Written by Carol Pomeday
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Having trouble deciding who to ask to be your maid of honor, best man or attendants?

Take a cue from Steve and Connie Richgruber.

They invited all their close friends and relatives to be in their June 16 wedding in Port Washington's Upper Lake Park.

They planned to have 15 couples, but one guy got sick so they had 29 people — 16 girls and 13 guys, with male and female attendants for both the bride and groom. The party also included two male ushers, a adult ringer-bearer and flower girl.

There were four best men and four matrons of honor.

"They called themselves the Fab Four," Connie said. "We had aunts, uncles, cousins, brothers and sisters. Steve's in two bands. Every member was in the party."

The couple also broke with tradition by having a two-day event — the outdoor ceremony at 7 p.m. Friday and a reception for 300 guests the following night at Racer's Hall in Plymouth. The resort has a campground, so the couple and many guests stayed overnight.

Connie is a Cedar Grove-Belgium High School graduate. Her husband graduated from Plymouth High School.

The entire wedding was done their way — more precisely, Connie's way. She planned every detail, choosing fun over tradition and economy over extravagance so they wouldn't go into debt.

The couple gave each other the best Valentine gift this year. On Feb 11, they bought a house in Waldo.

"We couldn't have done that if we had gone into debt (for the wedding)," Connie said. "We worked hard for what we have, and we came into the marriage with no debt. I found the cheapest of everything. It was a high-class, redneck wedding."

She searched the Internet for bargains, finding a photographer who gave them a disk with all the photos with little editing and no restrictions, and an inexpensive caterer who included macaroni and cheese, Connie's favorite dish, on the menu.

Spreading the celebration over two days allowed the couple to enjoy everything, she said.

"I've been in enough weddings where the bride and groom say, 'It was gone in a blink of the eye,' and we didn't want that," Connie said.

"Having such a big wedding party, we wanted to enjoy being with them. I have been in weddings where you don't even get to talk to the bride and groom because they are so busy greeting guests and having pictures taken."

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