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I met Ernie for the first time in Tucson on Saturday Sept 3rd, 1949, Labor Day Week end.

That day my Mother, sister Carmen and my daughter and I rode the bus to Tucson to visit my Uncle and his wife.

Ernie was in the Navy and home on leave. He knew my Uncle and stopped by to visit a while.

We were introduced and Ernie left shortly after. He was wearing his sailors uniform but I wasn't impressed at all. Who was this sailor?

That evening my Uncle took Carmen and me to the dance at the Casino Ballroom. Our table was next to Ernies table. He and his friend Marcos were there with their dates.

Ernie kept looking my way. It was too busy looking around to see who I could dance with.

Ernie + Marcos + their dates left early. A short while later Ernie + Marcos came back without their dates and joined us. We had a good time and danced all night. We ended up at the Flamingo Ballroom. My Uncle played a good role of Cupid.

Ernie asked me for a date the next day. Again we went dancing and had a good time. Marcos + Carmen were with us.

Monday it was time to go back to Douglas. Ernie showed up at the bus depot. He asked me if he could call me during

week. I never thought I'd hear from him or see him again. He called on Wed. and went to Douglas the following Fri. Marcos and another friend went with him. We went dancing, the three fellows, Lucy, my best girlfriend, Carmen and I. The fellows came to the house for breakfast Sunday morning. I was rushing Ernie to leave because I had a date for Sunday afternoon.

The next Wed Ernie called me again and asked me if he could come back to see me. He drove to Douglas and took my Uncle, his wife and kids with him.

Fri morning Ernie and I went out. We dropped my Uncle K at the Royal Club. We went to the cocktail lounge at the Gadsden. We talked and found out we had a lot in common. Ernie asked me to marry him. I thought he was crazy. We didn't know each other. I told him I didn't love him. He told me he loved me at first sight. He told me he didn't want me for one night, he wanted me forever. How romantic! I was in a trance and he convinced me. Was it fate or was he just a smooth talker.

I said yes, I'll marry you but it has to be right now before I change my mind. He said we planned go home and

tell my Mother of our plans. I said forget it. She'd have a heart attack! I said I'd deal with her later.

We went and picked up my Uncle and we drove to Lordsburg. We were married at 1:47 Am by the Justice of the Peace.

All total we knew each other 13 days. Saw each other 4 times, got married on the 4th date. And here we are celebrating our 50th Anniversary.

We have had our ups and downs. We could kill each other at times. But we've always been true to each other. Ernie has been a good & faithful husband and a good father.