

SEDLIK'S ROMANTIC TIMELINE

NO.	DATE	NOTABLE EVENT
1	12-11-65 Saturday	<p>Meet at John Hutchinson's (softball centerfielder & landing-gear designer) Goodbye Party at a Renton home on Rainer Avenue South on the bank of Lake Washington just north of the Renton Airport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earl (catcher & computer programmer) played uke with Dave Watt (first baseman and interior fastener designer) singing folk songs when the hired band took a break. • Blonde with Clarabelle hair cut on the left stands up and interrupts the first song (Michel Row the Boat Ashore) and says, "Stop! You're singing in the wrong key and no one can sing with you!" • Earl responds, "OK, why don't you come up here and we'll sing in any key you'd like!" • The trio shares the stage to sing "John Dooley, "He's got the whole world in his hands", "Bye, Bye, Love", and maybe one other song. • Earl and Charyl Kay Dance – like they have been dancing together forever. • Earl offers CK a bite of an hors d'oeuvre... and she takes the entre snack in one bite. • John corners Earl and asks, "Can you do me a favor and take my date's roommate Charyl Kay home tonight because she has to go home to study for final exams and I need to stay here with Pam for the party to end. You seemed to have gotten along." • Earl decides to take the "romantic, slow, and dark" Lake Washington Boulevard along the dark Lake Washington and through the Arboretum in the way back to her U-District Brooklyn Avenue apartment. After all, Earl's car was a very unimpressive 2-door mint-green 1965 Plymouth Valiant! • She asks Earl in for a piece of cake and notices that he stutters on "refrigerator". • Earl learns that she's planning to study for final exams, and she's a UW Nursing School student and she has to hurry home to Raymond to help her Dad during Christmas at his men's store called the "Toggery". • As they say goodbye at the door, Earl realizes that this wasn't a date, so a goodnight kiss might be too much to expect, so he goes for a natural and very sincere hug. What a perfect hug and a great end to the evening! • Earl's thinking – Blonde, blue eyes, great smile, great dancer, real friendly, easy to talk with, not self-centered, going to be a nurse – she's got everything I've ever cherished all combined in one person...

NO.	DATE	NOTABLE EVENT
2	12-14-65 Tuesday	<p>Earl calls ahead because he plans to go up the Sears in the north-end to buy and ship some wooden wall hangings of flying geese for his family home Miami as a Hanukkah gift.</p> <p>Earl, wearing the Blue Suit and tie that he wore to work, shows up at Pam & Charyl Kay's door and notices that a young man his age, Bobby, is seemingly staying over night with them.</p> <p>Earl offers Charyl Kay a plan.</p> <p>Since Earl needs a date (the same softball social group at the party has planned a group hockey event and after -party) for the Totems hockey game this coming Saturday, and Charyl Kay has to go home to Raymond after Friday's exams, why not let's go out on Friday with his in mind:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If we have a bad date and she wants to leave on Saturday morning for home, OK. • If we have a good time Friday night, then let's go the hockey game and the after-party. AND Earl will drive you home on Sunday morning! <p>Charyl Kay, who was very impressed that Earl wore a watch with a blue & red stripped wristband that matched his striped club tie, says "yes"... and explains that Earl would only have to take her to Olympia to catch a Greyhound bus to Raymond. That would save her from having to take 2 bus rides to get home.</p>
3	12-15-65 Wednesday	<p>Earl calls his friend Bill, who has a serious girlfriend, and arranges a double date to see Jayne Mansfield in a play (The Rabbit Habit) on Friday night at the Moore Theater.</p>
4	12-17-65 Friday	<p>After daily calls, Earl picks up Charyl Kay and they join Bill and his date for a pre-show dinner.</p> <p>The entertaining play is highlighted by Jayne Mansfield's response to the question "Are you a worrier or a free-spirit?" by standing up from sitting on the couch and stretching to her back-arched full height to announce, "Well, I'm a Presbyterian!"</p> <p>Earl takes another romantic drive on the way home and can't help himself but to announce to no reaction whatsoever, "and I haven't even told you that I was the president of my class in high school and all through college..."</p>
5	12-18-65 Saturday (First night of Hanukkah)	<p>The Big Date includes dinner before the Hockey game and socializing with group. Sure enough, close friend Hunter Branham comes up to us and asks, "Hey Earl, did you light your candles tonight?"</p> <p>Earl, trying to avoid bringing religion into the relationship with Charyl Kay, makes light of the question without referring to Hanukkah. It seems that Charyl Kay missed the reference anyway.</p> <p>We had great seats and the after-party at Earl's senior manager's Bellevue home was very friendly with, as usual, several Totem players in attendance...</p>
6	12-19-65 Sunday	<p>Earl picks up Charyl Kay for a long (pre-I-5 completion) drive to Olympia. They talk forever and kiss goodbye. Earl drives home alone.</p>

