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BILL AND GLINDA SASSER ON THEIR WEDDING DAY



THE SASSERS TODAY

Forever After All: A 63-year old love story

by BRITTANY HALL

Built on a foundation of faith and love, Bill and Glinda Sasser are the epitome of devotion.

Their story is a fairytale come to life, providing each other with the best of themselves for 63 years now. The pair met when they

were teenagers. Bill had just graduated and was preparing to start college in the fall at Georgia Tech while Glinda excitedly anticipated her 10th grade year at Swainsboro High School. Their lives were laid out before them, both unaware (continued on page 4)

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Forever After All:

(From page 3)

of the greater story that awaited. It was summer in the 1950's. The Community House was hosting a sock-hop that Glinda's mother was chaperoning. "You

know why they called those dances sock-hop's right? Because we had to take our shoes off before hitting the floor." Bill explained. While he knew that he would be leaving his shoes at the door

that night, he had no idea that he would be leaving his heart on the dance floor. Bill walked inside, met with some of his friends, turned his head toward the crowd for a moment and

as his eyes met a beautiful brunette, time stopped, the music and laughter around him faded into a muffled silence, and the only thing in sight for the rest of his night was this mystery girl. When the moment caught up to him he turned to a friend and said, "You see that girl over there? That's the girl I'm going to marry." Love at first sight is a wonderfully romantic idea but for Bill it was a real, instant attraction. A goal set in motion. He never caught her name, heard the sound of her voice or even introduced himself, but he knew that they were destined for one another and that fate would bring them together. "She was the prettiest girl that I ever saw and I just knew that I was going to marry her." A few weeks later, they both ended up at the community swimming pool. Bill was playing Ping-Pong with a few of his buddies while Glinda swam with her friends. Determined, he finally worked

up the courage to introduce himself. "I was not very impressed.." Glinda recollected, "...due to him having a cigarette in hand at the time." Committed to destiny though, Bill never wavered. He continued to meet her at the swimming club, weekend sock-hops and never went around her with a cigarette again. "I knew things were getting serious because he kept showing up at my door every weekend." Glinda humorously recounted. Eventually his determination paid off though and they became sweethearts, with him picking her up every Sunday for church. "I just enjoyed being with him. He was fun and thoughtful." They dated the remainder of Glinda's tenth grade year and through her eleventh, with Bill returning home from college almost every weekend to steal just a little more time with her. "I was miserable when I wasn't with her." Bill wholeheartedly (continued on page 5)

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THE SASSERS CUTTING THEIR WEDDING CAKE

Forever After All:

(From page 4)

edly recalled. He told Glinda that he wanted to marry her, and she agreed that she wanted to be with him. To her surprise, shortly thereafter, Bill impatiently returned to her door and exclaimed that he couldn't wait any longer and wanted to marry her "NOW". An overjoyed Glinda was still in high-school at the time and as much as she wanted the same thing, she was worried about her daddy's approval. Courageously, Bill took his parents to Glinda's home and gave them a speech, professing his love for her and why they should be together. After a very long discussion on living and finances, Glinda's parents finally agreed. With their grace and permission, Bill worked the entire summer away to buy Glinda the perfect engagement ring. Every ounce of sweat reassuring him that he was a step closer to his forever after. Fall made its way into the year, and while the two love birds were spending time together at Bill's house, he got down on one knee and presented her the ring that he had worked so tirelessly for. "That was a shocker!" Glinda expressed. She eagerly gave her answer and after accepting the ring they ran to spread the good news to her parents. They were married in the winter of 1959, surrounded by loved ones and an inconceivable adoration that floated throughout the air. "Standing at the back of the church with my dad-

dy, looking down the aisle to Bill who was grinning from ear to ear, was the most magical part of the day. Plus, I didn't chicken out with all those people there!" Glinda laughed. "The unbelievable feeling as everything unfolded while she walked down the aisle towards me. Witnessing that is unforgettable." Bill lovingly reflected back on their wedding day. Life was exquisite and because the two shared similar traditions, the newlyweds faced little to no conflict when attending family events; "Our families were a lot alike. We always had Sunday lunch together and would alternate Sunday gatherings with each family. We also were able to attend yearly vacations and celebrate holidays with both sides because our families origins were similar." However, that doesn't mean that there were no hardships faced throughout the duration of their marriage. In the beginning, Bill had to return to school to finish out the quarter while Glinda had to complete high-school. Because of this, they were only able to see each other every other weekend. Eventually, the two moved into the couple's dorms at Georgia Tech where they faced their first time living together as husband and wife. "When we moved into the couple's dormitories, it was strange. We had never lived together before that time or in such a small space. There were only two twin beds so we had to push them

