

# The Voice of Maybee

Village of Maybee      issue 132      www.maybeevillage.com  
P.O. Box 36    734-587-2900    fax 734-587-6534    December 2010

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## Council Corner

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At the December council meeting two items of major importance were discussed. The first was the budget for the year 2011. This included the resurfacing of the streets in the downtown area. All of the budgets were approved. The second item of business was the removal of the dangerous building that was ruined by fire. The council has awarded the contract to Gasper recycling to demolish and remove the building. The complete job should be completed within 30 days. The council asks that people stay clear of the area while the demolition takes place.

The last item that was discussed was the closing of the parking lots at the park for the Winter. There is still parking available at the front of the park, but too much damage was being done to the parking areas. They will re-open in the Spring time.

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## **PUBLIC SERVICE FOR VILLAGE OF MAYBEE RESIDENTS**

**D.S.BRUCK AND SON NOW OFFERS A PLACE TO RECYCLE YOUR OLD METAL. YOU MAY DROP OFF SCRAP METAL AT 9875 PALMER ROAD IN GREEN CRATES MARKED SCRAP METAL.**

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTION OR WANT TO ARRANGE PICKUP OF LARGE ITEMS, CALL 587-2124.**

**NO ITEMS CONTAINING FREON, GLASS OR TIRES.**

### **ITEMS ACCEPTED**

**SCRAP METAL, FENCE POSTS, CAR PARTS, LAWN MOWERS, LAWN CHAIRS, APPLIANCES, FARM EQUIPMENT, MOTORS, OLD BARN METAL, ALUMINUM, COPPER, BRASS, OLD EXTENSION CORDS, WIRING, CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, OLD CAR BATTERIES**

## Santa came to town

Many thanks to the L.M.R. Fire Department for taking over the duties of hosting Santa this year. With the help of the ladies at the Bank and Library, the evening was a great success. Chief Smith said that next year will be even better.

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The L.M.R. Fire Department is once again looking for a few more fire fighters to part of this volunteer department. If you think that you or someone that you know would be interested in joining the force you can contact Chief Rick Smith at 587-2143 or go to there website to learn more about the department [www.lmrfiredepartment.com](http://www.lmrfiredepartment.com).

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### The Library Table

734-587-3680

Now with free Wi-Fi

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### Preschool Storytime

Mondays @ 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM & Fridays @ 10:30 - 11:30

Preschool Storytime is intended for kids ages 3 years to 5 years. This program offers stories, songs, movement activities, art experiences, and fun each week.

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## EVENTS

**Event Type:** Arts & Crafts Lego building    **Age Group(s):** Children    **Date:** 12/18/2010

**Start Time:** 11:00 AM    **End Time:** 12:30 PM

**Description:** Let your imaginations run wild! Stop by the library for some Lego brick building! Legos will be provided

**Contact:** [Kelli Venier](mailto:kelli.venier@maybee.org)

**Contact Number:** 734-587-3680

**Status:** Openings (30)

**Event Type:** Open Gaming    **Age Group(s):** All Ages

**Date:** 12/27 12/28 12/30    **Start Time:** 9:00 AM

**Description:** Do you have Game? Bring it! Maybe library will have Nintendo Wii's, Guitar Hero 3, DDR, and much more. Check it out, it's free!

**When I was a Kid growing up in Maybee.....by Marjorie Van Auken**

When I was a kid growing up in Maybee, variety *wasn't* the spice of life...tradition was. I was thinking about this recently in regards to weddings and receptions. Weddings of the present era are lovely affairs with great thought and planning put into making them unique and personally designed to “fit” the couple involved. This was not the case when I was a child and experiencing my first encounter with the local “nuptials”. Weddings pretty much fit a traditional format. The only things that changed were the names of the participants and the color scheme. When the invitation arrived in the mail...usually embossed with wedding bells, doves or hearts...white-on-white...one pretty much knew what to expect. The couple would be married on a Saturday night or possibly, if a Catholic ceremony, Saturday morning. The reception would follow that evening at the V.F.W. Hall on the corner of Stadler and Blazer Roads. The V.F.W. was *the* hall of choice...at least for local residents. I attended more wedding receptions there over my youth than I could ever remember. Many of those couples are now celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

But before I get to the reception part of the tradition, let's back up to the wedding itself. Being a little girl, I was enthralled with ‘The Wedding Dress’. I just couldn't imagine how exciting it must be to actually *get to wear* one of those princess-like creations! Most gowns of that era were large...featuring big, full skirts with hoops underneath! There would be pearls, sequins, or “sparkly diamond accents” on the bodice and there would be tulle (netting)! Miles and miles of tulle! Plus bows and trains and lace!! And the crowning touch was quite often just that...a crown... that secured a veil of even more tulle! I was mesmerized by the whole scope of it and couldn't take my eyes off the bride for the entire affair. One definite difference though between the beautiful gowns of today and those of yesterday was “modesty”. It would be thought most inappropriate to wear a gown that exposed too much “skin” in church so sleeves were longer and necklines higher. And *sometimes*, there was even a long trail of very small satin-covered buttons that ran all the way down the back of the bride's gown just to make sure she was securely cinched into it and nothing would escape! The strapless dresses of today would have been a definite “no-no” at that time.

