

HERB WALES

Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada

They're not really wrecks, just used

By Herald-Tribune Staff

Rent-a-wreck is the new kid on the block in car rental agencies — but don't let the name fool you.

The business at 10919 Richmond Ave. (behind Husky Automotives) "rents clean, dependable transportation," manager Lille McCann said.

The vehicles are all second-hand but each is thoroughly maintained and safety checked.

Ms. McCann explained that the name Rent-a-wreck came from the experiences of founder Ed Alfke who started the chain business in Prince George in 1976.

While on holidays in Hawaii, Mr. Alfke rented a new car only to have it break down. The rental company would offer no assistance and he asked to rent a wreck at the gas station he went to for help.

Ms. McCann said if one of their vehicles breaks down the renter need only call and it will be repaired or replaced.

Renting used cars is a practical alternative to new car rentals, she said.

It is cheaper and affordable for a person who can't afford to rent a new car, she said. Rentals run from \$8.95 to \$16.95 for cars depending on the type of car.

A physical damage waiver of \$5.95 a day covers the entire cost of any accident beyond the deductible.

Rent-a-wreck also has specialty vehicles like vans that rent for varying rates and a number of specials including monthly and weekly rates.

People wishing to lease a vehicle have to be at least 21.

The franchise extends throughout North America and Europe under the name Practical car rentals but Grande Prairie is the first location in the Peace Country to have an outlet.



Rent-a-wreck manager Lille McCann

There is one in Dawson Creek and another in Peace River is likely.

Ms. McCann got together with local business men Herb Wales and Everett McDonald to get the business off the ground.

She said that though there are a number of other companies with rental outlets in the city, competition is not too fierce because they all serve different markets.

Rent-a-wreck is probably also unique in that it buys, sells and trades vehicles.

They have a try me-buy me program where a vehicle can be tried out for two days with no rental charge if bought.

If a person decides not to buy the vehicle

then they have to pay the rental fees. The company also offers a used car warranty to buyers.

So far business has been going well and Ms. McCann said it is surprising the varying reasons for people renting vehicles.

Some people have their vehicles in for paint jobs or repairs or want to take the family on vacation in a bigger vehicles, she said.

Right now the three partners run the business solely on their own and the location is adequate.

However, if the demand goes up significantly it is quite possible the operation could move to another location.

GRAND OPENING

RENT-A-WRECK

Thursday, Sept. 26, 1985.



Manager of Rent-a-wreck, Lil McCann.

RENT-A-WRECK, the company that parlayed common-sense car rental into a nation-wide success story, will open in Grande Prairie on Sept. 26, under the management of owners Everett McDonald, Herb Wales and Lil McCann. The office will be located at 10919-100 Ave, Highway 2 west at the Husky.

A PIONEER in nearly-new car rentals, RENT-A-WRECK, according to President, Ed Alfke, has experienced explosive growth, becoming the largest network of its kind in Canada in less than five years, with 145 offices from Courtenay to Halifax.

EVERYTHING is ready for the Grand Opening, says manager Lil McCann. Free mileage coupons and other hand-outs will be available on the site, as well as light refreshments.

LIL McCANN is optimistic about car rentals in this area. "This company has proven", she says, "that it can maintain an office profitably in large urban areas, and in small towns where it is not always feasible for new car rental companies. RENT-A-WRECK offers a sensible alternative -- at half the price."

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Best man Everett McDonald (right) and bridesmaid Ruth Dreidger toast groom Herb Wales (left) and bride Lille McCann.
Staff Photos by Kathy Murrie

Emphasis on the old

Herald-Tribune staff

A new bride is supposed to wear something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue.

And Saturday morning when Lille McCann and Herb Wales exchanged vows the emphasis was definitely on the old — the very old.

The two local residents were married in the old Glen Leslie Church (built in 1915) east of the city, they were decked out in late 19th century wedding attire and their transportation to and from the church was in open horse-drawn buggy and coach.