NO.	DATE	NOTABLE EVENT
7	12-22-65 Wednesday	<p>Charyl Kay calls Earl and explains that the family's been very busy planning for her brother's surprise wedding to his girlfriend, Carole, to be held the day after Christmas!</p> <p>Charyl Kay had a plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No one should be home alone on Christmas. • Why not come down to Raymond and stay across the street at Grace's house (which is also a hair salon). • She just got a new color TV and you can see the football games in color! <p>That night Earl tries to find an appropriate Christmas present for Charyl Kay and ends up a pop-owned stereo shop in Wallingford and buys an expensive (say \$16) blue leatherette-covered album set of Frank Sinatra's Greatest Hits! The album s still close by in Earl's office.</p>
8	12-23-65 Thursday	<p>Earl drives down to to Raymond (over the river an through the woods) and meets Carol and Charyl Kay at the gas station by the town's only traffic light! Earl meets the family and Grace & Homer (who owns the gas station).</p> <p>During this festive time, Charyl Kay & Earl decide to host a New Year's Eve Party at Earl's apartment on Queen Anne Hill's 5th Avenue North with a west and southern view of Lake Union. Downtown, and the seaplanes.</p>
9	12-31-65 Friday	<p>It was a great party with several of Charyl Kay's UW friends!</p>

NO.	DATE	NOTABLE EVENT
10	Mid January 1966	<p>Earl asks Charyl Kay to marry him.</p> <p>The next day, Earl says, “Charyl Kay, I have to take that back because we really have to talk about religion before we make that commitment. I think we have to have an intentional plan. I’m not demanding what the answer has to be.”</p> <p>The conversation elicits a very powerful religious-based approach that Charyl Kay has had for years. Charyl Kay was seeking an alternative to Christianity and was told by many in her circle of respected advisors that she should consider Judaism!</p> <p>This prompted Earl & Charyl Kay to visit several local rabbis to discuss their perspective. After meeting with Rabbi Levine at Temple de Hirsch who was nice and eager to assist them, they met with Rabbi Hirsch at Temple Beth Am and felt that his year-long conversion course (essentially a college-level course in Judaism – 5 students including a nun) would be a perfect fit for Charyl Kay to follow while Earl was away for a year in Boston and Charyl Kay was staying in Seattle to complete her BS degree in Nursing.</p> <p>NOTE: The Sedliks were married by Rabbi Hirsch at a temple in Hoquiam on June 17, 1967 under a chuppa built by Raymond family friends. The Sedliks, except for their time back east from 1968 to 1973, have been members of Temple Bath AM ever since. Charyl Kay was the first woman to serve on the Religious Practices Committee and Earl served as Temple President for two years and led the new Building campaign fund drive. Their children (Molly & Adam) and grandchildren (Sylvie & Leo) were Bas & Bar Mitzvahed at Temple Beth Am.</p>
11	2-15-66	<p>Earl gets early acceptance to Harvard Business School.</p> <p>Earl buys Charyl Kay a surprise suede leather coat at Fredrick & Nelsons’.</p> <p>Earl & best man Ed Fessler (fellow computer programmer and third baseman) arrange an engagement dinner at Canlis’s Restaurant.</p> <p>The three of them have a wonderful dinner even though Ed’s plan to rent a Cadillac for the event falls through when we show up at the dealer and they announce, “you have to be 25 to rent a Cadillac” and they don’t accept his driver’s license or his laminated miniature birth certificate as proof...”</p>

NO.	DATE	NOTABLE EVENT
12	Late August 1966 to June 17, 1967	<p>Earl sells his Valiant for \$100 less than he bought it 2 years earlier! Earl matriculates at Harvard Business School.</p> <p>Charyl Kay visited in December and Earl went to Raymond in the Spring.</p> <p>That spring, while driving on I-5 over the Nisqually bridge, a car stopped in front of them and Earl could not stop. The impact threw Charyl Kay's head through the windshield of the Volkswagen Bug they were driving. Earl was in and out of consciousness in the driver's seat as Charyl Kay got out of the car, held a cloth to her bleeding ear, and directed traffic. Charyl Kay still has class remnants in her ear!</p> <p>When Earl found that his Japanese roommate* was having an unbearable experience dealing with English, Earl discussed the issue with the school advisor. The advisor's name was Booth Gardner, a 1963 graduate of HBS, who was getting experience and a degree in education management so that he could return to Tacoma to lead the launch of UPS's MBA program. Booth did that and worked in the family companies to eventually become Pierce County Administrator (beating out Larry Faulk, the spouse of their 1967 Maid of Honor, Mary Faulk) and eventually Governor. Earl & Booth kept in touch on and off throughout Booth's life.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">*Hisashi Moriya is sent the next day to New York City by his employer (Nomura) for a yearlong company-sponsored English immersion-training program. Mr. Moriya works on Wall Street, becomes the first international person to be ensconced as a partner in a Wall Street investment Banking firm, and finally returns to Japan to become the President of Merrill Lynch – Japan and orchestrate their stability from a near collapse situation.</p> <p>At the end of the first year, Earl was selected by the teachers for a special Student Leadership Award and arranged for a summer internship in San Francisco at Levi Strauss. Earl came back to Seattle to help Charyl Kay pack up as they headed to Raymond to prepare for the wedding in Hoquiam and a summer-long honeymoon in the Tenderloin District!</p> <p>In the fall of 1967, they drove back to Boston to live in a basement apartment in Brookline (21A Claflin Road). Earl drove the car each day to School and Charyl Kay took the train to work at the Brigham Bent Hospital as a surgical nurse.</p>

