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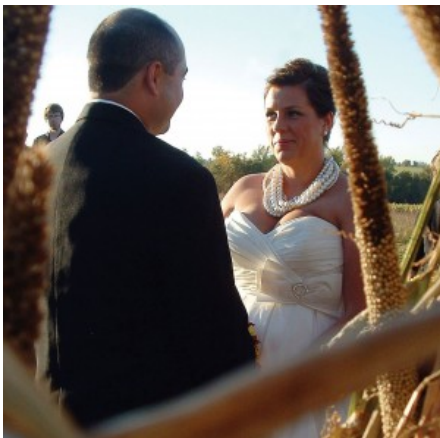
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Corn maze offers unique wedding backdrop

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Marsha Ross and Kary Booher exchange vows.

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Posted: Wednesday, October 13, 2010 2:26 pm|

By Kristi Waterworth Marshfield Mail correspondent |
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It was an unusual, unreal sort of sight. When I arrived at Hampton's Corn Maze outside Elkland Saturday, Oct. 9, for the wedding of Marsha Ross, the lawn was bespeckled with men in tuxes and women in formal dress. Awfully formal crowd for a hay ride, I thought.

We loaded up on a hay wagon that was reserved for the wedding party and guests, and off we went. Larry Hampton drove us down a long, winding gravel road and then, abandoning all things rational, along a path in a field. We were dropped on a hilltop overlooking the corn maze and the pumpkin patch.

The wedding arch was magnificent. Made of corn stalks and accented in pumpkins, I've never seen anything that screamed "Fall!" quite so loud.

The white chairs were arranged in tidy sections and the immediate area of the wedding was freshly mowed. The rest of the surroundings were wild.

The wedding was short and sweet, with all the things you'd expect: bride, groom, minister, guests, vows ... And while I ran around taking pictures, I couldn't help but imagine that someone, somewhere on the prairie circa 1882 had a wedding just like this on the family farm.

On a windswept hill, just like this one, with the sound of corn rustling and surrounded by dressed-up family and friends, some bride and some groom would vow their fidelity ... and then spend the rest of their lives working that farm.

Each time they planted corn or cut silage near that hill, they'd look up and remember.

Daughters and sons would tell grandchildren about that wedding on the hill and old photos would attest to the beauty among the emptiness. It would be a treasured family memory.

For Marsha Ross and Kary Booher, I'm sure their unusual wedding in the beautiful, wild fall setting will be remembered forever. I wish them both the best and I know that I will not forget it any time soon.

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