

Blind Date on 23 October 2010

I went on a blind date with Bev Lake on 23 October 2010 and it was the best date of my life. Actually, it was a blind date on my part but not on hers. A mutual friend, Jean Aske helped arrange it and Jean told Bev a lot about me and how she (Jean) thought that we'd make a good couple. My first impression was really good, Bev was about 5 feet 2 and pretty. I later learned that she was also very smart, well educated and could carry on a conversation on many topics. We went for dinner at the Mexican Village in Fargo, ND and then stopped for an after-dinner drink at the Speak Easy in Moorhead, MN. It was at the Speak Easy that we talked with Dave Ferreira, a friend and music faculty member at MSUM. A few days later I saw Dave again and he pointed his finger at me and said, "Do not let that woman get away". Since I agreed with Dave, I didn't let her get away! Or perhaps she didn't let me get away. Here is a photo of Bev with Dave and his wife Kathy at the Speak Easy.



A few dates later, Bev asked if I would go with her to Minneapolis for Thanksgiving and meet some of her family. During Thanksgiving dinner, we all got to say what we were thankful for. Jenny said that she was thankful that I came into Bev's life and that she no longer had to worry about Bev. On our drive back to Moorhead and after discussing Quantum Physics (I said she was smart), we stopped at a resort near Brainerd, MN and rented a cottage for Christmas. We had a cottage near the end of the resort and had deer and other wildlife outside. As you can see from the photo below, the building was much nicer than a typical lake cabin. The fireplace photo was taken inside the lodge.



Bev worked as a dental hygienist in Fargo. After I retired from the City of Moorhead in early January 2011, I made Bev's coworkers jealous. Each workday, I would get up early, start my pickup, stop for a couple cups of coffee and donuts and drive to Bev's condo. She would get a ride to work in a warm pickup, remember this was winter in Minnesota. About 5:00pm, I would drive to her office, and she would get a ride home in the same warm pickup. Yes, her coworkers were jealous, especially on cold snowy windy days.

In 2011, I was invited to the 90th birthday party for my cousin Vi Wikgren to be held in Minneapolis. Bev was happy to join me at the party as we helped Vi celebrate. Bev got to meet many of my cousins and their families. Actually, I met some of them for the first time.



Vi went on to live another 11 years. We missed her 100th birthday because we were in Arizona.

In 2011, we also made a trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota to visit our good friends John and Jo Sterner.



Because of my work with the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Moorhead, we got invited to Family Day at Camp Ripley. We camped at the Camp and were looking around when we found this armored vehicle, so Sweetie had to test it out as this picture shows.



After spending a few years together, I asked Bev to marry me and we got married in June 2015. Since we both have Norwegian ancestry, we decided to get married dressed in Norwegian Bunads as you can see from the following picture. We were married at the Rourke Art Museum courtyard on the same weekend as the Moorhead Scandinavian Festival. We even had a minute on the evening news! This photo is from the wedding of the two of us with Jean Aske who started it all with our first date.

