



FRED BLOCHER | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Lloyd and Jeanne Jensen of Leawood met as teenage musicians in North Dakota. He played trombone for a radio orchestra; she was the singer.

MUSIC BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER

Lloyd Jensen, 19, played trombone in radio station WDAY's 10-piece studio orchestra. Jeanne Alm, 14, sang with the band. It was the summer of 1938 in Fargo, N.D., and the piano player decided they should meet each other. They'd often performed in the same circles, but Jeanne had never paid any attention to Lloyd. He, however, had noticed Jeanne and was happy they were introduced.

First impressions:

Jeanne: "He was a good trombone man. I appreciated his talent. He was nice and I liked his pretty blond hair and big blue eyes."

Lloyd: "She was nice looking and a good singer. We were tied together musically."

Challenges: Before they could date, Lloyd had to ask Jeanne's mom for permission. She granted it, and they began going out. Lloyd was a serious young man and selected Jeanne to be the only woman he ever dated. She loved him but felt she was too young to date exclusively. That caused friction as did her singing career. Lloyd thought she should quit, and Jeanne refused. He broke up with her but soon realized his mistake and called to apologize.

They knew they were in love when:

When he got a chance to take a job out of town, Jeanne says, "That put the hurry on things."

The proposal: Lloyd knew he wanted to marry Jeanne, but he was shy. His sister in Chicago thought Jeanne was perfect for Lloyd and mailed Jeanne an heirloom engagement ring.

The wedding: They were married June 20, 1942, in Portland, Ore., with only a best man, a maid of honor and minister.

Favorite shared activities & hobbies:

Music has always been a common love. In their younger days, they ice-skated and swam. Today, they like to go to movies, watch sports and spend time together.

Careers: Jeanne was a singer and had her own radio program at WDAY in Fargo. (Norma Egstrom also sang at the same radio station. The program director changed her name to Peggy Lee.) Lloyd was a pilot and an air traffic controller. The couple is now retired.

Family: Three sons, six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren.

How they keep the romance in their relationship: They write each other romantic cards on Valentine's Day, birthdays and anniversaries.

What keeps their relationship strong and growing:

Jeanne: "We accept and love each other as we are. We've both grown over the years as to how we look at life."

Lloyd: "We are together on our values and priorities."

Qualities they most appreciate in each other:

Jeanne: "Lloyd is dependable, honest and true to his word. He has been such a good provider."

Lloyd: "Jeanne's reliable, a good cook, and a good party giver. She makes me laugh."

Deborah Shouse is a freelance writer. Suggest a Love Story couple by writing to lovestory@kcstar.com.