

2019 Bride & Groom Guide

January 27, 2019



Forty-four years later, couple still going strong

'We lean on each other, depend on each other'

By John Mueller
Editor

They have seen plenty over four decades of wedded bliss. As they promised each other on the altar at Faith Presbyterian Church in Silver Lake, they've been together to celebrate good times and support each other during the tough times.

That's what commitment is all about.

Dorothy and Ken Merrill have known each other all their adult lives, even longer.

They were both 31 years old when they said their I-dos June 22, 1974. They were well established when they got married, a position they would encourage more young people pondering marriage to consider. Dorothy had worked for the Hutchinson School District for several years and Ken's career had included jobs in Bloomington and Delano before he became Hutchinson's finance director three years after they were married.

"Don't get married too early. Establish what you want to do in life," Dorothy said.

"Take time to get to know your partner," Ken said.

They believe a couple with shared goals and expectations, both of each other and life together, are a great roadmap to a successful, loving marriage. And always remember, she said, neither one of you is always correct.

"You do have to compromise," Dorothy said.

They also agree couples need to have their own individual hobbies and projects as well as their collective interests. Ken served on the Lions, was active with the American Legion and was a member of the Silver Lake Fire Department for many years. Dorothy continues to serve on a community women's group, church groups and various community organizations.

"You have to have your own interests," he said.

The fall after their wedding, Ken and Dorothy bought their house in Silver Lake. The weekend after they moved from Dorothy's apartment in Hutchinson to their new house on Frank Street in Silver Lake, Dorothy and a friend planned to paint the living room. Ken, on the other hand, announced his plans to go deer hunting.

"I married a very understanding woman, and I didn't get a deer either," he said. "I get reminded of that every so often."

Ken worked at a granite company for several years. He left his job there in 1977. After the job loss, Ken eventually found a job as Hutchinson's finance director in 1977, a position he held until retiring in 2010. While being unemployed was tough, the couple knew they could depend on each other.

"You just kind of learn to lean on each other," he said.

Hutch to Silver Lake

Their paths to a life together started from slightly different locations. Dorothy was the girl from the country, the daughter of Agnes and Joseph Telecky. Dorothy grew up mostly in Hutchinson. She and Ken both graduated high school in 1961, Dorothy from Hutchinson and Ken from Silver Lake.

Her father's farm was on County Road 4, about halfway between Hutch and Silver Lake. She went to Faith Presbyterian, known back then as Czech Brethren Church in Silver Lake.

Dorothy didn't know it at the time, but back when she played piano for the Sunday school students, the program's superintendent, Genevieve Merrill, would one day be her mother-in-law.

They had two daughters, Julie born in 1981 and Katie in '84. Ken pitched Kathleen and Katherine as possible names for his second daughter. Dorothy had a different idea.

"I wanted something short," she said.

Neither one of them remembers their first date. Instead, they remember how in 1966 Ken asked Dorothy if she'd go out with him. Ken was very reserved in those days. He carefully crafted the words in a hand-written letter. It was mailed from a military post office in Hawaii where Ken was stationed after being drafted in 1965. His Army unit was attached to a guided missile installation.

"He asked me if I'd go out with him when he got home," Dorothy said.

Ken's Army unit wasn't sent to Vietnam, which made his homecoming in 1967 a bit easier. He and Dorothy dated occasionally. They went to movies and spent plenty of time together. As the courtship became more serious, the two talked of engagement from time to time. With her father's blessing obtained, Ken finally asked Dorothy to marry him the day before Thanksgiving in 1973.

If the excitement of a wedding wasn't enough, Ken's mother became ill during the wedding. Their trip from the church to the reception required a stop at the hospital to check on Genevieve Merrill.

Not one to sit idly around, Dorothy went back to work promptly after her daughters were born. She and Ken supported

the idea of working. In addition to the jobs they held, the couple also owned the Silver Lake Leader a weekly newspaper.

After Ken finished his workday as finance director for the City of Hutchinson, they worked long hours together preparing each week's edition. The couple left the newspaper business in 2011. Ken or Dorothy were always keeping busy with their girls. If the children had an activity, mom or dad, or both, was most always there. They molded their schedules around the girls' activities. Dorothy recalls a single day when she made several trips from Silver Lake to Glencoe and back. Whenever the couple went on vacation, the daughters were nearby. Family fun and togetherness was something Dorothy and Ken held dear.

