

Chapter XIII

Almost a Bride

October 21, 1957 – June 14, 1958

By the following Monday, the pandemic had subsided enough that school was reopened and Sheffield went back to work. Janet had recovered sufficiently to return to school, although she still needed to regain her strength. During that week, Sheffield and Ramona went through Ellen's room and cleaned out her last few remaining belongings and divided them up among the family. Her room once again became a guest room. Sheffield had one more funeral to conduct a week after his mother's funeral. Dallas McIntosh had also come down with the influenza and succumbed to it.

During the second half of October things had settled down into an uneventful routine. Church meetings had resumed and school was up and running. Because school had been canceled, the wrestling team was behind schedule in their preparations for their first match. Consequently, the Magicians lost their first two matches before they got their momentum going and they won the next two.

Thanksgiving fell on the 28th that year. All of the immediate family gathered for Thanksgiving dinner, including Jerry Furness. The gathering was the perfect opportunity for Craig and Edith to announce that they were expecting their third child around the first of July.

Everyone was expecting an announcement of an engagement from Janet and Jerry, but one wasn't forthcoming. It appeared that they were head over heels in love with each other by the way they conducted themselves. Jerry's sister, Olivia, and Ammon Fielding were engaged to be married in the Salt Lake Temple in June, after she graduated from Hollins. Every one seemed to think another double wedding would be great, especially the Furnesses. Since the Fieldings had family in Utah, a wedding in Salt Lake worked out well for them, but it would be tight for the Furnesses to make the trip, but if Jerry and Janet were to be married at the same time, it would work out nicely for them. For that reason, Janet and Jerry were getting a little pressure from his family to get with the program.

The day after Thanksgiving, They went up to the cabin to select their Christmas trees. They set out Saturday morning to find the perfect trees. Fortunately, they didn't have to go very far, because the little ones wouldn't have made it much farther. There were three perfect sized trees growing together, one a bit taller than the other two. The taller one was just right for the high ceiling in the family room. It was cut down first, then the two smaller ones, one for Craig and Edith's family and the other for Norma and Wade's. Finding a tree rejuvenated the kids stamina and they skipped along ahead as the trees were drug back to the cabin and secured in the back of the old pickup. The rest of the day was spent putting up and decorating the trees and outdoor Christmas lights went up at the Two Star Ranch.

With their home decorated for the holidays, Sheffield and Ramona turned their attention to writing out Christmas cards and getting them in the mail. The list had grown to include Teancum and Takara and

Manti and Lolani Morley in Hawaii. As usual, each card included a brief handwritten greeting, that included best wishes to the recipient and a brief summary of the year, including the fact that two more grandchildren were on the way. True, each card said pretty much the same thing, but they had a personal touch to them.

The Magicians had a bye that week. Then on Saturday, the kids and grandkids all came over to celebrate Sheffield's fifty ninth birthday. Being one year shy of sixty sounded old to him.

As it got closer to Christmas, they began getting Christmas cards in return with similar news and greetings. Takara and Teancum said that married life was good. The cards from Quinn and Bonnie, Sedric and Jolene, Morris and Sheila, and Dan and Daphne all included birth announcements. Cards came from their old friends scattered all over the country. For many like Shorty and Wilma, Freddy and Susan, and others, it was about the only communication throughout the year.

The grandkids had brought the magic and excitement back into Christmas. As each day and each week brought it closer, their excitement mounted until they could hardly stand it. On Christmas eve, the family got together. Janet and Jerry were the last ones to arrive. As they took off their coats and gloves, Ramona noticed right away a certain piece of jewelery that Janet was wearing on the ring finger of her left hand.

"What is this?" She asked with excitement as she took Janet's left hand for a closer look. That drew everyone's attention.

"Were getting married!" Janet sang out.

Both Norma and Edith ran screaming to have a look for themselves.

When the excitement settled down, Ramona asked, "So when is the wedding date?"

"To make it easier on the Furnesses, it will be a double wedding in the Salt Lake Temple on June fourth."

Sheffield just stood there smiling.

"You already knew about this, didn't you Babe?" Ramona asked.

"Yeah. Jerry and I had a little talk the other day."

"Why didn't you tell me?"

"An ruin the surprise. This was a lot more exciting than if I had told you."

Ramona turned her attention back to Janet and Jerry. "So what are your plans?"

