

## And the Champion Hawkeye Sweethearts are...

Who is this couple? Here are some hints...

- 1,300 onion sets in their garden in 2006
- 135 pints of coleslaw canned last summer
- 71 years of marriage
- 53 pounds of their prize cabbage
- 42 inches of their biggest fish caught
- 5 children
- 2 Great people in this relationship
- 1 True love to last a lifetime

Page 6 reveals the champions

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## HOME EFFICIENCY EXPO

Thursday March 8, 2007 • 4:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Nob Hill Supper Club

2955 U.S. Hwy. 52 • Decorah, IA (5 miles north of Decorah)

\* Presentation by Bill McAnally, a well known energy specialist

\* Manufacturers Exhibit Booths

This FREE workshop is open to contractors, builders and the general public. Attendees can come and go as their schedule allows. No registration is required.

Check out our website for more information.

# The Sweetheart Champions

By: Meagan Moellers

What does it take for a marriage to last almost 72 years? A unique love, not only for each other, but for a few simple pastimes that bring joy and happiness to Ervin and Ada Walter. Relaxing at a family cabin, producing an award-winning garden and bird watching during the winter months are some of the activities they share as a couple that bring them the same bliss as they shared on their wedding day, March 28, 1935.

While a lot has changed, much has stayed the same over the years. They still make their home at the farmstead where Ervin grew up northwest of Cresco. And even though they lost most of their personal possessions to a house fire in 1993, their memories remain strong enough to happily live each day with each other's company.

"I can remember the year we were married," said Ada "We would take the team and sleigh on the eight-mile trip to Cresco and have to cut across the fields because the roads were blocked with snow." In those days, going to the movie theatre in Cresco was a treat. The theatre was the busiest place in town and waiting outside in long lines to buy tickets and popcorn was typical.

They built their first house in 1937 and five years later Hawkeye REA (now REC) powered electricity to their farm. "Getting electricity was wonderful. We didn't have to carry lanterns everywhere," said Ervin. "It's easy to take electricity for granted nowadays, but trying to make a living before lights was challenging."

After raising five children, whether it was taking them to county fairs or baking six cakes each week for the family, Ervin and Ada deserve the very best in these years they share together. May God bring continued health and happiness for these 'champion sweethearts'!



Ervin and Ada have been holding hands for 71 years.



Ervin and Ada have found the secret to producing a bountiful garden. Keeping their 'green thumbs' is important to the Walters as they have been featured in a number of magazines for their amazing harvest each year. "I like to go out a little bit each day to tend to our garden," said Ervin. "It's rewarding when we can grow vegetables to can and freeze that will last us all winter."

*Thanks to the following "sweethearts" that were also nominated:*

- George & Belva Smith - Decorah - 67 years
- Maynard & Wilma Satern - Riceville - over 60 years
- Lawrence & Naomi Hruska - Lawler - 59 years
- George & Luella Meyer - Fort Atkinson - 60 years
- Leo & Faith Priebe - Elma - 60 years
- Art & Leona Aegler - Cresco - 68 years
- Edward & Elmarie Bouska - Fort Atkinson - 65 years



## "Catch of the Day"

Spending three weeks at their son and daughter's cabin on 3rd Crow Wing Lake in Minnesota allows the Walter's to spend their days fishing and nights sitting around a warm campfire. It is not uncommon for Ada and her family to make dinner for 18-20 people using their commercial fish fryer.