Bridesmaid's gowns were equally as showy in size and fullness and tulle. One popular fad of those days was the “Rainbow Wedding” with each girl dressed in a different color such as pink, powder blue, yellow and mint green. And the dress was often paired with a large picture hat to suggest a Southern Belle look. If not a hat, the girls wore headpieces that secured small veils. These were never that terribly attractive or comfortable. They were usually a clump of something...bows, flowers, feathers, etc. mounted on a band that pinched onto one's head. Bridesmaid dresses have had the notorious reputation of being one-time-only dresses. (After harboring three of them in my closet for a couple of decades, I would be inclined to agree.) That is one tradition that has changed for the better nowadays. Bridesmaids can choose differing styles that flatter their individual figures and can be re-worn for other dressy events. And “pinchy” headpieces have pretty much vanished!

At the close of the wedding ceremony, when the couple exited the church, they were pelted with rice...not confetti, birdseed or bubbles. Rice was symbolic of fertility... a necessary requirement for the beginning of a future family. After shaking all the kernels of rice out of their hair, the happy couple and their wedding party crawled into two or three cars that had been decorated with a couple hundred paper flowers made out of colored tissue paper or Kleenx. Sometimes a tail of tin cans was tied onto the bumper of the bride and groom's car to create additional noise as the cars circled around through town blowing their horns to signal the residents that this couple had just officially “tied-the-knot”. A hand made cardboard sign on the truck saying “Just Married” was mandatory!

Then it was on to the reception! And that, as mentioned at the beginning of this article, would quite frequently be at the local V.F.W. Hall. The hall has always had the kitchen, bar and eating area in the basement and the

dance floor and stage on the upper level. This required the newlyweds to circulate frequently up and down stairs, as well as the guests, who were trying to keep track of the events of the evening. Being a little girl in awe of the whole gala event, I was up and down stairs constantly to make sure I didn't miss a moment of the cake-cutting, bouquet and garter tossing and the dancing.

The wedding cake was the centerpiece of the whole affair for me. Cakes in those days were white...inside and out. It was wedding cake flavored...the frosting had a certain texture that was different...and it was THE MOST SPECIAL thing to get a piece of cake with a white rose on it! Yes, *even the decorations were white!* Occasionally little tiny edible silver beads were used for additional effect. And, of course, a bride and groom graced the very top layer. Cakes today are works of art with amazing themes, colors and incredible flavors. They are delicious! But, I'd give anything to have a slice of the simple traditional wedding cake of those past days.

The music was always a live band set up on the stage. There was dancing from all eras...fast and slow. But the real rouser that got everyone up and moving was when a square dance caller took over the microphone and called for folks to come up and form as many squares as the dance floor would hold. That was always fun whether one was participating or watching from the benches that lined the walls of the hall...because there would be just enough people who had no clue what they were doing and it resulted in crazy mix-ups that had everyone laughing.

The traditional photos of those days were different, too. The engagement photo of the bride-to-be would be posted in the newspaper. It would have been taken professionally, possibly at Hollywood Studio in Monroe, and she would be photographed wearing a black v-neck, slightly off-the-shoulder blouse (provided by the photo studio). The post-wedding bridal photo would often be a full-length picture of the bride so one could readily see the details of her gown which were described in detail in the article on the wedding. (Sorry fellows, but the groom was nowhere to be seen in either of these pictures. We knew one existed...we just didn't know what he looked like...) Today's approach makes more sense. After all, two people are involved in this whole process and should get equal press! As for the wedding write-up, it not only listed the members of the wedding party, but full descriptions of the bridesmaid's dresses, and what was worn by the mothers of the bride and groom! Also included in the write-up was an account of what the bride chose as her "going away" outfit for the honeymoon. That outfit wouldn't have been complete without a corsage given to her by the groom!

Yes, indeed, wedding traditions have changed. Weddings of today are grand and beautiful occasions and I enjoy the specialness of each one I'm privileged to attend. But I have very fond memories of those of another era that were quite predictable. They represented a 'tried and true' way of doing things. (Just ask some of today's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrants!) No matter how crazy life...the world...becomes, sometimes it's nice to have something 'predictable' such as old traditions to follow. They are comfortable and you can count on them. And they make great memories, just like those I have of when I was a kid...growing up in Maybee.