

Happy Birthday Alice!



Remembering me and you, aunt and niece, close enough through the years to be more like sister-friends, so much so that often I forget you are actually my Aunt.

REMEMBER?

- ☀ Picnics on a quilt in the back yard (saltine crackers and jam, tiny boxes of raisins and a jar of sweet ice tea)...
- ☀ Rolling down a hill into the ditch in a big old cardboard box...
- ☀ Princess Parades (where we were certain Benny Burleson would be watching **grins**)...
- ☀ Austin, TX: waiting for Dad's buddy, Ken to drive up in his hot rod (wonder who had the bigger crush do ya think?)...
- ☀ Strolling down the street singing "She Wore an Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka-Dot Bikini" at the top of our lungs...
- ☀ A little dog named Austin...
- ☀ Mad dashes in Grandpa's car to the library so I could get a book to read (that was the excuse, anyway). We got the same book every time, remember? - so we would have time to run by the Lo-Boy for a Cherry Coke or Cherry 7-Up - you think the grownups ever caught on about that?...
- ☀ Seeing Godzilla or some monster flick like that at the theater in Henrietta together...

- ☀️ Amarillo, TX: watching Dark Shadows every afternoon together, mooning over Quentin and Barnabus...
- ☀️ Working together (remember gift-wrapping at the jewelry store?)... and years later tying legs on ninny-dolls...
- ☀️ You doing my hair up fancier than I ever wore it before - in a side pony tail with lots of ribbons for my first high school dance...
- ☀️ Me and you and Clay watching a storm out your front window - there were "funders" out there ya know...
- ☀️ Me and you at rodeo dances and parades, spinning 45's, making "city quail"...
- ☀️ Would you believe I still have that little cowhide purse you gave me before the Clay County Reunion one year? I wore the soles off those hand-me-down cowgirl boots, too...
- ☀️ Remember? Everybody loves a nut - the whole world loves a weirdo - somehow we identified with that - haha!...
- ☀️ Raising kids together, sippin' a beer together, and cajun cookouts with Tim as the guinea pig. I miss your Red Draws...
- ☀️ Moving and decorating, moving and decorating again - how many times did we do that? I lost count - ha!...



Thanks for letting me hang out and tag-along as often as you did...

We go back a long way, girl. We've shared laughs and tears, weathered a few of life's glitches, suffered a few of life's insults, rolled with a few punches, wore a black sheep mantle now and then, but at the end of day or a year we emerged with a shake of our head and a smile on our face. Looks like we have a few more miles and years to travel yet. No matter how it all turns out -- you are still you and I am still me and hopefully we'll see a few more good times together.

The way I gauge whether a person still belongs in my life is how after an absence of days or weeks or even months we can pretty much pick up where we left off as though we had only spent an hour apart. I believe we have that although maybe we shouldn't test that theory quite so strenuously.

I wish you all the brightest of life's blessings - today and always.

Remember this old John Denver favorite?

Sunshine, on my shoulders - makes me happy
sunshine, in my eyes - can make me cry
sunshine, on the water - looks so lovely
sunshine, almost always - makes me high



If I had a day that I could give you
I'd give to you a day just like today
if I had a song that I could sing for you
I'd sing a song to make you feel this way

Sunshine, on my shoulders - makes me happy
sunshine, in my eyes - can make me cry
sunshine, on the water - looks so lovely
sunshine, almost always - makes me high

If I had a tale that I could tell you
I'd tell a tale sure to make you smile
if I had a wish that I could wish for you
I'd make a wish for sunshine all the while



Sunshine, on my shoulders - makes me happy
sunshine, in my eyes - can make me cry
sunshine, on the water - looks so lovely
sunshine, almost always - makes me high



Sunshine and sunflowers always bring you to mind..

I miss you. I love you. I wish you a John Denver kind of
sunshine on your shoulders birthday!

-- Vickie --

March 26, 2011