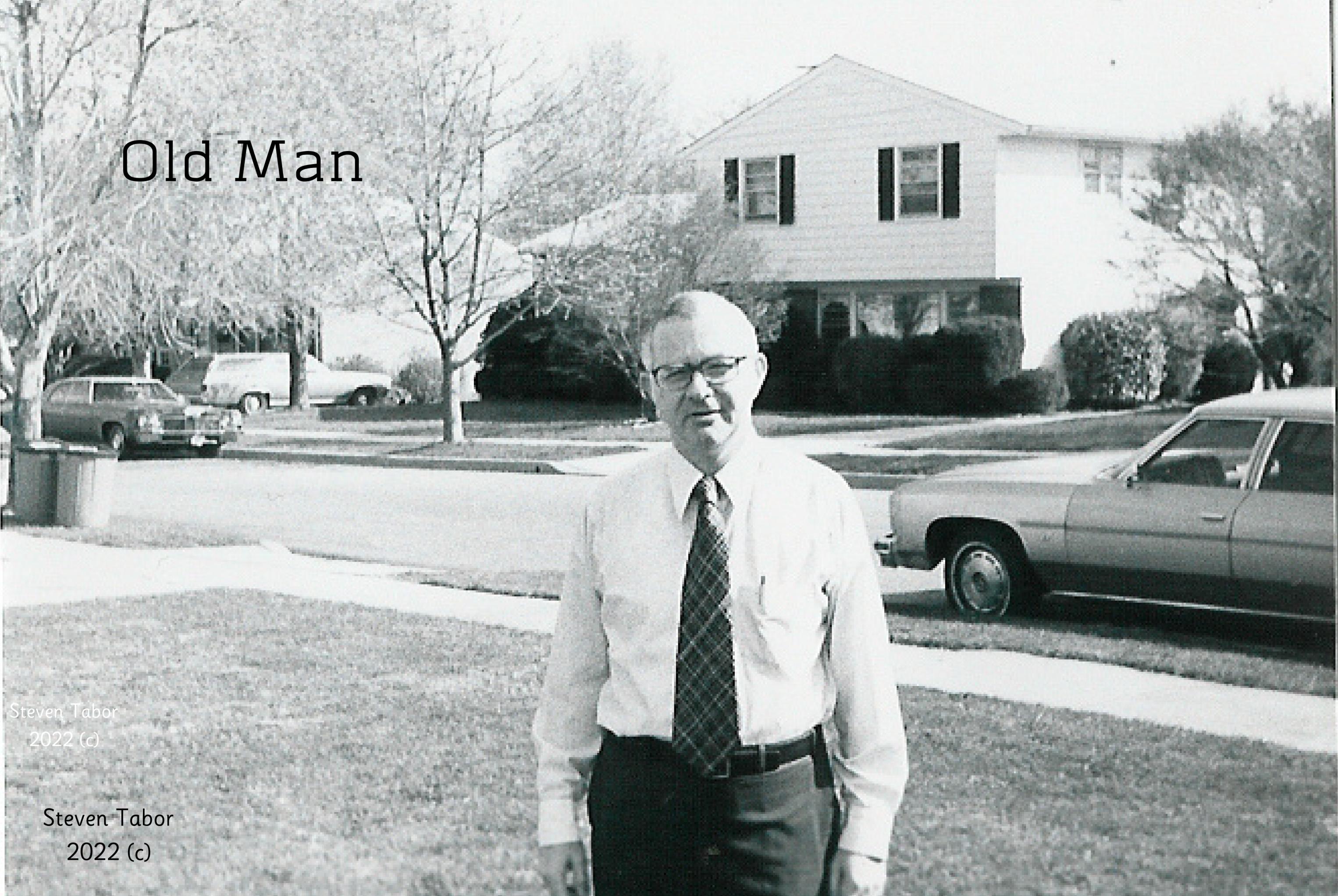


Old Man



Steven Tabor
2022 (c)

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Neil Young's "Old Man" was written and released on his 1972 album *Harvest*. James Taylor played banjo on it and Linda Ronstadt contributed backing vocals. In the film *Heart of Gold*, Young describes his motivation for the song:

"About that time when I wrote it, and I was touring, I had also—just, you know, being a rich hippie for the first time—I had purchased a ranch, and I still live there today. And there was a couple living on it that were the caretakers, an old gentleman named Louis Avila and his wife Clara. And there was this old blue Jeep there, and Louis took me for a ride in this blue Jeep. He gets me up there on the top side of the place, and there's this lake up there that fed all the pastures, and he says, "Well, tell me, how does a young man like yourself have enough money to buy a place like this?" And I said, "Well, just lucky, Louis, just real lucky." And he said, "Well, that's the darnedest thing I ever heard." And I wrote this song for him."

