High Scholl. The entire family was incredibly musically talented. Mom sang in Minnesota for the public for the first time when she was twelve. It was at a large celebration on Armistice Day, the celebration of the end of World War One, now known as Veterans Day. She sang the Lord’s Prayer. That is when she also started singing with the family band, she was a gifted singer with a strong beautiful voice. Like her brother Jim, music was a very important part of their life.

All of this and now Lucie Mae is only 14 years old when on December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor was attacked, right after that the family left Minnesota for good and moved to Seattle where she attended Garfield High School. After a year they moved to Sultan where in 1945 she graduated from Sultan High School.

She remembers taking the train many times back to Minnesota so she could sing with her brother’s band in those days, wherever they were. They performed in Seattle as well as brother Jim went back and forth from Seattle and Minnesota for a few years in those days.

After Mom turned nineteen she was baptized at the First Baptist Church in Seattle. A few years later on a blind date at a hockey game Lucie Mae Young met her future husband, my father Bob Richards. They married on June 3, 1950. In January of 1955 they bought their home in Ballard at 8346 21st NW.

Mom worked for three different banks in bookkeeping, as a teller and head teller. She was the office manager and receptionist at a doctors office. She worked in bookkeeping at the Bon Marche for a while and a secretary for the Seattle School District at Whitman Middle School for 21 years. But through every farm, cabin, house, home and job her music was with her.

Mom’s love of music and singing grew and grew and never stopped. She sang wherever she could for as long as she could. She always had music in her life. She sang the Ave’ Marie at Susan and my wedding and it was incredible. People would hire her to sing at all types of events, I remember growing up she would practice all the time in our home. She sang with the Northminster Choir for over fifty years and as recently as 2016 when she sang a beautiful solo at Christmas at the age of 89.

PLAY THAT RECORDING NOW

I’d like to finish with a few quotes I found from some of the people that loved her very much. The first three I found in a notebook. It looked like it was part of an assignment to have people write in it.

Dear Little Lucie Mae, you are my darling little granddaughter. You’ve been so nice to me I love you oh so dearly. I pray Gods Blessings rest upon you that you may grow to be a fine young lady and a real servant of the Lord. Your grandmother, Emma Young. 1936

Remember well, and don’t forget, your mother dear loves you yet. Stay as sweet as you are. Mother. 1936

I don’t know, sweet girl but I think you must have left this page for me, anyhow I have got it. Never be hasty about anything, always think at least twice before acting. Be ever as dependable and sweet as you are now, and the end will find you with a small portion of sorrows and regrets. All my love, Dad. Baudette, Minnesota, 1937.

Wonderful Wife Lucie, Thanks for sweet memories!!!! Loving you is a wonderful way to spend a lifetime, Now and Forever, Love Bob. 1965.

Mother, you and dad blessed me with so many wonderful experiences and memories growing up, you were always there when I needed you. You made our house a home full of love and music. I was lucky to have you as my mother. I love you. Todays date