

CHARLES AND JOAN TECKMAN

119 Country Club Drive, 312-0319 # 10

In 1941, as the school year opened, Joan McNelly went home and told her mother there was a new boy in her seventh-grade class at William McGuffey High School and she liked him. His name was Charles Teckman.

Charles and Joan were both born in 1929, four days apart. Joan's parents were Walter and Freda McNelly. They lived in Oxford and Walter was a professor at Miami University. Charles parents were Harry and Virginia Teckman. They lived in Darrtown. Harry ran a trucking company and hauled milk for farmers to Hamilton.

A shortage of truck drivers at the beginning of World War II gave Harry the chance to get a truck driving license for Charles at age 14. Charles began driving a truck and hauling milk cans, which weighed 110 pounds each, while in eighth grade. Loading and unloading milk cans was heavy lifting, but it helped Charles grow to 6 feet ½ inch and to weigh 165 pounds. He became the fullback on the high school football team, as well as playing basketball and baseball. Joan was a cheerleader, Queen of the Football Banquet and in the modern dance group.

Charles and Joan became a couple in eighth grade. Their gym teachers, Weeb Ewbank and Helen Young, taught the children ball-room dancing. At the end of the year they had an eighth-grade prom and Charles asked Joan to be his date. They dated throughout high school. Due to his size and strength, the other boys later told Charles they did not ask Joan out because they were afraid Charles would beat them up.

After high school, Charles and Joan attended Miami University 1947-1951. After they graduated from high school, Joan's parents told her that she needed to date other boys, so Charles and Joan agreed to break up after high school. This lasted until Christmas 1947, after which they got back together and have stayed together ever since. Charles got a degree in Education while Joan graduated with a double major in Zoology and English. She was planning to be a nurse. But shortly before graduation, the Korean war broke out. Charles knew he would be drafted so Joan decided they needed to get married. They were married in 1951 and within five weeks, Charles was drafted and sent to Germany for two years where he served as a "Crypto-technician." He still retains a top-secret classification in the Army. Joan had graduated in three years from Miami and then went to Case-Western Reserve University where she got a Masters in Nursing in 1953.

When Charles returned from Germany in 1953, they settled into southern Ohio and parenthood. Charles became principal at Trenton High School while Joan taught part time at Hamilton Mercy Hospital School of Nursing.

Charles was encouraged to get a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership at the Ohio State University. He completed his degree in 1962 and became an assistant professor at Miami University. In 1968 Joan too became an assistant professor of Nursing at Miami.

Charles became a full professor in 1969. He was assistant to President Shriver of Miami University, 1967-1970. He then became the Chairman of the Department of Educational Leadership. From 1977 to 1978 Joan attended Indiana University and earned a degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner. In 1979 she became an assistant professor at Indiana University and then from 1982 to 1990 she taught at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.

In 1979-80, Charles was asked to become Acting Director of the Luxembourg Campus of Miami University. The Luxembourg Campus had grown out of the efforts of John Dolibois, Vice President of Miami's Development Office, who had been born in Luxembourg. This began Charles and Joan's lifetime involvement with European schooling and travel. When he returned to Oxford, Charles developed a course to teach Americans about European educational methods. In addition, he became a tour guide taking others who wished to travel in Europe. Over the years he and Joan took 64 groups of people to summer workshops to study education patterns in Europe.

Charles and Joan have been married 68 years. They have four children: Nancy (Mrs. Roger Gates), David, Tim, and Jeff Teckman, six grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Charles and Joan treasure their membership in the Oxford Presbyterian Church. Joan was leader of the Sunday School and volunteered as Parish Nurse for the congregation. Charles served as a Deacon and Elder and chair of the search committee that brought John Harris as pastor to the church.

Joan now suffers from Alzheimer's disease and lives in Woodlawn Manor. Twice a day Charles visits her and feeds her. He is not always sure she recognizes him, but when she allows him to kiss her on the lips rather than on the cheek, he knows that she does. They both keep faith with their marriage vow: For Richer or Poorer, in Sickness and in Health. They are a devoted and remarkable couple.