

Love Builds a House

By

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Part three –Although the house is maturing it's still the family gathering place

As with most families Juan and Arabella Jiron became empty nesters and find themselves living alone and enjoying their home that's filled with so many good memories.

The Jiron's home was still the family gathering place for Christmas and other special occasions. But now the house was filled with many more voices and laughter as the family grew. The Jiron's had 10 grandchildren that were constantly coming to visit grandma and grandpa's home after school, or on weekends, and holidays. The Jiron's home always had visitors and the guests were always welcome to stay over and enjoy themselves.

The Jiron's home was still perfect for gatherings. It sits on a small hill with acres of land surrounding the back and the front.

Paula Ewy the youngest daughter remembers how her parent's home was not only the gathering place for the family but for the whole neighborhood too. She said, "There was so much space in the front, the land was used as a baseball field, and a basketball court. And, one summer, it became the neighborhood volleyball court with three surrounding families coming to my parent's house to play together. What a blast that summer was."

The Jiron's backyard was a large area where a garden was grown each summer. The family volunteered their time to irrigate, weed, and harvest the chile, sugar cane, melons, peas, and corn they grew. In the late 70's a concrete rock wall was added to enclose a large portion of the backyard where a barbecue grill, trees and a gazebo were added.

The backyard allowed for more outdoor events such as graduations, baptisms, and parties. First communion parties were always given for the children and grandchildren.

"All we had to do was ask," said Paula as she remembered planning the gatherings that were held in her parent's backyard.

No weddings took place there, but baby showers and a very special party was held in the backyard on June 4th, 2010. That's when Juan and Arabella renewed their wedding vows to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

As with the rest of the house the backyard quickly became a very special place to laugh, talk, barbecue, and have a cold drink and visit. It also was a place to dry chile, make ristras and smash cans to recycle.

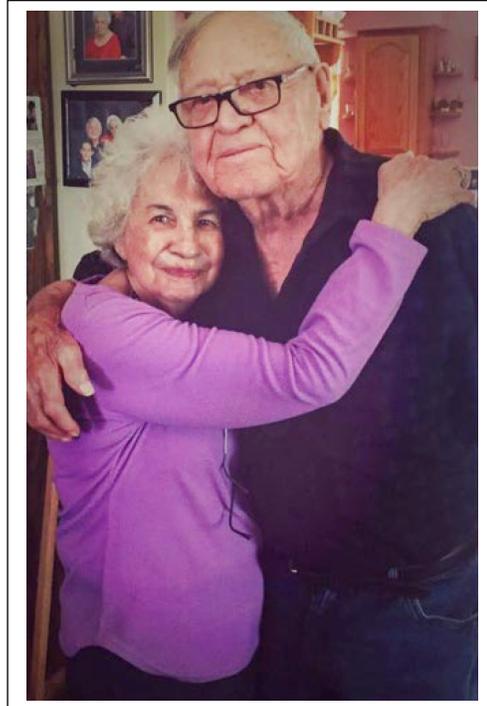
Then in April of 2018 things drastically changed. At the age of 90 Arabella had a massive stroke and passed away in the home her husband Juan built for her 58 years earlier.

Although family and friends would visit Juan at his beloved home, it wasn't the same without Arabella. Also, the house was really showing its age and money was tight.

Things needed to be fixed and replaced such as the heater, air conditioner, washer, and dryer which the children helped purchase.

But the house needed some other major repairs. What to do and where to get the money to pay for these repairs?

Next Wednesday part four the final segment of "Love builds a house" will be released. This chapter explains how the Jiron's home is refurbished with the help of USDA Rural Development's [Single-Family Housing Repair Loans & Grant program](#).



Juan and Arabella in their home prior to her passing