

# Be My Valentine



**A Special Publication By  
the Ulysses News**



**I LOVE  
YOU!**

**Married**

1978

**Children**

Randy & Mitzi

**Grandchildren**

Samantha, Lucas,

Gaius, & Elliot

**Married**

458 Years



*Ron & Wanda  
December 2022*



*Wedding Day  
1978*

They didn't grow up together, but it was their childhood which connected them.

Wanda McClung was born and raised in California and Ron lived in Ulysses. The two would meet while Wanda was visiting her grandparents, Earl and Mary Miller, who also lived in Ulysses.

Wanda's mother, WaDean Miller, grew up in Ulysses, and would let Wanda go to visit her grandparents during her summer vacations.

One day, Wanda met Ron. It would be during one of her summer visits to Kansas, that he would pop the question; however, they were both only 11 years old.

The couple said Ron asked the big question while the two were "walking in the alley, holding hands, behind her grandmother's home".

Of course, she said yes.

Life had other plans for awhile and Wanda returned to California. The years past and in spite of her engagement to Ron, she went on to marry when she got a little bit older and had a son, Randy Berry.

For his part, Ron joined the Navy.

Proving true love lasts through all things and through all ages, the couple found their way back to each other, Wanda and her son left sunny California and moved to Kansas in 1978.

Hearing of her return, Ron came to visit and as they say, "fell in love" all over again. The two would make it official later that year.

Today, Ron and Wanda have four grandchildren, Samantha, Lucas, Gaius, and Elliot.

*"There is never a time or place for true love.  
It happens accidentally, in a heartbeat, in a  
single flashing, throbbing moment."*

*—Sarah Dessen,*

*The Truth About Forever*

*All Roads Lead To Love*



*By Nancy Wallace-Kletecka & Mitzi Newland*

The glint in their eyes tells a story of love and humor that has carried them through almost 65 years of life together as man and wife.

"We met in 1947 when we were both 21 years old," said Ernest Herald of how the journey with his wife, Rowena, began. "We got married when we were both 22." Rowena smiles as she points out she is the oldest of the two by six weeks.

"Yeah," Ernest agrees with a slight chuckle, "but I'm more mature." She will be 87 in March and Rowena points out Ernest will "catch up with her" when he turns 87 in May. However, he reiterates with a grin, "she's still older than I am." The two met through a mutual friend. "A boy I knew from Hooker, Mirt Rowley, went to work with her at the railroad," said Ernest, who himself is a lifelong Hooker resident. "It was a happenstance deal - I just happened to run into them in Liberal. She was a Liberal girl." At the time, Rowena was working as the secretary to the chief clerk of the Liberal railroad office. A job that would not last long once their paths had crossed.

"I had a better offer," she said with a smile, referring to her marriage to Ernest. A couple of days after they met, Ernest called her up for their first date - a football game in Liberal. It would not take long before the couple only had eyes for each other.

"I guess you could say I was kind of stung... We met in September and were already considering getting married around Christmas," Ernest explained. "We had talked about eloping to Clayton, New Mexico, but we had no place together yet so we had some more organizing to do before we could get married. It wasn't the logical thing to do so we waited until May. "As for Rowena, she, too, must have been "stung" - by their second date she said she knew he was the



*This was a story written several years ago. Ernest passed away in 2017 and Rowena in 2018. They were a couple who knew what it meant to be husband & wife.*

one for her as well. "I was pretty impressed with him," she said. "He was pleasant, generous and he joked around. He was ornery and still is - I couldn't do without that. I was impressed with his graciousness. He has a sense of humor that won't quit." Their instincts about each other have proven right over the years. "He is a wonderful father to our kids and a good provider," Rowena said. "He has an easy going nature. He is loyal and quite the breakfast cook." Rowena adds "I tell him what to do and when to do it," to which Ernest chuckles. "She doesn't use anything in her hair - no bleach or anything. I get credit for it (the gray)."

