

WALL

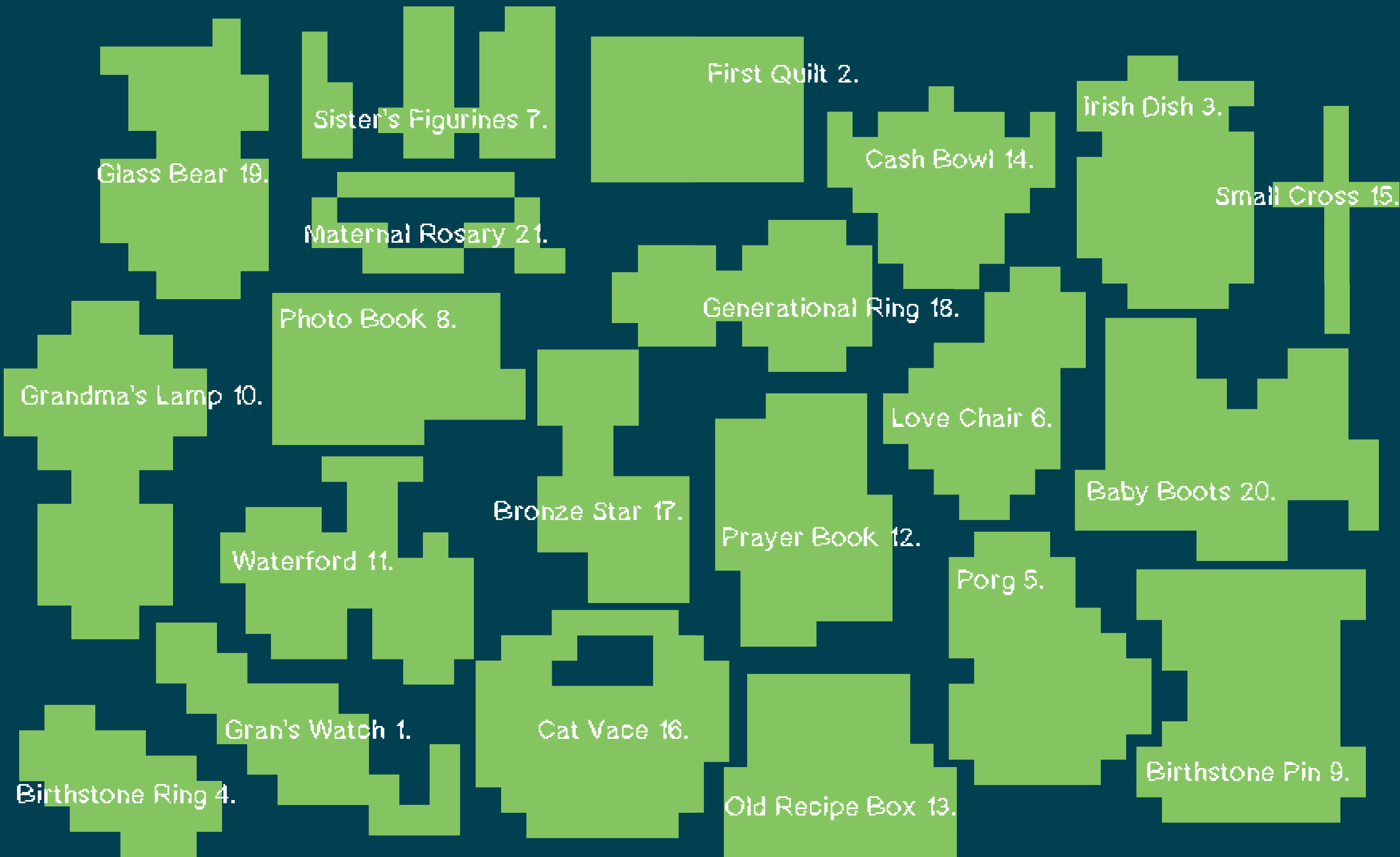
The Family Collection

WALL

medium

By Toby Dush

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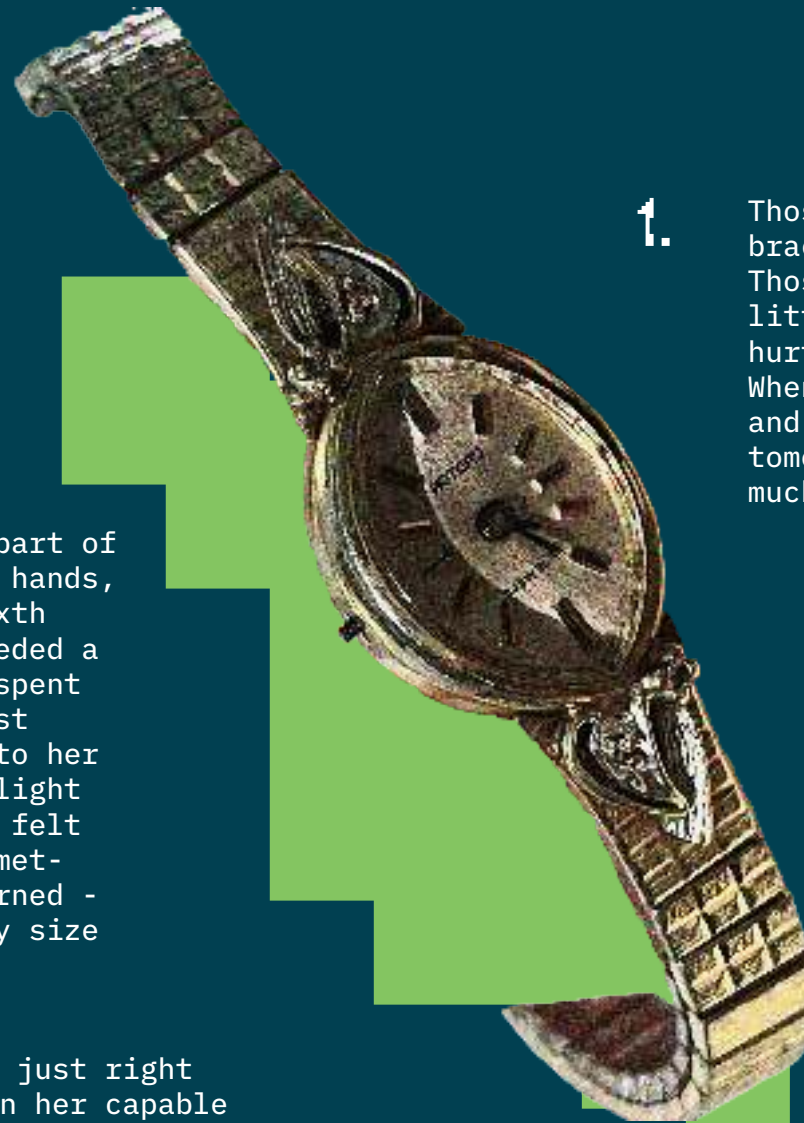
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## Gran's Watch

*The watch of my grandmother; part of her love language was holding hands, my grandmother. She had a sixth sense for knowing when you needed a little extra affection. I'd spent hours sitting by her chair just holding her hand and talking to her - her watch sparkling in the light would catch my eye. I always felt a wonder at how the stretchy metal band - so small when unadorned - could stretch to seemingly any size wrist as the gold shined.*

It looked just right adorned on her capable hands. Those hands that made many pies, chillies, cookies, dumplings and holiday dinners - cooking being yet another one of her love languages.



1.

Those hands that were used to embrace her granddaughters so often. Those hands that in the eyes of a little girl could take away any hurts and allow her to feel love. When she passed, I dreamt of her and thought 'Oh, let me call her tomorrow, I am missing her so much'.

Little did I realize that she was visiting me as she was lifted to heaven. Her watch was left behind in a pile of unchosen broken jewelry, but the broken crown never bothered me. I wear it often despite this. I stroke the smooth band with my fingers and as I do so, I remember her and feel her unique love all over again.

## First Quilt

The excitement of my parents was palpable in anticipation of having a grandchild nearby. My mom decided she was going to make a quilt for the new baby boy. I don't think she realized that the pattern she picked - embroidered bunnies of course - would be very time intensive. Nonetheless, she completed each square with love. When I told her that I was pregnant again, remembering all that hard work, she said only half jokingly, "I hope you don't expect another quilt!".



