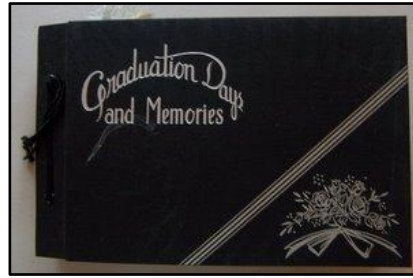


Preserving an Old Memory Book



This spring, I found my mother's high school memory book. She graduated in 1940, and the items and notes in the memory book began with her junior year and ended with parties during the week following her graduation.

The book was intact, but it had a very musty smell, the paper was starting to deteriorate, and there were dark brown marks where she had used "scotch" tape to attach items to the pages. What I wanted to do was to take the book apart and create a new book with the same items, including some of my own journaling, as a gift for my niece who was graduating from a 5-year long MS/MBA program. She enjoys scrapbooking and even made a large scrapbook for her mother (my sister-in-law) last year even while busy with work and classes.

Among the items from the scrapbook that were giving me the most trouble were: (1) all her dance cards, event programs, and greeting cards, which had both covers and at least one inside sheet, sometimes with writing both front and back; (2) calling cards with names printed on the front and handwritten in ink on the back; (3) hand-written notes from my father (one of the men she dated during that year), on fragile paper with penciled writing both front and back on one of; (4) my mother's own handwritten annotations on the scrapbook pages indicating what she wore to each event.

Finally, added to all of this was that, in many cases, there were items taped and notes written on BOTH sides of individual pages.

I wrote to an online Yahoo group in which I participate (SUDSOL) asking for some ideas on how to approach this project. All of the responses I received gave me some ideas on how to approach this project.

Constructing the Scrapbook

Overall. All materials for this project are from Stampin' Up!

- a. The scrapbook is a Stampin' Up! Ring Binder, with 8-1/2" x 11" pages, all in the landscape direction. I used Basic Black background cardstock. My mother's senior class colors were green and white, so my main accent color was Glorious Green. Some pages included many items that were navy and silver. For those pages I used Night of Navy and Brushed Silver accent colors.
- b. I did some embellishing, but simply ran out of time to embellish the entire book. My niece will have the opportunity to embellish the remaining pages, and I'm sure that she will enjoy that. Most embellishments were made using Sizzix dies, including Swirly, Stampin' Up! Manhattan Flower (my mother's favorite flower and the official class flower was a rose), and floral Embosslits.

For the dance cards and other booklets. I kept these intact. Where I wanted to feature a particular item, I photocopied of the inside pages, and adhered the copies to the scrapbook pages separately.

- a. Where there was no writing or printing on the back, and I wanted to feature that item, I adhered the whole booklet to my scrapbook page. The following pictures feature a program for a dinner that my mother hosted at her house. The actual program is in the upper left corner of the picture on the left. Everything else is a

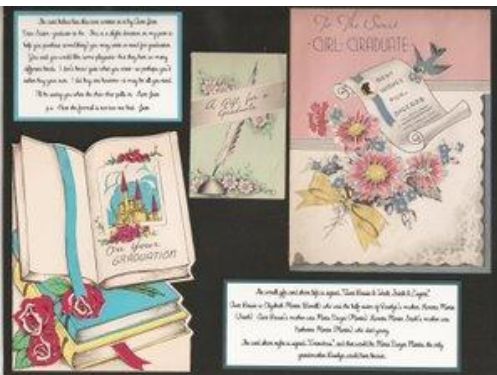
photocopy. I added a picture of my mother's house, as well as a note explaining this group and what kind of dinner this would have been. The handwritten notes are my mother's original notes from the pages of her scrapbook.



- b. Where there was writing on the back, I adhered a strip of cardstock matching the cardstock on which I was mounting the item to the center of the cardstock. I then opened the booklet and slipped it under the strip. As before, I attached a photocopy of the inside page(s) so that the entire booklet could be seen without removing the page from the sleeve.