When I hear "Old Man", I immediately think of my father, who passed away in December of 2007. My father was my great hero; and I miss him dearly. When I look in the mirror and see how time has passed, I see his reflection staring back at me. And many of his eccentricities—his love of music and reading; his stubbornness; his introvert character; his fondness for desserts; and his deep love of family; are traits that I find in myself. With this series, I pay tribute to my Dad.

These days, watching my son raise his children, I wonder how much of my father, and of myself, could get passed on to him. One thing is for sure, my son's a far better musician than either of us were or could have ever been. And so for this tribute to my father, I've included a youtube version of my son Isaac and his band *Psychedelic Pill*, performing "Old Man" in concert in Galway, Ireland in August of 2014.

Old man, look at my life
I'm a lot like you were
Old man, look at my life
I'm a lot like you were

Old man, look at my life
Twenty four and there's so much more
Live alone in a paradise
That makes me think of two

Love lost, such a cost
Give me things that don't get lost
Like a coin that won't get tossed
Rolling home to you

Old man, take a look at my life, I'm a lot like you
I need someone to love me the whole day through
Ah, one look in my eyes and you can tell that's true

Lullabies, look in your eyes
Run around the same old town
Doesn't mean that much to me
To mean that much to you

I've been first and last
Look at how the time goes past
But I'm all alone at last
Rolling home to you

Old man, take a look at my life, I'm a lot like you
I need someone to love me the whole day through
Ah, one look in my eyes and you can tell that's true

Old man, look at my life
I'm a lot like you were
Old man, look at my life
I'm a lot like you were



