

The Marriage Of A Dairy Princess

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Remember Rebecca Sonnen — the 1987 Pennsylvania Dairy Princess and the Pennsylvania FFA president, who was active in many other agricultural-related activities?

In April, Rebecca, or "Becky" as she is more often called, married Fred Bube, a neighbor to her parents', Paul and Marilyn Sonnen's, Lebanon County farm.

Like many couples who have finished four years of college, finances are tight, and novel ways to reduce wedding costs become a prime objective.

Becky and Fred believe it is more important to put their money into buying a house rather than having an elaborate wedding. After graduating from Penn State in December, Becky began working for Middle Atlantic Milk Marketing Association in Maryland. Fred, a mechanical engineer, works in Reading.

Becky offers her tips for having a beautiful but economical wedding to our readers.

She said, "Remember, even the simplest wedding is beautiful — because it's a wedding."

But, like all brides, Becky wanted a memorable wedding day, one that both the bridal couple and the guests would recall with pleasure. And one that would not cost their bridal attendants unnecessary expense.

Although Becky and Fred dated five years, they were only engaged four months.

"People often say that you can't plan a wedding that quickly," Becky said, "but we proved it can

be done."

The couple decided that tuxedos were one unnecessary expense for their bridal party. Foregoing the high costs of tuxedos, the guys purchased identical dress suits for almost the same price of a tuxedo rental, and now have permanent suits to wear. Becky and Fred purchased men's suits at a one-half price sale at a local department store. Because it was a one-day only sale, four of the suits needed to be purchased without being fitted because the men were unable to make the trip to the store. But with a few simple alterations, the suits fit.

Tuxedo shirts, cummerbunds, and ties were rented for \$12 for each person. On the day of the wedding, many people were not even aware that the suits were not tuxedos.

Dresses for the two flower girls were the first purchase made for the bridal attire. The off-white dress suits were bought at an outlet sale.

Becky, who believes in being practical, did not want to require her bridesmaids to purchase gowns that would hang in the closet after one wearing; consequently, she and the bridal attendants shopped for suits and ended up purchasing teal blue-colored suits from a mail-order catalogue. They stitched lace down the front and across the pockets to give the suits a dressier flair.

Becky purchased matching necklaces and bracelets at a half-price sale for the bridesmaids to wear with the suits. And white leather pumps were worn.

Becky set aside one day to shop for a wedding gown. "The more I



Former Pennsylvania Dairy Princess and state FFA president, Rebecca Sonnen sought ways to make her wedding memorable but economical.

looked, the more confused I became," she said.

Although she loved a dress that she had tried on in the beginning of the day, by afternoon she could not remember what it had looked like. She knew that she wanted an off-white satin gown with an average price.

Becky said, "When you are working on a budget, you can't find everything that totally suits. You can't be real picky about stuff."

But she was pleased to find exactly the dress that she wanted at a price she could afford that day.

When it comes to flowers, Becky says, "Cut out roses. Flow-

ers are beautiful even if they are not roses, so why waste all that money on something that is going to die anyway?"

Real flowers were used for bridal bouquets, but Becky and a future sister-in-law used silk flowers for the reception table centerpieces, which were then given as gifts to those who helped with the reception.

"My sister-in-law is an absolute whiz when putting flower arrangements together," Becky said.

For some of the tables, they used brandy sniffers with candles and silk flowers arranged inside, and for some, they had black and white cow cups, which they used as a

vase.

The rehearsal dinner was served at the church after practice. The church has a policy of providing the preparation of the meal free if the couple is married there. The only requirement is that the couple pay for the cost of the ingredients to make the food. Since Becky loves Italian food, the menu was lasagna, tossed salad, homemade bread, and ice cream sundaes.

The reception was held at the Berks County 4-H Center, partly because it was one of the few places that could seat 250 people, had sufficient space for the cater-

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Love For Sheep Shearing Weaves Two Together

LINDA WILLIAMS

Bedford Co. Correspondent

BEDFORD (Bedford Co.) — "I had a little talk with the Lord," said Reverend John Sammel at the wedding of Barb Falvey and Vaughn Wood, "I told Him this was my first international wedding and these were good people. And, look at the day we got!"

Pastor Sammel's prayer was undoubtedly answered as the long awaited wedding of the two sheep shearers arrived with a robin's egg blue, cloudless sky, just right solar-heated temperatures, and spring flowers in abundance.

Barb, a native of Bedford County, who took her first shearing lesson from local shearer Karl Kaufman, was wed to Vaughn Wood, a professional shearer from New Zealand.

From the beginning, Barb knew she wanted to be wed in front of the family barn, near her own beloved Merinos. She wanted to be pulled up the lane in a carriage. She wanted a break from most wedding traditions but with old-fashioned flavor. In short, she wanted to have her cake and eat it too.

And, that she did! Even the fresh lilac decorated and home-baked wedding cake carried out the country-style theme.

Guinea's and assorted other unusual breeds of hens clucked and roosters crowed, adding harmony to the folk band composed of various sheep shearing friends who were using a groom designed portable sheep shearing stand as a stage.

Other music was provided by a

barbershop singing group of men. One of the barbershoppers was Karl Kaufman, who, was actually responsible for the whole wedding. "I often wonder what would have happened if I would have told Barb that I wouldn't teach her how to shear," he laughs.

Among their many songs was a specially composed rendition of "Sleep, Sleep, Sleep". Their version began, "Sheep, Sheep, Sheep! Close Your Eyes Count Sheep!"

The bridesmaids arrived in a cart pulled by miniature horses accompanied by a miniature colt. The bride's carriage was pulled by her mother's very special dapple gray.

Wearing a simple, but slightly elegant and perfectly-fitted lace dress, the bride's attire was set off with matching granny boots. She wore flowers in her hair and a smile that could conquer even the vast distance between Bedford, Pennsylvania, and New Zealand.

Bridesmaids wore similar country-style dresses, straw hats and carried baskets of fresh cut flowers.

The lane was adorned with baskets of spring flowers and the altar section in front of the barn was lined with potted mums.

The flags of the United States and New Zealand were painted on the barn door. They were works of art by the father of the groom. The groom's entire family all gathered at the Falvey farm for the wedding. They arrived from "down under," from other parts of the United States and from London, England.



Mr. and Mrs. Wood and their sheep shearing friends from both Bedford County and New Zealand. The ceremony in progress.

It was a wedding to be enjoyed by all. Children played on the green lawn or rolled small cars around the wedding setting, grandmothers rocked contented babies from the sidelines.

The smell of a fresh roasting pig filled the spring air accompanied by the equal mouth watering scent of fried chicken.

An old shed was converted into a cafeteria and kegs and bottles of brew were served from a makeshift barrel bar.

The international guests mingled sharing stories of their various homelands and the humor of New Zealanders was evident with their affectionate joking.

Barb and Vaughn plan to spend more than a month at the farm helping with summer chores before returning to New Zealand for another season of sheep shearing.



The bride came down the lane in a horse drawn carriage. The atmosphere was relaxed and pleasant.