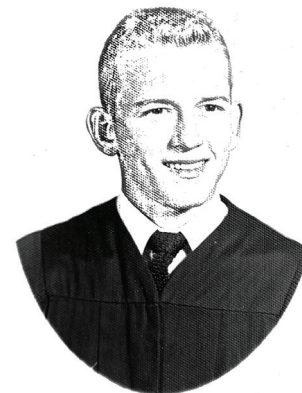
together to make one bed for us to share." Eventually though they were able to buy a full size bed when a neighboring couple moved out and offered to sell theirs to them. "They sold it to us for \$5! Can you believe that?" Mr. Sasser exclaimed. Another hardship they endured was while living in Houston for Bill's job, in the birth of their first child, Billy. Their son was a preemie and had to be left in the hospital for about a month. Glinda also had severe complications from the birth and was in desperate need of blood donations. Bill's co-workers all showed up to donate. Glinda remained in the hospital for about 18 days. They had difficulties due to not having insurance at that time and Bill having to work to pay all expenses while Glinda was in the hospital. "Neither of our families were there which made it very trying." They later moved to Louisiana, and that's where their second child was born, Mary. Billy had to be left with a neighbor they barely knew, while Glinda rushed to the hospital to have Mary. Bill was able to meet her there in time, but it was extremely difficult for them to be away from family along with deeper circumstances regarding the birth of Mary. After a few years, they decided to return to Swainsboro to be closer to their families and have been here ever since.

"As you get older, the more difficult it tends to become. You have a lot more



**PORTRAIT OF
MRS. SASER**

factors like child rearing, taking care of your parents, growing a family, making huge decisions, stress from getting older, ailments, and finances. I don't want this to sound like we haven't had those difficulties because we have. We have made bad decisions and have had hard times, but it is how we got through them that counts. It hasn't always been sunshine and roses, but we got through it. You just can't dwell on the things that weren't perfect. You have to have faith in the Lord and in each other," the couple advised. "We learned together that by supporting each other, we can get through anything. Our faith in the Lord, in each other, and the support of the people around us that we didn't even know is really what made us closer. It made us realize how much we meant to each other." The Sassers, through the good and the bad have achieved many goals together throughout their marriage. Their proudest achievement; maintaining a blessed marriage these last 63 years. Six decades with



**PORTRAIT OF MR.
SASSER**

your soulmate is a goal that I believe each and every one of us hope to achieve. You have to learn to take the good with the bad, thru sickness and health. "We never thought we wouldn't make it, that just wasn't an option." According to Glinda, Bill is credited for all the fun the two share but they both put in the work to keep their love alive. "We just support each other in what we want to do, even if it is watching endless tennis or golf matches." Glinda states. "It's hard not to keep the romance alive, I mean we live together. You can just sit and wallow in your old age or get up and walk the block when you don't want to." Bill said. In closing, when asked what's the best part of being married in general. The couple wittingly concluded with "Having a companion that you love and like being around is a feeling like no other, especially when they let you do everything you want." Mr. Sasser then turned a loving smile to his wife, "She will always be my sweetheart."

