



A wedding is for a day . . . A marriage is for a lifetime

SPOTLIGHT COUPLE

Mike Gaba interviewed his aunt and uncle, Lessie and Irving Porter, on September 25th 2009, their 61st wedding anniversary. They are life-long ranchers in Pinon, NM, a small village with a population of 35 people. They have lived a very rugged ranching life, some of which was spent without indoor plumbing and no radio, television or telephone. They have all of these conveniences now, but say that they could live without them again, if need be. They have two daughters, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



What's most important in a marriage?

Lessie: Common ideas and shared goals.

Irving: Communication – good & bad. Always talk it out.

What are the benefits of being married?

Lessie: Having an ally to always stand by you through reasonable... (**Irving** interjected: And unreasonable.) times.

What kept you from divorcing?

Lessie: We had 2 daughters to raise.

Irving: We were too busy trying to make a living.

Lessie: It still might be an option though.

What is the hardest thing you've faced?

Lessie: Irving's mortality. (Due to his tenuous health.)

We laugh the hardest when...

Lessie: My grandchildren have always called me "Big Mom" and now my great-grandchildren threaten to call me "Great Big Mom."

When we disagree we...

Lessie: We fight like hell and live through it.

We're best friends because...

Lessie: We knew each other so well – there are no more secrets.

Irving: Speak for yourself.

5 guidelines you'd give to newlyweds:

Lessie: Don't look back.

Irving: Pick your battles.

Lessie: Find the common ground.

Irving: Step into the other person's moccasins before you act.

Lessie: A little sense of humor goes a long way.

The friendship part of our marriage is...

Irving: ...the most important thing of all.

Who are your role models for marriage?

Lessie: Each other.

If we didn't "laugh"...

Irving: ...then we wouldn't be together.

We want *you* as our Spotlight Couple! Ask us for our list of questions (or make up your own). Each person answers five questions. You also send a wedding picture and a current picture (no originals please). You receive at least ten copies of that issue to pass on to family and friends.