They will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary May 30 and the years have taught them what is important and makes a marriage last. "You have to make sure you're going to be married forever - no excuses. And the only acceptable excuse to get out of marriage is adultery," Rowena says. "Don't give up on your marriage just because things aren't going smoothly. I also think it's our

strong belief in the Lord. That is one thing I was looking for was a guy who already had his religion established. And coincidentally, I found out that where he was going to church was where I had originally worshipped. I think we think alike in a lot of things. I think a good church attendance and a christian approach to problems - a give and take approach - is important." She added with a humorous quip, "...but if you don't win them he has a beating coming. I wanted to keep him in his place. The hardest part of being married is convincing him that everything you say is right." Ernest agrees marriage is about give and take. "We have had some disagreements, but they don't come to fights," he said, adding with a chuckle, "When we had been married 60 years, she said she thought about murder a few times but didn't think of getting a divorce. But, she makes more noise than she really bites. I willingly stayed in my place (where she put me). We work things out - you have to," he continued. "I feel a lot of people don't take marriage quite serious enough and you have to. Marriage is real life. You're not going to win them all (disagreements) and they don't all come out even. It's a give and take thing - you shouldn't expect to win them all. I don't think we ever let the sun go down on our anger. We've had a good 65 years." Ernest also believes faith in the Lord is an important part of a good relationship. The couple have three living children: Dan Herald and his wife, Marva; and Mary DeSelms and her husband, Shane, all of Hooker; and daughter Debbie Wilkins and her husband, Bill, of Houston. They have eight grandchildren, nine great grandchildren and one great-grandchild on the way. And again, faith is a big part of their family. "I don't have to worry about my kids," Rowena said. "I'm sure if there is a church nearby they are going."

Their son, Jimmy, died when Rowena was nine months pregnant. "I had miscarried a couple of other pregnancies that didn't go to full term," she said adding that her mother had lost some children as well, "I didn't get to keep him (Jimmy) but I fully believe that when we reach eternity I will meet a nice young man there that will look a lot like Dan. I bet we will have a lot to talk

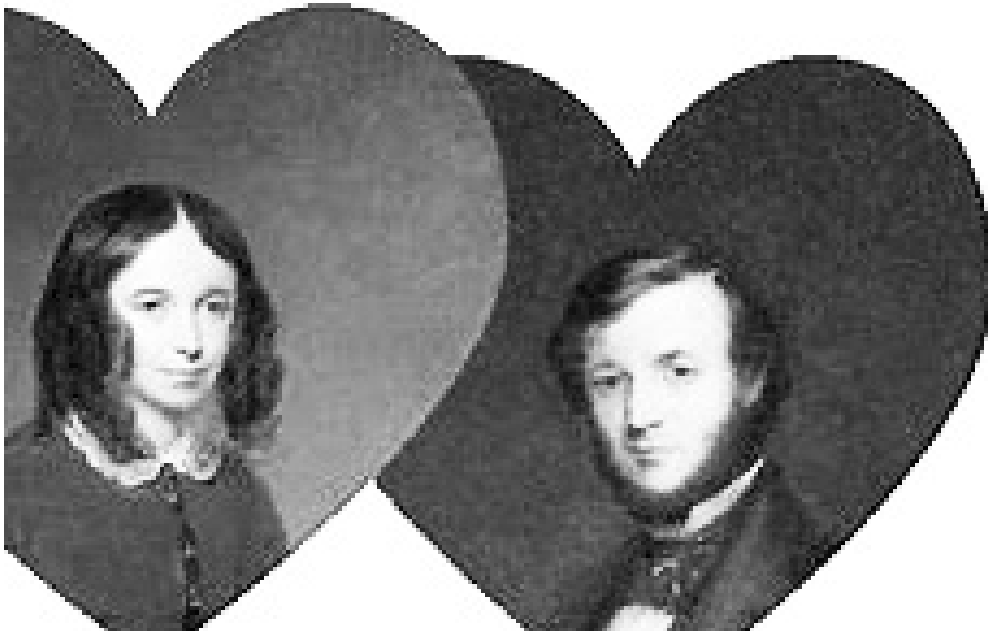
about..." Their most romantic Valentine's Day they said was when she got her wedding rings. "When the '48 Ford came out I was wanting a pickup," Ernest said. "At the time they were having a drawing at the Ford place in Hooker. They called one day and said I had won a chance to purchase a pickup at retail price." Ernest didn't want the 1/2 ton pickup he had the chance to win, but a salesman convinced him to go ahead and get it. "I wanted a 3/4 ton," he said. "I bought the 1/2 ton and told him I was going to put it in the garage because I really wanted the other one. When the 3/4 ton came in he wouldn't give me what I paid for the other one so I sold it to someone else and made \$485 over what I had paid. I used that to buy her ring." Automobiles have had a part in their relationship from the start. Rowena said at the time they met, her father was working for a Hudson dealer. "I had a new car," she said with a smile, "But when Ernest came along he gave me a better deal, so I left the car and let my dad have it. I wouldn't trade Ernest in even if I could. I couldn't find another like him." To which Ernest said with a chuckle, "I think my trade in value has gone down." Both agree that marriage is harder today than when they first started out. "There is so many things involved any more and life's not getting simpler," Ernest said. "I think a lot of people don't work hard enough to make it work. It's not an isolated problem either - it's pretty universal. We told our kids to make sure that's what you want to do before you marry and be careful who you want to marry. Out here in the country I think the farther people get from big city thoughts the better off they are." "Divorce is too easy to come by and so well accepted any more," Rowena chimes in, "People don't take it as serious as they used to. If something comes up there's too many who choose divorce right away - working it out isn't a priority with them." The two were married on Memorial Day almost 65 years ago and their lives together have indeed been memorable. "We hit it off pretty good - she wasn't a problem," Ernest said with a laugh. To which Rowena adds, "We sure did and he wasn't a problem either. I keep him around to keep my stories straight."