For the Graduation Greeting Cards, I treated those from people whom I wanted to highlight as above. For all the rest, I created a page into which all the cards could be slipped and removed if a reader wanted to look at any individual card. I made this page by attaching 1/4" Basic Black Grosgrain ribbon in strips about a half inch apart from left to right along the long side of the page. I then slipped all the remaining cards onto the strips so that they are on one page. Here are the pages featuring the graduation cards.

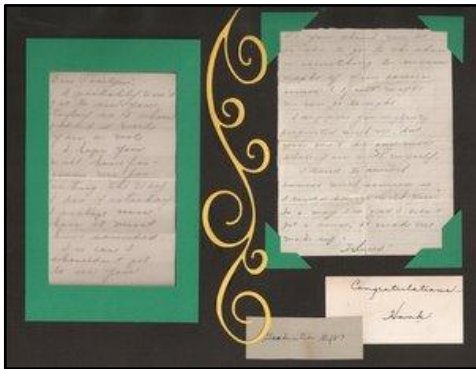


In the page on the left, the cards (which had no writing on the back) are adhered to the page, and the cards themselves can be opened. I journaled about who each of the card senders was. The page on the right is a bit thick, but fits just fine into the scrapbook sleeve.

For the calling cards page, I made use of one of Stampin' Up!'s new products: The Medium Window Sheet. I used Mini Glue Dots to attach 9 of the cards to one side of a Medium Window Sheet. You can see the back of the cards from the other side of the sheet. This is one of the pages that I embellished with Sizzix elements. These pictures show the front and back of the page. I placed the journaling only on the front of the page. I could have placed an identical copy of the journaling on the back, but I did not think of it at the time. (The card at the top center is my father's card.)



I also used this technique to show one of the notes that my father wrote to my mother, except that I used only a small piece of the Medium Window Sheet and framed it with card stock. It's the note that's on the left side of both sheets, and upside down on the right sheet. The Valentine's Card is one that my father sent to my mother; note the browned areas, which are from the glue holding the paper element to the original card. The other note from my father was on one side of the note paper only. (Note that the So Saffron cardstock carried a color from the page that faced the front page in the book. A picture of that page follows the next paragraph.)



Miscellaneous pages included many of the souvenirs that my mother kept, including the gift cards from floral bouquets that her suitors sent her. Either she only received bouquets of roses (her name was Roselyn) or she only kept the cards from bouquets that were roses. In either case, I grouped the cards together on this page, along with a yellow paper rose that was a favor at one party. The Sizzix Textured Impressions Die, Stampin' Up! Manhattan Floral seemed a natural for this page



Conclusion

The whole project, which I had imagined might take a few days to complete, ended up taking a lot more time than that. For one thing, I had to do a lot more thinking about this than with a regular scrapbook memorializing a trip or special occasion. I find myself constructing current scrapbooks in my mind as I'm going through an trip or event, and I take photographs or keep souvenirs accordingly. So, by the time I get home, my pictures all seem to fall neatly into place. Not so with this book. I stared at the original book a lot!

In staring at the original book, I realized that, once I started taking it apart, it would be gone forever. So I took photographs of the original book, each of its pages, and each of its many elements. The original book had 40 pages. The final book that I made had 33 pages, not including the cover. I included the original cover of the book as part of the scrapbook.

While I was in the process of scanning some of the pages for this article, I decided to scan them all. I had additional copies of the scrapbook made using an online service. I've kept a copy for myself, and gave a copy to other family members. I gave my niece a CD with a copy of all photographs that I took in the process of making the new scrapbook.

The whole project felt throughout like a labor of love. I began by being afraid to touch anything in the book. But as I ended up touching each and every thing in the book, I found that I enjoyed holding these treasures that were once my mothers, and felt as if I was doing a good think by reforming them into something that a few more generations will be able to read through and to treasure.

A slide show of the "new" scrapbook is on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpW5KD31jOU>.

Robin Messenheimer
Pahoa, Hawai'i
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