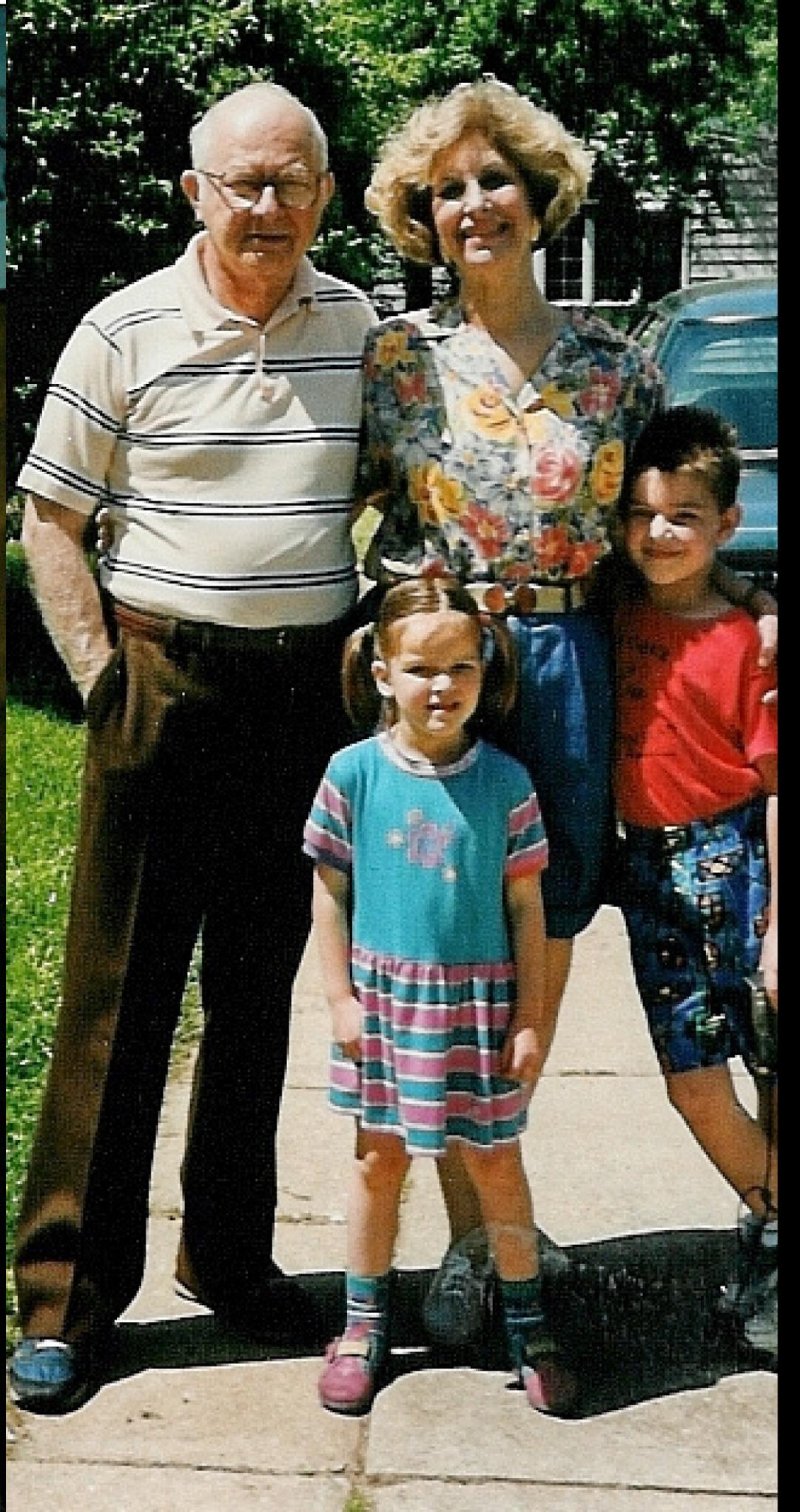