After graduation in 1968, the Sedliks could not afford to pay the graduation ceremony fees, but had enough for a promoted economy trip to Puerto Rico! They left Boston at midnight in a special 6-across packed plane and had a budget experience on the island. On Friday night, instead of going gambling at a casino, they attend a Jewish service held at Christian church. They hung a huge white cloth over the Cross and held a Reform Jewish service with a leader instead of an ordained rabbi.

This congregation was made up American Jews who were employed at the branches of mainland enterprises in Puerto Rico – often supported by tax incentive programs.

The speaker was a Playtex Manager from Cleveland who reported that the current issue in the Jewish community there was that Jewish girls were having Black babies... and the Black community was questioning why the Jewish community wanted these babies to be placed in Black homes – after all, by Jewish law and matriarchal tradition, these were Jewish children.

Charyl Kay and Earl were very touched by this dilemma. It led to a very soulful exploration which resulted in a clear commitment between them, that they would have no problem adopting a mixed-race Jewish baby. Indeed, prompted by their commitment to Zero Population Growth (ZPG) and their plan to grow the family via adoption, the Sedliks began exploring adoption in the Fall of 1970. They learned that “hard-to-place” children included a wide variety of child with life-long medical conditions or mixed race children of all kinds. They worked with the Connecticut State system and a social worker named Gwendolyn Williams.

With encouragement from their close friends, Keith (Classmate and business partner) and Bonnie Williams (no relation to Gwen), they employed their adoption standards – a healthy young baby of any race or color or any heritage. Then Sedliks knew themselves enough to know that they were not prepared to handle a child known to have medical needs. Both Earl & Charyl Kay shared a dedication to Charyl Kay’s independent professional growth and preferred a healthy baby.

They joined the “Open Door Society of Connecticut” and met many transracial families. They felt prepared to go ahead with the adoption process. Gwen had met with them several times to complete a family study. She had concluded that Charyl Kay had grown up in a homogeneous rural society and had not been tainted with heavy stereotypes and the inherent racism that can be developed in other settings. Earl, she said, was Jewish liberal of commitment who was prepared to handle being a father of a mixed-race child.

She was getting close to finding a child for them. So she made one more visit to check out something. Using her hand and arm and elbow she pointed to several parts of her Black skin to see “what color you might prefer”. Ostensibly, this would be a tool to match the parents’ wishes with the range of children acceptable for them.

After she got to her really dark elbow, Charyl Kay interrupted her to say, “Gwen, we have no color preference at all. Our only constraint is that we want a healthy baby. All those colors are fine with us.” Earl chimed in to say, “Gwen, we’re ready to commit to baby and we know that Black people come in all colors and than any one Black person has many shades on their body.”

Within weeks we were offered a girl or a boy. The Sedliks took the boy because he was 4 months old and the girl was too close in age to their biological daughter, Molly. Adam was welcomed to the Sedlik family in April of 1971. He was born in November 1970, and his sisters’ birthday was July 1969.

Later, the Sedliks learned that the “color question” was a systematic process to eliminate prospective adoptive parents who might either choose:

- a light baby in hopes that it could pass as a natural part of their family, or
- a really dark-skinned baby as a statement that they had made a public statement with their adoption.

In are final adoption confirmation hearing in front of a judge a year later, despite pressure from the Black Social Workers Union to curtail transracial adoption, Gwen proudly endorsed the Sedliks as fit parents for Adam Marshal Davis Sedlik.

By the Fall of 1973, the Sedliks decided to leave Connecticut in hopes of finding a future in Seattle. They bought a new big car (Dodge Polara 4-door sedan) for the transcontinental trip. At the end of their lease in November 1973, without a secure job or determined location, they came across the country to find their future.

The relentless job search took a pause in late December 1973 as they left for Encino California to be with Earl's brother and sister-in-law until the end of January 1974, when two job offers emerged and they could plan on sating a new life in Seattle!

The home in Seattle's Mt. Baker neighborhood was the Sedliks first home. Good things started immediately thereafter.