## Couple Shared Decades of Love

By Nancy Wallace-Kletzecka





*Elizabeth & Robert Browning*



*Elizabeth & son Robert Browning*

## *Love Knows No Bounds*



*By Literary Ladies Guide*

Elizabeth and Robert met in early 1845 after Elizabeth received a letter from Robert expressing his love of her poems and her. The two secretly courted for almost two years before tying the knot. Elizabeth and Robert exchanged over 500 letters while courting. The two courted in secret due to Elizabeth's father being over protective because of her health issues. Elizabeth fell ill from a spinal injury that caused her to be in pain almost daily. It was for this reason that the two courted in secret. Elizabeth and Robert were both writers of poems. The two were secretly married in late 1846. The two moved to Pisa, Italy and continued to write poems. Elizabeth's health improved while in Italy. Elizabeth and Robert later moved to Florence where they welcomed their son Robert into their lives in 1849. Elizabeth and Robert wrote some of their most well know poem while in Italy.

Elizabeth's most well known piece was:

“Sonnets from the Portuguese.”

“How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
For the ends of being and ideal grace.  
I love thee to the level of every day's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for right.  
I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.  
I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death.”

Robert and Elizabeth were together for sixteen years when Elizabeth fell ill and passed away in the summer of 1861. Robert and his son moved back to London where he continued writing. Robert died over twenty years after Elizabeth on a trip back to Italy.

**I LOVE YOU!**

**Married**

November 25, 1966

**Eight Children**

Michael, Matthew, Ruth,  
Lin, Kim, Sarah, Mark, &  
David

**Married**

56 Years

**Key To Happy Marriage:**

**“Never go to bed angry. Talk things out. If you are strong enough to get married, there is still a kernel there when you’re angry. Find it. We made it - we’re not quitters. Also have respect for each other, a sense of humor and forgiveness.”**



*Wedding Day  
November 25, 1966*



*Steve & Joyce*



*Steve & Joyce*

**A** hunch, three dates, and six months have paid off in more than five decades of love and commitment for Ulysses residents Steve and Joyce Brom.

The couple first met in 1956 in Denver, Colo., and it all came together because of a “somewhat” broken heart.

“I wanna’ tell the story,” said Steve, adding with a chuckle, “I’m always truthful, so I’m always in trouble. I met her at my church - she was the organist. I had been dating a Japanese Hawaiiin in college and got dumped.”

Steve said one Friday he went in search of his minister to talk to him about his broken heart. The minister was gone, but Joyce was there.

“She was my therapist first,” he said with a smile, to which Joyce added, “That story is pretty accurate.”

Joyce added a little more to the recollection.

“He had just graduated from Adam State with a degree in music and had taken a position in Otis, Colo., to be the Kindergarten through 12th vocal and band teacher,” she said. “Since his emphasis had been instrumental, he wanted to work with the church choir that summer to get a feel for it.”

At the time, Joyce, who was from Iowa, was working in Denver.

“I was the pastor’s secretary, the church secretary, the organist, the summer choir director and the youth director,” she said. “Since the adult choir was going to take a break over the summer, I told the pastor I will get the youth and talk them in to singing.”

Joyce’s plan was to keep the kids coming for rehearsals and get them to keep coming to church on Sunday, ultimately giving the adults a break. One day, the pastor told her he had done something he hoped she “didn’t mind.”

“He said Steve Brom would like to work with our choir,” Joyce said. “And that he had told Steve to call me and set up a time to meet. Steve called and asked if he could meet with me that evening. I gave him my address to my apartment - at the time I was rooming with two Baptist school teachers.”

