

A STEP BACK IN TIME

By Maureen Hart

Back in 1968, Irene Hubiak of Dickson City, and Bill Herold of Hanover Township, were planning a May 18 wedding at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Blakely, PA.

Irene selected a silk organza empire wedding gown designed with a portrait neckline, long tapered sleeves, an A-line skirt with lace and crystal trim, and a cathedral train with lace appliqués.

Fast forward to 1995, when Bill and Irene's daughter, