



Bride & Joy

WEDDING GUIDE

a special supplement to the award-winning
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Featured Stories

Lauren & Brady
Rustic Chic Wedding

MaryBeth & Jack
Written in the Stars

Brooke & Mike
The Final Rose

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Shared Habits Of Organized People

The beginning of the year is an ideal time to get organized and set oneself up for productive months ahead. It's also a good opportunity to take inventory of seldom-used items and clear out as much clutter as possible.

The amount of stuff the average person owns can affect how easy or difficult it is for that person to get organized. In 2014, professional organizer Regina Lark estimated the average American home contains 300,000 items. And it's not just adults who love to collect and keep things, as kids contribute to the prob-

lem, too. British research, as published in The Telegraph, indicates the average 10-year-old owns 238 toys, playing with just 12 in a typical day.

All of these belongings contribute to disorganization and lost time. A study by Esure Home Insurance found looking for lost items accounts for 10 minutes of wasted time each day.

Getting organized can take perseverance. However, it is possible. Use these strategies to get organized in the months ahead.

• Observe the "one-in, one-out" rule. Practice the rule of

giving away or discarding one item per each new item that comes into your home. This approach can keep a cap on the new things you own.

• Skip the freebies. Resist the temptation to accept items that are being given away by family, friends, retailers, etc. Politely refuse these unnecessary items, which will only pile up.

• Rent items rather than buying them. Renting rather than buying is another way to stay organized. Avid readers can rely on the public library for their weekly reads. Instead of purchasing new formal

wear to wear to a wedding, rent tuxedos, suits or evening gowns.

• Make lists of what needs to be done. Writing down tasks can help them become more manageable, and a list can also ensure a task is fully completed. Physically checking off a to-do list can be quite satisfying, providing motivation to finish the rest of the list.

• Take a catch-up day. Those who feel bogged down by a backlog of responsibilities can take a day off from work to catch up on chores and tasks. Fit a few things in



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over the course of the day.

• Plan ahead for meals and other tasks. Use the calendar to plan out the week or the month. When you know what to expect, instead of spending time figuring out what to make or which task to do each

day, you can be more efficient about getting it done.

Getting organized is a common goal. It's entirely achievable with a positive attitude and some dedication.

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Did you know?

Longevity in marriage is something to be celebrated. Couples who reach fiftieth and sixtieth wedding anniversaries often commemorate those anniversaries with big parties. But there are some around the world who would consider golden anniversary celebrants to still be newlyweds. In December 2015, Karam Chand, 110, and his wife, Kartari Chand, 103, from Bradford, West Yorkshire (originally from India), celebrated their 90th wedding anniversary, becoming the world's longest-betrothed couple. In America, John and Ann Betar, ages 104 and 100, respectively, have been married 83 years as of 2016. The couple eloped in 1932. They have been named one of America's longest-married couples by the Worldwide Marriage Encounter. © Metro Creative Connection






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The Final Rose

Most of us are familiar with the ABC Reality Show “The Bachelor” - a show loved by one of our featured brides, Brooke (Janicek) Dalen. So, when it came time for the perfect proposal, Mike used the show as inspiration. Mike got down on one knee and asked “Will you marry me and accept this final rose?” Of course, she said yes. But let’s back up a little and start this true love story from the beginning.

Brooke and Mike knew of each other during their high school years, but it wasn’t until mutual friends re-introduced them while Brooke was a student at Iowa State University that Mike instantly stole her heart with his charm, and “the rest is history” says Brooke.

The couple dated for two years before the perfect proposal took place under the campanile on the campus of ISU. Brooke was getting ready to attend a conference with Mike, but he was too busy to pick her up so he sent a driver to pick up Brooke and get her there. She admits she was a little uneasy, so she quickly called Mike to make sure this was okay and he reassured her that it was. The driver eventually pulled up to Memorial Union and said, “This is where I say good-bye. Just follow the path and the signs!” As Brooke walked down the sidewalk she saw a sign that said “Will” a little further was “You” the next two were “Marry” and “Me” where Mike was standing under the campanile awaiting his soon to be fiancé.

Brooke said Mike took them down memory lane of their last couple of years together, then got down on one knee and she said YES!! Both parents of the bride and groom were there to witness the beginning of a crazy, fun filled year of planning a wedding. Family is very important to both Brooke and Mike, so to have both sets of parents there to witness the proposal

was “one of the best days ever”, said Brooke.

