

Three Little Words

♡ ♡ ♡ Couples find the magic and fall in love ♡ ♡ ♡

By Debby Schoeningh

Cupid, the chubby little cherub who draws his bow and shoots arrows into the hearts of men and women, has long been blamed for making people fall in love.

Some scientists believe pheromones—chemical signals used to communicate between species—not cupid, is what attracts people to each other.

A less scientific way of determining who you will fall in love with involves twisting the stem of an apple as you recite the names of several people you would like to be with. The name you were saying when the stem comes off is the one you will marry.

Although apples did play a role in their courtship, **EDNA AND JIM**



Edna and Jim Harwood

HARWOOD of North Powder say a yard sale is what brought them together.

Edna was helping her daughter, Glenda Carter, who was having the sale, when Jim came looking for a watch. Glenda knew Jim and encouraged

Edna to go talk to him, and said, “If he wants a watch, just give it to him.”

Edna gave him a watch. To show his gratitude, Jim brought her a box of apples the next day. Then he followed up the day after that by showing up with an apple peeler to peel the apples for her.

Smiling at Jim, Edna says, “I told his family sometimes you can find some pretty good antiques at a yard sale.”

They have been together since 1996, and Edna’s family still refers to Jim as the Apple Man.



Teri and David Johnson

TERI BROWN JOHNSON and her husband, **DAVID**, of Haines are proof that love can survive almost two decades—even without seeing each other.

They met in high school when she was 16 and he was 18. After school, David went into the military, and he and Teri went their separate ways, eventually marrying other people.

Eighteen years later, while they were both going through difficult divorces, a mutual friend gave Teri David’s phone number and suggested she call.

“It’s like we picked up right where we left off—everything just connected,” says Teri. “I couldn’t believe it, he was my first true love, one of those things that you just don’t ever get over, and now we’re together again. Even when he was putting the ring on my hand, I thought, ‘This isn’t real, I’ll wake up!’”

BOB SOTO and wife **SCARLETT MARY** of Baker City owe their three-year marriage to packages and promenades.



Scarlett Mary and Bob Soto

“I was working for Eastern Oregon Fast Freight and made deliveries to her office,” Bob says. “We would visit each time, and even though we liked each other, we never said anything.”

Then Scarlet started taking square dancing lessons where Bob was a member and seasoned dancer. He helped her learn the steps.

One day, he asked her to go on a trip to Billings, Montana, with him and they discovered they had a lot in common.

“Once a month on the 7th, the day we were married, we try and do something special together and enjoy each other’s company,” Bob says.



Mike and Candie Campbell

CANDIE CAMPBELL of Baker City first met her husband, **MIKE**, in 1993 when she bought a car, the first of

seven, from him. Five years later, the fifth car she purchased began having problems and started breaking down.

Candie said she did think it was a little weird that Mike, the vice president of the company, was coming to pick her and her children up and would have her car towed to the shop free of charge.

After the eighth time this occurred, they became friends and learned they both were going through divorces. Mike invited her to have coffee.

"I was so excited for days, like a schoolgirl," Candie says. "We went up to the counter and ordered the same exact drink, as we laughed about this and sat down, I remember looking at his hands on the table and thinking I just want to hold them. That was the moment I knew I loved him. He later told me that was it for him as well."

They were married on Memorial Day in 2001.

"Mike is still my best friend," Candie says.



DICK AND ANDI SEXTON met because of a mutual interest in holistic resource management (HRM).

Andi was a cooperative student at a natural resources management service office in California where they were holding a series of HRM classes for landowners.

"A very handsome man came to take the class," Andi says. "I knew nothing about him, but I did notice he is left handed, and so am I."

About three years later, they were manning separate booths at a harvest festival and met again. They had their first date the very next night at a Mexican restaurant.

For the next three years, Andi traveled with her job, and they had a long-distance relationship.

"One night, for our third year dating anniversary, Dick took me out to dinner back at the restaurant where we had our first date," Andi says. "He was acting very weird. He tried to get the same table we



Andi and Dick Sexton share many things, including their ranch near Haines.

ate at three years ago.

"A friend of his saw us and sat down, and basically sat with us the entire time. Dick was obviously perturbed. He was nervous. Well, he took me back to my home and proposed!"

Almost 13 years and two kids later, they continue to share their interest in HRM on their ranch near Haines.



Andrew and Ann Bryan

ANDREW BRYAN of Baker City met the love of his life, **ANN**, when he sold her a car.

"I had just returned (to Seattle) from Europe and figured I would go carless for a while, so on the way from the airport I told a buddy I was going to sell my '78 Datsun 510 wagon," Andrew says. "He mentioned a gal he worked with was

looking for a car."

He sold Ann and her sister the car, and Andrew says they were on the fast track to romance.

"Turns out my friend didn't just have the car in mind, he thought he'd play matchmaker as well," Andrew says. "In the end, I got the money for the car, got the gal, then got the car back later when the state of Washington informed me that they had never registered the car and it reverted back to my name. We fixed that error, but, of course, I ended up with the car once we were married a year and a half (1997) later."

The newlyweds took a long honeymoon, driving the car all the way to Boston, and halfway back before it gave out. They saved the car, which is now in storage.

Even though cupid can't take full credit for these connections, that mysterious and magical emotion we call love continues to hit its mark one way or another. ■