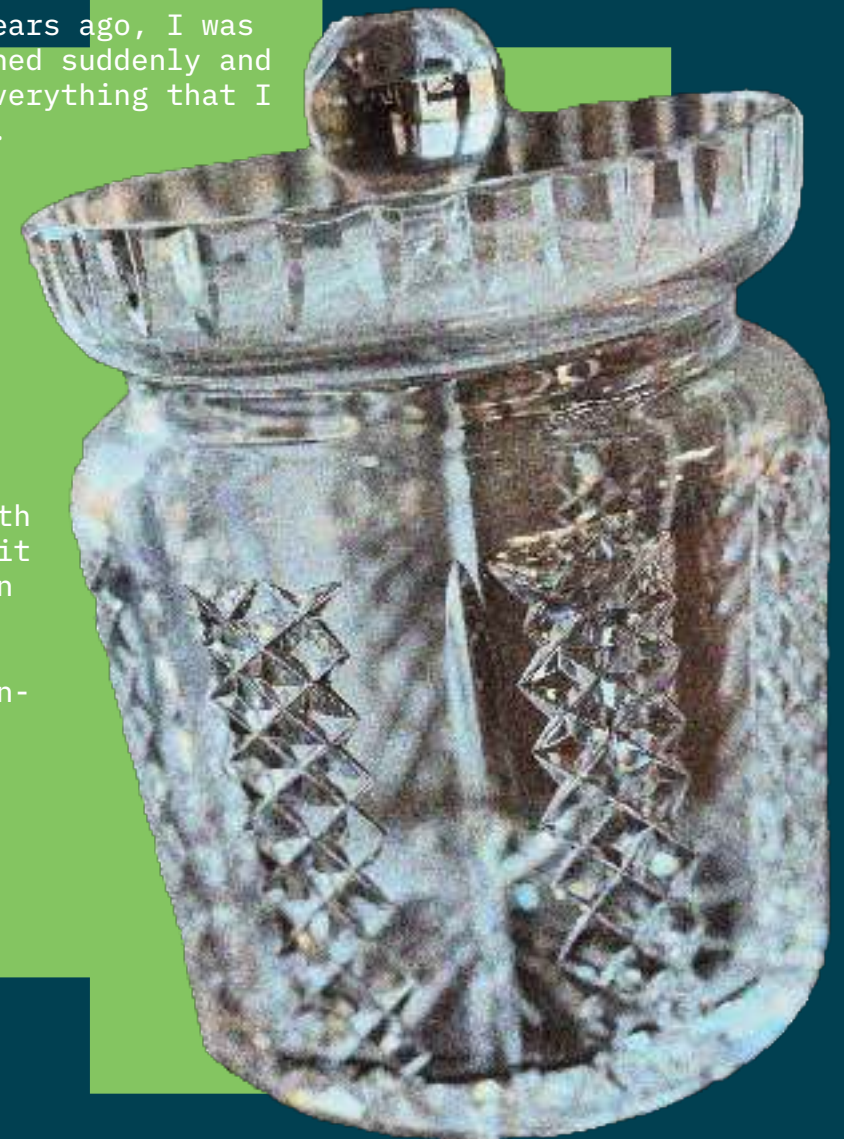
2.

My grandma Godar was amazing. She had so much personality, and so much love, and her energy was infectious. I loved her completely and deeply. I have such great memories of going over to her house on weekends and this candy dish was always out. It is a Waterford crystal candy dish, and that also makes it special because she was so proud of being Irish. The dish was almost always filled up with Broch's candies. When she passed away 21 years ago, I was devastated. It happened suddenly and I never got to say everything that I wanted to say to her.

## Irish Dish

Having this candy dish makes me feel like I have a little part of her with me. And I can't wait until I have my own grandkids that can find joy and grabbing a piece of candy.

3.





## Birthstone Ring

This ring, was Grandma Godar's. I'm sure a gift from one of her kiddos. Or she had it made. But it's the birthstones of my Mom, Aunties and Uncle. First an April Diamond: Aunt Linda. An Aries like your Momma, Claire. Bold, friendly, and loving. Oldest sister energy max! Second, Third, & Fourth are November Topaz: First for Aunt Cathy Scorpio same as Aunt Erica although Erica is cusp Libra. Erica's gentle nature as a mother and sister is Aunt Cathy to a T. They also both never hold back the opinion. A lot of us are like that on the opinions in the fam. I love it!

Next up: Twinkies Carolyn Jean and Marilyn Jane. Still makes me laugh. November Sagittarius they are. All the parts in me that are strong, resilient, fierce, and justice seeking come from my Momma. Aunt Carolyn, is gentle and she makes me laugh and when I am with her I feel seen and heard. Last but certainly not least: Uncle Mike: August Peridot although says there's a couple other birthstones of that month. But this one must be Peridot because it's green. He was a Leo.



Same as Audgie. He loved her so much. He loved us all so much. He was so careful with his next sentence it was gentle. His pride in his work even felt gentle. Never an ego. Always looking for a way to be silly. He would try to make us laugh if we were crying. He felt the weight of the world like me. He was funny just like Audgie. I have a friend who laughs just like him when she is past the point of return. I think I might too. The one that is wheezing to catch a breath through tears. Maybe that's all of us.

4.

I wear this everyday day for the last year or so. Not sure what brought me to it exactly but I think I know now it brings me comfort.

It fits on my middle finger which is where I want it to be and sometimes flies off where I'll freak and catch it. Elliot actually grabbed it off my finger earlier when we were cuddling, had a funny exchange about Gollum from the Lord of the Rings. My preciousssss.

This ring really is precious.

