

The Romance of Skating

As Written By: Audrey Dietz Dugger

When I was in High School, the art of roller skating became pretty popular. And of course the place to go was Ledru Millspaugh's Roller Rink. That is now part of Linton's Big R on the Powell's south side.

One of my dear friends, Merle Wymer, and I had skating outfits made, which was popular attire at that time.

One particular Friday night, I met and skated with a guy. As the evening went on, he asked me numerous times to skate with him. Needless to say, the attraction seemed to be mutual.

The next morning, I happened to look out in the field next to our home, and to my surprise, discovered it was Clyde Dugger, the guy I had enjoyed skating with the night before. He was doing some field work for our neighbor.

My thoughts raced, as I was trying to decide what to do. I then decided taking an apple out to him would be a nice gesture. I guess it worked, because after that, we soon became a couple. It didn't take a rocket scientist to know that the attraction was turning into love.

In my senior year, I was fourth in my class, and offered a four year scholarship to the University of Wyoming. The idea of going to college and being an English teacher was an exciting idea. But there was one problem. I was in love with Clyde and didn't want to leave for four years.

My father and mother had neither one been able to graduate from High School. So even though they liked Clyde very much, my father was determined that his daughter should make them proud and go to college. It took me two weeks to convince my father that I wanted to get married. He finally agreed, after much begging, to sign the paperwork so the scholarship could be offered to the next person in line. So with that decision finally being made, I graduated.

The next step was deciding, along with two other classmates, Joan Fales Talbott and Verna Rogers, to enroll in Billings Business College. We found an attic apartment across from Pioneer Park. Of course, Clyde came to Billings most weekends.

In debating when to get married, we decided to set December 10, 1952 as our wedding day. We chose this date as it was his mom's and one of his brother's birthdays.

We were blessed with two sons. Curtis was born in 1956, and Kenneth in 1959. Both Clyde and I spent many years in the work force. Clyde retired from the school district in 1988 and me in 1992.

So to make a long story short, the romance of skating resulted in a 46 year marriage. In 1999, Clyde went to be with the Lord.