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Dan and Sydney Howell create romance through music and dance

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**At Home With
Steve & Jerry Reid**

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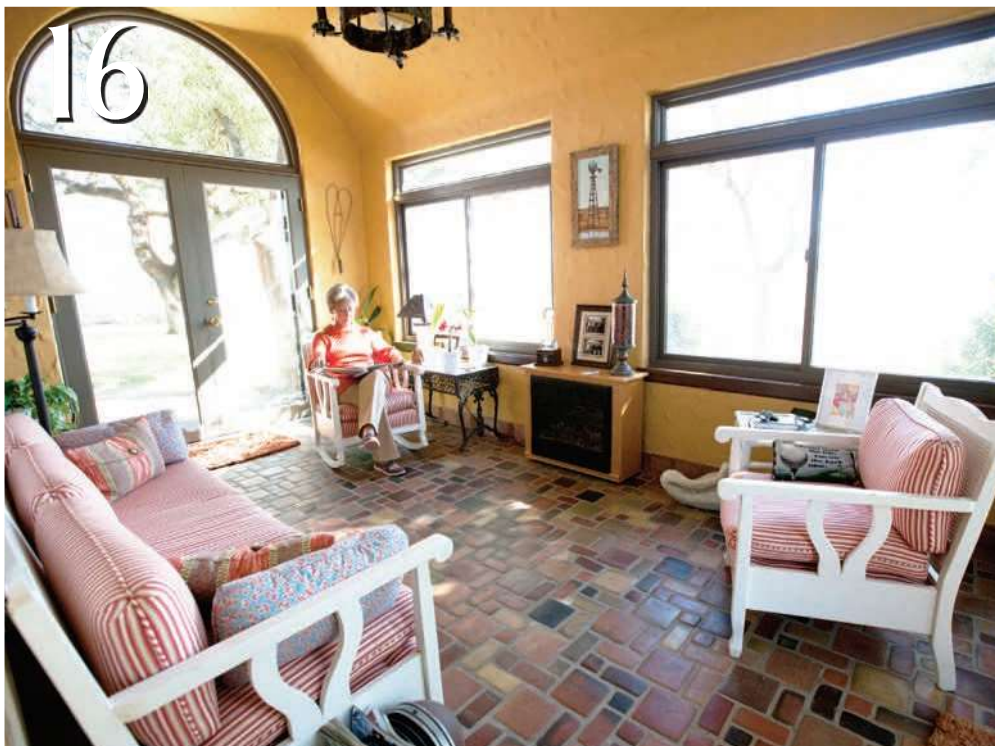


Dan and Sydney Howell are romantics at heart.

Photo by Vanessa Polozola.

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Editor's Note

Hi there, *WeatherfordNOW* readers!

As February gets underway, many of us are still enjoying the cooler temperatures, while others cannot wait for spring to arrive. Others are getting ready to celebrate Valentine's Day with their loved one with a romantic, candlelight dinner or by decorating heart-shaped cookies with the children. *WeatherfordNOW* is celebrating its two year anniversary in the community. Over the past couple of years, we've had a chance to get to know a little more about many of you in the local community and shared your stories with our readers. I am looking forward to meeting more of you and hearing your great story ideas. If you have someone in mind, who volunteers their time for others, creates artistic pieces to enjoy or has a great meal you have always wanted the recipe for, please let me know.

Happy Valentine's Day, everyone!

Amber

Amber D. Browne
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SPANNING *Generations*

— By Amber D. Browne



Nestled among large oak trees on acres of ranch land in Aledo, Steve and Jerry Reid's home has become a place of comfort and joy for the couple. The Reids inherited the two-story English Tudor home from Jerry's aunt, Dorothy Winston. Dorothy and her husband, Joe, were pioneers and built the stone house in 1933.

Jerry grew up on the property and moved into the house in March of 2000. Her aunt moved into a guest house on the property, and Jerry's parents, Pete and Carrie Jo Kelly, lived in the foreman's house just steps away. All of them have now passed away, but Jerry and her husband keep up the ranch.

AT HOME WITH STEVE AND JERRY REID

"Don't ever say you won't ever go home again, because you might," Jerry chuckled. "I don't mind living in the country," she said. "I like all the animals that come up. We have a family of foxes that come every day, and we have deer that eat my flowers right at the back door."

Jerry enjoys watching the wildlife through the large windows in the sun room. They allow lots of light in, making it bright and cheery for Jerry to enjoy her books. She often sees raccoons, squirrels and a rafter of wild turkeys milling about outside. The sun room and the foyer have original cobblestone flooring from England.

Original light fixtures are found throughout the house, and dark wooden floors give the place a warm feel. "The floor was actually milled out here on the property," Jerry explained.

