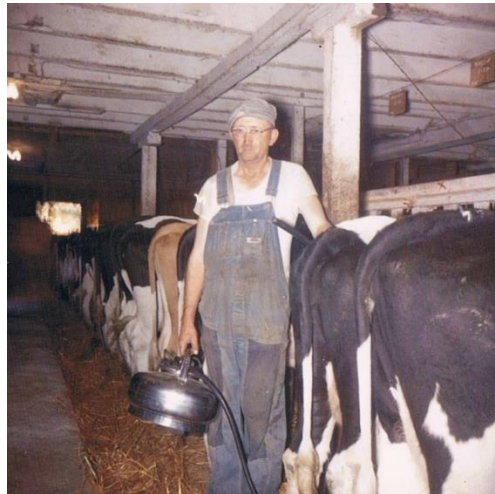


The Duck Walk

In 1961 my mom sewed my princess-style wedding dress of lilac satin with a white flocked lace overskirt and rhinestones sewn on the bodice. It had a full skirt and was to be worn with a hoop. It was beautiful...and only cost \$7.00.



My dad was very serious about his duty of marching me down the aisle. He was a dairy farmer and snorted at having to do "the duck walk" but he agreed.



One morning Mom came to the barn and found him practicing "the duck walk" on the walkway behind the cows. Dad and I had several more practice sessions until he had it down pat. The problem was that my dress was designed to be worn with a hoop and the clothes that I wore while practicing with dad did NOT have a hoop.

As the Bridal march began, Dad came to my side, took my arm,....and he didn't fit. That hoop skirt shot backward and I got the giggles. Dad did just fine and "duck walked" all the way down that aisle with me anyway. In the picture below you can see him thinking, "Man, this sure went better behind those cows!"



During the years after the wedding my wedding gown and my beloved lavender prom dress were stored in round, plastic-lidded tubs. That's my prom dress below:



Thirty seven years later, when I was moving from the farm to my duplex in town, 25 people were helping me load Moose Moring's trailer and we had a gigantic bonfire roaring with things that were just plain junk or not fit to move. I stood at the door and decided which things would go with me and which should be burned. When those two tubs came to me, I told my friends to load the prom dress into the trailer and BURN the wedding dress.

About a year later, when I was sorting my possessions for the move to Virginia, I opened the round plastic tub and there was the wedding dress. My prom dress had bit the dust. I probably should have been more specific which lavender dress to burn. The gown was given to Debb's little Denise for dress-up play but, in my heart, I could mentally feel my dad take my

arm one more time and "duck walk" me down another aisle to a new adventure. Love you, Daddy!