"Time with children, family, is never wasted," Ken said.

Countering the joys of welcoming two daughters into the world and watching them grow, the couple faced the losses and setbacks together. Ken's parents, Genevieve and Wilbert, both passed away during the 1980s. In the 1990s, Dorothy's parents passed away. While the family was vacationing in Florida, Dorothy's father, Joe, drowned while fishing in the Crow River. Ken lost a sister and they've lost close friends along the way. The mourning tested the couple's resolve but strengthened their bond.

"You just keep going," Dorothy said. "You lean on each other. We lean on each other, depend on each other."



Ken and Dorothy Merrill pictured in their Silver Lake home. They have been happily married for 44 years.



Ken and Dorothy Merrill's wedding photo from June 22, 1974.

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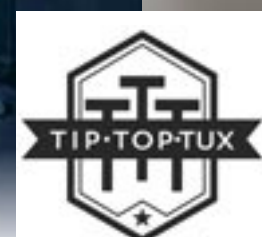
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Local Wedding Caterers Keeping Up With Trends

By Jakob Kounkel
Staff Writer

Food and drinks are crucial aspects to a reception's success and to its guests' satisfaction. Most people — while waiting for the best man and maid of honor to finish personal anecdotes explaining why the bride and groom are two peas in a matrimonious pod — have their peripheral sights set on the yet-to-be-uncovered smorgasbord.

Couples know the importance of the food, but they've also been focusing on how the food is presented and how it looks once it's served. Food aesthetics has become a huge talking piece around the table, and can even carry over from the theme of the wedding. For example, a morning wedding in a rustic barn setting may serve breakfast-style foods and incorporate foods that come from barnyard animals, like milk, meat and eggs. Or an ethnic couple with diverse backgrounds may incorporate foods from their home countries, regions or culture.

From cake pops to cheesecake to a traditional wedding cake, and from eggs benedict to filet mignon, wedding caterers are jumping on every opportunity to make a couples' reception experience the best it can be.

But one thing's for sure: if the highly-anticipated buffet reveals a baked potato bar and the drink attendants are sticking straws into juice boxes, some guests may take their presents back. Staying up-to-date with the latest food trends will ensure a content crowd and a smooth reception experience on all fronts. Straying away from trite, clichéd foods while remaining in-keeping with tradition is a sentiment in which some McLeod County caterers specialize.

As couples shift away from traditional-style weddings and evolve towards unique venues, trends and foods, wedding caterers evolve alongside. Chef Craig Bullert from Chef Craig's Catering, one of the more prominent local wedding caterers, said couples are finding intrigue in straying away from the basic meat and potatoes entrée. His catering company has adjusted with the times, providing an outlet for every type of wedding with a diverse menu featuring food that's always cooked from scratch.

Chef Craig noted a desire for vegan and vegetarian options, as well as locally sourced food. Awareness of factory farming and the ethical treatment of animals has certainly been a factor in the trendy shift to vegan and vegetarian dishes. Health consciousness has also played a role in catering trends — intolerances to gluten or dairy and those who want to know where their food is coming from, along with those who don't want to delineate from healthy choices have been a catalyst for these food trends.

Unhinged! Pizza owner Jason Zehnder spoke of some of the more traditional dishes he offers for wedding catering — some local favorites in which couples will seek out the pizza joint for its grub. Unhinged! offers a signature pot roast, barbeque ribs, chicken, ham and turkey, etc. As for trending food items, Zeh-

nder said sides of homemade macaroni and cheese “for the adults” has been a pop-up side dish.

Among other food catering services, the bakery at Coborn's gets an abundance of bakery item requests for cakes and other delectable desserts. Still trending in the dessert section are cupcakes in lieu of a big, fancy, expensive cake. Coborn's bakery has also been producing cheese cakes instead of the more traditional wedding cakes at the request of trendy couples looking for a unique spin.