"Well, I can work full time at the BookEnd and Jerry will continue working at the furniture store and we're going to live in one the apartments upstairs. Olivia and Ammon will live in the other one."

A wedding in the future just added to the excitement of the holidays. In the new year the family was set to grow by two grandchildren and a new son in law. Not to mention the fact that Janet would be graduating from Hollins in the spring. 1958 certainly came in with great deal in store.

During the middle of January, the first of the new calves were born. Since there were now more cows, there were more calves than ever. They kept coming over the next three or four weeks. All but one survived. Roxie had her foal as well in mid February. It was a good looking little reddish brown filly with a wide white stripe down the middle of her face, called a blaze, and white bands just above her hooves that looked like socks. There was a debate as what to name her, Blaze or Socks. It was a close one, but Blaze won out.

During the round up in March, there was more work than in the past with more calves. Two of the older cows were culled from the heard but all of the heifers from the previous year were kept for breeding stock, bringing the total number of cows to be bred to fifteen. Over the years, they had used one of Roger's Angus bulls, but after talking to Harvey, Sheffield decided to bring in a Hereford bull instead. The hybrid cross was proven to produce exceptional cattle.

For some time, Wade had been working with Admiral. At first simply by leading him around and letting him get used to being handled by people. He proved to be quite gentle and not too easily spooked. Then more recently, he introduced him to the saddle and led him around with just the saddle to let him get used to that.

Then the day of the round up, he mounted up for the first time. If anyone was expecting a rodeo, they were disappointed. As Wade put his foot in the stirrup, Admiral turned his head to check him out. At first he just lifted himself up by one foot and held there for a moment to let Admiral get used to the weight. Then ever so gently, he swung his leg over Admiral's back and settled into the saddle. He just sat there for a moment, again to let the horse get used to him. Then ever so gently he nudged him to move. The first lesson was just riding him around the corral for several minutes. Over the next several lessons, he planned to teach him to reign and the other things that he needed to know. Admiral was smart enough to know to stop when Wade reigned him in. Wade dismounted and took the saddle off and that was the lesson for the day. Wade felt that within a matter of weeks, Admiral would be ready for anyone to ride.

The week before the round up, the Magician varsity wrestling team made a respectable showing at the district tourniquet, finishing second. All season they had held their own against most opponents with a couple more wins than loses. They went on to the state tournament in Richmond with the similar results. When it was all over, they had finished third. Sheffield praised them for having given there all and putting forth their best effort. "Win or lose," he told them, "it is consistently giving your best under all circumstances that will take far in life. In the long run, it won't matter that we didn't bring home the first place trophy. What will matter in the years to come, is the determination that you put into it. Even if he had of won, it would just become a forgotten statistic in the record books. The lasting legacy of this team is what you make of your lives. In that, I have great hope"

With all of the newborn calves and the new foal that were born, Norma was getting really close to delivering her baby. In her advanced pregnancy, she had some difficulty that she hadn't encountered with her first baby. Dr. Mendon was watching her blood pressure closely as it was considerably higher than it should have been. There was no specific treatment for it and Dr. Mendon thought it might cause problems for the baby. Norma had her husband and father give her a blessing. From it she took courage and had faith that everything would be alright.

By Easter, she was to the point where the baby could come any day. Three days later, on Wednesday April 9th, the telephone rang at four in the morning. It was Wade saying that he was taking Norma to the hospital. Too excited and also worried at the same time, Ramona couldn't go back to sleep. Sheffield tried to assure her that everything would be alright.

By about six, she was so wound up and worried that she went out to the bathhouse by herself to relax. She showered and got down into the warm water to soak. She relaxed some but she was still worried. "Things would go much better if I were there." she said to herself. "At least I'd know what was going on."

About a half an hour later she heard the telephone ringing. "That must be Wade." she reasoned. After the fifth ring, it was obvious that Sheffield wasn't going to pick it up. She jumped up and grabbed a towel and bolted for the house, without bothering to wrap up in it. Since it was barely getting light outside, there wasn't any chance of anyone seeing her as she dashed into the house. Dripping wet, she left a trail of water all the way, something that no one was ever allowed to do.

She reached the telephone after three more rings. As persistent as they were, it had to be Wade. Holding the towel to her chest with one hand, it hung limp not really doing her much good. She picked up the telephone with the other hand. "Hello." She said with excitement in her voice.

