



# Glen Leslie News



## LOCAL COUPLE HIGHLIGHT THE GLEN LESLIE CHURCH AT THEIR WEDDING



When Lil (Oluper) McCann and Herb Wales decided to marry in 1986, their first choice of a venue for the ceremony was the little log church near the Wales' farm. The Wales family had settled in the Glen Leslie area in 1913 and was instrumental in the development of the area; including the construction of the Glen Leslie Church in 1915. In fact Herb's father, Alfred, had attended the church when it was being utilized as the school house for the Somme School District.

As well, Herb and Lil decided to further honour their roots and have a "wedding ceremony reminiscent of days gone by". The wedding attendants were dressed in attire of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century which added a touch of nostalgia to the setting. Transportation to and from the church was in a open horse-drawn buggy owned by Everett McDonald and a prestigious carriage owned by Herb. Everett had borrowed a horse from the groomsman, Kelly

Sutherland that proved to be very frisky as it was part of Sutherland's herd of race horses. Kelly had driven the bride to the church.

Although the day was chilly, the little unheated church soon warmed with all the well-wishes for the new couple. Pastor Karl Hedin of the Sexsmih Lutheran Church performed the ceremony. Shirley Olson of Sexsmith provided the musical accompaniment on the church's antique organ. The organ is still on display and well-used at the restored Glen Leslie Church. Sharon Mercier and others rode along with their saddle horses, including members of the gymkhana club to attend the reception which was held at the Crystal Creek Hall and a memorable time was had by all.

Herb passed away in 2007 and was buried at the Glen Leslie Cemetery.



*Left: Herb & Lill Wales. Right: Best man, Everett McDonald & bridesmaid Ruth Driedger toast the new couple.*

Written by Wanda Zenner

January 2024

Reference

Newspaper articles, Glen Leslie Centennial History book, interview with Everett McDonald, Eleanor McCurdy & Janice Dorscheid