

THE

50th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

THE DEDMON

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Deadman, Deadmon, Dedmond

Connection
Vol 68



LEROY DEDMON

THE BIG 50

It was on a Sunday afternoon, the fifth day of April, 1959 when Jane and I faced each other with the promise, “.....’till death do us part”... I will be the first to tell you that neither of us really knew what lay ahead, but we were determined to face it together. At the age of 19 it is difficult to imagine what life will be like when you are 70. However, on the other hand at 70 I can’t remember what life was like at 19. It is also difficult to tell where the last fifty years have gone. Truly, James had it right when he said, “*life is but a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanisheth away*”.

I have been asked several times in the past few weeks, “What is the secret of survival for 50 years of marriage?” That is a question I am not sure how to answer. I do know it can not be done alone, as the poet penned the words, “Marriage takes three”. I have been asked to use this poem in several wedding ceremonies I have

Marriage Takes Three

I once thought marriage took
Just two to make a go,
But now I am convinced
It takes the Lord also.

And not one marriage fails
Where Christ is asked to enter,
As lovers come together
With Jesus at the center.

But marriage seldom thrives,
And homes are incomplete,
Till He is welcomed there
To help avoid defeat.

In homes where Christ is first,
It’s obvious to see,
Those unions really work,
For marriage still takes three.

--Author Unknown

performed. Having a mate with the same spiritual values as yourself has to help. I can not imagine living with the “unequal yoke” of some I know. Another principle we tried to live by was never to go to sleep mad at each other. No matter the disagreement, it is so much better to “iron it out” before another day dawns. I guess the childhood prayer, “...if I should die before I wake...” made this principle so important to me.

The third thing I am about to mention took me several years to learn, but it made life so much better once I did. Always do her list first!! There were a number of times I planned to accomplish some things with the idea in mind when I finish, then I will start on my “honey do” list. You will enjoy your list much better if hers is finished, I guuuuuarannntee it. Anyone who disagrees with this simply has not tried it.

Of course, I admit Jane and I grew up having been taught marriage is “one man for one woman for one life”... Divorce has never been an option in my mind (murder ???? well not really). Whatever the problem is, work it out!!! I realize some problems are not workable. Or at least they are not unless both parties are willing to work. It could be that I was just a lucky guy and got the right woman. Who else would have “put up” with me fifty years....



High School Sweethearts



Still Sweethearts



To some fifty years may seem like a long time, but in looking back, it is not that long. It is just ten decades or only a half century. When I think of how swiftly the last decade has passed, it brings it all into perspective. However, it does seem strange when in a room of younger folk they refer to the eighties as way back when. Think about it... 1980 was almost 25 years ago!!

It was either Thomas Edison or Benjamin Franklin, who referred to time as a precious commodity. Before you jump to conclusions, I have never heard either of them speak, but I read that somewhere. I must agree, time is precious and once it is gone it can never be recalled. For that reason we are encouraged to make the best of today. Of course our best information, the Bible, tells us that now or today is all we have. Someone else said, today is our only possession, yesterday is gone forever and tomorrow will never be.

It was Uncle Ralph who taught me that lesson early in life. I remember telling him I was going to do something tomorrow and he said there will be no tomorrow. The next day I told him, "Uncle Ralph, you were wrong tomorrow did come". He smiled as he replied, "Oh no, this is not tomorrow it is today".

When I think of all the changes that have taken place in the last fifty years, I wonder what could possibly be left for invention in the next fifty. I remember when television was black and white and there was no VCRs, CDs, DVDs or computers in the home. The first computer I knew about would be larger than my house if it did what my laptop can do. I was happy with DOS and hated Windows 3.0. In fact, I waited until Windows 98 came out before I switched.

Our generation got married and then lived together. Gay was a good word and those who preferred the same sex were queers. I have no idea what they were when queer was used in every day language. I do remember my grandmother using the word just to describe one who acted strange. In the words of Bob Dylan, "The times, they are changing".

Jane and Leroy Celebrate Number 50

Our children and grandchildren hosted a reception for us in honor of our 50 years. It was held at the Chattanooga Valley church of Christ on Sunday April 5. It was a true anniversary date. We were married on Sunday April 5, at the Chattanooga Valley church exactly fifty years ago.