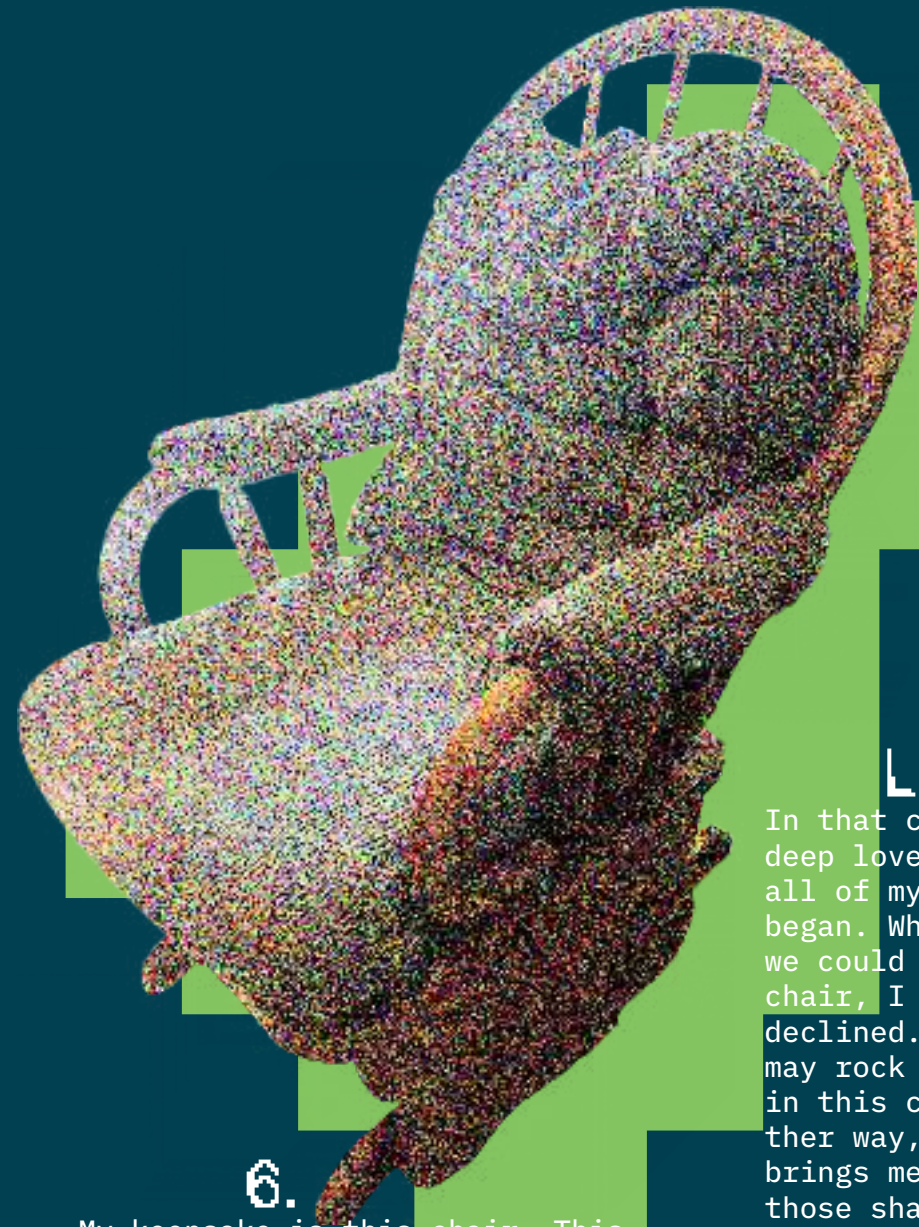




Porg

5.

Porg is a keepsake because porg is soft small so then you can hold Porg and I've had him for seven years and he's lived in two states. He is soft easy to hold and I sleep with and I also sleep with Porg because he soft and easy to hold Porg a keepsake anything happens to poor I would be very sad.



Love Chair

6.

My keepsake is this chair. This chair is old, falling apart, and kinda ugly. This chair currently just sits in our basement, unused and waiting. It doesn't have much of a purpose currently, but in that chair I would rock each of my four babies to sleep. In that chair I would smell their fresh, little heads and feel the warmth of their bodies.

In that chair the deep love I have for all of my children began. When asked if we could donate this chair, I politely declined. One day, I may rock grandkids in this chair. Either way, this chair brings me back to those shared, loving moments I will cherish forever and still feel each time I see this chair.



Our dear mother, Mrs. Gen-ny Godar (1926 to 2003) loved to collect figurines and artwork of the beloved Franciscan sister, Sister Maria Innocentia Hummel. The Goebel company of Germany was the exclusive manufacturer of Sister's artwork. Sister Maria Innocentia lived from 1909 to 1946. She started with pencil drawings as a child in Bavaria and her talent grew over the years.

Sister Maria Innocentia loved to capture the innocence and happiness of children, in particular-the beautiful expressions in the children's eyes. Sister's artwork and legacy live on. Mom had collected over 70 Hummel figurines and other items such as plates, etc.