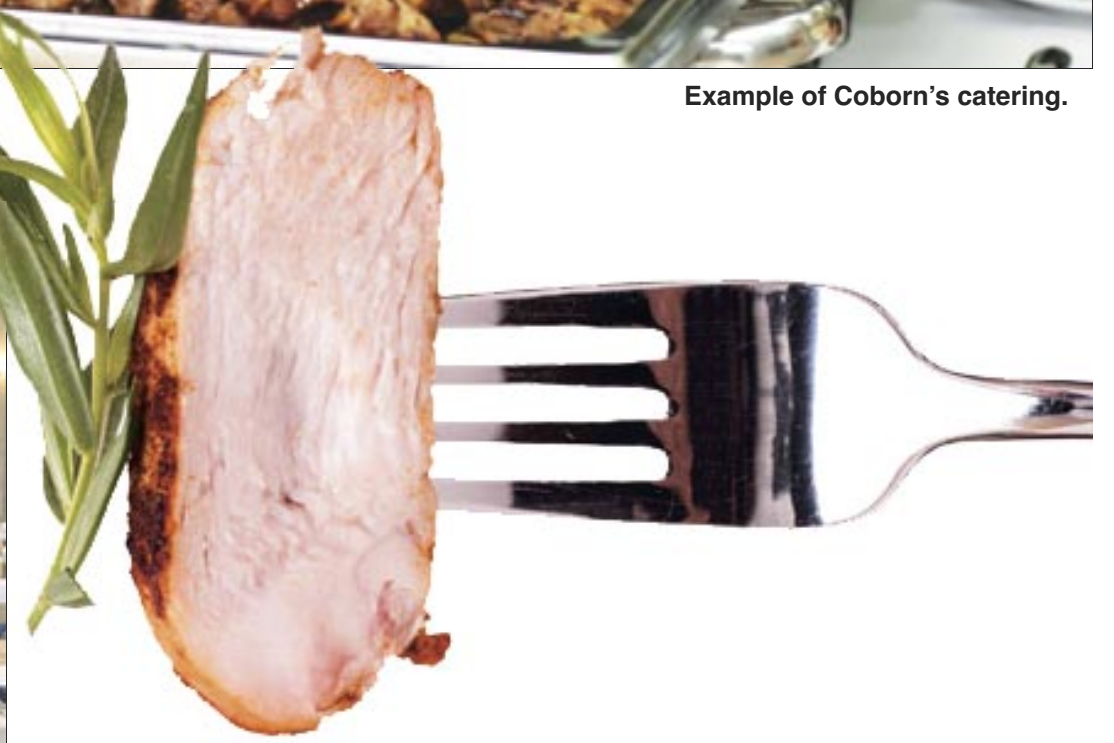
As the wedding catering industry grows and changes, so does the celebration. Without catering companies interested in malleability to the expectations of modern couples, the nuptial celebration which fuses families and friends together to honor the initiation of a new family wouldn't be possible.



Example of Coborn's catering.



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2. Send \$9.00 for the first copy and \$2.00 for each additional copy requested for the same record. Make your check payable to McLeod County Auditor-Treasurer.
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4. If either has been divorced, we need the official date of divorce and the name of the court.
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6. The Marriage License is valid for 6 months. You must marry within that time or the license will expire.
(No Birth Certificates, Driver's License, or Blood tests are required in Minnesota)

Information courtesy of: <http://www.co.mcleod.mn.us>



Tips for a special mother/son dance

Metro Creative Connection

Weddings celebrate the unions of happy couples ready to pledge their lives to each other. In theory, the wedding day spotlight should be shared equally by brides and grooms. But brides often eclipse their grooms, as guests are drawn to stunning bridal gowns. Though grooms might play second fiddle for much of their wedding days, there is one moment when all eyes are on the groom and a special lady in his life. The mother/son dance is a wedding tradition that many grooms embrace as their opportunity to show their mothers how much they love and appreciate them. The mother/son dance is an ideal time to create a special moment, and the following are some tips to personalize the dance.

- Precede the bride and her father. Make your own tradition and switch up the timing of the dances. Be the first to take a spin on the dance floor and set the tone for the other traditional songs to come.
- Create a photo montage. Work with an entertainment company or photographer to create a slideshow of images showing you

and your mother together and separately. If possible, include some photos that were shot during the wedding ceremony, asking the photographer to capture the look on your mother's face during pivotal moments of the ceremony.

