

Sadie's Big, Fat Norwegian Wedding (*not Greek*)

And their first days of marriage.

We were married on the 18th of Feb. 1920 at 3 pm by the Pastor, Emil Hanson, who confirmed me, at the home of my parents. In the living room we had made some kind of altar in the SW corner. My sister Mable played the wedding march when we marched in. My brother Irvin was best man and Elmer's sister Nora was bridesmaid. I was dressed in a white crepe dress Mama had



Figure 1 Sadie drew this picture of her bridal outfit many years later.

made. She and I had beaded and embroidered around the collar with panels with white fringe on the bottom. With a dress length veil and white stockings and slippers. White roses made the bouquet and they were beautiful from the Forest City Greenhouse. I should have had some colored roses as with my light hair, I needed a little color. Nobody wore rouge or lipstick those days. That was just for people who were not very nice.

There were about 70 guests. More were invited but it was cold and lots of snow. Only horses and sled except the preacher who came from Scarville with team and buggy. There was also an epidemic of flu, so many were sick.

We had two long tables in the dining room for supper, which was sumptuous. Meats, potatoes, vegetables, gravy, salads, 5 kinds of cake. Home-made bread and buns. Home-made cookies, pickles of several kinds. We had no refrigerator at that time, and everything was home-made. We had lots of music and singing and after the pastor had gone, Dad played the violin and Mable chorded on the piano. He played an Irish jig and Elmer's uncle Tom Holtan and our neighbor and my sponsor, Sever Hovland got to their feet and started to jig. They were both in their 40's and 50's. So, everybody really cheered. Several years later I happened to meet them both at Clauson's store in Forest City. They both wished we could relive our wedding because they had so much fun, but had been so stiff and sore for about a week. Tom said he'd been in bed part of the time. But he was still glad he did it.

We stayed at my home till Monday after the wedding which was on a Wednesday. I visited with the Fields and the Heimdahls. Luella and Art still lived with his folks. And I helped Mama wash and iron several tablecloths, napkins and had a huge washing done by hand and hung outside on the clothesline to dry. Then we went and stayed with Elmer's family for 2 weeks.

One day we went to town and bought furniture, dishes, clocks, pots and pans, 12 doz. egg-case, spices etc. We bought our first groceries at Jacob's store and they gave us the egg case. We also had to buy kerosene and lamps. Elmer had already bought a Monarch kitchen range at Leland. The last Sunday, we went home to my folks and moved my things, which I had already packed. I had a large home-made hope chest full of quilts, table cloths, dresses, scarfs, and pillow cases that I had made for many years. On March 4, we moved to a farm up by Leland. And it was a terribly cold day. We had to go into Leland to get our stove and get that set up, one of the first things to

do. Gilman and Stella helped drive the cow and calves and walked most of the way- about 8 miles, I suppose.

When we got there, I just about fainted. It was a very big house, but it had been rented for many years. The people who just moved out were filthy, wall-paper hung way down from a 10-foot ceiling, cob webs hung down all over, rat holes in the floor and doors that I had to scrape off the dirt. We built a fire in the stove as we almost froze, cleaned out the chimneys and moved in. I made coffee and lunch for George, Art, Stella and Gilman. When they had gone, I got hot water and washed the dishes and cupboard and so got them out of the way.



Elmer went out to do chores and came in soon and asked me to look at his head. He had gone into the horse barn and when he opened the door, a huge long icicle had fallen down and hit him on the head. He had a big felt cap on, but it had come from so high. It was a basement barn on the south side. There was a hole in his head and his hair was full of blood. I really could have easily been a widow, the first night in our new home.

The next morning, I happened to look up at the torn paper in our bedroom and the bed bugs were climbing up and down the walls. I called Elmer and we looked at our new mattress, and it was crawling with bugs around each button of the mattress. Elmer got some kerosene and we soaked it around each one of those buttons. We were lucky we didn't burn down the place.

Well, I scraped and cleaned, Elmer got some hired men and one of them painted and varnished after I had washed. He painted floors and woodwork. Elmer's folks had a painter and paper-hanger that always worked for them, so he came and papered for us. It really looked nice when we got through.



1920 - February 18 - 1970

*Thank you for
coming. You have
made our day a
happy one.*

*Elmer and Sadie
HOLTAN*



Elmer had bought me a Cable Nelson piano for a wedding present. We didn't get it out till May when the roads dried up, then Olson, the photographer who took our wedding pictures and from

whom Elmer bought the piano came with it in a truck. Elmer was planting corn that day. And I also had company, Pastor Hanson and his wife came to visit us. I made coffee for them and then, when the piano came, I had to go to the field and get Elmer. When I came home again, everybody had gone.