7.



## Sister's Figurines

The three figurines pictured are titled (from left to right):  
 "Sound The Trumpet"  
 "School Boy"  
 "Good Friends"

We are very happy to have these lovely pieces, which brought such joy to our mother!



This book made by Evelyn Dush, David's mother in memory of her brother, Larry Gardner who served in the Marines. Tragically he was killed in Vietnam War in 1967 at age 20. The photo book is approx. 58 years old. It was given to David by Evelyn before her passing. For the family to keep Larry's legacy alive and pass on to Aaron someday, David's son and then to his sons after that. Toby being an Eagle Scout will be very proud of it. Evelyn put a lot of love into it. This heirloom will always be treasured.

## Photo Book

David Dush-Toby's grandpa. Evelyn Dush-Toby's great grandma, Aaron Dush-Toby's father. Picture of 1964 shows Larry Gardner-Marine, Toby's great uncle. Henry Gardner-Toby's great-great grandpa. Emma Gardner-Toby's great-great grandma and shows Larry's brother, Gary who is Toby's great-great uncle, who also served proudly in the Marines.

8.



9.

## Birthstone Pin

Our paternal grandmother, Mrs. Margaret Godar, received this grandmother's birthstone pin for Mother's Day one year. The pin is shaped as the tree of life and has on it the birthstones of herself (October), as well as the birthstones of her three sons (1 February and 2 March), and her seven grandchildren: 1 March, 1 April, 1 July, 1 August, and 3 November.

I recall how much this pin meant to Grandma. She wore it only for special occasions, yet took it out frequently to gaze on it with love. As her oldest grandchild, I am honored to have it as a keepsake.



## Grandma's Lamp

This is a lamp that was always on display on a round table at my grandma's house. I remember going to her house all of the time and it was a beautiful piece in her living room, that offered an inviting warmth to her home. She always told me it was an anniversary gift to her from my grandpa. It was very special to her, now I am lucky enough to be able to display it in my dining room. I always think of her when I turn it on.

10.





## Waterford

Mrs. Catherine Dermo-  
dy Jordan, my mater-  
nal grandmother, came  
to the USA in the late  
1800's From County  
Kilkenny, Ireland, not  
far from Waterford.

Grandmother came over with her  
sister, Mary, on a ship by sea.  
The family remaining in Ireland  
were engaged in farming. Some  
later came to work at the Water-  
ford Crystal factory. Waterford  
Crystal Is world-renowned for its  
beauty and artistry, featuring  
hand-cut crystal with intricate  
designs. There are a number of  
items made By Waterford Crystal.  
My mother visited the relatives  
in Ireland in the 1980's and her  
cousins presented her with sever-  
al custom-made Waterford Crystal  
items which I do not have (swans,  
and an Irish shilelagh).



11.

Among our family heirlooms are these three pieces:  
Small vase, small jelly jar, and small honey jar.



The prayer book was from our First Communion day that your Grandma and I celebrated together. I loved reading that little book. Our priest at that time was Monseignor Henry Knoedler. My Grandma Jordan gve me a 1921 Silver Dollar that I passed down to my Grandaughter Ellie on her First Communion Day!

## Prayer Book



## Old Recipe Box

My mother, Mrs. Genny Godar, cherished her Better Homes and Gardens Recipe box. This red and white treasure box was full of family favorites.

These recipes were used to create the most delicious meals, which were shared by our family at the family table nightly. The meal was always started by my father leading the prayer, and then the passing of the bowls filled with tasty foods. Each family member then shared how their day had been, with school, activities, adventures, etc.

These memories are precious to us all!

Mom made many wonderful dishes.

Among her best were her fried chicken, roast beef, cole slaw, and her pies, with fresh apple and coconut cream pie toppings.

13.



This story is about something very special to me that I managed to get from my Grandma Godar. Her name was Margaret A. Godar (née Banghart) who was born on October 30th, 1896, and died on July 21st, 1976. She was 79 years old when she died. She was my dad's, Russell Godar's, mother. Her husband Raymond Godar Sr. died on September 17th, 1942. Grandma Godar was a widow for many years as her husband died with cancer. They lived on Rocky Hill in Hardin, Illinois all their lives. My dad Russell bought a farm ½ mile away around the corner from them. So, when we were growing up - we walked over to Grandma's house probably almost every day. She lived with my Uncle Raymond (Uncle Ramie) as he never married and took care of her.

