

Daryl and June

AUTHOR'S NOTE: I will admit to a teensy, weensy bit of bias as I sit down at my computer to compose this article. Daryl Lovell has long been a source of information and inspiration for the writers here at the Spencer County Leader. His wife, June, is an absolute delight! Together they have been tapped to serve as Grand Marshals for the 51st annual Dale Fall Festival Parade on Saturday, September 8, which this year is also a celebration of the town's 175th birthday. In most people's estimation (including mine), no finer choice could have been made to receive this honor.

by Kathy Tretter

Daryl and June (Shrode) Lovell have led by example through their 41 years of marriage, both for their two children and to the broader community.

Daryl is the "public face" of the couple, an active member of Dale United Methodist Church (serving as chairman of the Worship Committee and singing with the praise team), a 29 year member of Dale

Kiwanis, 13 years on the Dale Fall Festival committee and continuing to assist in a less active role, 24 years as a Summer Camp counselor one week each year for elementary-age students at the Historic Santa Claus Church Campground and a member of Winkler Inc.'s Relay for Life team.

That last one is personal, as Daryl is a 17-year cancer survivor.

He is also a local historian who, with Ellen (Winkler) Rexing, wrote a compelling history of his community, "Dale 1843-1993", for the town's Sesquicentennial and is updating the book for a soon-to-be-published second edition.

He will tell you, June is the wind beneath his wings. While writing the first book she served as both mother and father to their sons, Benjamin and Andrew. She made sure Daryl ate, slept and had clean clothes to wear. She was the family rock. While the book was a labor of love, a legacy to be left for future generations, "I couldn't have done it without June," he asserts.

No one can predict just when and where someone will find that perfect person to spend the rest of his or her life with. Some folks meet in school. Others at a dance or sporting event. Still others may find each other on the job or at an after-work hangout where libations are served.

In the case of Daryl Lovell and the former June Shrode, the two found each other at a County Rural Youth meeting.

Never heard of County Rural Youth?

You are probably not alone.

County Rural Youth was the result of a partnership between Purdue University and the Farm Bureau. It was designed as a social club for single young adults between the

ages of 18 and 24 in rural Indiana.

June was born in Grandview — the 11th child for her parents, who were in their 40s by this point. "I was almost an only child," she notes, coming late in life and most likely an unexpected addition to the Shrode clan. The family moved to Cannelton, then to Chrisney, which is where June grew up. She attended Newtonville Grade School and graduated from Chrisney High School in 1972.

Daryl Lovell was a Dale man born and bred, with roots that run deep and are entangled with the county's history. He attended Dale Grade School and graduated from Dale High School in 1970. (More on both their biographies later.)

"The first time I ever saw June was at the 4-H Center in Chrisney [where Rural Youth met]," recalls Daryl. That particular night the members joined together for a rousing square dance.

"He was one of the few guys who could dance," June reports with a chuckle.

After the meeting the group went to the Lincoln Truck Stop (remember that?) for refreshments and continued conversation. Neither one admits whether it was love at first sight but the two definitely clicked.

By this point, both had completed their educations. Daryl spent a year at the University of Evansville, where he majored in playing tennis but not much else, then transferred to Lockyear Business College, where he acquired an associate's

degree in accounting and computer programming, graduating in 1973.

Through high school he worked at Songer's IGA and was hired by Holiday Foods out of college to serve as assistant manager for the Santa Claus store. Three months in he was hired by Winkler's and is now in his 45th year with the company, currently the Assistant Director of Information Technology. He plans to retire on December 21 of this year.

"I love working for Winkler's and basically spent my entire career in the grocery business."

That is not exactly true.

The Lovells on their wedding day and below, during their 41st year of wedded bliss.



Daryl and June with baby Ben.

When he was in junior high, Daryl and his brother, Dennis, joined what they called the "Diaper Crew," boys who would pick up sticks, stones and rocks to clear the way to build Christmas Lake Golf Course. Oh, and he spent one weekend putting up hay, but aside from those experiences, his work has revolved around groceries in one fashion or another.

June, meanwhile, attended Owensboro Business College. Her first job was part of a work/study program at Burns Middle School,

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