

Memories

Who is this handsome couple?

We enter the realm of memory by way of photographs from the period between 1940 and 1950. This was the period when their children became adults, married, and Nick and Nancy became Nana and Pop Pop. In looking at the photos taken before the first grandkids came onto the scene, when they were still Nick and Nancy, I see this couple in a startlingly different light.

For example there are the photos of my mother Rose, at her wedding to my father, Fiorino Rossi, in 1946. In one picture she's smiling into a mirror with her parents on either side of her. Nick has an ever so slight grin on his face. I recognize the grin, and the shape of the head, but the hair is dark, not the gray of my Pop Pop memories. Don't call him Pop Pop yet. This is the proud father of the bride, 52 years old when these pictures were taken.

In another photo, as Nick and his daughter pose at the back of the church before walking down the aisle, I note his piercing dark eyes staring out solemnly, no metal spec-

tacles yet. The features on that oval face, the aquiline nose and thin lips, are more sharply defined, not softened yet by age.

Nancy was 46 when these pictures were taken. One picture I found especially striking. She's not the main focus, but is in the background as two other members of the wedding party, Domenic Sciamanna and Mary Dolcemore, are leaving the church. Yet my eyes are drawn to her, because I know her, and yet I don't. Nancy is looking at the camera, but not smiling. She seems to be a little distracted, eyebrows slightly furrowed, mouth slightly open. She's not yet Nana. She's the bride's mother, maybe thinking about some little details of the wedding or allowing herself a minute to feel tired.



Left: Rose Germanotta with parents on her wedding day, April 27, 1946.

Right: Rose Germanotta being walked down the aisle by her father Nicola Germanotta.