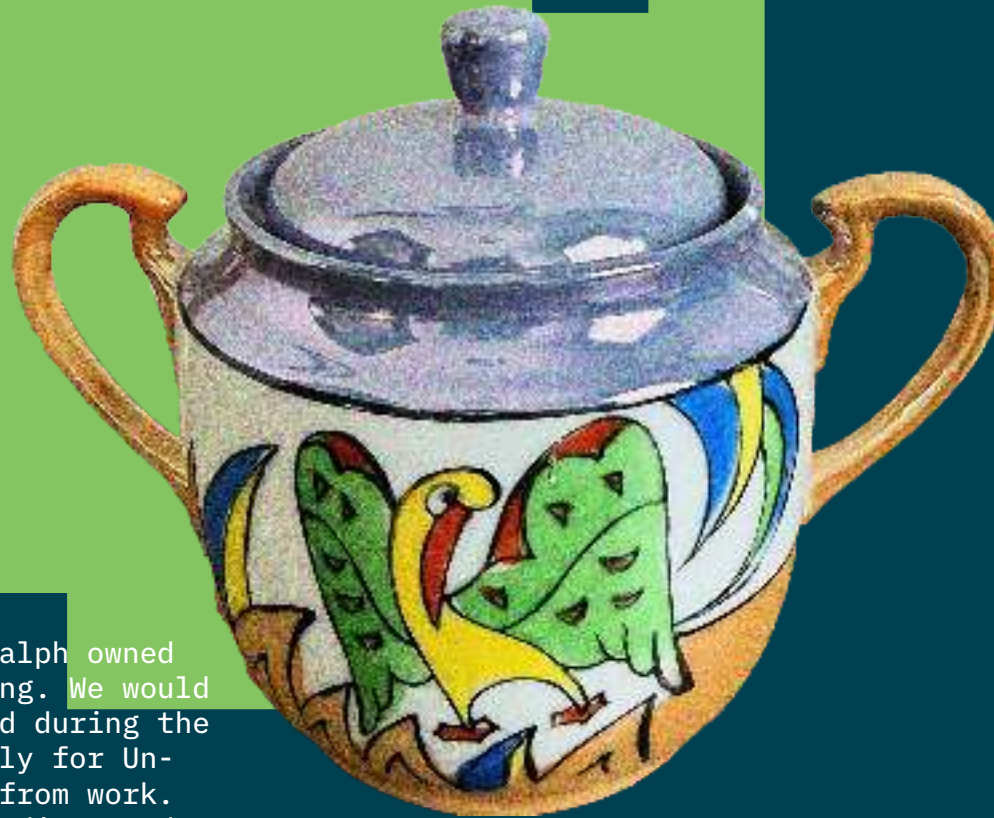
## Cash Bowl

He and my other Uncle Ralph owned Godar Brothers Bulldozing. We would go over after school and during the summer and wait anxiously for Uncle Ramie to come home from work. He would always be very dirty and greasy - but we would carry his lunchbox into the house for him. They loved us very much - but back then times were hard. Nothing like today. Grandma Godar made the best sugar cookies in the world and would make what seemed to us, tons of them at a time. We always had duties to do, rake the yard, wash windows, always busy.

My mom and dad worked - so Grandma had a system for picking us up if we were at her house. She would have a pole and put a white rag on it, so you could see it from the road. If we were there Mom and Dad could pick us up on their way home from work.

14.

Grandma had this little (what I would call) sugar bowl in her cupboard in the kitchen - if she had any extra cash, like \$1.00 or \$5.00 mostly - she would put it in that sugar bowl to save up for the very few times we would make a trip to Alton to shop. We didn't shop much at all - I had a twin sister Carolyn, and one brother Mike, and two sisters Cathy, and Linda. We wore hand-me-downs and it was few and far between to get new clothes. We would go to the old Venture store in Alton to get an occasional pair of jeans, or there was a store in Hardin, Marguerite Baker's store. When we got like in high school, us girls would go and get a pair of hip huggers, or jeans and charge it. Mom would pay the bill. The only problem was that everyone in town had the same pair!

