

## Memories: An Interview with Vernon and Fay English

By Dawn Russell

Vern and Fay English grew up in the small town of Interlaken, New York. Vern is now 84 years young and Fay is 82 years young. They met while attending school and started dating when Fay was 14 years old and Vern was 16 years old. They dated from that point on. At their senior prom, Vern gave Fay her diamond ring.

After graduating, Vern enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the Korean War. While he was in the army, they communicated by writing letters to each other. Fay worked in the business field, being employed at Robert G. Burns, Inc. of Rochester, New York, while waiting for her love to return from the war. When Vern returned, they were married on June 24, 1955, at the Dutch Reformed Church in Interlaken. Vern and Fay have been married for 62 years. They honeymooned at the Thousand Islands. Vern wore a pair of black oxford shoes on their wedding day. The shoes were two sizes too big and felt like clown shoes when walking, but Vern wore the shoes during their honeymoon.

After marriage, Vern and Fay moved to Rochester for a bit, while Vern worked at Gleason's and Fay worked in the business field. At this time they had their first child, Craig. He was the first baby born at the new Rochester General Hospital. Eventually they moved to Walworth and rented a small apartment from Herland and Nellie Wray on High Street, but work took them back to Charlotte for a few years. Meanwhile, they had two more sons, Keith and Kris.

Vern and Fay missed Walworth so much that they decided to move back. They lived in the old Yeomans' house on High Street while Vern finished building their own home on Walworth-Marion Road. Vern would work days and at night build their house. Fay remembers when supper was ready she would call across the open fields from the Yeomans' house to Vern, and yell "yoo hoo, supper is ready!" They moved into their finished house in 1962, and had their fourth son, Cory. Vern and Fay have four children: Craig, Keith, Kris, and Cory. They also have ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild. All four of their sons were married at the Walworth United Methodist Church. Vern was an assistant Boy Scout leader while his sons were growing up. He also coached baseball after Bennie Porray retired. Vern and several children helped build the baseball diamond at Ginegaw Park in Walworth.

Vern and Fay have many good friends and neighbors in Walworth. Vern remembers helping out Gordon Youngman when he started up the hardware store addition. Fay remembers drinking her favorite lime sodas at Youngman's Soda Bar. Vern's last employment was driving truck for Hauser Corporation; he loved this job. He was eventually to retire in 2003. Fay was a housewife and mother for many years and babysat 12 years for Dr. John Cooper's children. Many fun times were had at the Walworth street dances, square dancing to Charlie Pembroke's accordion music, and working at the Pizza Booth.

They are both very active in the Walworth United Methodist Church. Fay loves to sing in the choir, and has taught Sunday School. Vern has been a trustee and is the official greeter. They both cleaned the church for many years. In retirement Vern enjoys golfing and Fay enjoys singing in the choir. They attend many events for their grandchildren and enjoy their family and friends. They have enjoyed traveling to Europe, such places as London, Paris, and Sardinia. Their best memories of Walworth would be that it is a great place to raise their family, the people made them feel welcome, and it has been just everything they could want in life.