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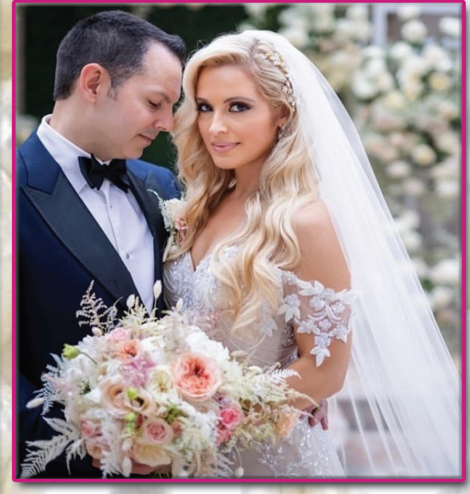
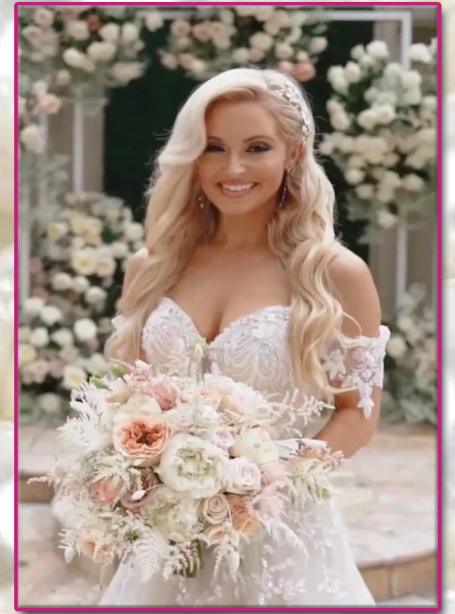
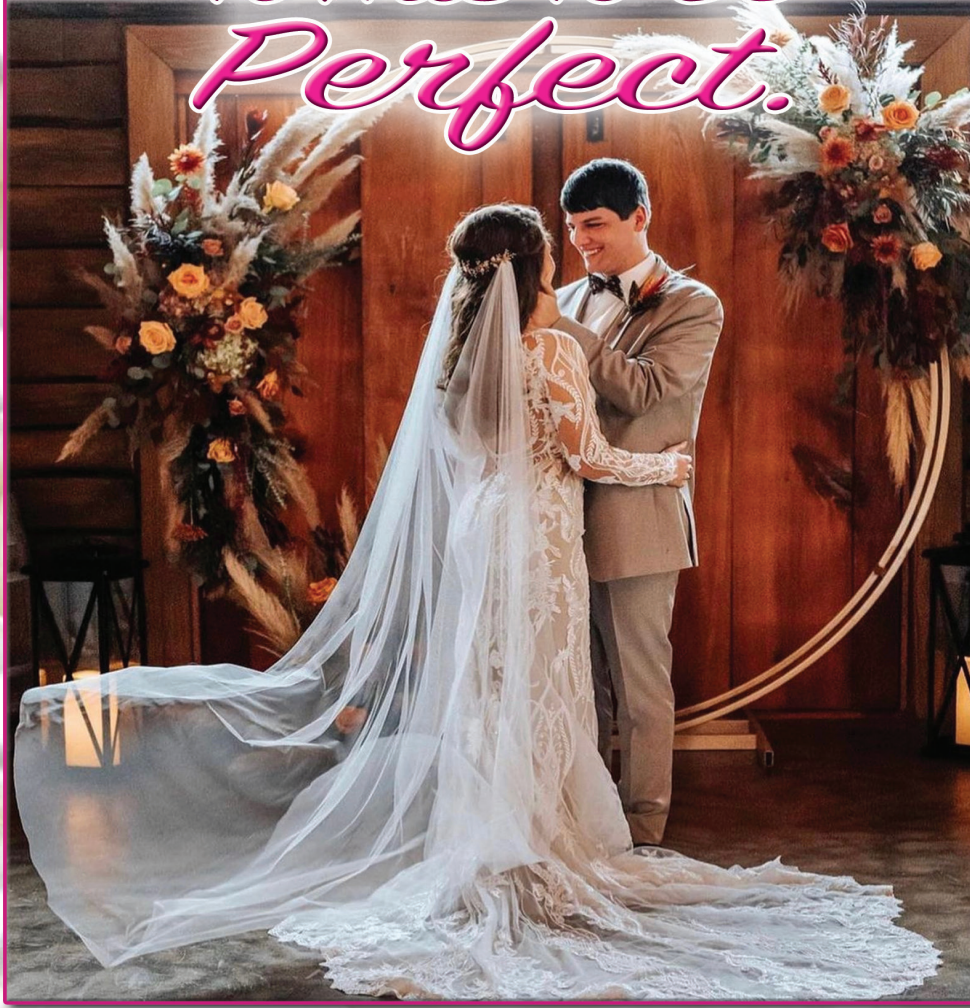
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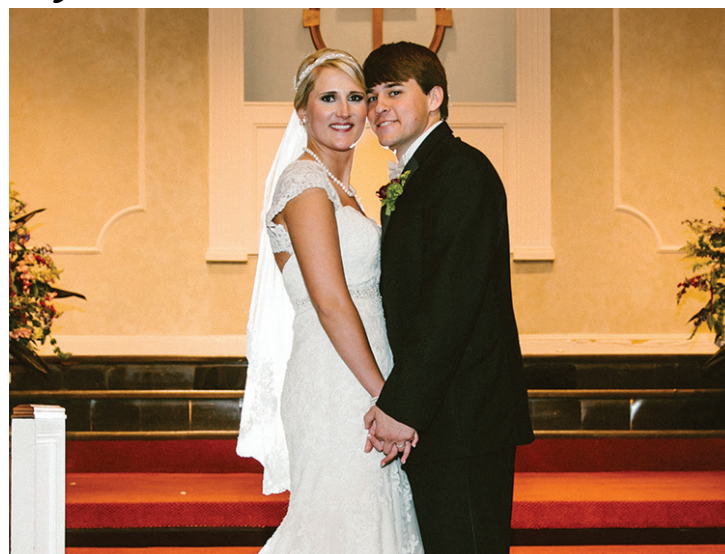
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Check Yes or No: Childhood crushes to lifetime sweethearts

by BRITTANY HALL

It started way back in *fifth* grade. That sentence probably floats through your mind like a certain George Strait love song. Although this story is a little different from George's and Emmylou Hayes, it's just as sweet and swoon worthy. It involves two locals, Owen and Kati Bailey, who at age ten found the spark in their hearts for one another that many never find in a lifetime.

"It was the first day of our fifth grade year of elementary school. I was in Mrs. Kay Rogers' home-room and Owen was in Mrs. Maria Daniel's," Kati explained. As Owen walked into Mrs. Roger's second block class, his glimpse turned into a starry eyed gaze, butterflies coated his tummy, and he found himself falling into a seat adjacent to hers. "I look back on that day, and I know that it was a very young love, but I immediately thought that she was the most beautiful girl I'd ever seen. I thought, 'where has she been all my life?'" Owen reminisced. Even at a young age, it was truly love at first sight! Kati laughingly thought back to the first time she caught sight of him and the impression that he left. "When I saw Owen walk into Mrs. Kay's classroom that first day, I thought to myself how cute he was. I could feel him staring at me throughout the entire period and I remember it making me feel very uncomfortable because of how shy I was. I thought that something must