- Show off your dance skills. One increasingly popular wedding trend is for fathers and brides to choreograph the father/daughter dances. Grooms and their mothers can follow suit, particularly if you both have some stellar dance moves.
- Let Mom choose the song. Give your mother the opportunity to express her sentiments to you, as mothers of the groom do not typically toast their sons during weddings or even rehearsal dinners.
- Invite other son/mother duos up. If the idea of dancing alone with your mother is a bit intimidating, give other mothers in attendance an opportunity to share the spotlight. Celebrate all mothers in attendance, encouraging any mothers and sons who are present to dance together.

Grooms may not garner the bulk of guests' attention on their wedding days. But they can take steps to make their special dances with their mothers more memorable and unique.



Grooms are the unsung heroes of weddings. They often put others first, including letting their own mothers shine on the dance floor.

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Make proposals special and successful

Metro Creative Connection

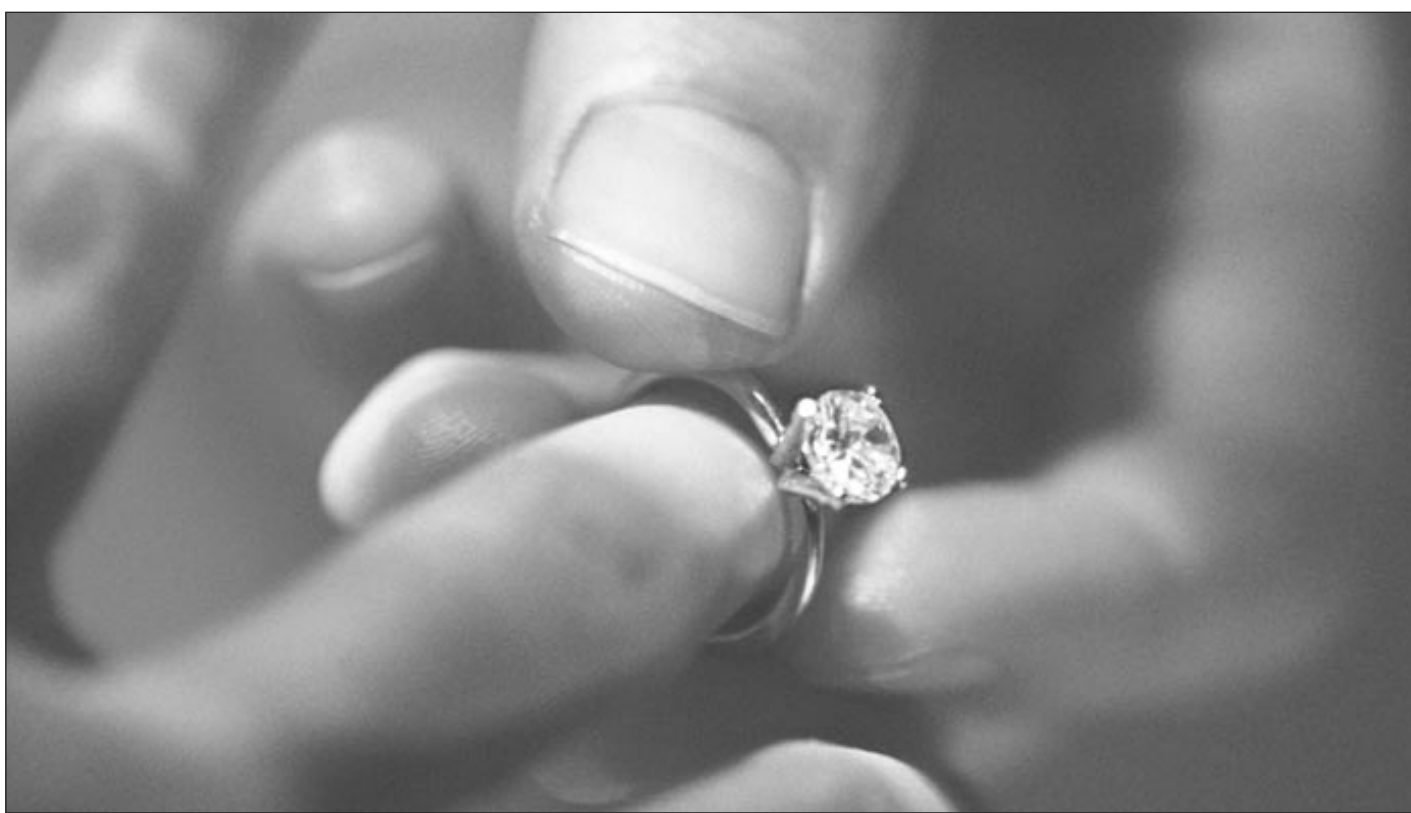
A marriage proposal is a couple's first official step toward the altar. Tradition dictates that men pop the question, with their surprised — and hopefully soon-to-be-fiancées — ultimately deciding if wedding bells will be on the horizon.

