

EUNICE AND TED – THE STORY OF THE PRICE’S – RIGHT!

TED’S VERSION:

Captain Arthur Phillip rowed to the Head of Navigation of Middle Harbour and declared that Ku-ring-gai would one day become the Centre of the Universe. The area was opened up by the timber-cutters, who were followed up the Gordon Rd by the market gardeners and orchardists and in 1941 by the Prices. Robert Pymble settled with his family in Pymble (where else?) and the cottage in Bobbin Head Rd where we lived until 1950 had originally housed members of the Pymble family. My father had enlisted in the Army and served as a pharmacist in field hospitals in the Pacific Islands. My arrival is recorded in my father’s Army Record as he was granted “Compassionate Leave” from the Dubbo Camp. This camp was later to become the Western Plains Zoo. On my father’s return to civilian life, I remember being confused by this new man around the house behaving as if he owned it!

In 1950, my father opened the “Roseville Chase Pharmacy” in Babbage Rd, which was then only two lanes wide and twisted its way down to the old low level bridge across Middle Harbour and I attended Roseville Public and North Sydney Boys High. While at East Roseville I joined the Scouting Movement as a Cub, moving on through Scouts, Seniors, Rovers and completed the cycle when I became “Akela” at West Pymble after completing my University Studies. One fellow Scout was Dick Smith, whose first job was taking over my after-school delivery-boy position at the Pharmacy.

While living at East Roseville, I made many of my long-time friends at School, Scouts and the Roseville East Methodist Church where I also met my greatest friend and Number One Mate, Eunice. (My older sister met her husband at the Fellowship also.) Eunice had moved to East Roseville with her parents and was I the lucky one! We were married at the Gordon Methodist Church (Uniting) on 14th October 1971 and moved into our home in East Lindfield. Together we learnt Ballroom dancing and our three left feet have had a great time together. I joined Eunice in her social tennis club for the weekly get-together.

In November 1957, Ku-ring-gai Council conducted an auction to sell “off-plan” West Pymble Shopping Centre which was then built with seven businesses opening on 30th July 1958, including Price’s Pharmacy which was for many months the only business to boast having a telephone. Having pharmacy in the genes passed from Grandfather to father, I eventually emerged from Sydney University as a Pharmacist and have spent the last 40 years involved in the day-to-day role of Community Pharmacist in West Pymble. It was in this role that I was invited by P.D.G. Ivan to join the Ku-ring-gai Rotary Club. It has been interesting to be part of a community that began as a “cradle suburb”, matured and 40 years later has once again come alive with “the sound of babies”.

The great joys of our lives are our daughters Carolyn and Melissa who both attended East Lindfield Primary School and then Ravenswood. Carolyn graduated with her Science degree (Biology) from Macquarie University and also studied at Sydney College of the Arts. Combining her interests in art, photography and science, Carolyn is now designing web site as “Delphinus Creative”. Melissa, who graduated from U.T.S. with a Design degree (Visual Communication) is working as a designer with “In Style” Magazine, one of the “Time” Magazine Stable. Melissa plays saxophone with Judy Bailey’s Big Band “Jazz Connection” and has played at many major Jazz Festivals (Manly, Darling Harbour, Thredbo, Morpeth and Merimbula in N.S.W., Montsalvat in Victoria and last year represented Australia at the Whangarei Festival in New Zealand. “Jazz Connection is proving to be a great training experience for many of the next generation of jazz musicians. As parents in the “Sydney Youth Jazz Ensemble”, Eunice and I really enjoy playing our part, that of “rent-a-crowd”, and I have been President during the last two years.

EUNICE’S VERSION

My life story is a very simple one.

Born in Narrandera, I grew up on the family sheep and wheat property. Anybody who has driven the Sturt Highway from Wagga Wagga west to Narrandera has actually passed through our property at Sandigo. I owned my own horse from age six and spent many hours riding and helping in various ways on the property. To me, this was the perfect existence. Horses were my great love, and, being an only child, Warrigal (my horse) became my playmate. I actually persuaded my parents to let me ride in a few local shows which was very exciting.

All through primary school I managed to come first or second in my year. (Wasn't I bright?) I attended a small, one-teacher school at Sandigo where my best friend and I were the only two children in our year. However, our school always won the inter-school athletics which culminated with a huge bonfire and fireworks on "Empire Day".

I moved on to high school in Narrandera where I became a weekly boarder for three years at a co-ed hostel for ninety students which was run by the Country Women's Association. In charge was a very strict Matron who had previously been in charge of a boys delinquent home. I believe that weekly boarding is a wonderful idea as you still have close contact with your family (and horse!).

For my last two years of schooling, I came to Sydney where I became a boarder at Ravenswood. During my final year at Ravenswood, my parents moved to Sydney so after leaving school I lived at East Roseville with them.

On leaving school, I did a business course and then worked for a firm which encompassed, among others, photographer Max Dupain and Vogue Magazine. At this time I was asked to return to the Williams Business College, where I had trained, to teach typing two nights a week. I found the teaching very satisfying.

After some time, I moved on to Philips Industries where I worked in the Export Department – a job I enjoyed and found very interesting with the contact with customs, seminars on ships (with fabulous food) etc.

I joined a very socially active youth fellowship at my local church after leaving school. There I met a good-looking, redheaded fellow whose name was Ted. We had a great time with this group.

We were eventually married and moved into our home at East Lindfield where we still live. A few years later our daughters Carolyn and Melissa were born and I feel privileged to have been a full-time mother. Many happy hours were spent with their various activities and I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

As most of you know, for the last four and a half years, I have been suffering from leukemia. Since last October I have been on a trial drug which I hope may turn things around. With Dr Luke Coyle at R.N.S.H. I have a dedicated, compassionate and overworked Doctor.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our friends who have been concerned and interested in my progress as this has given both Ted and I added strength to cope.

