

# LOCAL & REGIONAL

## Love that lasts a lifetime

Campy and Daisy Campton, of Salida, celebrate 75 years

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Grampy Campy has encountered any number of diseases or malfunctions, he says — and now he can add 75 years of love to the list.

Not that it's a disease, but in a way, it's one of those things that just happens to you. In his and his wife's case, it has stuck around for life.

"I'm a one-woman man," Grampy Campy said. That woman was Daisy Campton. He's never kissed anyone else.

He and Daisy are 95 and 92 years old, respectively, and on Wednesday, they strained across wheelchair and walker boundaries to exchange a kiss that celebrated 75 years together.

"I've had any everything," Grampy Campy said. "Right now, I have gout."

He listed a number of other problems requiring treatment and surgery, adding, "besides being shot a couple of times," like a comedic signature at the end of the list.

"But I didn't shoot him," Daisy said with a smile and a squeeze of her husband's hand.

Laurence Campton is Grampy Campy's real name, but he's gone by Campy since he moved to Salida with his family in 1949. He and Daisy have since created

**"The key is communication. The trouble is, we didn't talk. If I did something she didn't like, she never said anything. She never did anything I didn't like, but I didn't talk."**

— GRAMPY CAMPY

a Colorado legacy — one that includes generations of boaters, including Campy Campton, his grandson who not only stole Grampy Campy's name, but also his FIBArk (a 26-mile kayak race) competition trophies. The younger Campton lives in Frisco and owns Rivers Clothing Company and KODI Rafting with his wife, Christy Campton. Another grandchild, Reese Frayser, lives in Summit Cove.

Daisy and Grampy Campy have three children, 12 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. Everyone still lives in Colorado, from Buena Vista to Summit County, Denver and beyond, except a handful of grandchildren who live out of state.

### Love at first sight

The couple met in Oklahoma, when Daisy was still in high school and wanted to learn more about college. After staying with her sister, she was homesick to go home at Christmas, so she hitched a ride back to her hometown.

Grampy Campy was the driver,

and it was love at first sight.

Three months later, they were married.

When they think about that Easter Sunday 75 years ago, when they knocked on a minister's door to ask to be married, they can't believe it's been so long.

"It's like yesterday," Daisy said of that day in 1937.

Not long before that fateful day, it struck Grampy Campy that he ought to snag this girl before someone else whisked her away. He didn't get on his knees. But he did propose at her high school campus. She wasn't expecting it, but said yes. Excited, they drove to her home to ask permission.

"Her mother just threw her hands up," he said. "They didn't turn me down."

So, they headed to Kingfisher, Oklahoma to get a marriage license with the plan to make it official when she finished high school. Problem was, they didn't notice until later the license had an expiration date.

"I'd spent \$2 on it, and I couldn't imagine finding another \$2 for another one," Grampy Campy said. So they ran off to the minister's house a few weeks before Daisy turned 18.

"He married us, and by God, it's still there," Grampy Campy said.

### Bumps and bruises

Grampy Campy's grip tightened on Daisy's hand as he remembered a painful time — the time he almost drove his wife away.

"I just happened to catch her in time, or she'd be gone," he said. "That scares me now."

They'd arrived in Salida not long before.

"I thought, 'What a wonderful place. I'm never going to leave,'" Grampy Campy said, explaining that he ignored her to go hunting, fishing, play cards and more.

"I practically deserted her for



SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

**Daisy and Laurence Campton on their wedding day March 28, 1937, in Oklahoma.**



SUMMIT DAILY/MARK FOX

**Laurence and Daisy Campton are very rarely out of each other's sight or reach, here holding hands during an interview on their 75th wedding anniversary.**

several years," he said.

Daisy was about to leave, but she now admits she doesn't know

where she would have gone.

LOVE PAGE A7 ➤



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**Three generations of Camptons from left, Chuck, parents Laurence and Daisy and grandson Christian on the day of Laurence and Daisy's 75th wedding anniversary Wednesday.**

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