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Welcome to South Bend: A Love Story

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Martha van Holsbeke was born in Holland in 1898 and emigrated to MISHAWAKA, Indiana in 1920. She met Cyriel Anthoenis at a place called the MIDWAY.

They fell in love and were married in 1922. Two years later, the Midway went up for sale and they bought it.

That was 1924. Chicken dinners cost 25 cents. The floors were made of dirt.

And PROHIBITION was the law. Martha kept bootleg liquor in her garage. Her regular customers in those days included KNUT ROCKNE, the Notre Dame football coach, and AL CAPONE, though Martha didn't know who he was until everyone else did.



Martha outlived two husbands, running the MIDWAY for 66 years until she died in 1990.

Her daughter Albertina has kept it going ever since.

In 2013, I went to the MIDWAY on a date (but did not call it that) and played pool and made a shot that I've never made before or since (cue ball jumping over another), and I fell in love

(but did not call it that).

