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## Chapter 6

# Grandma “Go” Briggs

1954–1983

I went to live with my oldest daughter Laura. Her husband was a Methodist pastor in Wyanet, Illinois. After I’d been there a while, I bought a trailer house furnished and shipped it to Yankton, South Dakota, where my son and his family lived. I went there by train.

Later, Laura and her husband, Ervin Brink, came to South Dakota, when they lived at Tolstoy, South Dakota. I moved my trailer house up between the church and the parsonage. Kind of a little park there, grass and trees. ’Twas real pretty.

From there I moved my trailer to Aberdeen, South Dakota. Because of the bad blizzards there, my children didn’t want me living there alone. So I sold my trailer and I moved to Springfield, Oregon. Mary, Leroy and family lived there (my brother and sister.) I rented a furnished home and lived there four years.

Then I went to Laura’s four years, then back to Oregon and got a furnished apartment for two years. I got sick there and was in the hospital. I was so bad I couldn’t live alone anymore—May 1978. I was 86 years old.

And since then I’ve been making my home with my daughter Mary Austin and family in Southgate, Michigan, and Laura Brink in Carney’s Point, New Jersey.



*Grandma Mrytie Crabtree Briggs with her purse ready to go somewhere.*

I’ll be 88 in November 17, 1979. I have 12 grandchildren and a great granddaughter and a great grandson and expecting two more great grandchildren this fall. Signed: August 16, 1979, in Southgate, Michigan.



*Grandma with her sister Mary Crabtree.*

*Note: Grandma fell and broke her hip while tending her flowers at Aunt Laura’s. After a long hospital stay, her hip healed, and she flew to my parents’ home in Southgate, Michigan. She died there October 29, 1983. Grandma was 91. ❀*

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*Grandma's trailer home in Tolstoy, South Dakota, 1963.*



*Grandma as I remember her.*



*Grandma at 90+ crocheting.*



*Grandma Myrtle Crabtree Briggs.*



*Grandma often wore an apron.*

## Grandma Myrtie in Oregon



*Grandma in her kitchen.*



*Grandma and me at a mall.*



*Myrtle and friend Hazel.*



*Grandma and me in front of her house.*



*Myrtle and friend Pearl.*

### **Myrtie's Grandchildren**

On Grandma's living room wall, in an 11 by 14-inch frame, was a photo of each of her grandchildren: the Brink Grandchildren—*Margaret, Colleen, Karen, Keith*; the Austin Grandchildren—*Louise, Carol, Mary Marie, Chuck*; and the Briggs Grandchildren—*Dale, Diane, Dawn, David*. ❀



*The house Grandma lived in when I visited her in Oregon.*



## Great Grandma Myrtie living at the Austin Home



*Nathan Austin gives his Great Grandma a kiss.*



*Grandma with Great Grandchildren Nathan and Russell Austin.*



*Grandma, Russell Austin, (left) and Nathan Austin (right).*



*Grandma holds her great grandson Nathan Austin.*



*Grandma with an afghan she crocheted.*