

# your story | wedding

## In this case, true love is better late than never

By Sandra J. Pennecke  
Correspondent

John "Alby" Jacobson didn't get the love of his life the first time around, but 30 years later it was a different story.

"We grew up together, and I always had a big crush on him," said Jody, 47, a 1979 Norview High School graduate.

Alby, 56, had similar feelings. "I always liked her; she was really cute and a lot of fun to be with," he said.

As the youngest of four children, Jody remembers Alby hanging around with her older sister.

"He was my brother-in-law's best friend," she said. "They knew each other since they were toddlers."

Alby, who graduated in 1972 from Cox High School, started dating Jody during her senior year in high school. That Christmas, Alby surprised Jody with an engagement ring and proposed.

"Of course, I said yes," Jody said. "My mother designed and made me

the wedding gown of my dreams with a veil that was seven feet long."

The wedding was planned for a year later – although neither Alby nor Jody can recall the date – and all five of her nieces and nephews were to be in it.

"We were going to have the wedding in the back yard of my parent's house and were ready to write the invitations when Jody got cold feet," Alby said.

"One day I just up and called everything off. She stopped wearing the ring, and I never really knew what happened."

Life went on for both. Jody married someone else two years later, had two children and eventually two granddaughters. Alby remained a bachelor and would often run into Jody at her sister's house.

Eventually they lost contact with each other – that is, until Jody divorced after 16 years of marriage and entered the dating scene again.

Two years ago, they ran into each other at a neighborhood bar.

"I was on a date, and he got mad



From left: Brittany and Cody Whitlock – Jody's children from a previous marriage – with Jody and John "Alby" Jacobson.

and left because I spent all my time talking to Alby, catching up," Jody said. "We still felt a connection, and the fire was still there."

Alby and Jody tied the knot at Norfolk City Hall on May 16, 2008, and live in his parent's former home in Bayview.

"She didn't get the cold feet this time," Alby said.

Sandra J. Pennecke, pennecke@cox.net



Alby and Jody at her brother's wedding May 27, 1978.

COURTESY PHOTOS

### do you have a story?

If you or someone you know has an interesting engagement, wedding or anniversary story, let us know by e-mailing pennecke@cox.net.