Although Steve and Joyce had been attending the same church in Denver, she did not know him or his parents who also attended there.

“When you are the organist, everyone walks out when you are playing,” she said.

When Steve arrived at her apartment for their first meeting, she showed him the letter she was sending out that explained her plan for the choir.

“She said it was to keep the kids in the church,” Steve said. “I had just gotten off work from a concrete forming job,” Steve said. “I listened to her tell me about what she was doing - I looked at her and said, ‘well, you pray at the beginning, I’ll play music in the middle, you pray at the end, and we’ll get along just fine.’”

*See BROM, Page 6*

*Hunch For Love Pays Off*

*By Nancy Wallace-Kletzka*



One of Joyce's roommates was not impressed by his reaction.

"Nancy, my roommate, said, 'what a jerk'," Joyce said with a laugh, adding that she went to see her pastor the next day. "I went in to his office and told him, 'you have just ruined my idea.'"

Joyce said the minister talked her in to giving the arrangement a couple of weeks.

"He said he would talk to him and I wouldn't have to deal with him at all," Joyce said. "He said, 'I will tell him it's not working out.'"

The duo worked together for the two weeks and then performed one Sunday- that's when everything changed.

"When the service was over, I was playing, and he waited up in the balcony for me," Joyce said. As we were walking down the steps Steve said, 'you look nice today.' I said, 'I thought the choir sounded good also.' He said, 'I didn't say that.' I told him I heard what he said. I told the pastor the next day I thought it was going to work out just fine."

The one and only pre marriage date they had was to a performance of *Kismet* at the University of Denver.

*Kismet*, a musical that concerns a wily poet who talks his way out of trouble several times; meanwhile, his beautiful daughter meets and falls in love with the young caliph. A love story - perhaps a fitting date for a couple destined to be as one.

It was the pastor of their

church who suggested an invitation be offered to attend the performance to the "college age" students who were home for the summer.

"I knew of Steven and one other man," Joyce said. "They were both going to let me know in church that Sunday if they planned to attend."

Neither Steve nor the other man showed up, but Joyce didn't let it go at that.

"I cared enough to call Steve and asked him if he was going," she said.

Steve asked her what she was doing right then.

"Well, I had a date for lunch, but I told Steve I wasn't doing anything I couldn't change," Joyce said. "He said his parents had given him golf clubs for graduation and asked if I wanted to walk around the golf course with him before we went to the show."

Joyce broke the date with her other suitor and the next 12 hours solidified what the future held.

"I spent 12 hours with her that day and I told her it was like we got about six months of dating out of the way," Steve said.

Joyce knew Steve was the one.

"The man I was dating worked a factory job and he hated his work," she said. "I decided I wanted someone who likes life, and Steve was so excited about teaching."

The first time Steve met her parents, they didn't even know the two were dating.

"We had just barely had that one date," Joyce said. "In the past I was always just so in love with this one and that one. I would write to my mom and tell her, 'oh we broke up' - we didn't talk back then, we wrote letters."

Steve made a trip through Iowa and stopped to see her parents.

"Her mom told me, 'if you are at the kissing stage, give Joyce a kiss for me'," Steve said.

When Steve got back to Denver they were watching the movie, *Ma and Pa Kettle On The Farm*. Steve looked at Joyce and said, "You know, I think I could have all my bills paid by December 18, if you know what I mean". She said yeah and we went upstairs to tell my parents we were going to get married."

They called Joyce's parents to break the news to them as well.

"I called up Joyce's parents and told them," Steve said. "I asked Joyce's dad for permission to marry his daughter. He gave the phone to his wife."

"I got on the phone and my mom said, 'what happened? Your dad is as white as a sheet,'" Joyce added.

Although Joyce knew Steve's cryptic proposal was a proposal - there was just a little bit of a misunderstanding.

"I thought he meant we could get engaged at Christmas," she said. "We talked more and he said, 'no, I want to get married on December 18.'"

The two decided on November because of the distance family and friends would have to travel.

And the rest, they say, is history.

"We met in June, had our first date in July, got engaged in August and married in November," Joyce said.

History has a way of growing in the case of Steve and Joyce Brom.

They had a son, Michael; adopted a daughter, Kim; had another son, Matthew; and then adopted five more: Sarah, Ruth, Lin, Mark and David.

When the family moved to Ulysses in the summer of 1987, their eight children were in the following grades: Michael, a senior; Kim, a junior; Ruth and Matthew, eighth grade; Mark, Sarah, and Lin, sixth grade; and David, third grade.

