

MELBA CHAFFEE - Memories of Doug and SABC

The first time I met Doug Chaffee was in 1958 after moving to South Apalachin from Endwell. Doug and his friends from South Apalachin Baptist Church were attending a baseball game across the street at Mrs. Gertrude Strobe's baseball field behind her house. We (Morris and Doris Holden, my parents, and Vivian, my sister) all just moved there in our new house. To my surprise, Barney Holden (my cousin) brought Doug Chaffee and Leland Welch across the street to meet us/me. They said they wanted a drink of water. Doug waited at least a week to ask me out.

I finally got involved at the South Apalachin church after I was convicted about my need to be saved through the release time classes at Owego High School. I was a senior transferred from UE High School. Pastor Hay was allowed to come in the school to preach about Jesus so when I was convicted of my need of the Lord in my life I asked Pastor Hay to come to our home that evening and explain more about it. After he explained the plan of salvation to me I accepted the Lord as my Savior.

Doug and I dated for almost a year when he asked me to marry him. I gladly did marry him in June of 1960. We were greatly involved in the Young People's groups and I helped in the Pioneer Girls under Mrs. Stone at that time. This was a very blessed time reaching out to the young girls.

Five years later we had a son, Scott Chaffee. I remember when I would help in the nursery. Scott came in the nursery room and when the babies were crying he would pat their heads and say everything will be alright.

While we seemed to move every five years we could never seem to find a church home like South Apalachin Baptist Church, so dear to us and the family we found there.

I feel God has guided our lives through the years and wait with expectation His soon return to take the saved in Christ home with Him. Doug loved the Lord with excitement in his heart always. I pray as we come before the Lord some day He will say "Well done thy good and faithful servant, enter in to the joy of the Lord."