JANE AND LEROY DEDMON - 1959

It seems like a few days, but we are reminded of the patriarch Job, who said, "*My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle...*" I have never seen a weaver's shuttle at work, but can only imagine how swift it may be. When I stood with Jane before



JANE & LEROY DEDMON - 2009

James Watkins and promised "till death do us part". I sometimes wonder if she thought I would live this long.

I have to ask, "Where have the years gone?" They are as James described, "a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away..." However, those years have brought many changes to our family. We have been blessed with two fine children, (Gary and Gwen) three wonderful grandchildren (Carrie, Greg and Jonathan) and three very precious great grandchildren (Cassidy, Masie and Curt).

Three months after we married we moved to Huntsville Alabama. I was a design draftsman with the Saturn Missile Project at Redstone Arsenal. Gary, our first born, made his debut on Nov. 22, 1960. Jane was in labour 32 hours before he was born. By the time he arrived both mine and Jane's parents along with other family members were on hand to greet him.

I took Jane to the hospital on Sunday morning when it was time for Gwen's appearance. The nurse said it would be a while and remembering the 32 hour wait for Gary, I went on to church to preach my sermon. She was born about the time I entered the pulpit. This was Oct. 6, 1962. Both were born while we were living in Huntsville.



GARY, LEROY, JANE AND GWEN

OUR TRIBE INCREASES...

We moved to Springfield, TN in 1972 and lived there until 1985. These were the years for Gary and Gwen to spend most of their school years. Of course, as your children enter high school they began to develop the friendships that can eventually lead to marriage. Gwen married at the age of 18 the year she finished High School on Nov. 27, 1980. The next year we received our first grandchild, Carrie Jane.



**OUR GRANDCHILDREN (L-R)
GREG, CARRIE, JONATHAN**

Toothman. This union produced both our grandsons. Gregory Lebron was born on Nov. 4, 1985 and Jonathan Patrick was born on April 20, 1987.

I had decided that three grandchildren were all I was going to get. In fact Gary and Gwen had often said, "If I wanted more grandchildren, I should have had more children". So when Carrie Jane married at the age of 17 on Sept. 6, 2000, it occurred to me that I might get more grandchildren. I was right about that!! She has given me Masie Jane and Curt Douglas Webb. Also, when Carrie married Mark Webb he already had a child, Cassidy and it was not long until they gained custody of her. So now we have three great grandchildren. I looked for a button that said, "I was a good granddaddy, but now I am a great grandpa", but I never found it. I still have great hope that Greg and Jonathan will add to the number of great grandchildren.



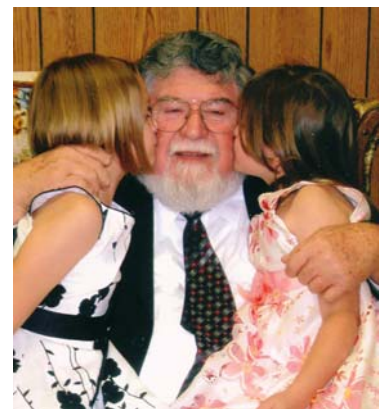
**CURT DOUGLAS WEBB
MY GREAT GRANDSON**

Gary attended David Lipscomb University and Jane gave him specific instructions to find a good Christian mate while at college. When he graduated in 1982, he had failed miserably at accomplishing this task. He returned home and a year later on Nov. 5, 1983, he married Diane



There are not many times when we all gather for a picture, but on this occasion we are all here. There are thirteen of us as seen in the above photo. Standing from (L-R) George Kiley (Gwen's Husband), Gwen, Mark Webb (Carrie's Husband) Carrie, Jonathan, Greg, Diane (Gary's wife) and Gary. Seated (L-R) Jane and Leroy. Kneeling (L-R) Cassidy, Curt and Masie.

When it comes to being grandparents you need a big heart. My mother's daddy died when she was young and grandmother married Olan Vess. He was the only granddaddy I can remember. Even though he was not really my granddaddy we never knew there



**CASSIDY AND MASIE
MY TWO GREAT GRANDDAUGHTERS**

was any difference between real and step. Granddaddy Olan treated us all the same and for that one has to be thankful. If it had not been for my "step" grandfather I would never have had the opportunity to know what a grandfather was. I hope to be able to return the favor.