Well, now the planning begins. Brooke grew up in Spirit Lake, so she knew she wanted a wedding during the summer and was fortunate that the venue in which she wanted was available. From there, everything fell into place and the 13-month planning for the June 18, 2016, wedding date began.

Brooke looked at numerous dresses but, went back to the first one she tried on as the others just didn’t compare. The beautiful dress was all lace, beaded, with straps and purchased from A Heavenly Celebration in Emmetsburg. Brooke said that picking out the colors was easy - she had always loved sunflowers, so that was the staple in addition to sharp accent colors that were made up of white roses and gerbera daisies. Her bouquets were made by the designers at Hy-Vee Floral in Spirit Lake. The bridesmaid’s bouquets were three jumbo sunflowers tied together. “Hy-Vee Floral of Spirit Lake was tremendous to work with”, said Brooke. The bridesmaid’s dresses were purchased at Elegance by Sarah in Okoboji. They were simple, yet elegant, black silk form fitting strapless dresses. The groomsmen wore grey tuxedos with ivory shirts, black vests and ties which were rented from A Heavenly Celebration in Emmetsburg.

The Waterfront at Bridges Bay is where the June 18 ceremony took place. To say the least, the bride and groom were a little nervous, as this venue was in its construction phase, but rest assured it was finished in time. Brooke and Mike were the first couple to get married at the outdoor Gazebo, and she is honored to have started, what is sure to be, an Okoboji wedding tradition. The day was perfect for an outdoor wedding along the shores of East Lake Okoboji. Following the ceremony, the Barefoot Bar Tiki Bus took the wedding party to Okoboji Boat Works, where they took the Barefoot Barge for a happy hour cruise to the Majestic Pavilion at Arnolds Park, where the reception was held. The dinner was catered by the Hi-Lo Supper Club of Lakefield, Minnesota, and the gorgeous four layer cake was provided by the bride’s uncle from CupCake Omaha!

MC Express of Okoboji provided the DJ services for the

dance party following the reception. For the father/daughter dance, the bride and her father danced to “Daddy Dance with Me”, by Krystal Keith. This moment was especially special as Brooke is very close to her father, Pat!

Brooke and Mike hired a decorator to help reduce the stress of worrying about those fine details - something Brooke would definitely recommend. Glenda Moeller provided those services and was extremely helpful throughout the entire wedding planning process. “She was outstanding and was a huge part in making our wedding day so elegant and complete.”

The photography services were provided by Jenn Pruss of Studio 1328 in Spirit Lake.

The bride and groom were registered locally at Interiors in Spirit Lake. Many wonderful gifts were received and were