Proposing marriage can be nerve-racking. However, if the time seems right and love is in the air, popping the question can be exciting. Regardless of who is proposing marriage, the following strategies can help make proposals memorable and successful.

Turn the tides

An old Irish tradition known as "The Lady's Privilege" was established in the fifth century by a nun named St. Brigid. She decided to create an opportunity for women to propose marriage. This day fell on every leap year, February 29. Centuries later, women can still use this tradition as the impetus to take the marriage reins into their own hands. But women need not wait for the next leap year to propose.

Many women view proposing as an empowering action that is tied to the evolving view of independent women. Couples are negotiating more in the marriage process, and the dissolution of commonly held practices is occurring more often.



A wedding proposal is a special moment in couples' lives together. It can be made even more special by following some guidelines.

Choose a sentimental location

Couples will remember the proposal for the rest of their lives. So choose a proposal location that has sentimental connections. Think about where the first "I love you" was uttered or where a first date occurred. These can be prime locations to pop the question.

Note her style

Engagement rings play a big role in many couples' proposals. One person's style is not necessarily what his partner will like. Bigger isn't always better. Rather, choose a ring that reflects your partner's preferences and personality. Take your partner jewelry shopping and see which types of jewelry he or she is most drawn to. Certain

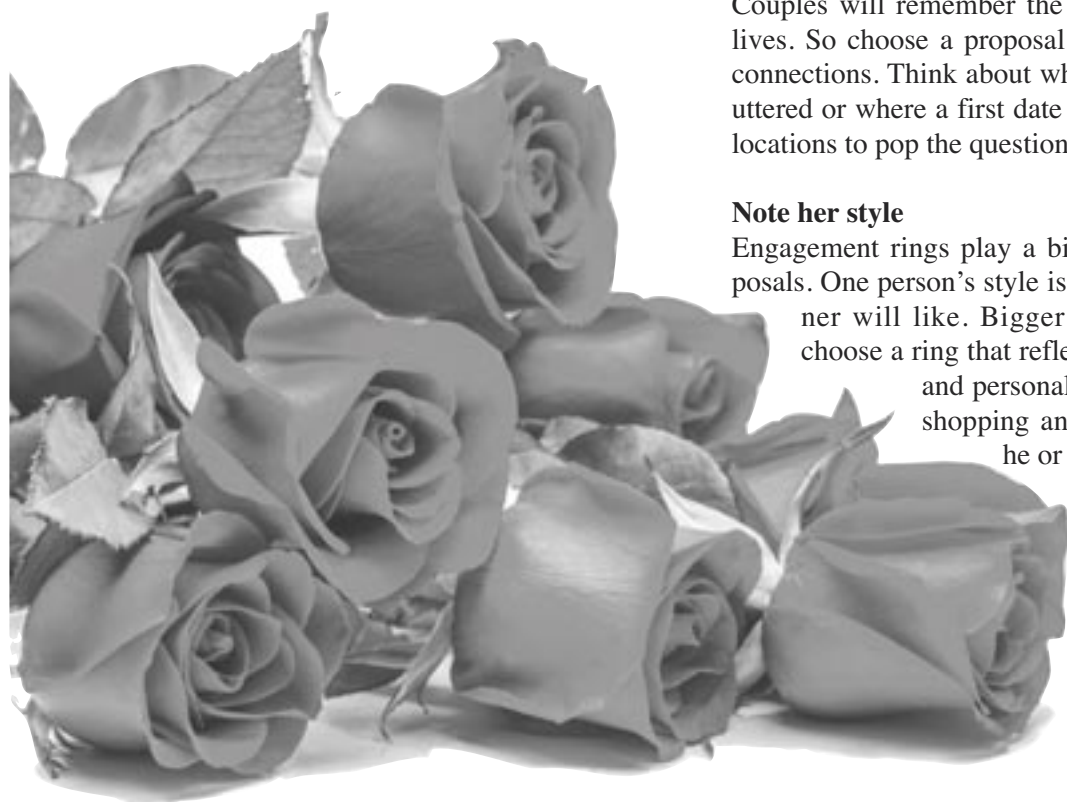
preferences can serve as a jumping off point for ring designs.

