

A love for a lifetime

Neumanns share devotion through sickness and health

BY REBECCA YOUNG
Post-Register Writer

Dan Neumann tenderly adjusted the pillows under his wife, Margaret's legs, to help her get comfortable for their daily visit at the Quincy Valley Convalescent Center.

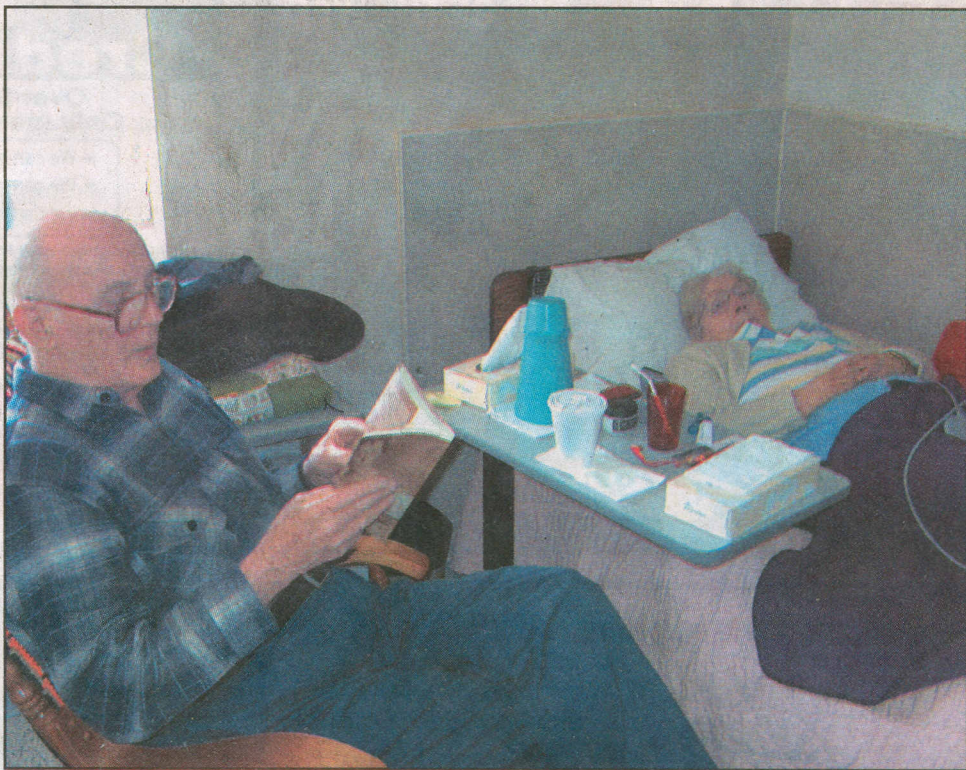
As they visited, the Neumanns recalled the first day they met and how they began to love each other. It's a bond that continues to strengthen despite the advancing years.

"I was instantly attracted to her," Dan said. "The first time I saw her was on the church steps. It took me a long time to get up the nerve to ask her for a date."

Margaret, who was widowed when her husband of seven years, Jim Hale, died, didn't think she would find love again.

Dan said Margaret was a great cook and actually fixed him chicken to take on a picnic date with another girl. Finally he asked her out and later proposed on a quiet ditch bank behind their church, St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Burke.

They delayed marrying for a year so Margaret's teenage daughter would have a chance to get comfortable with him and vice-versa. They had a small wedding at St. Anthony's on Aug. 12, 1960 with a few close friends. Then took a honeymoon trip to Oregon and then to



Rebecca Young/Post-Register

Dan Neumann reads to his wife, Margaret, during one of their daily visits. The couple has remained in love since they first met almost 50 years ago.

San Francisco, where they parked their car outside their hotel on Market Street and rode the trolley to Fisherman's Wharf.

One of the highlights of their married life was taking a trip shortly after Dan retired from the Quincy Irrigation District. They headed south to the Mexican border, drove through Texas, up along the whole Gulf Coast, Key West, then up the Atlantic Coast, until they reached North Carolina, then back to Quincy.

"It was just the two of us. It is the longest trip I ever took, but the most enjoyable,"

said Dan.

Margaret, now in need of long-term care, stays full-time at the convalescent center. Prior to that, she was at the Cambridge. Dan comes to visit her every day, unless he is sick. They visit, he reads to her and then they say the Rosary together. Both look forward to their daily visits.

"I love him because of him. He is a good husband and a kind and good person," said Margaret.

"She is a wonderful and generous person," said Dan.