"Hello Ramona, its Wade."

Before he could say anything else, she asked, "Has Norma had the baby yet?"

"Yes, just a few minutes ago and both mother and the baby are just fine."

"Oh good, thats great news. So what did you have?"

"A little girl. She was six pounds fourteen ounces and was twenty inches long."

"That's exciting. So what did you decide to name her?"

"Samantha, after Norma's mother."

"I love it. I hoped that was the name you'd choose it."

"It really seems to fit, too."

"Who's watching Teresa?"

"Oh, my mother came over to stay with her before we left."

“So, is it alright if we come in to see her?”

“Yeah sure.”

“Alright then Wade, we'll come as soon as we can. Bye”

“Bye Ramona.”

By then Ramona had pretty much drip dried, with a puddle of water on the floor to prove it. She used the towel to mop it up and tossed it into kitchen sink to deal with later. That was the nice thing about having the house all to yourselves, it didn't matter what you were or weren't wearing.

She went into the bedroom to get dressed. Sheffield had been in the shower and was drying off himself. “Hey Babe.” she said. “Hurry and put your clothes on. We have to hurry in to the hospital. Norma just had her baby.”

She told him everything that she knew as they got dressed.

“What about breakfast?”

“We can probably grab something at the hospital.” Ramona suggested.

A short time later, they arrived at the hospital and got to hold little Samantha April. It took just one look into her sweet little face to fall in love with her. Love is funny in that way, there is always enough to go around and some to spare.

Once the baby was born, Norma's blood pressure went back to normal. After the usual amount of time in the hospital, Dr. Mendon sent them home.

Springtime brought out the blossoms on the fruit trees in the orchard. Over the years they had matured to the point that they produced a lot of fruit, which was good for a growing family. Norma, Janet and Edith helped Ramona plant the garden, which had gotten bigger over the years as well. After all, both the orchard and the garden were providing canned fruit and vegetables for three families. Wade and Norma had access to plenty of beef from the Rowan Ranch, so Sheffield shared his freezer full with Craig and Edith. True it was more work, but it saved a lot of money and it was better than what came out of the supermarket, and it lasted all year. Now with Janet getting married, there would be another family to take advantage of what was produced on the ranch, not to mention all the fresh eggs. The only thing that was lacking was fresh milk, but Sheffield didn't want to deal with the commitment that a milk cow would take. Instead, they bought fresh milk from someone in the branch who did have a few cows.

During the spring, Craig and Edith sold their home in Salem and bought an acre of land from Sheffield and Ramona just across the bridge. They had enough to buy the land and a down payment on the construction of the new home that they had wanted to build.

They moved in with Sheffield and Ramona while Ray Austin built their house. They took over the

entire upstairs, all three bedrooms and the bathroom. Until their house was ready in the fall, Sheffield and Ramona had full house once again. It never seemed to stay empty for very long. It was nice for Edith to have some help with Little Geannie and Geoffrey since she was very pregnant and was experiencing a lot of lower back pain and had to stay down a lot.

The previous fall and winter had been a little slow, but spring had been very busy. Now that they were into May, Janet was now the center of attention. She was not only preparing for a wedding, but she was also graduating from Hollins with her bachelor's degree. School let out for Sheffield on the 22nd of May and the next day was Janet's graduation.

After graduation Olivia, Beverly, Beverly's cousin, Linda, and Janet all moved out of their apartment and Janet packed up her things and brought them home and stayed in the guest-room until they came back from the wedding when she would be moving in with Jerry.

Not to be overshadowed by upcoming wedding, graduation was celebrated with all that it deserved. Samantha would have been proud, All three of her children had graduated from college just as she had hoped. Sheffield and Ramona were proud of her too. They were proud of all three of them.

But there was plenty of attention to go around. The following Monday was Norma's twenty fourth birthday. Then Memorial Day was on Friday and as usual it was the Brason Memorial Day picnic. That morning at the cemetery, flowers were put out on Ellen's grave as well. Back at the ranch, the picnic included all of the usual activities, with one slight change. This time there were three horses saddled up, ready to ride; Red, Roxie, and Admiral.

Excitement mounted now that the wedding was only days away. On Sunday, Janet met with her branch president, Hyrum Fielding, and the mission president for her temple recommend interview. Craig and Edith were not able to make the trip, with Edith being eight months pregnant and the problems she was having with her back. Neither were Norma and Wade able to go with a two month old baby. So Craig and Wade would take care of putting up the hay and other things on the ranch.