Ask for the family's blessing

Men no longer need to ask their girlfriends' fathers for "permission" to wed their daughters. However, asking your partner's family for their blessing is a sign of respect and can add a romantic and heartfelt touch to the proposal.

Capture the moment

Though we live in an age when every moment of people's lives is documented with videos and photographs posted to social media, proposals still stand out as extra special moments. Hire a professional photographer to discreetly capture the proposal and your partner's reaction so it can be cherished for years to come.



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Wedding Directory 2019

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Our Wedding Directory is a companion to our Bride & Groom Guide and is printed monthly in the Glencoe Advertiser and/or Sibley Shopper. Once you have promoted your business in the wedding guide, have your name listed in our directory as a constant reminder of your products and services. This is a great opportunity to show all newly engaged couples in the Glencoe Advertiser or Sibley Shopper circulation area just what you have to offer them. The following list below is some of the various products and services that can be highlighted in our Wedding Directory.

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Advertising deadline is Wednesday, January 30, 2019.



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The Glencoe City Center

Whether planning a small or large wedding reception, the Glencoe City Center offers an elegant space for celebrating your wedding with its historic charm and sophisticated style. Some of the ballroom's most inspiring features include its expansive dance floor, towering exterior windows, and high ceilings. The restored art deco chandeliers, beautiful terrazzo floors, and other unique architecture elements truly make this a one of a kind venue.

In addition, to the ballroom the Glencoe City Center features numerous meeting rooms that are ideal for showers, groom dinners, and other family celebrations. We invite you to read about these unique spaces and the advantages they offer.

Grand Ballroom

The Grand Ballroom is the ideal venue to hold wedding ceremonies and receptions along with banquets, fundraisers, concerts, and other large scale parties. With two walls of large windows, gorgeous hardwood floors, and restored Art Deco Chandeliers, the Grand Ballroom requires minimal decorating to make your dream event a reality. If necessary, the Grand Ballroom can be split into two separate spaces creating the North and South Grand Ballrooms. Linens are also available for rental, along with dishware.

Martin McLeod Room

The Martin McLeod Room, also known as the Senior Community Room, is adjacent to the Grand Ballroom and can hold up to 65 people, depending on the seating. The Martin McLeod Room has played host to bridal showers, baby showers, birthday parties, gift openings, and more. The room includes an adjoining kitchenette and is included in the room rental. It includes a small oven, refrigerator, microwave and sink.

North Conference Room

The North Conference Room is our newest meeting space and is our second largest conference room. It has a seating capacity of up to 40 people. The North Conference Room is ideal for shower events, birthday parties, and other social functions. The room includes a refrigerator. Linens and dishware are also available if needed.

Henry Hill East Conference Room

The Henry Hill East Conference Room is adjacent to the Grand Ballroom and can hold up to 32 people. This room has been used for things such as meetings, trainings, confirmation parties, graduation parties, birthday parties, and more! With towering windows along one wall, the natural lighting creates a bright and welcoming room. The adjoining kitchenette is included in this room rental and includes an oven, microwave, refrigerator, and sink.

