

Freed's Celebrate 65th Anniversary

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Lancaster Farming Staff
SOUDERTON (Montgomery Co.) — November 2 marks the 65th anniversary of Henry K. and Ida Freed.

The 85-year-old couple attribute their long life and enduring marriage to "hard work."

"I put in long days, 14-16 hours or more," Henry said of his ag-related work and lifestyle.

lifetime. He said, "We learned to live within our means."

When first married, Henry worked in a butcher shop for 30 years before becoming a cattle auctioneer.

"I dealt in livestock, feeder pigs, and cattle. Every Friday night for 14 years, I sold horses at the auction," Henry said.

His wife stayed home with the

called the day he died, and when I said he wasn't anymore, they finally believed me and apologized. But that didn't make it any easier going through that every day."

Sons Henry Jr., Russell, Ralph, and Ronald have produced seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren that include a set of twins.

According to Henry, a successful marriage requires compromise. He said, "It's not all give and not all take. It's give and take."

The couple believe marriage and life in general were easier in the past than in this generation.

"Now there is too little homelife with both husband and wife working," Henry said. "It's a different society and a different culture."

Ida remembers she wanted to work in the local sewing factory when the children were older.

"I worked there before we had children, and I really went to town sewing on buttons. I loved it, but Henry didn't want me to go back to work," Ida said. "So I didn't."

Ida is proud to say that she always got up at 4 a.m. to pack her husband's lunch and make him a big breakfast.

"But after he went to work, I went back to bed," Ida said.

Henry considers himself semi-retired, because he continues to help his son with general on-site and consignment auctioneering.

"When you're 86, you don't last as long," Henry said of long hours on the job. Nevertheless he is up between 4 a.m.-5 a.m., because that is when he always got up to work in the butcher shop, and he never takes a nap.

The couple are staunch supporters of big breakfasts that include bacon and eggs.

"We go out for breakfast a lot, not because it's too much trouble to cook but for the social part," Ida said. They frequent a local diner where they know the owners and many of the retired folks who come to eat.

"We don't eat much candy. We didn't have it when we were young, and it

doesn't taste as good as it used to taste," Henry said, referring to declining taste buds.

What Ida and Henry do eat is a whole grapefruit everyday — both of them.

"We have our ups and downs, but we have our health — that's something money can't buy," Ida said.

Henry tries to walk a little bit every day, but Ida said she has some trouble with her legs so she doesn't walk much, "except at the mall, where they have lots of benches to sit down and rest."

Ida spends hours crocheting bandages to send overseas. She's also made a quilt for each of

their sons and crochets numerous afghans, wall hangings, and crib quilts for benefit auctions.

"I never learned to drive," Ida said.

Together, they enjoy attending quilt shows, taking long car rides, and eating in restaurants.

Ida attributes their long marriage to taking a day at a time.

"Be sure you don't jump into it (marriage)," Henry said.

"Talk things over," Ida advises.

On their anniversary, the couple plan to go out to eat.

"It's just another day," Ida said.



Henry and Ida Freed, both 85, will celebrate 65 years of marriage on Nov. 2.

Starting marriage in 1935, near the end of the Great Depression, the couple lived in neighboring Bucks County.

Times were tough, "but like everything else, you take a chance," Henry said.

"We didn't have much, but it didn't take much either," Henry said. The newlyweds paid \$15 a month rent for their first home.

"But it had no indoor plumbing, and Rt. 309 went right by our window," Ida said.

Henry said, "As a boy I remember nothing (farm crops) was worth anything during the Depression. But we had enough to eat even if it wasn't what we liked. It wasn't like today when you can buy whatever you want to eat."

Those years taught them lessons that stayed with them for a

children while he worked long hours.

"It was difficult when they were little — getting them settled to bed and all," Ida said. "They were boys, I want to tell you!"

Ida also worked as secretary for her husband's auctions. "If it rained, the phone was always ringing with people wanting to know if the auction was still going to be held."

Her husband said, "I don't know why they called. I never cancelled a sale."

The couple have four sons. A fifth son died of a brain tumor when he was 15 years old.

"That was a hard time," Ida said. "I'll never forget how the school treated me. Every day they'd call here to find out why he wasn't in school, even though I told them he was sick. They

What Is Birth Order?

Some scientists believe that how you are placed in your family may explain why you act the way you do, like the things you like, and have the personality traits that make you unique.

These scientists feel birth order contributes to how you develop behavior patterns, ways of thinking and emotional responses. For example, psychologists studying birth order often find firstborns to be highly motivated to achieve. Of the first 23 astro-

nauts sent into outer space, 21 were firstborns or only children!

Characteristics of firstborns: goal setters, high achievers, perfectionists, responsible, organized, determined, and detail people.

Characteristics of middle children: flexible, peacemakers, generous, social, and competitive.

Characteristics of last-born children: risk-takers, outgoing, idea people, creative, humorous, and often question authority.

There are many things that can change these characteristics - in fact, you may have traits from all categories. And there are other factors to consider, like your genetics and the environment in which you were raised.

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