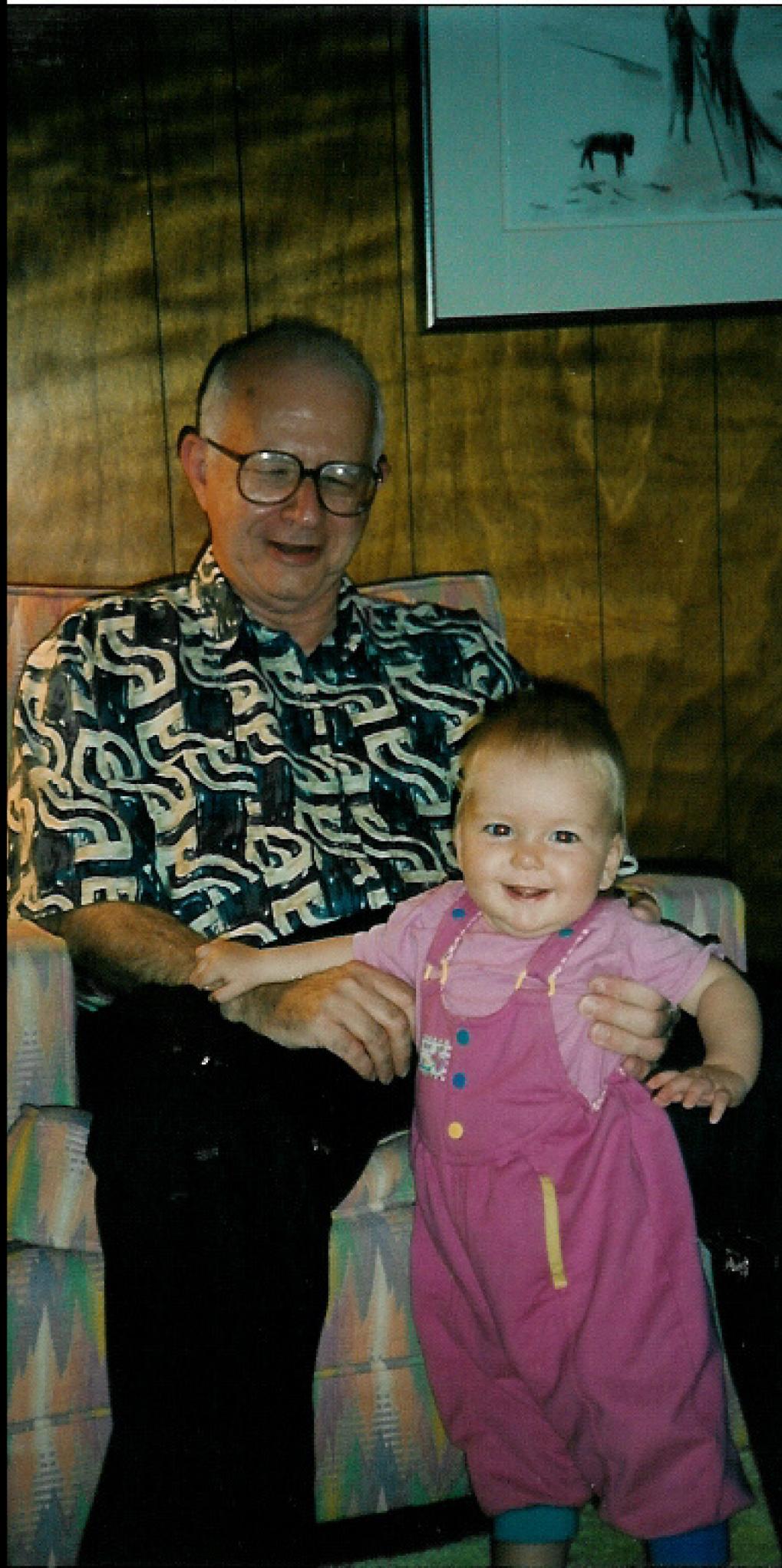