After more than six decades of marriage and eight children, the Broms say they "are not



**STEVE AND JOYCE BROM HAVE BEEN MARRIED A LITTLE MORE THAN 56 YEARS. THEY HAVE EIGHT CHILDREN: MATTHEW, MARK, DAVID, MICHAEL, LIN, SARAH, KIM AND RUTH.**

*Courtesy photo*

quitters". What has kept their marriage going? Respect.

"She may want to go to a show and might want to do something else," Steve said. "We have respect for what each other's needs are.

Joyce said it is important that couples never "go to bed angry".

"Talk things out," she added. "If you are strong enough to get married, that kernel is still there - find it. A relationship is each giving 100 percent. And the giving is more important than the receiving."

Steve jokingly says knowing how to make molasses cookies

helps. He added, "It's not what you get out of a relationship, it's what you put in to it to make it better. Be thoughtful and kind to one another."

Just a bit ornery, Steve remembers what made him fall for his beautiful bride.

"It was those tan, double knit shorts," he said.

As for Joyce, she says she "had a hunch" Steve was the one.

The couple emphasized that forgiveness and a sense of humor are part of the recipe for a happy marriage.

*"When you realize you want to spend the rest of your life with somebody, you want the rest of your life to start as soon as possible." —When Harry Met Sally...*



**I LOVE  
YOU!**

**Married**

**August 23, 1975**

**Three Children**

**Sarah, Katie, Clayton**

**Five  
Grandchildren**

**Devynn, Ava, Adi, Jamie  
& Lachlan,**

**Married**

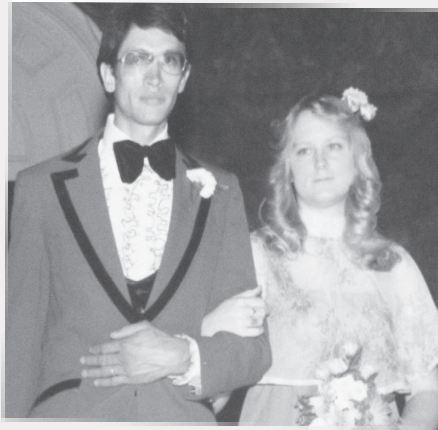
**48 Years**

**Key To Happy  
Marriage:**

**“Communicate - we  
are not mind readers.  
Feelings get hurt by  
misunderstandings”**



*Joe & Carol*



*Wedding Day  
August 23, 1975*



*Carol, grandson  
Lachlan, & Joe*

In this day and age, finding love across several states may not seem too far of a stretch. However, 48 years ago, before dating apps and social media were born and abundant, a spark ignited between a New Mexican cowboy and a sweet, Minnesota native.

In February of 1975, Carol Yonke traveled to Sante Fe, New Mexico, nearly 1,200 miles from her hometown of Blaine, Minnesota, to visit a family friend. Unbeknownst to her, she would cross paths with a tall and charming young man by the name of Joe Noriega. Naturally funny and easy-going, Joe came to know Carol as a sweet, kind, and friendly woman.

Within a few months, the most unlikely and random pair agreed they could not be without one another. On August 23, 1975, Joe and Carol came together as one under Christ in Sante Fe, New Mexico.

Over the years, the Noriegas grew to be a family of five. They share two daughters, Sarah and Katie, and a son, Clayton. They describe their first born, Sarah, as self-determined. Katie is insightful and articulate. Clayton has a high technical IQ. Although each of their children have diverse qualities, Joe and Carol note that each share strong character, making them very proud.

When asked what the couple loves most about each other, Joe spoke of Carol's "personal strength that she has acquired over the years". Carol admires his gifts of writing and drawing as well as his faith in God which has had an impact on her own faith journey.


To maintain their sense of togetherness, the Noriegas indulge in dancing and home improvement. Cowboy dancing has been a staple in bonding, a skill that Joe introduced and taught to his beautiful wife. Most recently, they have taken on the challenge of renovating their basement.

It can feel like a fairy tale, myth, or miracle to last decades as a married couple. How have Joe and Carol kept strong throughout each chapter? "Communicate—we are not mind readers. Feelings get hurt by misunderstandings. So easy to do in today's world of texting. Patience is the important part of communication because there are things that might need to be said but they take some time", Joe explained. When describing their journey together, Joe and Carol zeroed in on "persistent" because you have to work at it everyday.