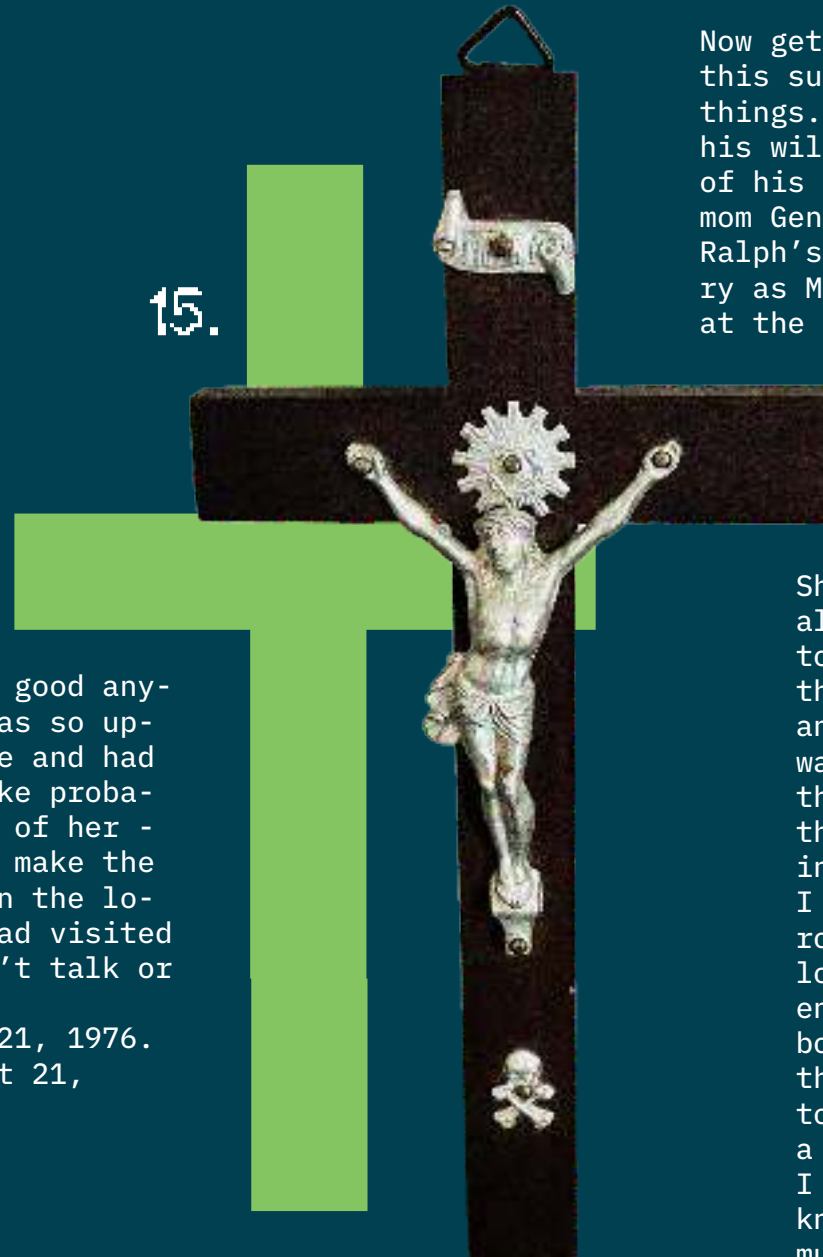


Besides working in Hardin as an accountant at Ford Garage and later at Pere Marquette Boys Home - my dad had an orchard. We had apple and peach trees and worked very hard pruning the trees, picking the crop, and trying to go door to door to sell the crop. I'm not sure of the date probably in 1974 or so - all of us kids were at Grandma Godar's and we were in the yard out by the road. Mom and Dad, and Uncle Ramie were at work, and someone stopped to tell Grandma Godar that they saw someone stealing apples out of the orchard.

Grandma wasn't walking that good anymore and had a cane - she was so upset and was shaking her cane and had a stroke. Since it would take probably two people to take care of her - dad and Uncle Raymie had to make the worst decision to put her in the local nursing home. Mom and Dad visited her every night. She couldn't talk or walk.

Grandma Godar died on July 21, 1976. Uncle Raymond died on August 21, 2001.

15.



Now getting to know how I acquired this sugar bowl and a couple of other things. When Uncle Raymond died - in his will he stated that the contents of his house should be split between my mom Genny Godar and Mark Godar (uncle Ralph's son). That is another long story as Mark was married to Nanette Godar at the time.

## Small Cross

She was the not a good person at all - and there was a date set to go to the house to get some things. I remember going with mom and when we got there - Nanette was on the front porch and stated that we could get ONE thing from the house. Mom was not even going to go there as we were upset. I said I would like Grandma's rocking chair. While someone was loading it - I went in the kitchen and retrieved Grandma's sugar bowl, then I went upstairs into this old house and over what used to be my Grandma Godar's bed was a very old cross - very small - I could take that without anyone knowing - and I did. There wasn't much of value in that house - but to me - these three things were priceless.



16.

My grandmother, Mrs. Margaret Godar, loved cats. She lived on a farm a quarter-mile from our farm. Grandma lived with our beloved uncle, Mr. Raymond Godar. My siblings and I enjoyed a wonderful childhood roaming over the land, playing games, fishing, climbing, helping our Grandma and uncle with the chores, etc.

## Cat Vase

Grandma had at least 7-10 cats that I can remember. My sister Marilyn was especially fond of a gray tabby she named "Geri." There was also a white cat named "Rudolph." Grandma had this kitten vase in her kitchen on the shelf with plants in it for as long as I can remember. Happy times and happy memories!

