

Bill & Frankie Morgan

By Bobbie Sue Shelton

SHORT COURTSHIP – LONG LASTING MARRIAGE—THE MORGANS



It isn't always necessary to have a long courtship to have a long lasting marriage. In one such case, William "Bill" Morgan and Frankie Edward married after a two-week courtship and celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary in December 2005.

William "Bill" Morgan and Frankie Edward met and fell in love during WWII. Bill, stationed at Camp Hood, Texas (presently called Ft. Hood) met Frankie who at the time was working in the PX (Post Exchange) on the base. Frankie originally was Harrisburg, Illinois was in Texas visiting her older sister. Her "return home money" was needed elsewhere, so Frankie went to work in the PX to make enough money to return home. But as fate would have it, she met and married her husband, Bill and later made Rockvale, Tennessee her home.

Their courtship started as Bill would walk Frankie to the bus station from the PX. After about two weeks, Bill received notice he was being transferred to Camp Howsie near Gainsville, Texas. He wasn't allowed a pass from his new location for a week, but as soon as he got one, he returned and he and Frankie were married in Belton, Texas on December 8, 1944, coincidentally the same date of her parents' anniversary. After being told of their marriage, her sister reminded Frankie that her wedding was on their parents' wedding anniversary.

Bill, son of Thomas and Evie Campbell Morgan was a native of Rockvale. He was born October 29, 1917. Frankie was born September 7, 1924, the daughter of Thomas and Bertha Ellen Armstead Edward. She had 5 siblings, all sisters.

Bill and Frankie continue living in Texas until 1945 when he received orders to Arkansas and Frankie came to Rockvale to wait the arrival of their first child. Bill was expecting to be shipped overseas, but after 3 or 4 months, he was discharged from the service and returned home. He missed his son Ed's arrival by a few days.

Bill and Frankie made their home with Bill's parents on Morgan Road for 18 years so he could help his father with the farm. Bill was also a fireman at Stewart Air Force Base in Smyrna. After the closure of the Base, he attended refrigeration school and worked in that field for several years until his retirement. Frankie was employed as a seamstress for White Stag in Murfreesboro for 15 years and at the shoe factory in Chapel Hill for about 6 years. They are members of the Concord United Methodist Church.

The Morgan's have three children: Edward "Ed", born October 10, 1945 married Gayle Averitt and lived in the Rockvale area. He was employed at Arnold Engineering and they have two children: Melissa and Bryan. Edward died in 2004 about two years after a work related accident.

Billie Fay born May 10, 1948 married Larry Johns. They have a son, Jonathan and presently live in Shelbyville Tennessee.

Elizabeth "Betty" was born Nov. 9, 1952 and married John Elizondo. They live in New Mexico where Betty is a teacher. They have two children, Michael and Katie.

After living on Morgan Road for about 18 years, Bill and Frankie moved their family to Rockvale. Their children wanted to play ball at school so they moved closer where they would be able to ride the school bus. They lived at this location about 40 years before moving to their present home on Jackson Ridge Road. Bill and all his children are graduates of Rockvale High School.



Wedding Day "1944"