

Chapter 8



FAMILY

Shifting Frontiers

IT WAS AT THIS TIME that Alan and his wife, Mary, realized they had plunged into the revelry of a courtship and wedding without understanding the dynamics and deeper meanings of the commitments and complexities of marriage.

"I grew up quicker and got married quicker cause that's what all the grown-ups did. It was funny 'cause I met Mary and she was probably 14 and I was 17 so I got to know the family. It was like walking down a path – you never thought about it and then, the day after I got married I thought, hey wait a second, the path now just stopped. I got married. As I said, times were different."

He recalled the length of his marriage with the detail of finite science "three years, ten months, twelve days. I remember it well!"

Career, jobs, making money, marriage and having children were the structures of life. Young adults, and in Alan's case, teenagers, looked toward these passages as times of promise, however, for the most part, these markers of life are filled with not only joy but complexity and sometimes, conflict.

"The problem was I woke up one day after I got married and thought, what am I doing? It just kinda grew from there. We were just two young people who had an idea of marriage. Sometime into it she went off and did her thing with an Frenchman and, eventually we just said, this is silly. I was driving the convertible after the 67 Falcon and I remember putting my bar, my clothes, and my dog in the back and I drove off and never came back."

Although Saunder did not feel he was prepared for marriage, perhaps the



67 Ford Galaxie XL Convertible !!!