## Bronze Star

Technician Fifth Grade  
RUSSELL P. GODAR,  
36442524, FA, 242d Field  
Artillery Battalion, for  
meritorious service in  
connection with military  
operations against the en-  
emy in France and Germany  
between 14 September 1944  
and 1 May 1945. Technician  
GODAR throughout the en-  
tire period displayed an  
untiring devotion to duty  
in his assignment of head-  
quarters clerk.

17.

His thorough knowl-  
edge, exceptional  
initiative and skill  
contributed immeasur-  
ably to the efficien-  
cy and effectiveness  
of the organization.  
His meritorious ser-  
vice reflects great  
credit upon himself  
and is in accordance  
with military tradi-  
tion. Entered Mil-  
itary Service from  
Illinois.



More details at the end of story. Picture of the heirloom ring included in original ring box. My Grandma Ruth Andersons wedding ring given to her from my Grandpa Hilfing Anderson. When she passed at a young age, the ring was given to her oldest daughter, Janet. After a few years gone by Janet gave it to her younger sister, Shirley. She wanted Shirley to have it.

Janet and Shirley were Grandma Ruth's only children. Sadly Grandma Ruth passed when Janet was five and Shirley was three. So needless to say this ring meant a lot to the family. Shirley kept it in a special place with her jewelry and when her granddaughter, Becky was little she loved looking through that jewelry and especially loved that wedding ring and would always try it on.

## Generational Ring

18.



Many years she did that. Becky grew up and by then the ring went to her mom, Shelley-me-because sadly Shirley passed away. Shelley would wear it for some years on special occasions on her little finger where it would fit or around her neck on a thin chain. When Becky turned 45, Shelley gave it to Becky as a special sentimental gift. Tears were shed by both.

Becky now wears it on special occasions and it fits her like a glove. And someday Becky will pass it on to her daughter, Gabby. I believe it's the only heirloom we have from Grandma Ruth. The ring approx. 98 years old.



19.

This is a crystal bear of Grandma Godar's. No understanding of where she got it. But, little glass bear hangs out on my windowsill above kitchen sink. When I look at her I can hear Grandma say clear as day, I LOVE you with ALLLLLLL my heart. Inflection and all.

Glass Bear

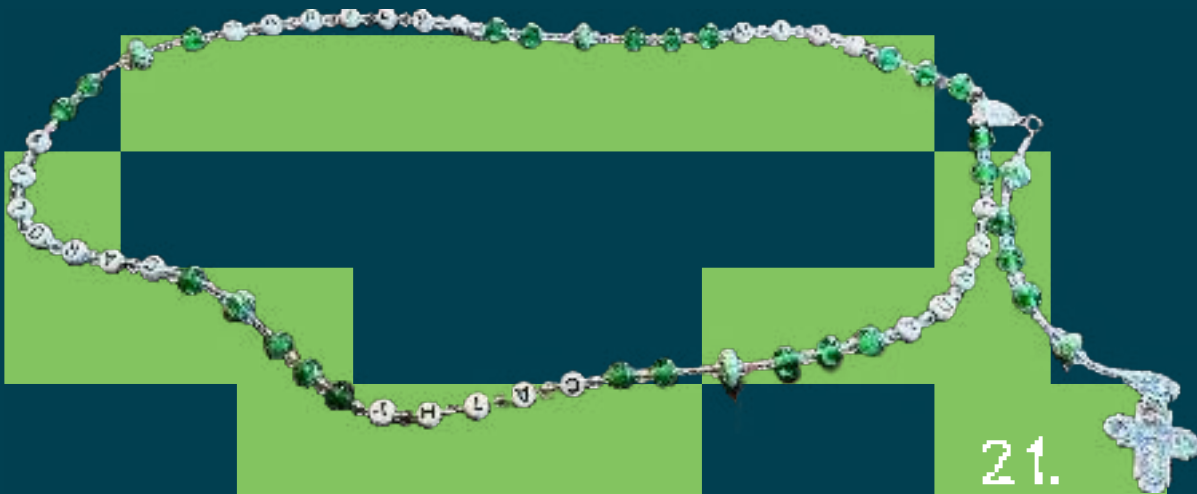


Baby Boots

*These cowboy boots* were my husband's when he was a child. His parents had them bronzed and turned into bookends when he outgrew them. He tells cute childhood stories recalling how his parents would take him to honky-tonks where he loved dancing around in his boots & playing the jukebox.

20.

They are special to me because they remind me of the pure joy and innocence of being a kid doing something you love. I always smile when I look at them.



My dear mother, Mrs. Genny Codar, gave me a lovely Rosary with the names of her five children on it: Linda, Cathy, Carolyn, Marilyn, and Mike. Each of the five decades has the child's name in white beads with black letters, with green beads for the Trish heritage of Mom.

I think of Mom with love whenever I pray this Holy Rosary. It is a cherished heirloom!

## Maternal Rosary