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Celebrate Weddings



Ron and Ruth Hanson, Long Lake

Date of Marriage: Sept. 14, 1963

Place of Marriage:

St. Louis Catholic Church,
Paynesville

How did you meet?

A girlfriend and I were seniors in high school and were substitute bowling for several "older women" at the bowling alley in the downstairs of the Roscoe Bar. The team stopped at Al's Tavern for steak sandwiches. Ron was at Al's with a friend of mine. He called me a few nights later for a date.

Who proposed and how?

After several years of observing his Scandinavian family, I suggested we get married as they obviously could use some new genes in the gene pool. It was a success, too. They have learned to eat wiener schnitzel, sauerbraten and sauerkraut, corned beef, and Irish soda bread. I, on the other hand, had to learn to eat lutefisk. Oh, well, at least it has melted butter on it.

How long were you engaged?

It seemed like a long time...at the time. But it was only a few months.

How large was your wedding?

About 200 people.



Submitted photo

Ron and Ruth Hanson in 1963

What food was served?

We had the typical chicken, mashed potatoes, etc., dinner.

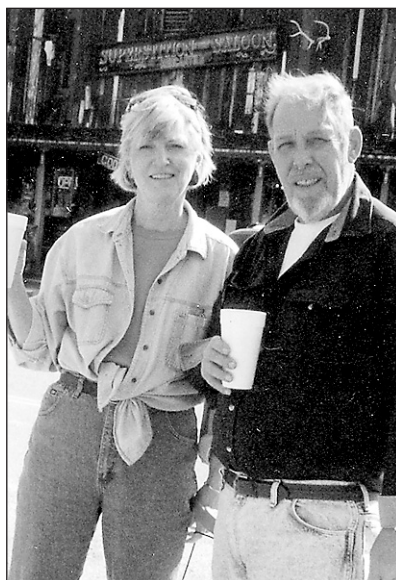
What was the most memorable thing about your wedding?

It had to be when my Aunt Rose walked into the reception with her mink stole slung around her neck. The nasty little critter's head was still attached, and his marble black eyes and shiny nose and gruesome smile scared every child under the age of five screaming to the bathroom or to hide behind their mothers. It was definitely a Kodak moment.

What was your most memorable wedding gift?

I don't recall any single gift. Back then we got a lot of linens and towels. It wasn't really a gift, but my brother-in-law put my mother's favorite cat in the trunk of our car, and we didn't discover it until the next day when we were in South Dakota. I couldn't dump the poor thing; it was a terrific mouser! She seemed to enjoy the trip.

HANSONS - see page 11



Submitted photo

Ruth and Ron Hanson

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Celebrate Weddings



Lois and Rod Gertken, Richmond

Date of Marriage: Nov. 20, 1993

Place of Marriage:
St. Louis Catholic Church,
Paynesville. Reception at Bernie's
Barn, Paynesville.

How did you meet?
We met in high school. Rod was a
wrestler, and I was a cheerleader.
Rod finally got the courage to ask
me out after running smack into
me in the halls. Accident? I don't
think so.

Who proposed and how?

Rod took me up to Breezy Point.
He was quiet all the way up there
and looked pale. I thought he was
sick. We weren't in our cabin five
minutes, and he asked me to be his
wife. Needless to say, after I said
"yes" he felt much better.

How long were you engaged?

We were engaged almost exactly
one year. Rod proposed on Nov. 13,
and we were going to get married
on Nov. 13, but since it was the sec-
ond weekend of deer hunting we
had to wait another week.

How large was your wedding?

We each had four attendants and
served over 400 people.

What food was served?

The yummy traditional meal:

chicken, dressing, mashed potatoes,
corn, etc.

**What was the most memorable
thing about your wedding?**

The whole day was so much fun.
It went by so fast. We got up at 5
a.m., got our hair done, pictures
started at 8 a.m., mass at 10:30 a.m.,
reception, dance. Before we knew
it, it was late in the evening.

**What wedding gift do
you use the most today?**

Toss up between the corelle dish
set we got from our aunts or the
recliner we got from the Credit
Union. We use them both daily.

**Where did you go
for a honeymoon?**

We went on a seven-day
Norwegian cruise with stops at the
Bahamas, Ocho Rios, Grand
Cayman, and Cozumel.

**What do you do to keep romance
alive in your marriage?**

We keep "dating." Although we
are married, we are still
boyfriend/girlfriend.



Lois and Rod Gertken

Submitted photo

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Celebrate Weddings



Doreen and Ronald Thorson, Hawick

Date of Marriage: Oct. 19, 1957

Place of Marriage:

St. Ann's Catholic Church, Kimball

How did you meet?

We met at a dance in Cold Spring.

Who proposed and how?

I was always hinting, but Ronald proposed after we got back from a dance.

How long were you engaged?

About one year.

How large was your wedding?

About 225 people.

What food was served?

Chicken, dressing, potatoes, gravy, corn, cabbage salad, rolls, and of course wedding cake.

What was the most memorable thing about your wedding?

When we said, "I do," and having all our families and friends at our wedding.

What was your most memorable wedding gift?

We had so many nice gifts it's hard to choose just one. Fifty years ago, a \$5 cash gift was special.

What wedding gift do you use the most today?

A chrome bread box and canisters, and it still looks like new.

Who caught the bouquet and did they have to shove to get it?

Our friend and her sister had a shoving match.

Whose relatives, or friends, had the most fun at the wedding?

Friends of my parents did. They always played tricks on the bride and groom. So they took us on a ride into downtown Kimball in a manure spreader. Thank God it was clean and new.