On Monday morning, Sheffield, Ramona and Janet set out in the Staggerwing and flew to Salt Lake City, with stops in Springfield, Illinois and McCook, Nebraska. When they landed at the airport in Salt Lake, Chet Mayfield met them and took them home with him. They had been gracious enough to offer a place to stay. When they arrived at their home next to the capitol building, Debra had dinner waiting. Molly and her husband were also there. They had a good visit that evening. It was inevitable that the conversation turned to the time in the South Atlantic when Sheffield rescued Debra and Molly after having two ships sunk out for under them.

As for the rest of the wedding party, the Fieldings flew to Salt Lake on a commercial air liner and where staying with family in the area. The Furnesses made a four day road trip with their five children in

their 1953 Chevrolet Townsman station wagon, pulling a trailer. They pulled into town on Tuesday and were staying that the Travelodge on West Temple.

Just making the trip had been a real sacrifice for them. For John and Wendy Furness, this was their first time out west so this was an important time for them since it would be their first time to go to the temple after having been married for twenty five years. In addition, their five children would be sealed them. And to top it off, their two oldest children were being married.

Tuesday was Ramona's fifty fifth birthday. It seems like she celebrated a lot of her birthdays while on trips over the years. The previous year it was in Hawaii. Another time she celebrated it in Texas and nine years earlier they were in Salt Lake when they went to the temple for the first time. Most of the day was spent making last minute arrangements. That evening they did celebrate by going out to dinner and Debra made a birthday cake for her.

Wednesday the 4th was the big day. Chet loaned his car to Sheffield and they drove to the temple early as Janet had to be there at seven. She seemed quite and pensive which suppressed what excitement she surely must have felt. Ramona accompanied her as she went through all of the preliminaries and initiatory ordinances.

She was seated next to Ramona in the Creation Room when she saw Jerry come in with his family. It was the first time that she had seen him since they left Roanoke several days ago. Olivia and her mother came and sat next to Janet. All through the endowment session, Ramona wondered what was going through Janet's mind. She seemed nervous, but that was to be expected.

After progressing through the ceremony, they came out into the Celestial Room and Janet was reunited with Jerry, and Olivia with Ammon. After a moment, they were all ushered into one of the larger sealing rooms and were joined momentarily by the three younger Furness children.

The first order of business was for John and Wendy to be sealed. As the Furnesses knelt at the alter, Janet loosely held on to Jerry's hand as she stared blankly at the floor. Again, Ramona chalked it up to nervousness. After their sealing had been performed, Jerry, Olivia, and their brothers and sister joined John and Wendy at the alter and they were sealed as a family.

Next, it was Ammon and Olivia's turn. The officiator talked to them and gave his counsel before performing their marriage. The whole time, Janet continued staring at the floor. Ramona began to sense that whatever was on her mind was more than just being nervous. She didn't even look up as Olivia, one of her best friends, was kissed by her new husband across the alter.

Finally Jerry and Janet knelt across the alter and took each other by the hand. The officiator proceeded to give them counsel similar to what he had given Ammon and Olivia. Ramona really began to worry as the officiator began because Janet did not look a Jerry. She had a blank look on her face as she

looked down, seemingly oblivious to what was going on. She didn't even seem to here Jerry say, "Yes." when he took Janet as his wife.

When asked if she took Jerry as he husband, she didn't answer. Her concentration on whatever was on her mind was broken when the sealer asked her again. That was the first time that she even looked up. She paused and looked deep into Jerry's eyes and then back down again, for what seemed like a long time. Finally she looked at the officiator and said, "No."

She let go of Jerry's hand and said, "I'm sorry Jerry. I can't do this." as she stood up and backed away from the alter.

Everyone in the room were stunned.

The sealer clasped his hands together, with his index fingers to his lips. "We'll," he said. "It's best to say no now than later."

"Can I talk to my Mom and Dad somewhere in private?"

"Certainly. Take your time. We'll just wait here for you to come back."

The three of them were ushered out of the room into small unoccupied room nearby. With tears streaming down her face in the first show of emotion she had shown all day, she said. "I'm sorry, but I can't go through with this."

