

# Our Wedding Day

**Collector:**                   **Gertie Fowler**

**Contributor:**           **Phyllis Roberts**

**Gertie Fowler:**

Today is January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009 and I'm here in Forteau with Phyllis Roberts and Phyllis is gonna talk to me today about her wedding day. So ah, Phyllis would you like to share your memories with me, 'cause you've been married fifty one years, you said, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1958. Okay.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Yeah. We planned our wedding date on ....'fer January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1958 and then the Coastal Boat use to run from St. John's to Corner Brook and of course the United Minister was stationed in Red Bay, same as he is now. And ah...just a few days before this date, January 16<sup>th</sup>, ah... the Northern Ranger was makin' her trip and, I think it must have been probably a week earlier then the 16<sup>th</sup>, and he came up.... the minister was Reverend Upwards ,,and he came up on the Northern Ranger and ....but he didn't came ashore here.

He was on his way to Corner Brook for some other business, he didn't say what, so ah.....what he did was he send a note .... well the mail .... the mail use to come ashore in the mail boats then from the boats and ah....he send a note ashore with one of the men to give Aunt Bessie Flynn, she was the post mistress. To give Aunt Bessie Flynn, to give me or Ken, either one, that saying he was on he's way to Corner Brook but he wouldn't be able to come back and do the wedding.

So at that time, we had everything baked; cakes, pies, and everything ready for the meals, so we didn't know what we were going to do, since we had all the cakes and everything done.

**Gertie Fowler:**

That's true.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

And dad.... by then, dad .... dad had a license to marry and to bury and to Christian. He was sort of a lay person. He use to travel the coast from whichever, L'Anse au Clair, or L'Anse au Loup, or wherever they needed to for a wedding or funeral or a.....or a baptism or something. So ah.... I said to him one day, I said "dad, would you marry

me?” (laughs). And he looked at me and he said “why not?”. I said “would you marry me?” He said “Yes”. I said “okay. We’ll have our wedding on the sixteenth of January.”

So ah....we got everything ready for the wedding and ah....we went to the church, and ...the Anglican Church and he married us. And at that time, there was five dollars for a wedding, hey?

**Gertie Fowler:**

Oh. Okay.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

They use to give him five dollars, so I give him the five dollars and he gave it back to me.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Oh. Okay. Nice. So.....

**Phyllis Roberts:**

“No” he said, “that’s a wedding gift for ye”

**Gertie Fowler:**

God love ‘em.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Yeah. So.....

**Gertie Fowler:**

So ah.... who was your father, now?

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Edward Flynn.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Okay.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Yeah.

**Gertie Fowler:**

So, Phyllis ah... the boat was probably makin’ her last trip, I guess, hey?

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Well, it was pretty well up to the season for the boat to ah... stop.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Yeah.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Yeah.

**Gertie Fowler:**

It was pretty late then, hey, 16<sup>th</sup> of January.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

January 16<sup>th</sup>, yeah....yeah.

So we went ahead with the wedding. We had a lovely Tur supper, Tur stew that's what we had for supper with our pies, cakes and cookies.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Did you have a dance?

**Phyllis Roberts:**

And ah... yes, we had a dance. We went over to the community hall and Mr. Jeff Wyatt played for our dance. He played the violin.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Is that right?

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Yup.

He told Ken, when he got married that he want to play the violin for a dance. So we came up in his snowmobile. Parked his snowmobile there against... this house in fact. Parked his snowmobile there against the driveway and ah.... we all .... after the wedding and after the supper and everything, we all went over in the community hall and we danced our feet off. Until daylight.

**Gertie Fowler:**

What kind of dance was that now?

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Square dance .....

**Gertie Fowler:**

Oh. Okay.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

....and the swinging wheel and the cut.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Oh. Okay.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

There was three dances we use to do.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Very good. So what was the swinging wheel, can you explain that to me?

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Well, you did a lot of swinging. (laughs)

**Gertie Fowler:**

Okay.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

It was something..... you started off something like the square dance, but ah.....you use to change partners and swing and in the middle and all the round circle, like hey and ah.....

**Gertie Fowler:**

Yeah.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

And the cut. You use to cut a lot like you go, like ...take your partners and go cut....cut and dance.....cut and four ....four angles....

**Gertie Fowler:**

Oh. Okay.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Yeah.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Yeah.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Yeah.

**Gertie Fowler:**

So you had a grand time then.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

We had a lovely time. The wedding turned out good and here we are together 51 years later.

**Gertie Fowler:**

That's great.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

(laughs)

**Gertie Fowler:**

Well Phyllis, I'd like to thank you for your memories, they were beautiful.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

I guess probably, I should tell you the bride's boys and bride's girls too.

**Gertie Fowler:**

You can, if you wish too.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Lily Dumaresque was a.... and Una, sister Una, and Mary ...ah....Flynn. Mary Buckle she was. And 'twas Gordon Flynn and Bobby, but I can't recall our third ah..ah... bride's boy.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Oh. Okay. So now ah, did you have any invitations?

**Phyllis Roberts:**

No there was no invitations send out.

**Gertie Fowler:**

So how did you...

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Two the.... the bridesmaid and the bride's boy went around to the peoples houses and invited everybody out for supper.

**Gertie Fowler:**

That's what they use to do back then was it?

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Yup. Yup. There was no invitations sent out.

**Gertie Fowler:**

So when.....after you was married. That evening, that's when they...

**Phyllis Roberts:**

After, yup. After the ceremony was over, the bride's boy and bride's girl use to go out and ....and the family and friends was all around having the meal ready when everybody come back.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Very good.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

And I had one picture taken.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Who took that one?

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Uncle Steward Hancock.

**Gertie Fowler:**

You still got it?

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Yes, that's me wedding picture.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Oh. Okay.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

(Laughs)

**Gertie Fowler:**

Well that's good then. Well I'd like to thank you very much then, for your memories, they were beautiful.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Yeah and there's something else, now. Aunt Victoria Roberts made me wedding dress.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Yeah.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

And Aunt Dora Hancock did me wedding cake and Uncle Bob Hancock was the father giver.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Oh. Okay.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

And they never charged me a cent.

**Gertie Fowler:**

No maid. So what about your brides girl dresses and your ....well you said you had yours maid but the bride's girls...

**Phyllis Roberts:**

No. There's was made too.

**Gertie Fowler:**

There's was made to.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Yeah

**Gertie Fowler:**

Yeah. Well that's really nice. What about your rings now?

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Me rings...

**Gertie Fowler:**

Might as well tell me about your rings, too.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Me rings cost me \$15.00.....annivers.....engagement ring and the wedding ring.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Is that right?

**Phyllis Roberts:**

But I got the two of them broke.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Where did.... where did that come from then?

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Eaton's. Eaton's catalogue.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Oh. Okay. It came through the mail.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Yeah. It came through the mail.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Oh. Okay.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

And here we are 51 years later, happy as any couple can be.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Well that's good. That don't happen very often, now these days, do it?

**Phyllis Roberts:**

No.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Hmmmm.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

So that's me story of the wedding.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Oh well, that's beautiful. Thank you very much.

**Phyllis Roberts:**

Thank you.