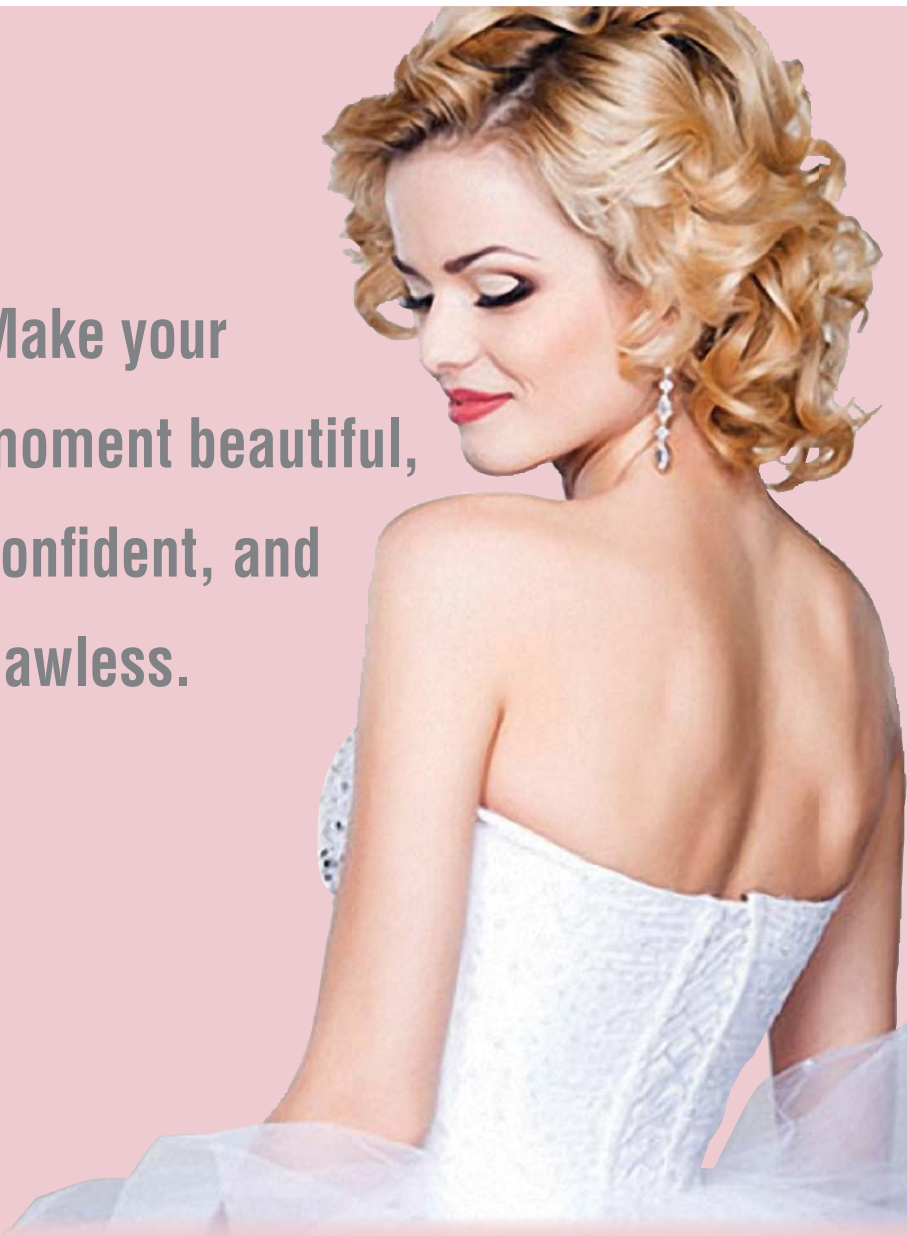
opened the following day at Brooke’s parent’s home. Following a delicious brunch, many close family and friends gathered together to end the weekend onboard the Barefoot Barge for a Father’s Day Celebration - the perfect way to end a perfect wedding weekend celebration!

I asked Brooke for a couple final thoughts.... she said “the day was beautiful, everything went as planned. My mom was a huge help! If you know my mom, you know she is always organized and prepared for everything. This wedding would not have been possible without my parent’s love and support”.

— by Jantina Carney



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Incorporate Flowers in Various Ways

Weddings are special moments for couples and the guests they invite to share their happiness on their big days. Beautiful weddings require substantial planning, as every last detail must be considered for couples to enjoy the wedding of their dreams.

Flowers play a big role in many weddings, and couples can add beauty and ambiance to the event by using floral arrangements in various ways. Modern floral arrangements are stunning, and many couples may not know that herbs, spices and flowers have been used in weddings for centuries.



Today, flowers are used to decorate wedding venues, impart sweet fragrances and complement formal attire, but in ancient times they were used differently. Flowers were used to bestow good luck on the couple and keep bad omens away. Brides carried aromatic flowers and spices to keep evil spirits from spoiling the festivities, and some even tucked bulbs of garlic into their bouquets. In ancient Greece and Rome, both the bride and groom wore garlands made out of strong-smelling herbs flowers around their necks or heads. These wreaths were considered gifts of nature, and thus extremely appropriate for a wedding. Traditionally, bridesmaids would be responsible for fashioning these floral components. In ancient Sweden, young girls would carry small bouquets of fragrant herbs down the aisle and the groom would put thyme in his pocket. These aromatics were thought to help keep trolls at bay.

Besides warding off spirits or hungry trolls, flowers also served more practical purposes throughout history. During the Middle Ages, people bathed less frequently than they do today. Bathing might only have occurred twice a year, once during summer and then again at Christmastime. Because many weddings took place in the spring, flowers were used to mask bodily odors. Not only were flowers and herbs carried, but they also would be sewn into clothing.