THEN AND NOW... (1959 - 2009)



The wedding party on April 5, 1959 at the Chattanooga Valley church of Christ: (L-R) Ann McCall, Connie Buff, Alma Ruth Dedmon, Carolyn Dedmon, Ruth Glasscock, Jane Glasscock Dedmon, James Watkins, Leroy Dedmon, Tommy Gilbert, Charlie Lail, Joe Perkinson and Jimmy Cooper.

HERS

As it eventually turned out, Jane stayed with family members in the selection of her supporting cast. Connie Buff, the flower girl, several years later married my brother, Bill. Jane's sister, Ruth was the maid of honor. The bride's maids were my two sisters, Carolyn and Ruth and Ann McCall, who married my cousin, Tommy Gilbert. They were the first couple for which I preformed the ceremony.

HIS

Three of my best friends were selected as ushers. Joe and Charlie were classmates of mine from the first through the twelfth grade (Joe passed away a few years ago). Jimmy was just a grade above, but was a friend from church as well. Tommy Gilbert, my first cousin, was the best man. The minister was James Watkins, who had been the preacher at Chattanooga Valley, but had already moved. He baptized me in 1957.



The wedding party on April 5, 2009 at the Chattanooga Valley church of Christ: (L-R) Connie Buff Dedmon, Ann McCall Gilbert, Alma Ruth Dedmon Smith, Carolyn Dedmon Price, Jane Glasscock Dedmon, Leroy Dedmon, Charlie Lail, and Jimmy Cooper. Not present was Joe Perkinson, (deceased), James Watkins, Tommy Gilbert and Ruth Glasscock Morton.

BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY AND REPLENISH THE EARTH...



Our "Great" family
The parents of the Great grandchildren
Back Row (L-R) Mark and Carrie
Middle Row (L-R) Leroy, Jane
Front Row (L-R) Cassidy, Curt, Masie



Gary's family
Back (L-R) Gregg, Jonathan
Front Row (L-R) Gary, Diane



Carrie's family
(L-R) Cassidy, Mark, Curt
Carrie and Masie



Our offspring



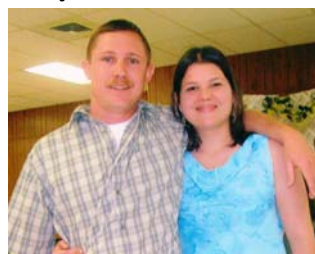
Our Great grandchildren



Our Children and In-Laws
Back Row (L-R) Gary and Diane, George and Gwen
Front Row (L-R) Leroy and Jane



Gwen and Carrie



Mark and Carrie



Our Grandchildren

FRIENDS AND FAMILY.....



Alwyn and Helen Ketner, he is an elder at the Chattanooga Valley church of Christ and was present at our wedding.



My sisters Carolyn and Ruth, were also present at our wedding.



Jane's brother Ed and his wife Angie. Ed was present at our wedding.



Gwen brought help from her Restaurant. (L_R) Mitch, Martha, Diane and George



Would friends let friends do this to a friend



One has to think that these friends knew about the decoration of the car!!!



Talk about "old friends" Charlie Lail and George Ketner..



Another group that is highly suspect. Johnny Cox turned his back on it. Of course, I would never think my brother, Bill had anything to do with it. On the other hand, do you suppose my nieces... naw, not Cindy or Jessica... Amanda??



Happy reunion.. George and Alwyn are cousins. Both seemed to be surprised that the other was a friend of mine. Come on guys!! Don't you think I have a few.....



More old..... well, lets just say more friends. Sarah (Buchanan) and Archer Glenn. Since I discovered Uncle Alfred married Eufaula Buchanan... Cousin??

IN-LAWS AND OUT-LAWS.....



Speaking of in-laws: Connie, my sister-in-law and Diane, my daughter-in-law, take time for a shot at the camera. Connie was the flower girl in our wedding and later married my brother, Bill. Her family were close friends with Jane's family and Jane's mother kept Connie while her mother worked. I have known her since she was a young girl. Diane married my son Gary while we were living in Springfield, TN. Her father, Don Toothman, was one of the elders that hired me as the preacher at Springfield. I have often said that she is my favorite daughter-in-law.



Among Jane's family in attendance was two of her first cousins, Billie Faye (Shirley) Skipper and Raymond Shirley. Billie's husband, Tom Skipper is shown in the center of the above photo.



Included among our friends in attendance was Jim and Charlene Cooper and Charlie Lail. Jim and Charlie were ushers in our wedding and childhood friends. We attended elementary and high school together as well as participated in many other activities. (L-R) Charlene (Jim's wife) and Jimmy Cooper, Charlie Lail.



