



Each jar had a saying attached, like “So Berry in Love” (there was something of a berry theme going on). Vintage fishing reels (reflecting an abiding interest of the groom) held flowers and wedding booklets; there were coloring books for the kids.

A college friend of Kevin’s officiated, and the three of them collaborated on the ceremony. Kevin and Courtney chose the readings and prayers working from a wedding service book, and the officiant added personal stories and a little comedy.

Temperatures had been over 100 degrees, but on Sunday, the day of the wedding, the thermometer read in the mid-80s — the perfect day had arrived. “My dad and stepdad both walked me down the aisle,” Courtney says. “It was very special.” Kevin picked up his guitar and played the processional as bridesmaids and bride came down the aisle, and both their grandmothers had roles, too. As flower girls they walked immediately before the bride, tossing flower petals on the grass. “They had a blast,” Courtney said. As the bride arrived, the groom set down his guitar and walked her up to where they would be married.

There was concern that there might be some distraction from water sports on the river, but nothing happened until reference was made to Kevin’s being an officer in the Astoria Police Department. Then there was a horn blast from a passing police boat. Was it only a coincidence?

At the conclusion of the ceremony Kevin kissed the bride, dipping her as he did so. Then he said, “I can do better than that,” and kissed her again, dipping her even lower.

“It was really cute,” the bride said. “We could feel all the love from everybody around us.”

The couple took off in a 1930 Hupmobile which had been restored for the wedding by Kevin’s dad, and came back to join their guests in feasting and playing yard games like cornhole, Jenga, and croquet. Then it was time for peach/raspberry and marionberry pies and a Norwegian wedding cake (the bride is Scandinavian), with rings of pastry trimmed with icing and concealing a bottle of champagne with which the couple will celebrate their first anniversary.

Courtney remembered with delight how, as the day drew to a close and only a core group of close friends remained, her husband picked up his guitar, stepped up to the mike, and serenaded her with a beautiful song he had written for her.

A romantic conclusion to a perfect day. ■

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