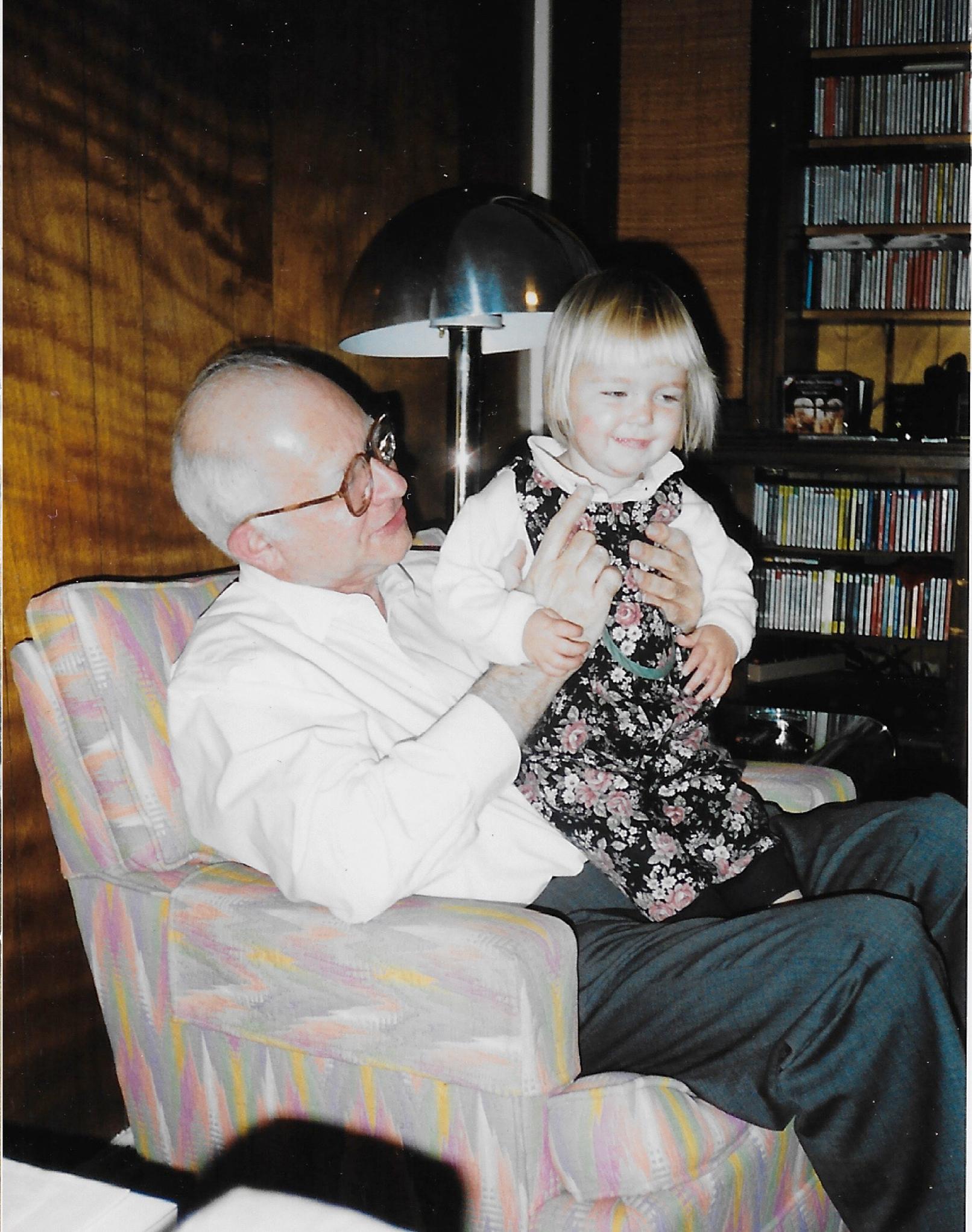
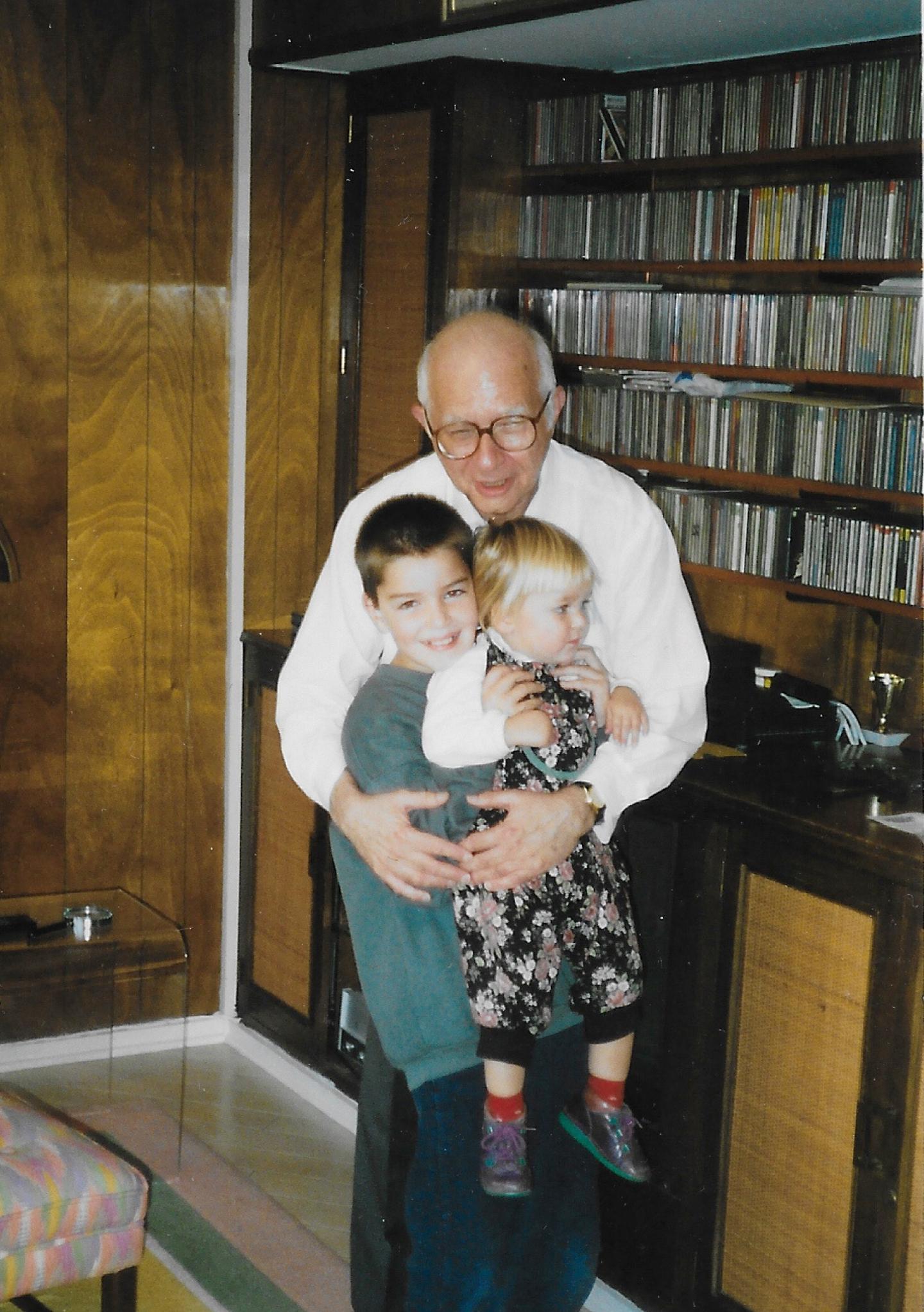