To the majority of the world, Valentine's Day may be the one special time to show appreciation and love to your significant other. However, the Noriegas have never made a big deal over it. To these lovebirds, it can be any given day in a year. Joe states, "it's a spontaneous event, not a pre-planned one."

*Persistence Defies All Odds*

*By Meaghan Noriega*



*“I love you not only for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you. I love you not only for what you have made of yourself, but for what you are making of me. I love you for the part of me that you bring out.*

*—Elizabeth Barrett Browning*



**I LOVE  
YOU!**

**Married**

April 4, 1970

**Three Children**

David, Chris and Nathan

**Six  
Grandchildren**

Reile, Britton, Amori,  
Addi, Asher and Aubrenn

**Advice For  
Others**

**“We’ve learned marriage can be hard sometimes. You got to work at it.” The two have adopted a tradition that was shared with them - presenting newlyweds each with a \$50 bill. “that’s what marriage is... each of them giving 50 percent. We’ve adopted that as a tradition. Giving the same gift and advice to young couples whose weddings we attend.”**



*Marvin & Pam*



*Wedding Day  
April 4, 1970*



*Wedding Cake  
Yummy!*

**M**arvin and Pam Meile are familiar faces around Ulysses.

As owners of Marvin’s Farm Equipment, they have been in business since 1975, but have been part of the community long before that. Pam is a homegrown Ulysses girl and Marvin made his first move to Grant County in spring of 1965, when as a hardworking South Dakota farm boy of 19, he came to work for Webber Supply and Company.

Raised near Isabel, Marvin said he had grown up working on machinery and doing the sweat-equity labor of chores and day to day activities on a typical American farm.

“I had been fixing equipment, and running equipment since I was a boy of 9 or 10,” he said, noting it was hard work, but he enjoyed it. “I was always good at it,” he said. Hank Webber had visited the Meile family in South Dakota and when Marvin graduated from high school, Weber invited Marvin to come to Ulysses and work for him. Things were going well, and it looked like a bright future in Grant County for Marvin, until December, when Uncle Sam extended an invitation to visit another part of the world.

Marvin served in the US Army three years, including an intense year in Vietnam from 1967 through February 1968. When discharged, Marvin headed home to South Dakota and contemplated his future. With an interest in Radar Technology, having worked with it in the service, Marvin applied and tested for a job with Texas Instruments. When that didn’t pan out, Marvin once again headed for Ulysses and Webber’s. He was driving a new car. An Oldsmobile. With a 442 Rocket!

“I had saved my money while I was in the service,” Marvin said. “I only kept \$17 a paycheck. Where was I going to spend it? I didn’t smoke, and beer was only a couple of dollars,” he said with a grin. Pam smiled, too. Maybe it wasn’t only the buff young man she met working at Jeanie’s Diner that had attracted her attention.

“I’ve only gotten one ticket,” Marvin said. “And it was in that car, EARLY on the morning of our wedding. Not a bad record for a 73 year old.” A few months after they were married, Pam said she got a ticket in that car, too. On Colorado Street. She wasn’t going quite as fast.

The restaurant wasn’t the only place Pam saw Marvin in those early days. They ran into one another now and then. After all, Ulysses is a small town. Pam’s stepdad came into Webber’s looking for a new combine, and Pam came with him. Pam was tall and pretty, with bouffant

hair and heels. Marvin might have been shorter in stature, but with quite the muscles and the tan of a hardworking man.

The attraction between the two was mutual. (Between Marvin and Pam. Not the combine.)

Dating was small town traditional. They went to the Movies and the Diner or double dated with friends to the area stock car races. Soon enough, it was time for the next step. “I wanted to ask her to marry me,” Marvin said. “But I had to ask her parents first.” And that was tough. “I would go to her house intending to, but I was nervous and wouldn’t speak up, and her dad would get tired of waiting and just go to bed. So I had to try again the next time.”

Pam laughed. “I was anxious every time, too, excited and nervous. And then, every time, we would have to wait until the next time.” Eventually, everyone stayed in the room long enough, and it turned out to be not a big deal. “When I finally got the words out,” Marvin said. “All her dad said was, ‘I suppose.’”

*See MEILE, Page 5*

*We Still Say ‘I Love You’*

*By Kellie Euliss*



Pam and her sister and friends started planning the wedding. "It was nothing like the extravagant weddings they plan today," Pam said. "I bet it didn't cost \$500. We already had dresses and other things." Everyone helped decorate and made it a modest but beautiful evening event. Marvin bought a suit at Kep's and a ring at Fry Jewelers. "I don't think it even cost \$500," she said. "Oh, it was less than that," Marvin added. They both laughed. "But it cost me two paychecks!" he said.