Ronald's two young brothers (ages 10 and 12) went pheasant hunting by my parent's place. They were bored with all the old people.

Where did you go for a honeymoon?

To the Black Hills.

What do you do to keep romance alive in your marriage?

We go out to dinner or supper a lot. Ronald always give me flowers for special days. For our 50th wedding anniversary last fall, he gave me a beautiful diamond ring. And just being together day after day.

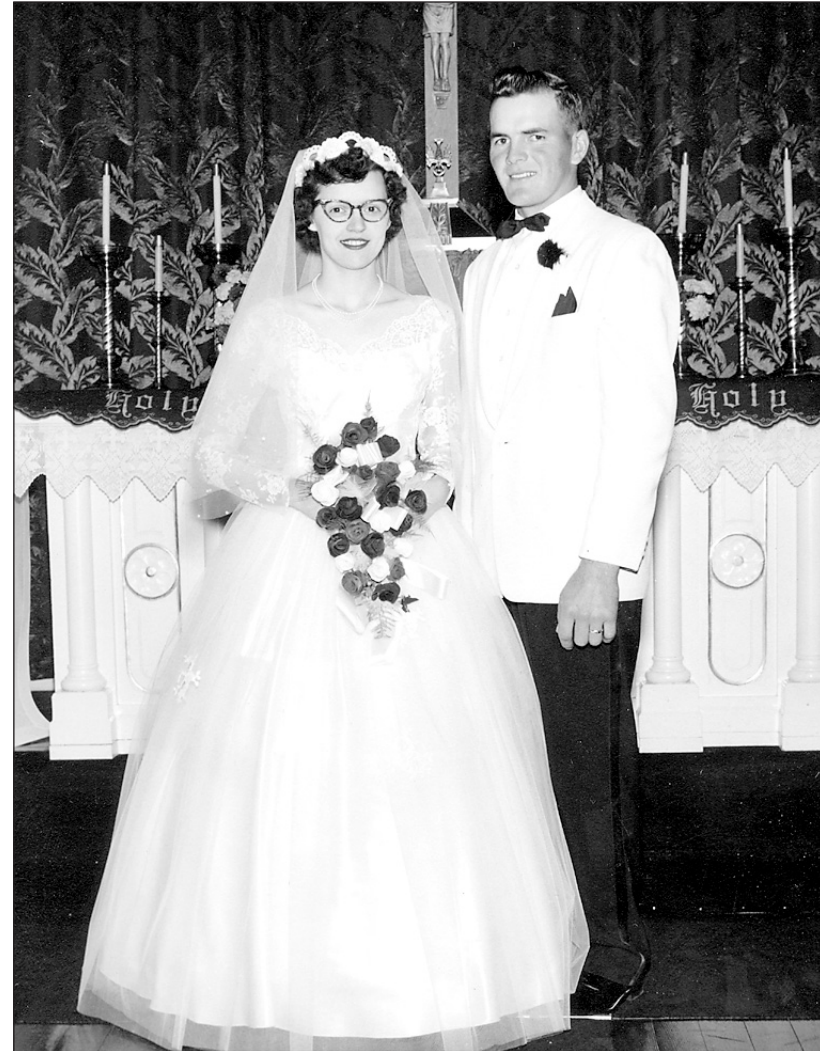
If you could travel back in time to your wedding day, what advice for maintaining a happy marriage would you give yourselves?

Never let a day or night go by being mad at each other. Work side by side and be there for each other, just like we've done for 50 years.



Submitted photo

Ronald and Doreen Thorson



Submitted photo

Doreen and Ronald Thorson in 1957

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Celebrate Weddings



Brandon and Jen Engen, Paynesville

Date of Marriage: June 16, 2007

Place of Marriage:
St. Louis Catholic Church,
Paynesville

How did you meet?
While working at Wally's G&T.
Jen was a cashier, and Brandon
was a carryout person.

Who proposed and how?
We looked at rings together, and
Brandon bought one afterwards but
never told Jen. The next week
when Jen came home from college
he asked if she wanted to go for a
walk by the Crow River nature
trails, and that is where he pro-
posed.

How long were you engaged?
Over two years.

How large was your wedding?
Around 175 people.

What food was served?
Roast beef, garlic potatoes, a
salad, corn, green beans, bread,
cake, and our favorite, Rolos.

**What was the most memorable
thing about your wedding?**
Overall, the entire wedding was
very memorable. The weather was
nice and sunny, everyone was
happy and looked good, the little
kids in our bridal party did a great
job, our families were very helpful,
and we weren't stressed out.

**What was your most
memorable wedding gift?**
The gifts of cash we received
from our families.

**What wedding gift do
you use the most today?**
We use a lot of them since we
haven't been married long, but we
use the blender Jen's sister gave us
the most.

**Who caught the bouquet and
did they have to shove to get it?**
Pam (Brandon's mom), and she
pushed her way in. That must be
why she is engaged today!

**Whose relatives, or friends,
had the most fun at the wedding?**
It would have to be the two guys
that had their birthday on our wed-
ding. They really celebrated!

**Where did you go
for a honeymoon?**
Hawaii (Oahu Island).

**What do you do to keep romance
alive in your marriage?**
We talk a lot and share a lot of
the same interests. So, we are able
to spend time together and plan fun
activities and have a good time
together.

**If you could travel back in time
to your wedding day, what advice
for maintaining a happy marriage
would you give yourselves?**
Don't stress out about the little
things.



Submitted photo

Brandon and Jen Engen



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