THE BAILEYS ON THEIR WEDDING DAY

have been wrong with me." On the third day of school, Owen had Kati's friend ask if she would be his girlfriend. Like the song goes, it was a *check yes or no* situation and after tugging at his little heart, she gave him a "yes" at dismissal, and took him by the hand from that moment on. Their first dates were like their relationship, innocent and timeless. "Unless you consider going to the country fair at 10 years old a 'date', we actually didn't have a first date until we were 16." Both moments were simple but spent in classic settings, filled with laughter and the smell of cotton candy and popcorn. "We went to the Statesboro movie theater with a group of friends. It may not seem like much of a date but I think that's why we work so well together. We've always been close friends and can have fun no matter the circumstances." As time passed, the two found themselves in high-school, *still like two kids with stars in their eyes*. "We

found our way back to each other in the 11th grade," Kati explained. Feelings began to increase between the high school sweethearts. Their connection grew more intense with every glance. "I knew how serious things were getting when I wanted to tell Kati that I loved her just a few days into our relationship," Owen stated. First love feelings can be so frightening though. The pair found themselves in an overwhelming state to want to be together but to also want to distance themselves in an attempt to save their hearts from potentially breaking. "It took a two week split for us to realize what we meant to each other. We broke-up during the Christmas break of our junior year of high school. I think falling so quickly for someone scared us both. That time apart made us realize that we didn't want to experience life without each other." The two wandering souls finally reunited, realizing that (Continued on page 9)

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Check Yes or No...

(From page 8)

there was a natural affinity between them that couldn't be ignored. Still high-school sweethearts however their title held a little more depth now, settling well into the term soul-mates. "I missed Owen every second that I wasn't with him. I wanted to talk to him all the time and tell him everything. Basically, he didn't get on my nerves and that was a big sign for me that things were getting serious." Kati described with a laugh. The duo completed their high-school years together and decided that the only way to get through life was by each other's side, so they both attended Valdosta State University together in the fall. As their senior year rolled around, Owen began planning a life changing scene, including precious and important memories that relate back to the couple's beginning. "This is one of my favorite stories to tell and it shows just how thoughtful Owen is." Kati excitedly began. "One of Owen's sisters had been awarded "Teacher of the Year" at Swainsboro Elementary School and Owen told me that she was going to be recognized at a luncheon that weekend at the school. A couple of days before, Owen had my roommate talk me into getting my nails done and buying a new outfit for the event. That Saturday, I was getting ready for the luncheon and my grandmother told me that she had been invited to go as well. Since I rode home with Owen from Valdosta, my grandmother said I could just ride with her to the school. When we arrived at the school, I opened the front doors and

immediately saw friends of ours from college. At first, I was like, "hey!", and then it dawned on me that they shouldn't be there. I noticed that they were holding a huge poster. I immediately burst into tears and started shaking. Trailing through the elementary school, our family and friends (from childhood to college) were holding poster boards that read different parts of a letter Owen had written me. I didn't see Owen but I knew where he was waiting on me. In Mrs. Kay Roger's fifth grade classroom, where we first met. As I nervously approached the door, Owen was on one knee. He even thought to have our textbooks we used from that 5th grade year along with our yearbooks and notes we had written to one another. It was the most special day that we got to experience with so many people dear to us. He even hired a photographer to document the entire thing. We'll cherish those memories forever!" It was a moment that could only be described through the words of a best-selling novel or the glimmer of a screen. Down to every little detail, Owen made sure it was perfect. Their wedding day was like a fairytale. "One of the most special things we did was have a vintage style suitcase placed at the front of the church we were married in. We asked the entire wedding party and both of our families to write us letters that we could read on our first wedding anniversary. These letters included words of advice, funny stories for us to read, and other encouraging messages. On our first an-

niversary as a married couple, we watched the video of our wedding and read all the letters written that day, while we ate the top tier of our wedding cake. We still have the letters and love to look back on them from time to time. They mean so much to us!" But the real world daydream didn't end there. The newlyweds shared an inconceivable moment as their loved ones circled around to admire them. Though the ceremony held many witnesses, it was as if they were the only ones in the room, or planet even. Sharing one frequency.

"Our first dance was to "From This Moment" by Shania Twain. A song that is very special to us because it's the same one that we danced to together for the very first



time at the Jr. Beta dance in the 5th grade. It holds so much meaning to us." Their newfound life fell into place as naturally as the stars aline in the sky each night. Though things were blissful

that doesn't mean that the couple didn't face challenges along the way. "During our first year of marriage we had to go through bug life changes. We had just moved from (Continued on page 10)

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Check Yes or No...

(From page 8)

Valdosta to Statesboro. We were young, naive, and very broke on top of that. I was in graduate school while completing unpaid externships and Owen was working long hours to support us. Neither of us got home until late at night, so we only really got to see each other on weekends. We missed one another but were so exhausted and stressed all the time that we began to neglect our marriage, and the short amount of time that we were able to spend together." Though times were tough, the Baileys devoted themselves to finding resolution. Enlightening each other on how to work out their problems and issues with stress. "Not the silly stress we experienced in school or when we were still being financially supported by our parents. We were officially adulting and really experiencing life for the first time. We truly learned how the other "ticks" and what worked and what didn't for us." Their hardships strengthened them, binding their hearts closer together than ever before. "Our relationship benefited from that time because we learned that we have to prioritize each other. Life doesn't slow down for anyone, and it especially hasn't slowed down for us now that we have two kids. Owen and I make a conscious effort to spend time together and really enjoy