Back to that 442 Rocket and that one moving violation ticket: "Well, my friends and I had a little bachelor party the night before the wedding," said Marvin, "David Schwein had a fast Ford Ranchero so around two in the morning we decided to see which car was faster and headed out to the Cemetery Road to find out." A highway patrolman just happened to be going by about that same time. "He flagged us down, got us in his car and asked us if we had been drinking. Then Steve (Webber) got in the back seat and started talking. I thought we were going to jail!"

All's well that ends well. The officer wrote them up for reckless driving and let them go.

Pam and Marvin were married April 4, 1970 at 7PM in the First United Methodist Church. It was a beautiful wedding.

The Meile's had big plans for their 50th Anniversary. There was going to be a big shindig in April 2020. She even got the wedding cake layer out of the freezer. It was still pink and pretty, though maybe a little dehydrated. It is a wonderful testament to Tupperware. Then came Covid. Instead of a big party with family and friends, Marvin and Pam celebrated quietly in their dining room with a meal of Tomahawk steak and all the fixings prepared by Martin and Betty Delgado of Alejandro's Restaurant. "There were cards and letters and flowers from friends and a steady stream of well-wishers. One at a time, of course. "It was nice, although a little quiet," said Pam. "We'll celebrate sometime in the future."

Marvin took a longer view. "Maybe for our 75th anniversary!" Pam was a little more practical. "Maybe for our 55th."

The Meile's relationship is still a strong one. Both swear they've never had a fight, or even really raised their voices. "We've had disagreements," said Pam. "But no



brawling," said Marvin. Any advice on how to do that? "We've both found out that just shutting up is the best solution, and to keep to ourselves for a while. Maybe even a day or two."

"We've learned marriage can be hard sometimes. You got to work at it," said Marvin. In the receiving line on that April evening, now 53 years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Weber gave them each a \$50 dollar bill and told them that's what marriage is... each of them giving 50 percent. "We've adopted that as a tradition," said Marvin. "Giving the same gift and advice to young couples whose weddings we attend."

For the most part, they said married life has been relatively uneventful. As uneventful as it could have been raising three boys and owning and operating a business.

Pam worked hard at home and in sales at various retail businesses in Ulysses: Pitts & Burke, Kep's Toggery, Gibson Pharmacy, Something Special, The Arrangement, The Hutch, Russ' Gift Shop and others. She even had her own lawn mowing business at one time. "I enjoyed it! When you have kids in school, the extra money comes in handy."

They were a team said Marvin. "She cared for the home and yard, and I paid the bills," he said. "I've had guys ask me, didn't I feel bad that she mows the lawn? I told them I string the weed eater!" They both laughed.

The best thing about marriage, they said, is the companionship; sharing time together, whether that be spending a day watching movies or attending the school and sports activities of their grandkids. They have traveled a bit, in and out of the country.

"She bought an RV," Meile said with a grin, though he didn't elaborate. He DID admit they might be "boat poor" but stressed they are all well used, and that the fishing is for a good cause.

In 2021, after a good Sunday with the family, the Meile's lost their oldest son, David, to a sudden heart attack. It was devastating and a parent's worst nightmare. Though the memory is still raw and painful, the Meile's turned their hurt into something positive by hosting an annual fishing derby and fish fry for area children and families at their property south of Ulysses. Funds raised from the event go into a scholarship fund in David's name for local high school students. This year will be the third year for the Derby and so far, they have raised over \$70,000 for local youth. "We intend to keep doing it as long as we can," said Marvin.

There have been sad times and heartbreak over the years, including a grandson fighting leukemia. The good news is Asher is now cancer free. Marvin and Pam say the blessings have outnumbered the bad times. "We are still friends," said Pam. "We still say 'I love you'. Both agree marriage is a commitment and a vow that shouldn't be taken lightly.

Small town life is good. "We haven't been all around the world," said Marvin. "But we've seen enough."

The couple are parents to three children: David, Chris and Nathan; have two daughters-in-law, Shan and Megan; and six beloved grandchildren, Reile, Britton, Amori, Addi, Asher and Aubrenn.