It was an old style wedding to reflect older values — weddings back at the turn of the century were to last a lifetime.

The bride wore a gown which her great-grandmother would have admired: of pale peach and cream coloured satin, with a feathery headpiece. She carried a sheaf of wheat and barley — appropriate for the harvest season and an old tradition symbolic of a fruitful marriage. For the chilly carriage ride, she bundled up in a tweed, fur-trimmed cape.

Her bridesmaids, JoAnn Drzewicki and Ruth Dreidger, were also dressed in gowns of that era and carried brass coach lanterns.

The groom and his best men — Everett McDonald and Kelly Sutherland — all wore brown frock coats, vests and top hats.

As one would expect of a horseman of his repute, five-time World Professional Chuckwagon Association champion driver Sutherland wielded the reins of the carriage for the trip to the reception at Crystal Creek hall.

"Weddings used to last a lifetime in those days," explained the bride of her choice of the old style setting. The church happens to be less than a mile from the couple's home. The vintage carriage was her own.

Pastor Karl Hedlin of the Sexsmith Lutheran church performed the ceremony. Shirley Olson of Sexsmith provided the musical accompaniment on the church's antique organ.

The couple were joined for the ceremony by some 40 friends and relatives, some also decked out in the 19th century attire.

The tiny, unheated church was warmed by their smiles and good wishes for the couple. They all later retired to the hall for a warming, hearty breakfast of sausages, pancakes and all the extras.



When the bride and groom paused for a kiss outside the church his wristwatch gave away the fact it was indeed a 1986 wedding.



Photo by Homestead Photography, Grande Prairie

Herbert and Lille Wales (nee McCann) of Grande Prairie, married
Oct. 25, 1986.

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Alfred Ross Wales, 84, of Grande Prairie

Alfred Ross Wales, lifetime resident of Grande Prairie, Alta., passed away on Friday, March 20, 1998 at the Q.E. II Hospital in Grande Prairie at the age of 84 years.

Alfred was born and lived his entire life journey in the Glen Leslie area. He touched many lives with his helping hands and kind and gentle way.



He had an infectious appreciation for mother nature.

Alfred farmed on the family farm his entire life, growing grain and raising cattle. His greatest joy was his family and friends which he kept close to his heart. He always found pleasure in a good days work.

He was born September 14, 1913 to Ross and Annie Wales. He married Violet Kimble in 1939. Together they had four children: Eleanor (Brian) McCurdy of Grande Prairie, Jerry (Laurie) Wales of Grande Prairie, Herb (Lil) Wales of Vernon and Judy Wales of Edmonton. He had 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother Charles Wales and sister Elizabeth McLaughlain as well as many nieces and nephews.

Alfred was predeceased by his parents Ross and Annie Wales, brother Jack Wales, father-in-law Herman Kimble, mother-in-law Sylvira Ladwig, sisters-in-law Florence Wales and Jeanette Wales.

Alfred's life was an inspiration for us all. His desire to live a good honest life was reflected in all he did. He always appreciated the small things in life, and the new life abound in the spring.

His presence will be forever remembered and missed by all his family and friends. We shall remember his smile with every ray of sun as he smiles down upon us from above. The breeze from his angel wings that he earned many times over during his stay here with us. Till we meet again.

Public visitation will be held on Monday, March 23, 1998 from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Oliver's Grande Prairie Funeral Chapel, 10005-107 Avenue, Grande Prairie.

Funeral service will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 1998 at 11 a.m. from Alliance Church, 7702-100 Street, Grande Prairie, Alta. with Pastor Vern Begalke officiating.

Memorial donations may be made to any of the following: Queen Elizabeth II Hospital Foundation Palliative Care, Palliative Care Unit on 3 North, or Home Care.

**OLIVER'S GRANDE PRAIRIE
FUNERAL CHAPEL**

10005-107 Ave., Grande Prairie
Telephone 532-2929

"Dedicated Service Since 1915"

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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 19th 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 Sexsmith 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