each other." They also benefited from sharing the same precedence for expressing their feelings for one another, which is a rarity in many homes. "This may sound cheesy, but my family installed in me the importance of saying "I love you." My whole family says "I love you" to one another after everything. If I talk to my parents and then call them right, even if it's just a two second call, we'll say 'I love you' before hanging up. Owen and I remind each other and our two boys constantly how much we love one another. We tell our children that all day, every day. If nothing else, they know how much they're loved." Over the years the couple has achieved many things. They're a walking testimony of how young love exists and can prevail through wanderlust and unsurety. Their bucket overflows with fulfilled dreams and shared accomplishments, experiencing and celebrating one another's successes from the very beginning. "We've been together since we were 16 years old, so everything we've achieved has been with the other by our side. After we got married, we bought our very first house in Statesboro. In 2016, I graduated with my master's degree and got my first "official" job as a speech pathologist. Owen worked his way up and now owns a State Farm agency in Dublin. We sold our first house

and bought our second home. We have created a beautiful family to fill those walls." Their greatest achievement though, is their two priceless joys. "We are most proud of our two precious boys. They're the sweetest and most loving kids. They're also the happiest when we're all together. It's such a privilege to grow our family and raise little gentlemen who will give back to the world someday." Through ups and downs and decades of growing and rolling with the punches together, you would think that the good times would fall short but the Bailey's say that the secret to keeping the romance alive is to simply find your better-half and marry them. "We are genuinely each other's best friends. Everything is so natural because we've always been friends and we love and appreciate each other so much. Owen is the funniest person I know and he constantly has me laughing. I am a planner and like to know what's coming. Owen is better at going with the flow and reminds me to just let loose and have fun. We balance each other out so well." Overall, hands down, the Baileys say that getting to experience life with "your person" is the best part of marriage. "We are so fortunate to have found each other at a young age and gotten to experience so much life together."



KATI AND OWEN WITH THEIR TWO SONS



KATI AND OWEN TAKE PHOTO AT SES FIFTH GRADE HALL



THE BAILEYS RECAPTURE OLD PHOTO TAKEN IN SAME SES CLASSROOM

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Marriage advice from the husbands and wives

They've shared their stories, now they share their advice. While interviewing married couples for this year's Bridal Tab, a list of generic questions pertain-

ing to marriage advice was presented to The Baileys, Sassers and Whiteheads. Although the questions were all the same, each response varied greatly. But,

hey, there's no such thing as too much advice when referencing to something as precious as true love, right? In this particular article, our featured marriage veterans seasoned in 14, 49 and 63 years of love share with us their secrets and advice on making love last. Enjoy!

Do you think what it means to be a good wife or husband has changed

over the time you've been together?

Baileys: Life is constantly changing. We are being thrown different curve balls constantly. However, the foundation of our marriage is a constant in our lives. Whatever may be thrown at us, we adapt to the circumstances and ride it out together. Owen and I have always made such a good

team. I want to be the absolute best wife, and Owen always strives to be the best husband. Of course we fall short and it's not always easy, but our ultimate goal is to uphold those vows we made to each other on January 3, 2015.

Whiteheads: From our experience, the ups and downs are what shaped us into what we are now. The roles may change, but the commitment does not.

Sassers: Bill – No, I don't. It's the same love.; Glinda – No, the needs and love for each other are still the same.

What practical things should couples be prepared for in marriage?

Baileys: Hardships. We were so excited to get married and take on the world together. We weren't as much focused on the obstacles that life will inevitably throw at you. We just knew we were young and in love. Jobs, finances, moving, building a family, and other outside distractions can all cause stress in your relationship.

Whiteheads: Keeping an eye on finances and being prepared to share household responsibilities.

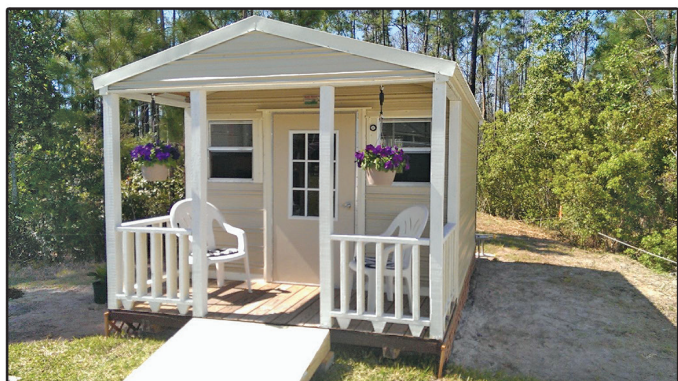
Sassers: Changes- your plans, your goals, changes in what you can and can't do, illnesses, finances, everything.

What piece of advice would you give to your just married self?

Baileys: Owen - Relish in every moment today and don't worry about what's to come tomorrow. I used
(Continued on page 13)

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Marriage advice from...

(From page 12)

to dream of the life I'd someday have with Kati. All of the obstacles that get thrown your way don't even matter once you realize you're living the dream you used to play out in your mind.

Whiteheads: Be flexible and have faith in God.

Sassers: Bill – What have I done? (laughing). Nothing is perfect and very seldom works out as planned. It will be a lot of give and take. Enjoy the ride. Keep a positive attitude throughout everything.; Glinda – You are going to have to do a lot more

giving and taking than you think. It is going to take a lot of understanding. Don't take things too seriously. Keep the Faith.

What's the best way to show appreciation to your spouse?