Modern brides and grooms may no longer see their wedding days as times for opportunistic evil spirits. But that doesn't mean that couples cannot borrow from ancient traditions and incorporate flowers into their weddings in various ways.

- **Wreaths and garlands:** Ask the florist to weave small flower buds, berries and vines to a headband, wreath or piece of twine so that the bride and groom can wear these flowers in the way they were worn by ancient Greeks and Romans. When coupled with Grecian-styled wedding gowns, brides can look like beautiful goddesses on their wedding days.

- **Fragrant favors:** Tuck dried rose petals and other fragrant flowers into sachets that are embroidered with the wedding date and couple's names. Guests can use these sachets to keep cloths smelling fresh in drawers or as subtle air fresheners around the house.

- **Edible flowers:** Ask the caterer to make meals flower-friendly by including some edible blooms in the salad or as a garnish on meals.

- **Raining petals:** In lieu of bubbles or birdseed, guests can shower the newlyweds with rose petals after the ceremony.

- **Memorial:** Some couples like to honor departed family members. Floral arrangements with small placards can make for fitting memorials.

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It was written in the stars that someday MaryBeth Horstman and Jack Johnson would be together as man and wife. But in 2012 the stars weren't yet aligned for this romance to take off.

When MaryBeth was a high school senior in Sanborn, Iowa, her older brother Josh would bring home numerous Northwestern College friends for meals. One of Josh's friends was Jack Johnson, a sophomore business major. There were no sparks between MaryBeth and Jack... as he was just another student traipsing through their home.

Fast forward two years and MaryBeth was now enrolled at Northwestern, in the Business Department. In the spring of 2014, when MaryBeth was a sophomore and Jack was a senior, the two were thrown together to plan their department's trip to Colombia, South America. Jack was an expert on Colombia since he had an internship there in 2013. Starry-eyed MaryBeth thought to herself, "I'd really like to get to know that handsome, adventurous guy."

The two ended up connecting on that trip and soon the sparks were flying. Besides travel, the two enjoyed star-gazing together. While star-gazing, Jack first asked her to be his girlfriend and soon love bloomed!

Jack graduated from Northwestern in May 2014 and moved to Minneapolis, near Roseville where he grew up. He wanted to propose to MaryBeth while star-gazing, but being Minnesota and the winter, that was out of the question. So Jack decided to take MaryBeth sledding at a golf course one cool



February 2016 evening. When they took a break from sledding, Jack dropped to one knee and asked MaryBeth to be his wife. The stars had aligned and MaryBeth said, "Yes!"

Things went into hyper-speed from that point on. They wanted to get married before MaryBeth's brother Josh left to teach in Ethiopia. Everything fell into place and they were married on August 7, 2016; almost six-months after the proposal.

The couple searched to the moon and back for a ceremony and reception location. They decided on Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center, in Okoboji. "It's a beautiful location with a huge outdoor space, perfect for a summer wedding and reception in Iowa!"

MaryBeth chose their wedding colors of purple, soft blue, and blush. She then turned over most of the wedding planning to her mother, aunts and mother-in-law-to-be; who absolutely nailed her vision!

MaryBeth wore a strapless white chiffon gown, which she got from Rush's Bridal, in Minneapolis. She wore her mother's pearl earrings from her own wedding and a close friend made the pearl necklace to match. MaryBeth carried a bouquet of pink and white roses. Her five bridesmaids wore knee-length purple chiffon halter dresses, which were perfect for the warm August day.

Jack, the five groomsmen and the ushers all wore pale gray suits with purple ties.

Minerva's at Arrowwood catered the food which was "phenomenal!" Arrowwood's entire staff was a pleasure to work with.

The wedding photography was done by Bradley Jensen, of Algona. He kept things moving and took great photos. Paradox Florists in Sanborn did all the flowers which kept with the theme of the day. Their DJs were Stovetop Productions, of Sheldon, who kept the guests on the dance floor all night long.

The couple was surprised on their wedding day with a custom-made arbor for their outdoor ceremony. MaryBeth's dad had the arbor made by Out of the Attic Interiors, of Sanborn, from a pair of antique doors. The arbor was later moved to the entrance of the reception space for the guests to pass through. Come spring, the arbor will be moved to the couple's new home in Minneapolis.

