

# A Rhubarb Hat

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**July 5, 2022**

**Millarville, Alberta**

Summer is great! We get to do out-of-the-ordinary things.

My grand niece Bo is nine, she has four siblings. I see her often on family occasions, but there is usually a swarm of relatives around and I never really have an opportunity to spend much time with just her. Today, circumstances unfolded so that Bo and I were able to spend most of the day together.

We got off to a rocky start trying to find some common ground:

**Uncle Russ:** *Is there a movie you want to see this summer?*

**Bo:** *Minions, the Rise of Gru.*

**Uncle Russ:** *I haven't heard of that one. I would like to see the new Top Gun movie.*

**Bo:** *Top Gun? Not so much.*

**Uncle Russ:** *Mission for the morning; find a length of chain and a lock in the barn.*

**Bo:** *Mission for the morning; apply strawberry-flavoured lip chap.*

We discussed favourite restaurants:

**Bo:** *Boston Pizza #1*

**Uncle Russ:** *Boston Pizza #127*

Common ground was eluding us until I asked about music.

**Uncle Russ:** *Who is your favourite musical artist?*

**Bo:** *Patsy Cline.*

**Uncle Russ:** *Are you kidding! Me too!*

From that point on Bo and I were besties! We cranked up the radio.

**Uncle Russ:** *What is your favourite Patsy Cline song?*

**Bo:** *Walking, After Midnight.*

**Uncle Russ:** *Same. Crazy!*

**Bo:** *I like that one too!*

<https://youtu.be/CKTOvHw8qFM> Crazy – as sung by Bo Erick (or it could be Patsy Cline, it is hard to tell the difference.)

**Uncle Russ:** *Did you know that Patsy Cline died in a plane crash when she was 31?*  
**Bo:** *Yes. I was named after a person who died young – Boin Somebody.*  
**Uncle Russ:** *Me too! Russell Erskine.*

**Uncle Russ:** *Do you like comic books?*  
**Bo:** *Yes.*  
**Uncle Russ:** *Should we pick some up for the drive tomorrow?*  
**Bo:** *Okay. Archie, and Betty and Veronica are my favourites.*  
**Uncle Russ:** *Are they still around?! They were popular when I was a kid. They must be very old by now.*  
**Bo:** *They are teenagers!*  
**Uncle Russ:** *How can that be? They were teenagers 55 years ago!*  
**Bo:** *It's a book!*  
**Uncle Russ:** *Does Jughead still eat mountains of hamburgers?*  
**Bo:** *Yes, lots.*  
**Uncle Russ:** *Is he still skinny?*  
**Bo:** *Yes.*  
**Uncle Russ:** *How does that work? They never get old, and they stay slim even if they eat tons of hamburgers.*  
**Bo:** *It – is – a – Book!*

*Betty and Veronica comics  
1965 (left), and 2022 (right).*

Archie comics haven't changed much in 57 years, until you look at the price:

*Then: 12 cents.  
Now: \$8.99*



**Uncle Russ:** *Let's go for lunch.*  
**Bo:** *Boston Pizza?*  
**Uncle Russ:** *Perfect! Bring your comic book. I want to take a look at it.*  
**Bo:** *They give me crayons sometimes, sometimes they don't. They think I am too old for them.*  
**Uncle Russ:** *You are never too old for crayons, or comic books.*

**Uncle Russ:** (Reading a comic book) *Jughead still wears that goofy hat!*  
**Bo:** *Yup.*  
**Uncle Russ:** *Do you know who else wore one of those hats?*  
**Bo:** *No. Who?*  
**Uncle Russ:** *Your Uncle Russ!*

Russell (Jughead), Brad, and Harrison Elwood in the raspberry patch, about 1960.



Turns out, Bo and I have a lot in common. And we both rock ...

... a rhubarb hat.

