

Simple give-and-take sustains 65 years of marriage

By Andrea Macko
STAFF REPORTER

One dance has turned into many for George and Ruth Heron -- in fact, one dance in Woodstock has led to 65 years of marriage for the St. Marys couple.

The couple met at a dance at Southside Park in Woodstock in 1940.

"Ruth was there with some other guy... and some friends of hers," begins George, which causes her to break out into giggles. As for George, he dropped into the dance with a few friends of his.

"I knew one of the ladies who was with Ruth, but I had never seen her before," he says, "I so I worked up enough nerve to ask her (Ruth) to dance."

When asked if her future husband was a good dancer, Ruth smiles and says "Oh yes."

George says that after that night, he made an effort to find out where Ruth lived - with her family on a farm in the Woodstock area -- "and I phoned her one day, to see if she'd like to go for supper on a Saturday night -- or go to the dance... I wasn't even sure if she'd be allowed to go or not," he adds.

But she was, and they did. "There wasn't much said about another date (that night)," recalls George, "but then I said I'd call her again, and I kept calling more often."

Ruth just laughs when asked why she kept going out with George when he kept calling her, but George is more specific about what attracted him to her. "She was pretty good looking, a beautiful young girl."

George can't recall quite when he proposed to Ruth, but the couple made plans to marry on Oct. 2, 1943 -- in a double wedding with Ruth's sister Jean and her fiance Dal. The two couples also honeymooned together in Gravenhurst. "We got kidded quite a bit about that," says George.

The couple didn't stay away too long, as it was harvest time; the couple had rented a farm near Kintore, near the Heron homestead and was busy filling silos.

The couple soon acquired six cows, and during the first winter as a married couple, George also worked at a fertilizer plant in Ingersoll to make



(Above) Ruth and Jean's joint wedding on Oct. 2, 1943. From left are Angus Green, Helen Meadows, Ruth Heron, George Heron, Rev. Glen Taylor, Jean McCorquodale, Dallas McCorquodale, Bill McCorquodale and Marion Mc Corquodale. (Right) Ruth and George Heron today. (Macko photo)

ends meet.

"We didn't have much when we started out, but we worked hard together," says Ruth. The six cows evolved into 30 head of purebred Holstein cattle, as well as breeding awards for George.

On the home front, daughter Shirley (now White) was born in 1946, with Linda (now McEwan) two years later, and Nancy (now Hutton), 10 years after that.

George and Ruth eventually bought their farm in 1946, and sold it in 1974 to build a new house.

Once in retirement, the couple travelled via motor home to Florida, as well as to the East and West coast, often traveling or meeting up with many great friends from the St. Marys area.

The couple decided to move to St. Marys in 1989, and are still

living independently.

"We put our names in at Fairhill (Lodge retirement home)," says George, "they've called us three times already (to come)!"

Ruth, at age 90, "still enjoys puttering about the house and doing my own housework," while George, at 89, adds that he does some of it, too, which causes Ruth to laugh.

It's indicative of what the pair says has kept them together for almost 66 years. "We have to give and take," says Ruth.

George adds that "we have the odd disagreement... but it doesn't take long to settle them."

The couple celebrated their 65th anniversary with an open house at the Friendship Centre last year. "We had a really good day, thanks to our family," says Ruth. "We received 175 cards."

The family organized the day,



and Ruth says, their six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren "make us feel young."

George adds that "we had a (similar) do for our 50th -- and we thought that would likely be it, but we're living longer than we think!"

At the suggestion of a 70th wedding anniversary party, the couple both chuckle.

In the immediate future, namely Valentine's Day this Saturday, the couple says they won't be doing much.

"But we used to dance a lot," says George, to which Ruth adds, "we loved going to Lakeside every Saturday night."

The couple may have hung up their dancing shoes, but they are certainly still light on their feet after 65 years, thanks to a good sense of humour, and just a little give and take.

Browns hosting district annual

Ruth Skillings
LAKESIDE CORRESPONDENT

The regular meeting of Browns Women's Institute was held Feb. 17. It was decided to write a letter concerning the discontinuation of funding for grandparents raising their kin. A report of the antique appraisal day was given. It was noted that Browns Branch won the prize for the most interesting and unique item in the branch displays. Discussion took place about the District Annual, to be hosted by Browns Branch on May 26.

The roll call was answered by naming a heart-healthy food. Pennies for Friendship was five cents for each time a member exercised or walked in the last week. Evelyn Douglas spoke about the value of exercise and led the group in chair exercises. A "cake" walk was led by Kay Conn with Ruth Gill being the winner. A word search "Walk for Health" was won by Joyce West.

The Feb. 26, Browns Women's Institute Euchre winners were: Ladies' High, Donna

Cooper; Ladies' Lone Hands, Jean Sims; Ladies' Low, Irene Felkar; Ladies' Door Prize, Rose Whaling. Men's High, David Arthur; Men's Lone Hands, Allan Sims; Men's Low, Frank Whaling and Men's Door Prize, George McLellan.

The Valentine's Day Dinner and Auction was another great success raising over \$8,000 for Camp Tanner this summer. The Oxford Presbytery Camp Committee thank all those individuals and businesses who donated goods and services to be auctioned off, and those who attended.

Saturday was Valentine's Day as well as the Dinner and Auction for Camp Tanner, put on by the Oxford Presbytery Camping Committee. There were 121 articles for the live auction. A delicious turkey dinner was prepared and served by Janice's Fine Country Catering.

Roger MacKay kept everyone involved with his entertaining auctioneering style. In the end there should be a nice sum of money available for Camp Tanner and its programs.

Browns Women's Institute sponsored a Euchre Evening on Feb. 12. The winners are: Ladies' High, Donna Cooper; Ladies' Lone Hands, Noreen Switzer; Ladies' Low, Bell Oliver; Ladies' Door Prize, Carol Herbert.

Men's High, Terry Barber; Men's Lone Hands, Andy Kittmer; Men's Low, Gordon Smith; Men's Door Prize, Ernest Oliver.