

Citizens of the Month

Alvin & Jean Frost

By Rita Frost Lynch



On August 13, Alvin Frost and Emily Jean (Reed) Frost celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Sixty years ago, Alvin and Jan, along with two of their best friends, Alvin Pate and Margaret Redmond, eloped to be married. Both of these unions have lasted all these years! Alvin is the son of the late Roscoe and Nan Frost, and Jean is the daughter of the late Mamie (Lane) Reed Davis and stepfather, Tom Davis. Her father was the late Jesse Reed.

Daughters of Alvin and Jean planned the event which took place at Kingdom Ministries in Walter Hill, one of the few places spacious enough to accommodate this very large (and still growing) family! Daughters are: Brenda Woodson, Judy Whaley, Rita Lynch, Debbie Brooks, Terri Hale and Pamela Brickey. In addition to their six daughters, were sons-in-laws, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Also present were Alvin's brothers and their wives, along with his sister. They were Mr. and Mrs. Don Frost and Donna, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Frost, John and Isaac Frost, Jan Toombs and Nancy Scott.

A delicious candlelight dinner was catered by Peggy Pinkston and Company. After dinner, as a special treat to their parents, the daughters and all their families had prepared a video, shown on a giant screen, where every family member shared good wishes and fond memories of life in this very special family. There were memories with giggles, and some with tears, but all made for a wonderful evening for Alvin and Jean Frost. Poems were read that family members had written and songs were sung. It had been many years ago, that Brenda, Judy, Rita, Debbie, Terri and Pam had all sung together, but they did that night. They sang songs they had sung at All Day Singings and Dinner on the Ground Homecomings, and also in the Eagleville Baptist Church, during their childhood, such as "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and "Feeling Mighty Fine."

The family began with its roots in Eagleville. On August 13, 1944, Alvin Frost, then not quite 17, asked Emily Jean Reed, not quite 15, to be his wife. There was never any doubt where they would live and rear a family. The first house they owned was a brand-new one in a then new subdivision, known as "NewTown." I cannot think of a better place to have spent a childhood than in Eagleville, Tennessee. Looking back, it was as near perfect as a childhood could be! Our parents participated in our lives and in the community. Daddy was Sunday School Superintendent at Eagleville Baptist Church, and Mama helped with the Sunbeams, taught during Vacation Bible School, and served as our room mother at Eagleville School whenever she could. I remember her and my Aunt Geneva bringing cupcakes and cookies to our classrooms on special occasions. Our grandmother, Mama Nan and grandfather, Daddy Ros, Daddy, and most of us girls all sang in the church choir. Many Sundays we (five of us, and later six) paraded to the front of the church in our little frilly dresses our Mother had made, all just alike, and sang songs in harmony that Daddy had taught us. No doubt, our little patent leather shoes were shined with a left-over

biscuit from Sunday morning breakfast, our cans-cans were starched, and we were clean behind the ears! But, woe to any of us if we misbehaved during church! If we ever got that "look" from Daddy, we knew we would be in trouble when we got home.

Eagleville Baptist Church was such a big part of our lives. We had wonderful Sunday School teachers, and Vacation Bible Schools. My sister and I surely can still recite Bible verses that we memorized during that time. Some Sunday School teachers I can remember who made an impression on us are Alma Hazel, Mama Nan, Ailene McCall, Mrs. Dyer, and Ms. Virginia Redmond, Ms. Catherine Williams, Ms. Alice Hay, and Sammy Farris, just to name a few.

In those days, things were different from today. We never locked a door, day or night. We knew and loved all of our neighbors. NewTown was more than just a neighborhood—it was like a big happy family! We went to church together, rode the school bus, and played together, in comparison to today, when we barely know who our neighbors are.

Yes, Alvin and Jean Frost have given us quite a legacy to live up to. We were so very fortunate to have such wonderful parents, who were so young and so vibrant when we were all born! This is our opportunity to say, thank you to them for being a beacon from that lighthouse that in many ways, still guides us, giving us direction if we wander from the path that leads home. I guess, if our love for them were measured by grandchildren and great grandchildren, they would know just how deep that love runs. They are adored as "Nanny" and Granddaddy Alvin" by 15 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.



Alvin & Jean Frost Family in 1962

