

## Earl Makes Breakfast

Earl was on his way to the kitchen to get a second cup of coffee for the day, when he stopped to ask Kathy, his wife of fifty-five years, if she would like anything while he was "out there."

She responded, "That would be nice. How about a piece of toast and a cup of tea?"

Earl said, "OK, you've got it."

"Oh, could you put a little strawberry jam on the toast as well," she added.

"Sure. Be right back with it," he said.

"Now, don't forget the strawberry jam," Kathy repeated.

"Don't worry," Earl said. "I can remember that. I'll be right back."

"On second thought, Earl, I think I'd rather have blackberry jam. Can you remember that?"

"Yes, I can remember that for five minutes. Don't worry, I'll be right back."

Earl was gone for about forty-five minutes, and when he returned, he had a tray with two ice cream sundaes on it. There were three scoops of ice cream, one each of vanilla, strawberry, and chocolate; some banana slices; chocolate sauce; whipped cream; and a cherry right on top. He sat one sundae down on the side table next to Kathy and said, "There you are. I hope you like it," he said.

"That's beautiful, Earl. But, where are the ground nuts I asked for?"

*(Story originally told by Bill Vardiman)*