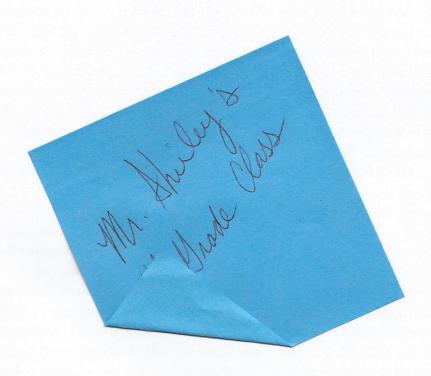
My Grandpa Roger, The Doctor and The Detective!
by
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South Elementary Mr. Shirley

Eric Williams 435-592-0498 ericchurchwilliams@gmail.com My grandpa, Roger Fin Williams, was born on December 12, 1946. He was the second child in his family and he had four younger siblings. His dad was the doctor in Cedar City. And Grandpa Roger always wanted to be a doctor just like his dad.

When he was a kid, his favorite thing to do was read books. He read his family's whole encyclopedia set one summer. The second thing he loved the most was drawing! And he was really good at it. The first year they opened Cedar High School, he was a senior. The school had an art competition to see who would design the first yearbook. My grandpa's design took first place! The yearbook he designed is on my grandma's shelf and I like to look at it.

When he was 20 years old, he was the first member of the Williams family to serve a mission. He went to South Dakota. When he got home from his mission, he went to college here so he could learn how to be a doctor like his dad. When he was going to school, he met Karla Church, my grandma! They got married in 1971. After he got married, he got a full tuition scholarship to the University of Utah Medical School.

When he was in class one day, all the students were using stethoscopes to check people's heartbeats. Roger realized that he could not hear the heartbeats! So he went to the doctor to get his ears checked. The doctors discoverd that he had a disease called "otosclerosis" which makes you deaf. It is the same disease that made Beethoven go deaf. This was devastating for Grandpa Roger, cause now he knew that he couldn't be a regular doctor like he always wanted to. But he didn't give up on being a doctor. He decided that he would become a pathologist. And that would allow him to help people and save lives without having to talk to patients or use a stethoscope.

The reason why pathologists are so cool is because they are the doctors who actually figure out what type of a disease a sick person has. They are like detectives! Grandpa Roger was very good at doing this. He helped a lot of people that were sick to understand why they were sick so that they could get help.

Pathologists are also cool because they work with real detectives whenever there's a murder. They do something called an autopsy on dead bodies to figure out what caused those people to die. He was friends with the sheriff in Cedar City and would go to crime scenes with him sometimes when there were dead bodies.

Grandpa had four kids. My dad, Eric, is the youngest. People say my dad is the most like my grandpa of anyone in our family. I never got the chance to meet my grandpa Roger. But I think I would like him, because I like my dad.

Grandpa died in 2004 when he was only 57 years old. I know he was a good man and a good dad because that's what people in my family tell me. Even though I never got to meet him, I feel close to him because he was a lot like my dad, and because he was interested in a lot of the same things I am, like drawing, music, reading, science, and nature.