

My Aunt Velma was quite a woman. She was my favorite Aunt. Well, maybe she was my only Aunt, but she always called me her favorite Nephew and I wasn't her only nephew. She had two brothers, my dad and their brother Vance. Everybody was real happy for Velma when she married Vern Crowsly. Ole Vern, he was real popular, and Velma thought she had made quite the catch. Only thing was, Vern was popular cause he would win the poker tournaments and fishing contests and that doesn't necessarily make for the best husband. But overall, Vern was hard working and a good provider and Velma loved Vern and Vern loved Velma and that's all that really matters.

Now nobody knows how Velma came up with her big invention idea, although everybody knows why and when. See, Velma was real excited when her best friend Veronica planned to get married and she asked Velma to be in the wedding. Velma was not too happy with Vern when he said he couldn't attend because it was in the spring and that's when the big bass tournament was.

So it was clear that Velma made up her mind that if Vern wasn't going to the wedding, well, he wasn't going bass fishing neither. So, late one night Velma took the quilt that was hand made by her mother-in-law Victoria and took Vern's fishing tackle box and rummaged around until she found what she needed. See, she took that quilt and sewed a whole bunch of fishing hooks all along one side quilt leaving room where Vern would fit... Then, on the eve of the big bass tournament and Veronica's wedding, Velma took that quilt and covered old Vern with it while he was passed out, fast asleep. She made sure those fishing hooks hooked real good into the bed. Well, when Vern's alarm clock went off at 4 AM, Velma had done such a good job of placing all those hooks, Vern couldn't even get his hands out to turn off the alarm, let alone get out of bed. So Velma got herself already and went to Veronica's wedding, and Vern laid there stuck in bed.

Well, Vern was there all day long. What with half the town at the bass tournament and the other half at Veronica's wedding. You see, Veronica's wedding reception became a great big Fish Fry/Wedding reception. It was one of the biggest parties ever in these parts. Fact is, I think everybody was having such a good time, they forgot about Ole Vern. It was going on 10 o'clock that night before Sheriff Victor Buford and his son Vic Jr showed up at Vern's to see why he missed the tournament and the party. They pertineer laughed themselves silly when they found him. Vern had to admit, he

laughed too. Well the rest really happened pretty fast. While they cut Vern out of bed, Vic Jr was simply amazed at how well those fishing hooks worked. When we returned to school at Vanderbilt after spring break, he must have told that story a hundred times. It was Vic Jr. that perfected the idea. So Vic Jr came back to town, met with Vern and Velma and formed their company right then. They even named the new invention after Velma and well, as they say, the rest is history.

Vern and Velma were real happy after that. Vern bought himself a nice, new bass fishing boat and went fishing most days. Velma was content to dote on Vern and say he was her inspiration. Velma even took care of her favorite Nephew and arranged for me to have a lifetime supply of her invention. Although, she was kind of embarrassed when they put up that big sign on the outskirts of town. Welcome to the proud home of Velma Crowsly, the inventor of VELCRO!