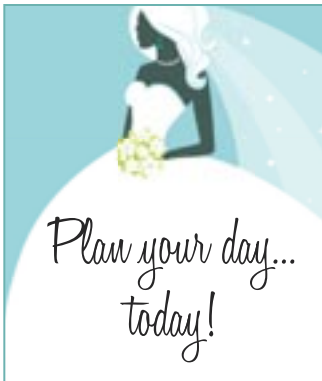
West Conference Room

The West Conference Room is used most often for meetings and trainings. With a seating capacity of up to 32, the West Conference Room is ideal for your meeting needs. The room offers an optional technology package (screen, projector, microphone, audio, conference calling, document reader, television).

Basement Meeting Room

The basement meeting room, formerly the cafeteria space for the school, is available for rental. The room is used throughout the year for 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and other community meetings. The space is ideal for birthday parties, family reunions, and other similar functions.

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A unique venue in the heart of Glencoe

By Karin Ramige
Publisher

If you are looking for a unique location to host a bridal shower, groom's dinner, gift opening or even a small wedding, the Brechet Inn Bed and Breakfast is the perfect location.

Often referred to as "the castle", The Brechet Inn can accommodate parties of around 50 people, though they have had up to 65 people for a wedding, said owner Wes Olson. The fully restored 1899 home has been the location for many events since opening on Valentine's Day 2014. The inn is named for its first owner Joseph Brechet who built the house in 1899.

Owners Wes and Sue Olson, were looking to downsize. They owned two houses next to the funeral home in Glencoe. Sue had her salon in one of the houses and the other was apartments. When the funeral home was looking to expand its parking lot, they sold one house and moved the other down the block.

About the same time, in 2012, while looking for a new location for the salon, "the castle" was for sale. Sue relocated her salon to the house in 2012. The Olsons spent the next year and a half doing some remodeling and furnishing the house to open the bed and breakfast.

The inn features four suites, two with en suites and two with a shared bathroom. All are beautifully decorated and named after the Brechet family; Joseph, Jennie, Jay Carl and Bertha Marie Julia. Breakfast is of course included and is often the signature blueberry French toast egg bake, sausage and fruit and yogurt parfait.

The house that was moved, now serves as a guest house with two apartments for short-term rentals.

Since opening, the inn has had guests from both around the world including Hong Kong, Kenya, Ghana, Philippines, Germany, Spain, Belgium, Switzerland and the Netherlands. They have also had Red Hat Society groups visit from Rochester, Alexandria and Willmar.

Coffee and dessert or brunch tours are available for groups of 10 or more.

If you are looking for a little weekend getaway, a place for family to stay or a fun and unique location to host a bridal shower, gift opening or grooms dinner The Brechet Inn is the place to go.

"I'll build you a castle if you marry me"

Joseph J. Brechet, was a businessman in Glencoe. He owned a general merchandise store which supplied the residents with many of their daily needs, according to the Brechet Inn website.

Brechet was born in 1860 in Buffalo, N.Y. His family settled in Glencoe around 1872. By 1888, he had worked his way up to owning his own business, but was 28 and living at home with his family.

The story goes, that a relative who lived in Buffalo, New York, arranged for a correspondence between him and Jennie C. Frankenstein, a young woman in that eastern city.

Letters went back and forth, and Joseph decided to make a visit to the city of his birth. Two weeks later, in February, 1889, Jennie and Joseph were married. They say, he told her he would build her a castle if she would marry him. Joseph brought his bride back to Glencoe to live.

In December, 1889, their daughter, Bertha Marie Julia was born, and in 1893, their son Jay Carl was born.

Construction on the "Castle for Jennie" started in 1895, and was completed by 1899. Story has it that farmers that were indebted to Brechet at his store, could pay off their debt by bringing field stones to town for his foundation. The stone foundation reaches up to the second story of the three-story home.

The home was designed by a Chicago architect hired by Joseph. You must stop by sometime and take a look at the craftsmanship of the precision cutting of the stones around the doors and windows. It is truly amazing. The family lived in a small house on the property while the house was being built.

The Brecht family moved to Minneapolis in 1910. Mr. Brechet and Mr. Richter started the Brechet & Richter Co. in Minneapolis where Jay Carl started working. Bertha started college and later was married to John D. Boyd. Jay Carl died at seventeen of tuberculosis, about a year after they moved to Minneapolis.



Photo by: Karin Ramige

Wes Olson "Inn Keeper"



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