"Whats the matter, sweetheart?" Sheffield asked.

Through her sobs she explained, "Jerry is terrific guy and I think the world of him, but I came to realize that I am not in love with him. I was in love with the idea of being in love."

"Like the sealer said, 'Its better to speak up now.' It's no use being married to someone that you're not in love with." Sheffield said.

"When did you come to realize this?" Ramona asked.

"I've been wondering about it for a few days, but I through that it was just the pre-wedding jitters that everyone talks about. Then last night I had a dream in which I saw my future family and Jerry wasn't in the picture. When I looked into his eyes just now, I realized that this was a mistake. I couldn't say yes when my heart said no."

"You did the right thing, Janet. Don't worry about what anyone else might think."

"Do you want to know who it was that I saw in my dream?"

"Who?"

"Jerry Gover." she said. "It has always been Jerry Gover that I have been in love with. Even though he told me not to wait for him, I just know that he still loves me too. I tried to move on and I thought that I had, but I was only fooling myself.

"Poor Jerry." She went on. "I feel so bad for what I just did to him. I wonder what he's thinking?"

"Maybe you should talk to him." Ramona suggested.

"Oh I can't do that. He must hate me right now."

"No, sweetheart." Sheffield said. "I'm sure he doesn't hate you. But I'm sure he is pretty confused right now and he deserves an explanation. And it has to come from you, and he needs it now."

"I suppose your right." Janet admitted.

"We'll go get him and send him in."

Sheffield and Ramona returned to the sealing room and said, "She wants to talk to you Jerry."

Jerry got up and left the room and was ushered into the room where Janet was waiting.

"What's the matter?" Wendy asked as Sheffield and Ramona took their seats.

"Let them talk and when they come back, they should be the one to answer that."

The room was filled with hushed whispers while they waited for what seemed like an eternity. Finally they returned. They weren't holding hands as they stood side by side before everyone in the room.

Jerry spoke first. "Janet had the courage to say what I couldn't. Don't get us wrong, we love each other and care about one another deeply. But..." he paused. "But we really aren't in love with each other. We wanted to be and even pretended that we were. I was willing to go through with it hoping that that kind of love would develop with time."

Then Janet said, "I was the same way, but then I realized that I'm still in love with someone else. Someone I have been in love with for a very long time and I'm sure that he is still in love with me. I realize now that it was out of love that he set me free while he was gone."

"We're so sorry that we let things get this far and put all of you through this." Jerry said. "But it hasn't all been for nothing. My parents were finally sealed and we were sealed to them and Olivia and Ammon were married. I'd say that is plenty to celebrate. As far as Janet and I, we still are and always will be good friends and I love her, just not in that way."

"I'm sorry too." Janet said. "I still love Jerry too, just not in that way. Don't worry about us, we're alright. Now let's all celebrate what has taken place here this morning."

"Well then," the sealer said, "My work is done here. That took a lot of courage. Too many times I have seen couples in those circumstances go ahead and get married. Sometimes they eventually fall in love, but usually not. You did the right thing. Now, can we have the bride and groom, Brother and Sister Furness, and Brother and Sister Fielding stand here at the door. Let me be the first to congratulate them as we leave the room."

Janet and Jerry held back as everyone filed out of the room, offering their congratulations as they went by. Sheffield and Ramona held back as well. When it was finally time to go. Janet hugged Olivia and expressed, "I'm so happy for you. I'm sorry that we can't be sisters in law after all."

"That's alright Janet. We still have the sisterhood" Olivia winked. "Remember, we're sisters forever. You, me, Beverly, and Takara."

With some trepidation, Janet came to John and Wendy Furness. Wendy put her at ease. "We don't have any hard feelings," she said. "Although we are disappointed. We were really looking forward to having you in our family. You have been in our home so much over the years, and we want you to know that you are still welcome any time."

John said to Janet and her parents, "I hope you will still join us for the luncheon. You know you're still a part of the wedding party."

They did go to the luncheon afterwards and that evening at Ammon and Olivia's reception for the Feildng's family and friends in Utah, Janet and Jerry did stand in line as bridesmaid and best man as originally planned. Late that evening, Debra and Chet were surprised when Janet came in with Sheffield and Ramona.