Baileys: When we were engaged, we read the book called "The Five Love Languages." We learned how the other recognizes love and appreciation. We are intentional in how we show the other our love and affection because what makes one of us feel loved may not be how the other feels it.

Whiteheads: Affirm each other and be thankful.

Sassers: Love and Understanding. Listening to your spouse. Do things that your spouse enjoys that you might not necessarily find enjoyable.

What's your number one piece of advice for a successful marriage?

Baileys: When we got married, we were told to never go to bed mad at one another. We've found that it's ok to go to bed mad sometimes. Instead of saying something in the heat of the moment while you're mad, it's better

to sleep on it. Usually by the next morning, you've got a much clearer mind and know that things aren't as bad as they seem in the heat of the moment.

Whiteheads: Besides building your marriage on the foundation of faith in God, stay out of debt and focus on the things you have in common and not so much on any differences.

Sassers: Bill – Respecting each other.; Glinda – To put your husband first and his needs. I'm not saying I always do that, but you strive to make them happy.

How do you keep going during the hard times?

Baileys: Knowing that the hard times don't last forever. The good far outweighs the bad. If we need to, we remind ourselves, "This too shall pass."

Whiteheads: Trusting in the Lord and staying close to each other.

Sassers: Prayer and looking to the Lord for guidance.

How do you get through an argument?

Baileys: Katie - Owen usually apologizes first because he knows that I'm stubborn. By that point, I'm usually (Continued on page 15)

*Protect the things
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*"For husbands, this means love your wives,
just as Christ loved the church.
He gave up his life for her."*

Ephesians 5:25

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Marriage advice from...

(From page 13)

coming around too. Either that or he makes me laugh. Laughter is the best medicine!

Whiteheads: We don't argue! Just kidding. Asking for and receiving forgiveness when needed. We always try to resolve the conflict.

Sassers: Bill – I think that becomes more of a problem the older you get. You get more set in your ways and just have a harder time with understanding the other's side. It is because you are having to learn to face new problems, more serious problems. I'm more of a talk about it right then type of person.; Glinda – Very carefully (laughing). Just have to see each other's side, but it usually requires someone having to give in. You always need to discuss it. I have time to think it over and pray about it to figure it out.;

Bill and Glinda – Overall, it may take a few discussions due to our different coping strategies, but we tend to take time to think things through, along with some prayer, then we discuss it. Side note: We made it a priority to never argue/disagree in front of our kids and would handle any issues privately instead.

If any, what advice would you like to give the younger generations about love?

Baileys: Kati— This may sound cheesy, but my family instilled in me the importance of saying "I love you." My whole family says "I love you" to one another after everything. If I talk to my parents and then call them right back for 2 seconds, we'll still say "I love you" before hanging up. Owen and I remind each other and our two boys

constantly how much we love one another. We tell our boys that all day every day and if nothing else, they know how much they're loved.

Whiteheads: Love can be messy at times, but it is worth fighting to keep it alive. Expect the unexpected. Growth and change usually equal discomfort and hard work. Don't bury yourself in debt and plan for the future.

Sassers: In order to love your spouse, you first have to accept the Love of the Lord in your own life. Learning and receiving his love allows you to

take that love and apply it to loving others. This allows you to love that per-

son fully, even with their shortcomings, as Christ loves us in ours.



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Fifty years of marriage...*now that's golden*

by WHITLEY CLIFTON

A couple's fiftieth wedding anniversary is known as *their golden anniversary*. The term was coined to reflect the preciousness of having spent so many valuable years together. The golden anniversary is one of the most deservedly celebrated milestones in marriage, as it should be. Any marriage that last 50 years certainly is deserving of a medal, so it's no surprise that gold is the anniversary color and theme for both tra-

ditional and modern gift selections that honor this special milestone. In fact, there is no alternative theme for this particular milestone. Gold is *the* standard associated with the fiftieth year of marriage. Traditional and modern gift-buyers are left with no other theme. The fifty-year milestone is just that – *it's golden*. This shiny and durable, precious metal is brimming with meaning and symbolizes wisdom, strength and prosperity, much like the marriage of

Jack and Dee Whitehead, residents of Emanuel County.

Jack and Dee date their years of acquaintance back to their high school days when Dee was an eighth grade student and Jack was in the tenth grade. Although the couple cannot remember the details of their first date, both can still remember their first impression of each other.

"I admit, he was easy to look at," Dee commented about Jack during his days

of youth. She was also impressed by his athletic abilities when running track. Jack says it was Dee's bubbly personality that stuck with him since their first encounter.

As time went on, Jack and Dee began seeing more and more of each other. Enough so, that things just seemed to fall into place for the two young lovebirds and as the Whiteheads would describe it, "We fell in love and the rest is history."

Knowing Dee was the one for him, Jack eventually worked up the courage to ask for Dee's hand in marriage.

"I bought an engagement ring and she accepted the proposal. It was as simple

as that," Jack said.

The couple were united in holy matrimony on October 14, 1972. This day, as with all married couples, was a very sentimental time for the two as they became one and Dee cherished every part of it just as any bride should.

"It was one of the most special days of my life. Every detail, moment and memory. All of it was special to me," Dee commented as she reflected back to their wedding day.

In October 2021, the couple celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary and the many things they are grateful for during their years together. What they (Continued on page 17)

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MR. AND MRS. WHITEHEAD
ON THEIR WEDDING DAY

Fifty years of...

