

Community CHRONICLES

Fred and Marla Forever

A Timeless Love



Marla and Fred on their wedding day, October 17, 1992. The couple celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary last fall.

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Features

Before Fred and Marla Young ever laid eyes on each other, their mutual friend Greg Martin had a hunch that they were meant to be.

was before they gained notoriety. In fact, Marla had never heard of them.

In the meantime, Fred's brother and band member Richard Young had a similar hunch about a woman he had seen.

"Richard mentioned this blond that he'd see

and check this guy out," said Marla. It seemed that a video tape wasn't all that fate had in store.

"The next day I showed up at the store and the band was having a meeting, so we actually got to meet face-to-face before I had a chance to watch the video.

family is very important to both of us," Fred said.

The next day, September 10, 1989, they had their first official date.

"Fred came over to my house to bring some records for me to listen to - of the older country music artists like Connie Smith and Loretta Lynn. Then he took me to Cave City for a Coke, we rode around the back roads and then he took me to the infamous Practice House," said Marla.

Their romance blossomed and they exchanged vows on October 17, 1992.

True to their roots, they made the Wisdom community in Metcalfe County their home. Even after The Headhunters made it big, they knew the country life was still meant for them, and that is where they have lived their lives and raised their daughters, Rachel and Audrey.

Through twenty-five years of marriage, they have remained very much in love and still enjoy the simple things, like getting a Coke together.

That's not to say it has always been sunshine and rainbows. Like any love story, it had challenges that had to be met with grace and love.

"One of the hardest things for us through the years has been being away from each other," Marla said.

Fred's career and life on the road has taken him away from home a lot.

"Absence really does make the heart grow fonder because every homecoming is just that much sweeter."

"This is our life and we're used to this lifestyle for the most part, but it's still tough at times. We've had to sacrifice family time. It's been hard on our daughters growing up because their daddy has missed a lot of special moments but thank goodness for video cameras and pictures," Marla said.

Even when Fred is away, they don't go very long without talking on the phone and have adjust-



Fred, Marla, Rachel and Audrey.

ed to their not-so-typical routine.

Most importantly, they have found ways to keep love alive.

"We keep the romance alive by just doing simple things with each other. Sometimes we'll get on a tractor and ride in the field to check on the cows or we'll listen to music and sing together. The most simple things can bring the most happiness because it's the most real," Marla said.

Their girls admit their parents are a lot like teenage love birds, but it isn't an embarrassment.

"They're always acting like teenagers, making each other laugh and smile. My mom and dad have a unique love for each other, there's no denying that," said Audrey.

"They just absolutely love being with one another."

"I can't put into words how wonderful my parents are, the love they have for each other, my sister and I and God is so inspiring," said Rachel.

"They make each other laugh on a daily basis and they are just so happy together. Every day at 5:00 in the evening when my mom gets off

work, they will sit and drink coffee together. It is the little things like that that mean the most to them."

Both girls express how blessed they feel to have parents still so in love with one another, and strive to have the same someday.

Although lots of things have changed on the world since the couple met in 1989, their love had been timeless and Fred says that is part of their magic.

"We haven't really changed with the times, we've remained the same but how we feel about each other just gets better. When you're in love everything is better, no matter what life throws at you," he said.

Trust and faith have played a crucial role in their success as well.

"Love is a gift from God and you need to be thankful for that gift and realize you are blessed," Marla said.

The couple says if they have any advice on making love last it is to just be yourself, be kind and honest, believe in each other, strive to make each other happy, respect each other, and be a friend.



Marla and Fred celebrated the arrival of their bundle of joy who was given the name Rachel.

Martin knew the possible suitor, because they were in a band together.

"Greg and I got to talking about music and family and he told me he had a friend he was in a band with that I needed to meet because we sounded like we had a lot of the same values and interests," Marla Devore Young said.

He was referring to drummer, Fred Young.

Both men were members of the Kentucky Headhunters, but this

around Wisdom coming from the Knob Lick - Big Meadow area and said I needed to find out who it was," Fred said.

It was Marla. She wasn't the girl next door, but it turned out that she lived only a few miles up the road from Fred's family farm. She lived on her family farm, too.

"Greg told me the band he was in had just made a music video. He was going to bring the VHS tape to the store and I could come pick it up

That was September 9, 1989 at the Record Rack in Glasgow.

You could say it was love at first sight.

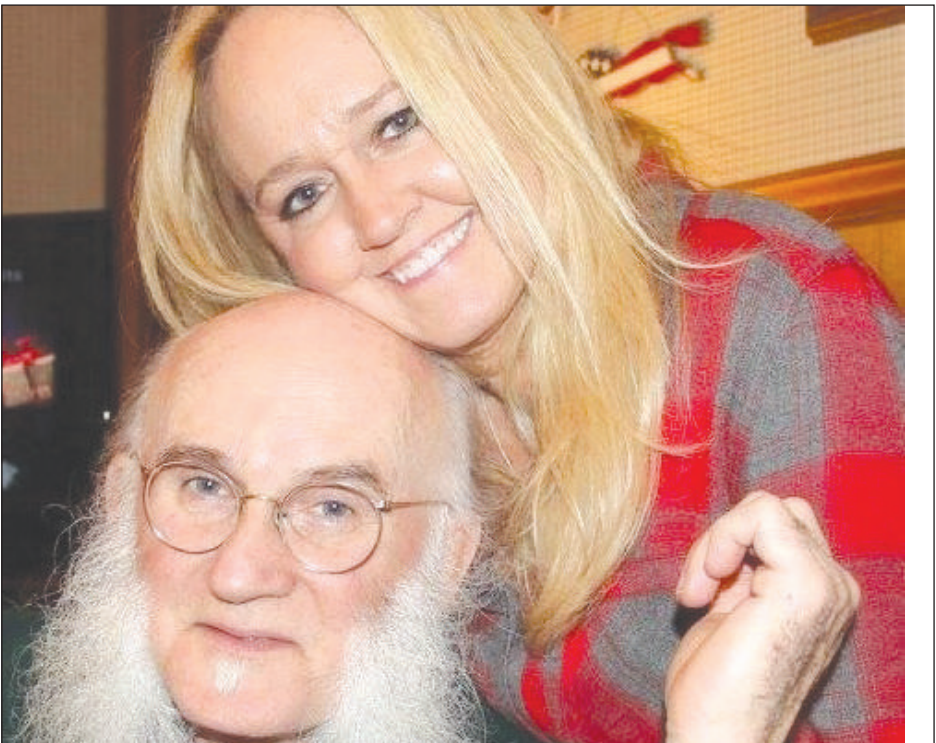
"What first attracted me to Fred was his smile," said Marla. "Later, it was his sweet soul that makes me smile."

Fred quickly discovered that Marla was more than just a pretty girl.

"What first attracted me to Marla was the whole package, just learning where she came from...



Down on the farm is where Fred and Marla Young are happiest, enjoying the simple things in life.



While twenty-five years have passed since their marriage, Fred and Marla Young say their love for one another has deepened over the years.