

WHEN A CITY GIRL *goes country*

By Annette Bridges

Together Is My Favorite Place to Be

Together is my favorite place to be. I had these words added to a photo for an anniversary gift to my husband.

As you can see in the featured photograph, it is a selfie I took looking back at my husband opening the gate when we were moving our cows from one pasture to another one.

If you look closely at my eyes, you can see the love-light shining through my sunglasses.

What does one give to their significant other after more than four decades of marriage? It can be a difficult decision to think of something new and never given before.

Do you ever wonder where the years have gone? Does time feel like it is moving too fast? Do you long for a slower pace with more moments spent with those you love most?

As I pondered anniversary gift ideas, I thought about the many years spent with my cattle rancher. We have taken numerous exciting, sometimes exotic and always fun anniversary trips where we made memories we will forever cherish, but this year I found myself reflecting on the even more countless memories we have made during our day-to-day life together.

Bopping around our ranch in the Ranger is my absolute favorite thing to do with my life partner. Whether we are moving the cows to a new grazing pasture, adding more mineral to the feeder or checking on pregnant mothers and new babies. Cruising in the



Annette Bridges gifted her husband this photo as a token of her appreciation for time spent together. (Photo courtesy Annette Bridges)

Ranger is fun and pure bliss.

Getting a hug from my man before he heads out the door is especially endearing. I love how he pats my back with every hug. Holding hands while we watch

television still makes my heart go pitter-patter.

We like the same type of television programs and movies. It is amusing to discuss the story plots and what we think will happen

next or what we think a character should or should not have said or done.

We have the best times when we travel and explore new places together. We appreciate small towns and back roads, historic buildings, eclectic shops, and mom-and-pop diners.

We can sit for hours never saying a word when sitting side by side on the beach or riding in our truck.

Even silence with my sweetheart is delightful. Fishing together at our favorite mountain lake is another joy, especially when we catch and grill our supper.

One of the many things we both relish is our coffee-sipping mornings.

My man knows precisely how I love my coffee, too. Believe it or not, there was a time when neither of us drank coffee.

I will never forget our first time. It was our seventh wedding anniversary that was spent at a southern plantation near the Mississippi River. We were served coffee out on the veranda in the most beautiful way.

We did not want to tell our gracious host that we did not drink coffee.

So, my husband fixed us both a cup adding the perfect amount of sugar and cream. Thus, our love for morning coffee was born.

Of course, I love working alongside my man doing whatever our cattle ranching operation requires of us. Together really is my favorite place to be. 