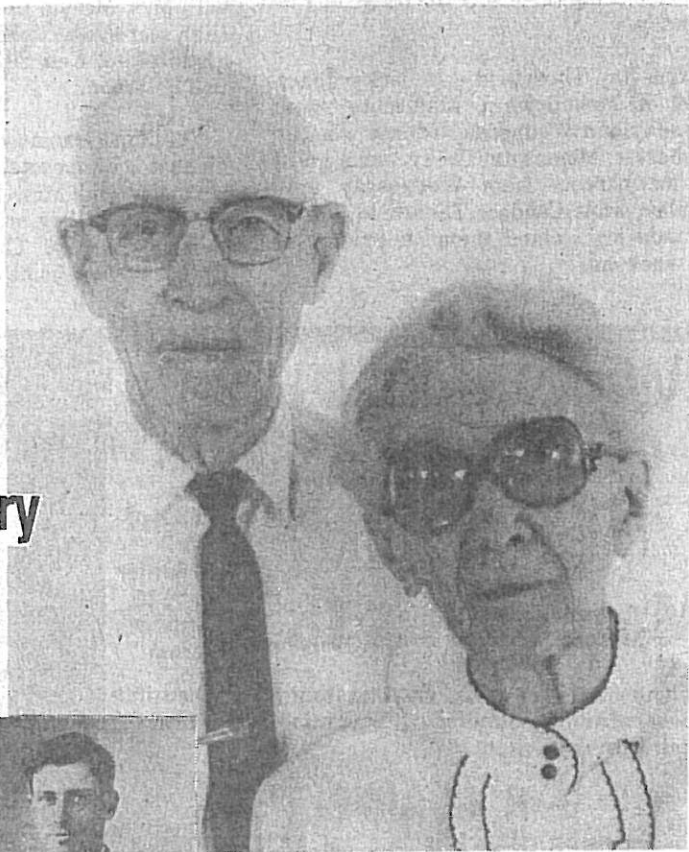


Andy Burts Observe 65th Wedding Anniversary



By Jo Ashmore

Mr. and Mrs. Andy Burt observed their 65th wedding anniversary on Sunday, March 11; and unlike their 50th, when they had a family dinner and an open house, or their 60th, when they enjoyed an elaborate family party, they celebrated informally on Sunday with friends and relatives stopping by throughout the day to offer congratulations.

Among the well-wishers were Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Pehrson and Roberta, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Larsen, Mark, Troy and LeeAnn of Ringsted, Mr. and Mrs. William Beck of Humboldt, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Miller, John, Jim and Jared of Burt, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Henriksen, Tim and Joan, Mrs. Helen Henriksen, Mrs. Beatrice Goodge, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Adams and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Snyder.

Her brother, Shirley Beck of Burlington phoned since he was unable to come, as did their daughter, Ella Zochert, of Minneapolis.

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Andy Burt married Elsie Beck on March 11, 1914, at the home of her parents, five miles southeast of Armstrong. He was 22; she, not quite 20. Among those attending were their parents, four of her brothers who were still at home, his two sisters and four brothers, the Martin Anderburgs Peter Burt, and Esther Watts.

Guests arrived by horse and buggy, since there had been no more than a half-inch of snow the entire winter of 1913-14, and the wedding day was mild.

Recent rains had made the roads "a little sloppy" that day; so when the minister drove up in his Model T Ford, one of the few cars around at that time, with the top down, the water "sloshed up around the wheels," they recalled.

After their wedding the couple went by train to Humboldt for a week's trip before settling down on a farm eight miles southeast of town, in Kossuth County.

They continued farming until 1947 when they moved to town, where they've lived in the same home for 32 years. Andy then worked as a carpenter for many years and doesn't exactly remember when he gave that up--he just sort of eased himself out of it.

The Burts have two daughter, Ella Zochert of Minneapolis, and Leona Pehrson of Armstrong, plus seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

They have been members of the Presbyterian Church throughout their married life.

Andy and Elsie knew each other pretty well before they decided to get married, having lived neighbors as children--his family's farm was two miles from hers--and having been engaged for "a couple of years", according to Elsie.

Until they bought their first car, an Overland touring car, in 1917, their transportation was strictly by horse and buggy. Going by team, a Saturday trip to town meant putting in a full day. They'd start before noon, sometimes taking a lunch to nibble on the way, then try to get home by suppertime. People didn't go around much at night back then, they explained.

Andy always farmed with horses, owning as many as eight at one time. With those he farmed 200 acres and noted, "That kept two of us busy because we didn't have the machinery they have now."

Talking with Mrs. Burt on 'most every Monday this winter, we've found her in agreement with many longtime Armstrong residents that this has been one of the worst winters in memory, although she and her husband believe the winter of '36 was worse because there was more snow (70-some inches that year compared to about 50 this winter). Again, there wasn't the heavy snow removal equipment available in those days; but Andy observed that back then the farmers still picked corn by hand so the stalks were left standing in the fields; and that helped keep the snow from blowing across the roads, as it does now.

Elsie Burt doesn't care to go out much on these days when sidewalks and streets are so treacherous underfoot so she's really looking forward to spring and summer when she and Andy will be able to tend their yard. She does enjoy her flowers and still cans and freezes a lot of vegetables from her garden.

The Burts share the household duties, though after Elsie went through a few hospital stays this past year, Andy is more than content to turn the cooking chores back over to her. They lament the fact that they can no longer do their own painting and wallpapering.

But as Elsie puts it, "We do the best we can."

And that's what helps keep a marriage strong for 65 years.