Today Jack works at an investment bank and MaryBeth

is at a real estate firm in the cities. The couple honeymooned in Sonoma, California. There they enjoyed the wineries, biking and attending a Giant's game, since Jack's a huge baseball fan. The Johnsons continue to enjoy star gazing while still orbiting close to home.

— by Mary Meinking Chambers







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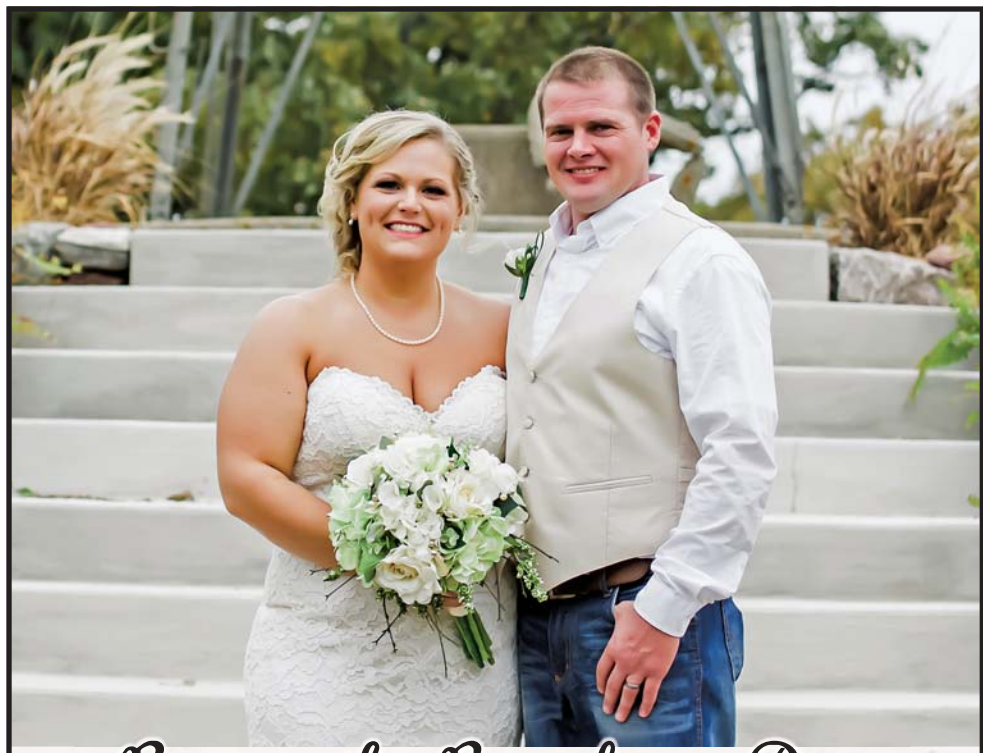


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Rustic Chic Wedding at Rolling Oaks Barn

On October 15, 2016, Lauren Lindsey and Brady Rosacker were married in a simply beautiful ceremony in the loft below the tall beams and rafters of a century old barn situated on a hill off Highway 71 in Okoboji. Originally built in 1919, housing a dairy operation, it was recently renovated into an amazing venue for weddings, reunions, and other celebrations!

The oversized crystal chandelier mixed with natural country beauty set the scene. "We didn't have to decorate a lot as it was already so pretty," stated bride Lauren.

Everything that led up to this day began when Lauren and Brady first met four years ago at Fareway in Spirit Lake. Lauren was working there while Brady delivered grocery inventory through his job. The couple reconnected and began dating. Brady proposed to Lauren on Christmas day of 2015, as they were on their way to celebrate Christmas with her mom, Jodi. Jodi had already given her blessing to Brady, but wasn't sure when the proposal would take place.

The wedding planning began and in less than a year all the details were made. We didn't want to be over the top. I used my resources of friends and relatives to help make our wedding beautiful." Birch tree centerpieces, mums, baby's breath and hydrangeas from their neighbor's yard were simple and lovely wedding day



Their dog "Louie" was the ring bearer.

décor. The couple also felt lucky to borrow decorations from friends in their colors of navy and olive green.

A friend made the silk flower bouquets, Brady made the wood altar. Their officiant, caterer and DJ were all family friends. Lauren also felt it helped to attend the local bridal fairs to get ideas. One of those ideas was a photo booth. The only improvement on it was that they wished they would have had their guests enter the photo booth as part of the line for the food buffet in order to get everyone's participation. Cleaning up the following day, they found a wonderful compilation of all the photos that were left there for them by the photo booth company, Sit and Grin (www.sitandgrin2.com).