It had been Sheffield's intentions all along to go and see their friends, the Govers, on this trip. On Friday morning after breakfast Chet and Debra took them back to the airport and they said their goodbyes not knowing when they might see each other again. From there they flew the short hop up north and before long had landed in the pasture next to Wayne and Gale's house just outside of Clarkston.

When they greeted them as they got out of the plane, they were astounded to see Janet with them. After going in the house with their luggage, Janet explained what had happened.

After listening intently, Gale said, "I know you were heart broken when Jerry told you not to wait for him and to go on with your life. He just felt that he'd be a better missionary if he had no strings attached, and he has been. He may have seemed cool and callus in the way that he told you, but I assure you that it ripped his heart out. He has told us more than once that he regretted it."

"He has written to me regularly," Janet said, "but it was like we were back to being pen pals. I told him all about getting together with the other Jerry and our wedding plans. All the while I was still in love with him but I didn't let on, mainly to convince myself that I wasn't."

"He left hoping that you would still be available. When you told him that you were engaged, he took it pretty hard. But he got over it, after all he was the one who gave you license to do it. And I think it did let him focus on his mission more fully. Now I that you're still available and still have feelings for him, I know that he will be quite thrilled. He still loves you. You should write to him and tell him, rather than wait until he gets home. He only has two months left."

"I think I'll do that." Janet concluded.

They spent the rest of the day with the Govers. Later in the afternoon Morris and Sheila and their kids came out from Logan. That evening they had barbecued lamb steaks.

Ramona said to Wayne, "Do you remember the first time that you fed me lamb and I said that I didn't like it. Well, I was wrong. Just like then, this is so good. It makes me think we should get rid of our cows and get sheep."

They had an enjoyable evening and visited quite late. Morris and Sheila eventually had to leave to go back to Logan. That evening when Janet went to bed, the knots in her stomach that had plagued her for days were gone. She was sure that she did the right thing. And now come to find out, Jerry Gover was still in love with her too.

On Saturday morning, they said goodbye to the Govers and flew home in the Staggerwing by way of McCook and Springfield and arrived home late in the afternoon. All the way home, Janet tried to figure out what she was going to do now. She already planned to work full time at the BookEnd. She would probably just live at home for a while. Perhaps she would move back upstairs after Craig and Edith moved into their new house, or maybe she'd find an apartment of her own sometime. Her mom and dad assured her that she could live at home for as long as she wanted.

Edith and Norma had got together and planned dinner for that evening when they got home. Edith had her part ready and Craig had the charcoal going for the steaks. They were surprised to see Janet without Jerry, as the plan had been for them to fly home together with Sheffield and Ramona.

"We didn't get married after all." is all that she would tell them. "Rather than have to tell you the story now and then tell it to Norma and Wade, you'll have to wait for when they come for dinner this evening."

It wasn't long before Norma and Wade their kids brought the rest of dinner, anxious to hear all about the wedding. When they came in the house, it was obvious that something was wrong. "Where's Jerry?" Wade asked.

"Alright." Janet said. "Now that everyone is here, Olivia and Ammon's wedding was very nice, but Jerry and I didn't get married after all."

"Why? What happened?" Norma asked.

While putting the last minute touches together, Janet told them the whole story.

Since Janet had planned on moving in with Jerry after they returned, all of her things were packed up and stored at home, Janet stayed the night and the next day unpacked and moved back into the guest room.

After getting settled, she sat down and wrote two letters. The first one was to Takara to tell her what happened. The second letter took more thought, it was to Jerry. She not only told him what happened, but that she still loved him and wanted to get back with him when he returned home.

The next day at church, she attended the Salem Branch with her family. Since the Furnesses and

Fieldings hadn't returned from Utah yet, no one had heard the news. She had to explain it several more times.

Since she had the week off at work for what should have been their honeymoon and preparing for the reception, she took advantage of the time to unwind after everything that she had been through and think about what she was going to do next. A lot of that depended on Jerry's response to her letter.

During the first part of the week. Olivia and Ammon returned with the Fieldings. Olivia, Beverly, and Janet had a long visit while having a good soak in Ramona's bathhouse. The next day, Jerry arrived back in town. Jerry called Janet just to see how she how she was doing.

On Saturday, Janet and Jerry stood in Olivia and Ammon's reception line as they had in Salt Lake, but not as bride and groom as originally planned. Some of the reception guests still had not heard the news, so the story was retold a few more times. Hopefully, now the whole thing was behind them.

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