ANNOUNCING MALCOLM AND CHRIS PLASTER!!!

Not only is Malcolm a cousin to Jane they both have been good friends for many years. They lived near us at Gurley, AL when I was preaching there. In fact, I baptized Chris. He and I were draftsman with the Saturn space program at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, AL.



Jane's family was well represented as indicated in the above photo as well as several others included here. Pictured above is her brother, Ed and nephew Michael. Michael's mother, Ruth, who is Jane's sister was the maid of honor in our wedding, but unable to attend the reception. She now lives in Niceville, FL. (L-R) Grayson Morton (Michael's son), Michael Morton, Angie Glasscock (Ed's wife), Ed Glasscock and Gracie Whaley (Angie's granddaughter).



Gwen, my daughter and Diane Overby, a manager at Gwen's restaurant. Without these two this event would probably not have happened. They made several trips from Buchanan to Ringgold to get everything accomplished.



Among the first guests to arrive was Tom and Duene Broome. We have known each other almost all our lives, but did not know we were kin until a few years ago. He is also a fellow Gospel preacher.

YOU MEAN THERE IS MORE.....

I was overwhelmed at the number of folks I heard from and especially those who attended the "celebration". We received a large number of cards and several made a donation to THE GOSPEL BROADCASTING NETWORK in our honor. For all this Jane and I are both very appreciative. Thank You



Not to be "outdone" the presence of all those cousins of Jane, I had a few of my own. It was good to see my Dickson cousins. Growing up we never knew the meaning of third cousin. We were just cousins. In fact we called the father of these cousins, "Uncle Alex", although he was mama's first cousin. (L-R) Wilma Dickson Scott, Bobbie Dickson Shields and Troy Dickson.



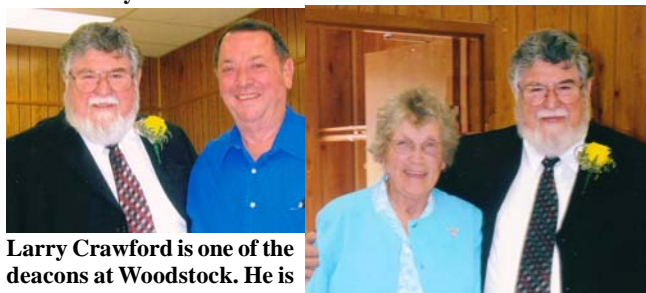
Gary McDade has been a friend for a long time. I first met him while he was preaching near Manchester, TN when my brother, Bill was also in that area. Gary is the executive director of THE GOSPEL BROADCASTING NETWORK. He is shown with me along with his wife, Shelia.



Named among our closest friends are Wanda and Charles Hackney. They made us feel welcome at Highland when we first began attending there. Wanda is a co-worker at GBN, as the bookkeeper and traffic management. She also worked with me at the Preaching The Gospel office in Dalton.



Our friends from Woodstock dropped in for a surprise visit, Jack and Shirley Walters (on left) were our "eating out buddies" while we lived there. Kathy Crawford (on the right) was the Day School Director and one of the secretaries.



Larry Crawford is one of the deacons at Woodstock. He is the husband of Kathy, who is shown in the picture above. The Crawfords are very active church members.

Aunt Mary is my mom's sister. Growing up we thought she and her sister Peggy were our ages.



Rafael Uzcategui is the Spanish preacher at Woodstock, GA. He also works with us at GBN in order to translate some of our programs into Spanish.



Barbara and Curlis Agan are the other great grandparents of Cassidy, Masie and Curt. Curlis is the grandfather of Mark Webb. They were members of the church in Bremen, GA when I preached there. I baptized Curlis.



When I began preaching at New Union in Manchester, TN (Aug. 1964), Winfred Duke came to the New Union school where he served as principal for several years. His father was a leader at the Gnat Hill congregation where I held several Gospel Meetings. He and Jane share Feb 1 as their birthday and for a number of years we always celebrated together. His wife, Virginia was on a tour of South America.



TAMMY AND KEN HARRIS

Tammy is the daughter of Charles and Wanda Hackney. They attend the Highland church with us and "eat" with us often on Sunday. She worked with me at GBN as the Public Relations Director. She quit when she was accepted into Nursing School.