## VALENTINE'S SHAKE MENU

---

**CHOCOLATE COVERED CHERRY**

**CUPID'S CUPCAKE**

**CHOCOLATE COVERED STRAWBERRY**

**STRAWBERRY CHEESECAKE**

**CHOCOLATE CARAMELS**

**VALENTINES SUGAR COOKIE**

### Valentine's Tea Menu

**LOVEALICIOUS**  
Pink Lemonade, Prickly Pear, Strawberry

**TROPICAL HEARTS**  
Strawberry, Cherry, Coconut, Pineapple

**CUPID'S CRUSH**  
Strawberry, Pineapple

**LOVER BOY**  
Lemonade, Cherry

**COWBOY CRUSH**  
Prickly Pear, Watermelon, Peach

**STRAWBERRY WINE**  
Strawberry, White Grape, Margarita

**BLEEDING HEART**  
Strawberry, Blueberry Layered

**LOVE POTION**  
Cherry, Watermelon

**VALENTINE'S PUNCH**  
Strawberry, Pink Lemonade

**BERRY SINGLE**  
Raspberry, Strawberry

**ROSES**  
Rainbow Candy, Grape Layered



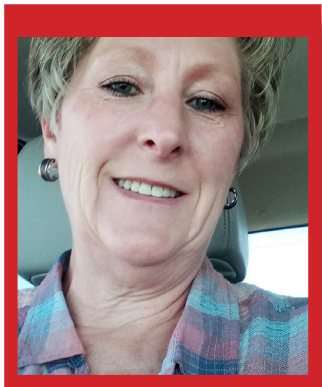
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Nutrition

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620.391.5338

*"I love you because the entire universe conspired to help me find you."  
—Paul Coelho, The Alchemist*



# What is the perfect Valentine's date?



*"Nothing says love better than a six pack of wine coolers and shooting rats at the dump! And if you trust her with a gun, she's a keeper."*  
**Clint Forward**

*"A horse and buggy ride with a nice bottle of wine and my honey. We have been married 12 years."*  
**Shonni Holladay**



*"Danny would always take me out to dinner, roses, jewelry..... And I would make him his favorite dinner and what he wanted for dessert - ME. We were married 37 years before he passed away. Honestly he was my best friend. We were happy to have one another and no one else. Everything we did was together. We would not have had it any other way."*  
**Patricia Cole**



*"I think any time you are with the one you love it's a perfect date. Flowers and chocolate don't hurt. Maybe having a date night in a restaurant."*  
**Sharon Garey**



*"A night completely left alone, no phone calls, no texts, no interruptions, just me and my TV."*  
**Bob Dale Passini**



*"...being with the person you love. Having a day with my husband. We met through family - 29 years together."*  
**Velma Romero**



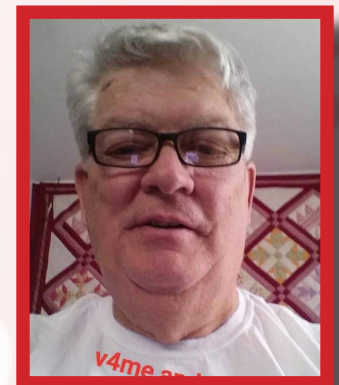
*"I don't believe in Valentine's Day - it's too commercial. If you truly care about someone you should show them every day."*  
**Travis Austin**



*"A quiet night for two."*  
**Ruby Garza**



*"A couple's spa day."*  
**Ivy Rodenberg**



*"Dinner, dancing (if your joints can still take it) maybe a nice room. Working on 21 years married (32 last time to my late wife). and if there is a secret, it's give and take more give than take"*  
**C.F. David**

*"Love is like a friendship caught on fire. In the beginning a flame, very pretty, often hot and fierce, but still only light and flickering. As love grows older, our hearts mature and our love becomes as coals, deep burning and unquenchable."* — **Bruce Lee**

What would you give her this Valentine's Day?  
A Dozen Roses & Diamond Jewelry  
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February 14th

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Stop in to pick one up or purchase online or call.  
We will mail them you!

*Remember VALENTINE'S DAY February 14*

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**ICEHOUSE** 620-290-0802  
MaryStreetIceHouse.com

## Shop Local this Valentine's Day!

- Flowers
- Chocolate
- Jewelry
- Cards
- Movie
- Dinner
- Stuffed Animal
- Massage
- Wine
- Baked goods
- Candles
- Lotion
- Spa day
- Manicure & Pedicure
- Bath bombs
- Vacation
- Tools
- Babysitter



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*\$115 for Dinner of 2*



*Wholly Cow All-Natural  
 Pure Beef Filet  
 Shrimp Alfredo  
 Proscuitto Wrapped  
 Asparagus  
 Strawberry Spinach Salad*



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