

Faith in God puts mind to rest about COVID

The bride wore a white sequined wedding dress with silver cowboy boots and a long flowing train. The groom wore grey pants, a white shirt, red suspenders and brown work boots.

And we settled in for a good old country wedding and reception, that included yellow sunflowers and red roses, Busch Light and a wagon pulled by a tractor.

The wedding took place in the middle of nowhere in a small country church in Michigan – God’s country many would call it. The parking lot was filled with pick-up trucks, tractors, a camo colored gator and a golf cart. There were also chickens seen running around next to a small cemetery on the side of the church.

For my niece from the big city of Bloomington, Minn., the site of all that country was worthy of photos and snap chat stories.

While we had never met the bride, and only knew the groom through his parents and grandparents, there was



A SLICE OF LIFE

Linda Wilk



a bond there that outweighed the looming fear of the Corona Virus.

The groom’s mother and her parents were neighbors of my husband Larry’s and while not officially a blood relative, they might as well be.

It was the groom’s grandparents’ home right down the gravel road from where Larry grew up, where he spent many of his summer days, picking cucumbers for

a nearby pickle factory. It was also the grandfather who coached Larry’s little league baseball team and his wife who was the scorekeeper, so their daughter being an only child and younger than Larry, naturally tagged along to most games, becoming the younger sister Larry never had.

So, when the engagement was announced, talk was made that a trip to Michigan would be taking place. Then the coronavirus hit and there was speculation whether an invitation would be extended, given we were not officially family and the guest list would need to be reduced.

Fortunately, we made the cut and so off to Michigan, masks in hand we went. It was also the first time in more than a year that we would get to see Larry’s 85-year-old mom, his two sisters, one of his nieces and another elderly couple who we consider family.

The wedding was short and sweet – 20 minutes from the entrance of the brides-



maids and groomsmen to the standing for the bride. Each of the five bridesmaids wore their own version of a formal red dress, with one wearing work boots as she walked down the aisle. The groomsmen were all dressed similarly to the groom with red suspenders and work boots.

Possibly the part that caught my attention the most was after the ceremony and congratulatory comments shared with the bride and groom, was how the newlyweds and their bridal party got to the reception.

Outside in the church parking lot was a shiny red International Harvester tractor hooked to an old wooden wagon. The wagon had been decorated with Mr. and Mrs. on one side and Just Married on the back.

We learned the tractor had special significance because it had belonged to the bride’s grandfather and had not been run in 10 to 12 years. The

groom, who restores old tractors for a hobby, had taken the rusty old tractor and breathed new life into it, wanting to use it for the wedding.

After a brief photo op in the cemetery, the bride hiked up her voluminous flowing wedding gown and stepped right up into the wagon, along with each of her bridesmaids who had switched in to their own pair of cowboy boots or work boots. Together with the groomsmen and a few cases of beer, they headed off to a barn for more photo taking before arriving at an outdoor reception at the bride’s parents’ home two hours later. At the reception in addition to the typical wedding decorations were two tractors – one red and one green, posed as possible decorations and a sentiment to their true love.

We later learned that the bride and groom had met at a tractor pulling contest, where

the bride noticed the groom and decided to message him, which started a three-year romance which culminated on July 18 with their nuptials.

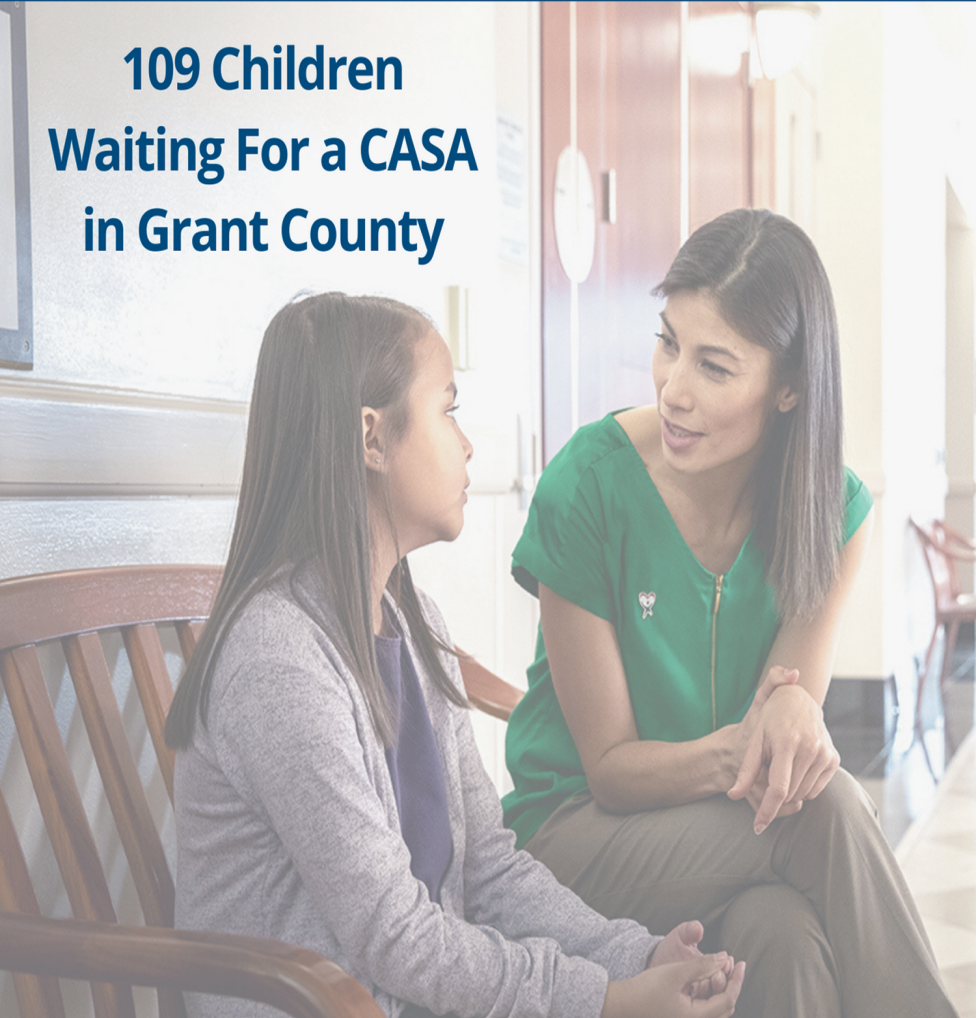
It was not just a special day for the bride and groom however, it was also the date 50 years prior that the groom’s grandparents had been married – a very intentional date when the couple chose their date to be married on.

So, as part of the festivities the grandparents were asked to cut their cake, feed each other cake and dance a dance selected just for them.

While the corona virus was never far from my mind this past weekend, I decided to put my trust in God and place my faith over my fear, believing that it was more important to celebrate a wedding and anniversary then let fear dictate my happiness. And, I am glad we did.



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Marion in general, has been very easy to work with, very cooperative, very helpful, and very supportive from the Health Department to the permitting to the Chamber folks and surrounding businesses.”

With all of the updates that the Good Oil Company has already made to the BP

service center, Jones believes that customers will be pleased with this newest change, and he looks forward to serving the people of Grant County for years to come.

“When we started down this road again back in November, it was a daily occurrence to have numerous customers inquiring,

“When is the Subway coming back?”” Jones said. “They were happy to see not only some of the changes that we made to the convenience store aspect of it, but the fact that we were bringing Subway back.

“We are here, we are ready, and we are open for them.”



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