(From page 16)

are most proud of as a couple, apart from their two successful, adult daughters that came from this union, is their commitment to one another.

"We raised two girls that have become successful in their own fields. Jack was able to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees, and we were fortunate to retire without any debt," Dee stated.

Though the Whiteheads have shared many happy moments together, they've also experienced some trials along the way too but according to Jack and Dee, it's the tough times that made them

stronger.

"At one point in our lives, we moved to Canada to serve a church that was not viable," Jack explained. "I had to leave Dee and the kids in Canada to finish the school year, so I flew to Ohio and lived in the basement of a church that needed a pastor. This went on for several months. It was a very difficult time in our marriage but we survived and from this, we learned something, too. We learned that our love for each other is strong and enduring."

Since having more time to entertain their own agendas after retiring, Jack and Dee

say they are fortunate to be able to dedicate their energy back into their family and have been spending more time with their grandkids while enjoying every blissful moment together.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead both agree that making time for each other has aided in keeping the flame sparked in their relationship throughout their years together. "We make time to be together. We've had a 49-year adventure that is still evolving. We enjoy each other's company and finding fulfillment and security in our relationship" the couple concluded.



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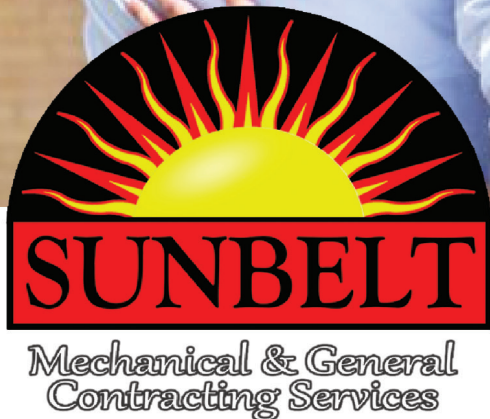
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JUDGE WILKES (CENTER) WITH PROBATE COURT OFFICE STAFF JEANIE SMITH HOOKS (LEFT) AND NICKY NEAL (RIGHT)

Marriage License

The Emanuel County Probate Court, overseen by the Honorable Don. E. Wilkes, offers marriage license to anyone who is over the age of 18 and to minors who are 16 or 17 with the signature of the custodial parents. No blood test is required in the State of Georgia to obtain the license. Both applicants must apply and sign the application in the presence of the clerk. The requirements to obtain a Marriage License are as follows for both parties:

- Valid Photo ID or Birth Certificate of Both Applicants
- Address and Phone Number
- Date of Birth and Place of Birth
- Social Security Number and Place of Employment
- Parents' Name Including Mother's Maiden Name
- Parents' Addresses
- Parents' Places of Birth

• If either party has been married previously, they must have a copy of the final decree of the last divorce or a certified copy of the death certificate if previous spouse is deceased.

• \$78 in cash, local check, debit/credit card (Mastercard or Visa) without premarital counseling, or \$38 with premarital counseling.

Application for premarital counseling may be found by visiting <https://www.emanuelco-ga.gov/Document-Center/View/134/Premarital-Education-Certificate>. The information needed to file for a marriage license may be found at <https://www.emanuelco-ga.gov/Document-Center/View/66/Marriage-Application>.

Emanuel County Probate Court is located at 125 S. Main Street in Swainsboro. For additional information, give them a call at 478-237-7091.

Guess the Dress

Local teacher incorporates students in wedding day

Often times when selecting the perfect bridal gown for the perfect wedding day, most brides-to-be rely on the second opinions from those who know them best. More times than not, the bride entrusts their mothers, grandmothers, aunts, best friends etc. with helping make this big decision. However, that's not always the case...

On October 30, 2021, Hunter Gay and Swainsboro Primary School Teacher Bethany Lamb were united in holy matrimony at Quinney Oaks Plantation in Millen. The couple began dating in November 2018 and quickly fell head over heels for one another.

"We have kind of known each other our whole lives. However, we hung out at a friend's wedding and the rest is kind of history from there," Bethany explained.

After only two months of dating, Hunter knew Bethany was the one for him and made elaborate proposal plans when preparing to ask for her hand in marriage. Unfortunately, those plans were altered due to the pandemic outbreak, but Hunter was determined to make Bethany his wife.

"Hunter proposed to me on January 9, 2019. He had a whole day planned and even an engagement party with all of our friends and family planned for afterwards. But, it happened during a peak of COVID and he had to cancel. He ended up asking me while we were in our kitchen cooking breakfast. He asked me to make him a cup of coffee and when I turned around he was on one knee," Bethany stated while reminiscing on special day.

Excited over their future

together as Mr. and Mrs., Hunter and Bethany officially announced their engagement with close friends and family, but Bethany had to wait a little longer to inform those she sees more often than anyone else – her students.

"We were out on school break when Hunter proposed so I had to wait to tell my students about my engagement. When we came back from break, I told them

(Continued on page 20)



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Guess the Dress...

(From page 19)

back from break, I told them I had a secret but they had to be on their best behavior for me to tell them. At the end of the day I told them I was getting married and I honestly think the boys were a little disappointed that that was my *big* secret. The girls, of course, were so excited and told me all of the things I needed to do in order to look like a princess," Bethany explained.