In the living area, dark wooden beams adorn the ceiling overhead. A comfy, oversized leather sofa and chairs provide plenty of seating in front of a warm fire on a cold winter's night. A collection of crosses line one living room wall, and paintings purchased over the years bring the other walls to life. An antique piano also finds a home in the living area. "I used to play when I was young, because my mother made me. I wish I could play now, but I wasn't that good in the first place," Steve laughed.

They enjoy entertaining friends with a chuck wagon supper in the spring to celebrate their birthdays. Their three children, Steve Reid, Kelly Nelson and Stephanie Bradley visit when they can. "We have seven grandchildren. Four girls and three boys," Jerry said. "They are all old enough to be really busy. They've grown, and they've moved on." But, they still make time to come out to the ranch for family gatherings.



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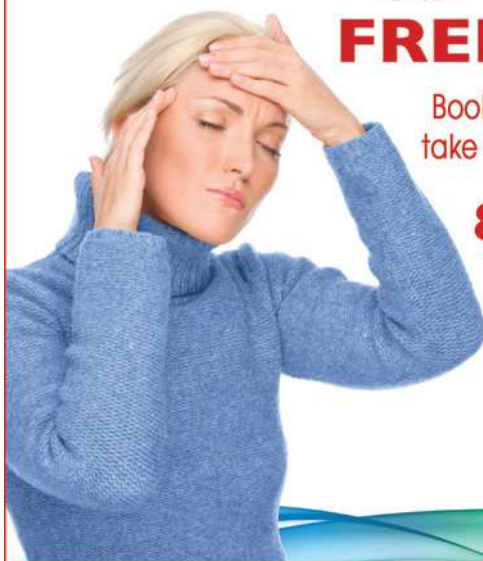


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The Reids have done some remodeling since moving to the property. “The first major project was replacing all of the windows,” she said. About 50 windows were replaced throughout the entire home. They have also renovated one room Dorothy added to the home. “We had it redone to look like the rest of the house. The room was real modern, and it didn’t fit at all,” Jerry explained.

The new room has some office equipment and sitting areas, with family photos proudly displayed. Large

windows and doors let a lot of light into the room, which is where Steve likes to find solitude. “It’s more open. I can see out, watch the road, watch the back,” Steve said.

Steve and Jerry redid the cozy kitchen with all new cabinets and countertops. Jerry painted bricks on one wall in the kitchen. She enjoys painting in her free time. The kitchen opens into a breakfast room, where Jerry has a cabinet for her homemade plum and grape jellies. She gets the fruit from trees and grapevines

on the ranch.

An original smoke house still sits on the property. “When I was growing up, that’s where we smoked hams and bacon. We killed our own pigs,” Jerry explained. A covered rock walkway leads from the home to their two-story office. As a retired football coach, Steve displays his sports memorabilia and keeps his golf clubs in there.

The main home features a downstairs guest room painted peach with two twin beds — their original mattresses date

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from 1933. They were going to get rid of them, but with urging from overnight guests, they decided to keep the comfy mattresses.

At the top of the wooden stair case is a hallway with white, built-in linen cabinets for extra storage. Dorothy was a hair dresser, so her original hair drier bench sits just outside the master bedroom. The master bedroom has a reading nook near a large window. Steve and Jerry can get some fresh air in the morning by stepping outside onto the patio. Or, they can warm up by the wood-burning fireplace. Inside the updated master bathroom, Jerry added a large closet and two copper sinks inset into rustic-colored countertops.



Another guest room, where Jerry lived for a while as a girl, includes an antique trousseau trunk from Steve's grandmother. "Everything I have is something that belonged to somebody else," Jerry said. A Jack-and-Jill bath decorated in black and white connects the room to another guest room with fancy hats on display. Jerry's Aunt Dorothy's hope chest and bed fill up the room.

Jerry likes to recycle and reuse as much as she can. "If you've got it and want to use it, why not? I never understood why people get rid of stuff. Some stuff, but not everything," she said.

Although they are both retired, Steve and Jerry keep busy on the property. "There are a lot of responsibilities that we have out here," Steve said. They do



have help from Marcos Sosa, who has worked on the property for two decades. He helps care for the animals, fences, windmills and anything else that might need a little work.

Even though keeping up the property can take time, Steve and Jerry travel as much as possible. "When he was 68, he wanted to learn to fly helicopters," Jerry said about Steve. So, Steve got his pilot's



license, and now the couple flies to other cities for weekend trips.

Steve met Jerry on a blind date at Texas A&M University in 1958. He attended school there, and Jerry was a student at Texas Christian University. They were married in 1960, and Steve went on to join the Marine Corps. Steve and Jerry have lived in other areas of the country, but, they are happy to have settled on the ranch in Aledo.

"We want to pass it on to the kids down the line. Not many ranches today still have the background of maintaining their property," Steve said. "We're just trying to hold onto it, and keep it like that as long as we can. And, hopefully, our kids will do it as long as they can." **NOW**

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