Lauren's beautiful bridal gown was quickly and easily found at Elegance Bridal Shop in Okoboji as well as the bridesmaid dresses. Heather Baumgaard of Playful Cupcakketions was another easy and local choice for their wedding cake.

Lauren walked down the aisle with her mother to "I Get To Love You" by Ruelle.

Brady and Lauren tied the knot literally, with a knot tying ceremony of board and rope that Brady had designed.

The reception and dance took place in Spencer at the Innovation Pavilion located at the Clay County Fairgrounds. "It was perfect for us." They also had a Kid's corner with a table cut down to kid's size for color-

ing activities. Kids and adults alike also had fun with the noisemakers handed out to help celebrate!

When asked what the most memorable part of their wedding was, Lauren was quick to say, the ceremony. "One of our guests summed it up as 'The most chill beautiful wedding I've ever been to.'"

Following their wedding, the couple took a mini moon to Nashville, and are now looking forward to a trip to Punta Cana, in the Dominican Republic, this month. Lauren works at Northwest Bank in Okoboji and Brady drives truck for Dave Wiley Trucking in Emmetsburg. They make their home in Spencer.

— by Peggy Gustafson



Their "first look" at the windmill.

Wedding Day Memorial Ideas



Weddings are momentous occasions that are full of happy sentiments. But for couples who recently lost loved ones, an undercurrent of sadness may make wedding ceremonies and receptions somewhat bittersweet.

Loss touches everyone at one point or another, but it can be particularly sorrowful when the loss of a loved one occurs close to couples' wedding day. Even though it can be challenging to acknowledge that someone close is no longer around to participate in a wedding, there are plenty of ways for couples to express their heartfelt sentiments for lost loved ones on their wedding days.

- Establish a memory table. A memory table is a place where you may put a photo of a loved one or items he or she may have given you that mean something special.
- Play an upbeat song. Invite guests onto the dance floor and request the DJ or band plays a song in your lost loved one's honor. Perhaps it is a song that contains that person's name or is a tune he or she just loved.
- Keep a memento close by. Sew something symbolic of your lost loved one into your wedding gown or tuck it into a pocket of your tuxedo so you know he or she is always nearby.
- Reserve an empty chair. Keep a chair at the ceremony and the reception empty for your departed loved one.
- Dove or butterfly release. Symbolize unending love by releasing doves or butterflies in honor of your lost loved one. This can be both a touching tribute and also a beautiful spectacle that couples and their guests will remember forever.

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for the example you have set
for us to follow ...*



65 Years
Roger & Joyce Overocker of Spirit Lake
Married March 24, 1951



60 Years
Donald & Norma Andresen of Spirit Lake
Married March 24, 1956



60 Years
Earl & Betty Lou Baish of Lake Park
Married April 8, 1956



60 Years
Carol & Gene Reynolds of Spirit Lake
Married May 26, 1956



70 Years
Dale & Helen Sturgeon of Arnolds Park
Married June 7, 1946



60 Years
Ken & Doris Ashland of Spirit Lake
Married July 14, 1956



60 Years
Bill & Sharon Whiting of Ruthven
Married July 31, 1956



70 Years
Henry & Jeanne Hanby of Milford
Married August 6, 1946



60 Years
Gilbert and Mary Lou Korwes of Spirit Lake
Married August 18, 1956



60 Years
Bob & Nancy Lathrop of Arnolds Park
Married August 19, 1956



60 Years
Darwin and Sally Will of Spirit Lake
Married August 26, 1956



60 Years
Jack and Ginny (Rathai) Yore of Milford
Married September 1, 1956



70 Years
Richard and Harriet Vande Hoef of Sibley
Married September 4, 1946



60 Years
Larry and Beverly Metge
Married September 8, 1956



60 Years
Ken and Marvel Byers of Lake Park
Married September 15, 1956



75 Years
Marvin and Ruth Simonson of Milford
Married September 24, 1941



70 Years
Bob and Arlis Bruett of Spirit Lake
Married November 2, 1946



75 Years
Lester & Dorothy Snider of Spirit Lake
Married November 28, 1941



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