Having announced their plans to wed, the couple began planning their perfect wedding. As much as she wished, Bethany, being a teacher at heart, knew that her students would more than likely not be in attendance at her wedding and that just didn't set well with the bride-to-be.

"Of course, so many of them wanted to be there and I just wanted to do something that made

them feel included in the process," Bethany stated. "I just love my kids and so many of them wanted to see my dress. So I decided, why not let them guess what it looks like before I actually showed them a picture of it? The kids loved guessing what they thought it may look like. It is honestly one of my most favorite things I have ever done with my class! It is something special I will get to keep forever."




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Do you need a wedding party?

The answer is: it's entirely up to you. Your wedding party is the group of people you want to include in the events leading up to the big day, during the ceremony, and at the reception. Giving your nearest and dearest a role is a meaningful gesture, but it's more than merely that. This particular group will support you throughout this period of your life; they will be right there to hold you steady through planning and executing this memorable occasion.

Who to include in the wedding party

Let's face it, choosing your wedding party can be difficult. The last thing you want is to offend anyone by leaving them out. However, who you want to include in your special day is a personal decision. To keep things simple, those in your wedding party should be your best friends, siblings, and perhaps a close family member or two.

What accessories do grooms need?

A fun (and totally optional!) way to inject some style into your wedding-day look is with accessories! Both suits and tuxedos can be customized, and here are just a few ways to spruce them up:

Dress Shirts

Dress shirts for suits come in every color and pattern under the sun, and even shirts for tuxedos are available in multiple styles—from plain and pleated fronts to a variety of collars and

cuffs. Remember to think about which style tie you prefer before shopping for your shirt.

Vests

Adding a vest changes your look from a two-piece suit to a three-piece suit. Also referred to as a waistcoat, it's an easy way to add a colorful pattern to your suited ensemble.

Cummerbunds

Cummerbunds are a tuxedo accessory that cover the waist, and are worn with a sin-

gle-breasted jacket. Traditionally, men don't wear cummerbunds with long ties.

Suspenders

Suspenders not only pump up your style, they also keep your pants firmly in place while you dance the night away!

Belts

The type of belt you choose usually depends on the color of your suit. Traditionally, a black suit requires a black belt. If you choose a blue suit, though, a brown belt can

look terrific. (Just be sure to match your shoes to your belt, since a wedding is a more formal occasion.)

Pocket Squares

A pocket square is basically a handkerchief tucked into a suit jacket pocket. It's yet another opportunity to color coordinate!

Cufflinks

Cufflinks are like jewelry for your dress shirt cuffs. If you're wearing a tuxedo, the cufflinks should match the shirt

studs. For a suit, you can get as creative as you like. Beer cap cufflinks, anyone?

Ties

The typical black tuxedo tie or bow tie look is perfect for formal events...but ties come in every color and pattern imaginable, so have fun finding the one.

Socks

Although socks are usually pretty invisible, it's a real kick to see a quirky, patterned sock peek out from under a pant leg!

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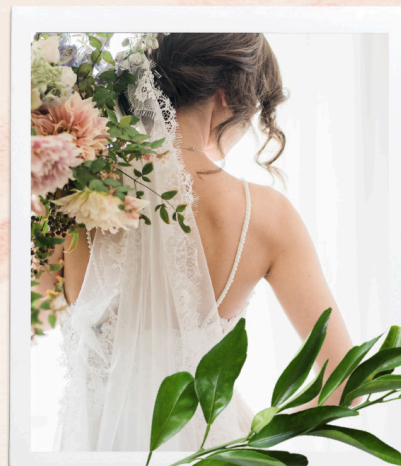
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Things no one tells you about your honeymoon

It will be incredibly special.

Even if you swear all those clichés of couples cuddling at the airport or holding hands while checking into their hotel is so not you two, don't be surprised if all of a sudden you find yourselves acting just like those other happy couples. You're celebrating a very big, very happy event—not to mention, you no longer have the stress of planning on your shoulders. Enjoy it!

You might not feel relaxed until a day or two in.

If you expect that it will only take an hour or two of sun and a strong cocktail for you to feel rejuvenated and focused on each other, you may be surprised. You'll have so much adrenaline pushing you through the wedding that you may be exhausted or just feel kind of out of it for the first day or so. Prepare to go with the flow, be kind to yourselves and maybe push that adventurous scuba excursion or hiking to the top of the volcano until later in the week.

Mishaps might happen.

Be prepared for unexpected—and unwelcome—events. Your hotel room might not be as lovely as it looked in the photos, you might miss a connecting flight or you might even get sick, but if you roll with the punches when things go wrong, you'll be able to enjoy all the amazing things that go right. And keep in mind that most hotels have doctors on call to help and medicine in the gift shop, but pack a few Imodium and Advil in your suitcase just in case (it'll be way cheaper than buying it there).

You won't want to come home.

Whether you've already been on tons of vacations as a couple or this is your first big one together, coming back from your honeymoon is a quick trip back to reality (sorry!) and every-

thing you've been neglecting while you were planning your

wedding, like a stack of work, your taxes or cleaning the bath-

room. Planning your next trip can ease the pain a little, as can

scheduling a fun date night for the weekend after you're back.



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