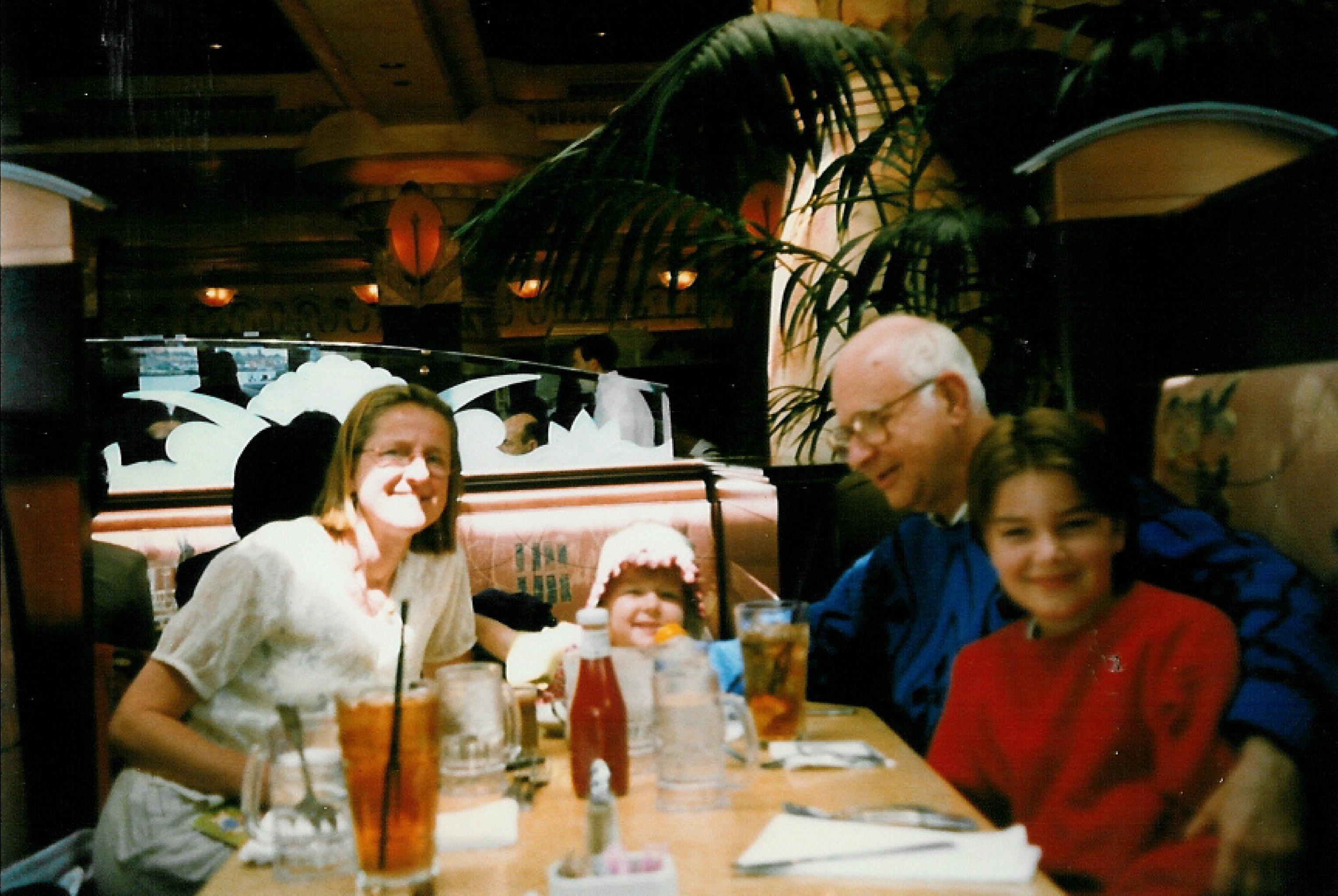


















A young woman with a headband and a red sleeveless top is seated at a table, looking towards the camera.

A young woman in a white t-shirt with a 'SUCCESSFUL LIVING SINCE' logo is seated at the table, looking towards the camera.

An older man with glasses is seated at the table in the background, looking towards the camera.











Old Man

