

CITIZENS OF THE MONTH

Harrison & Bessie Lea Mosley

By Judy Mosley Frost



In preparing for my parent's 60th wedding anniversary, it was an opportunity to reflect on many memories of the wonderful parents that they are as well as the wonderful people they are.

They have meant so much to me and my daughter, Andrea and have been a source of strength and love to both of us. As I stood back and observed the people who took time to come by and congratulate them on December 20th, I realized just how much they have also meant to many others. I saw people hug them and congratulate them and even share memories they had of my parents and what they meant to their lives. They have certainly touched many lives during their 60 years of marriage.

It all began December 24th, 1943. They were married after dating "three or more years". They were married quietly in Murfreesboro, went to the basketball game at College Grove and then to my daddy's parents. It was just that simple and their lives have remained fairly uncomplicated from that day on. This is not to say that there have not been any ups and downs and that everything has always gone perfect for them, but I can truly say that I have never seen anything that caused the stability and strength of their love and commitment to ever be shaken.

"We raised a tobacco crop. After we sold our tobacco we had \$300.00. We bought a bedroom suit, kitchen table and chairs, cabinet and a wood burning stove. We moved to Murfreesboro on Maney Avenue. Harrison went to work driving a truck for Ragland Potter and I went to work at the Sunshine Hosiery Mill. We lived there for a while then we moved on West Main Street. It was a 3-room apartment just across the street from Ragland Potter. We cleaned it up, painted and papered. It was just what we needed. We paid \$6 a month rent. I then went to work at Ragland Potter. I made \$15 a week. I knew it was not how much you made but how you handled what you made. In a few years, we saved enough to buy 75 acres on Jackson Ridge Road. Then we saved enough to build a barn. Then we saved enough to build us a house. We didn't have water in the house. We had an outside toilet. I wallpapered it and padded the seat. Everyone got a laugh

about my up town toilet." These are my mother's own words telling the history of their first years together.

This is typical for their entire marriage. They always saved until they could pay for whatever they needed. They have always been a team and have always worked together. They always compromised when they did not agree. I have never heard my parents have a misunderstanding and have certainly never heard them disrespect each other or raise their voices to each other. How fortunate I am to have lived with these two people. This is not to say that they always saw eye-to-eye on everything, but they always managed to compromise and come to an agreement without becoming angry or saying something that they would regret later.

They have also been a strong part of this community. Daddy has been a deacon in the Eagleville Baptist Church, was a member of the Lion's Club, helped in the Eagleville horse show, sold brooms for the Lion's Club to buy glasses for children. Mama has been room mother for my classes at school (she actually still carries the purse that Mrs. Elmore gave her for being room mother when I was in the first grade), she has made costumes for school programs, helped in school functions and always been willing to do whatever she could to help out. She also sang in the choir, helped in vacation Bible school and PTA. She has cooked and cleaned and helped take care of so many people when they were sick.

My parents have also cleaned Eagleville Baptist Church for more years than I can remember. I remember dusting when I was too small to do anything else. They always made sure that the church was warm enough in the winter and cool enough in the summer by getting up early and setting the thermostat. I remember many times, Daddy going to turn the heat up if the temperature was going to be low so the pipes would not freeze. They made sure there was water in the baptistery and that the temperature was right. They also made sure the water was drained and the baptistery cleaned out so things wouldn't be growing in the baptistery the next time someone was baptized. They have cleaned up from weddings, showers, receptions, family gatherings, revivals, VBS, and whatever they needed to do. I've seen Daddy climb ladders that scared me to death to change light bulbs in that very tall ceiling in the sanctuary. For a long time, they also cut the yard at church.

They have done things for people in the community that no one every knew about. Daddy has cut people's yards when they were sick and Mama has taken in meals for people in need. They have been there for their friends and family of the community during the happy times of weddings, births as well as the sad times of death. They have taken care of each other's parents to keep them out of the nursing homes as long as they could without jeopardizing their loved one's health. They have loved each other's families as they have their blood relatives.

They have opened their home to family and friends and family's friends each year at the annual country ham breakfast. Mama gets the wood cook stove going along with the help of her sisters and Daddy gets the tables and chair set up and makes sure there is music for everyone to enjoy.

If it sounds like I think I have the greatest parents in the world, well, I do! There is no doubt about it. They have been there for me through good times and bad times. They have been a source of strength for me and I always knew I could count on them. Daddy says now that he can't see as

well as he would like or hear as well as he would like, but I am so fortunate to have parents that wake up every morning in their own home and without pain. They still take care of their house, yard and still have a garden. They still have energy to play with their great grandson. How blessed they are and how blessed we are to have them.

I wrote in their memory book for their anniversary...

"When I think of love...I think of my parents.
When I think of faith...I think of my parents.
When I think of strength...I think of my parents.
When I think of patience...I think of my parents."

What a blessing to have had these two wonderful people as my parents. They have stayed together, survived the depression, stood by each other's side, kept their vows and lived their vows, through the years. Not only am I blessed, so is my daughter, Andrea, my grandson, Gavin, my son-in-law, Kenny and I think I can speak of all my family aunts, uncles, cousins and everyone who they have touched during their 60 wonderful years together.

When Debbie asked me to do her a big favor and write something about my parents (even though it was the last minute), I jumped at the opportunity to do this. It is an honor to be able to write just a tiny bit of what these two people mean to me, our family and the community of Eagleville. I can truly say if they have touched your life over the years, in any way,...you are blessed.



Judy and Andrea at Harrison & Bessie Lea's recent 60th Wedding Anniversary Celebration where they hosted.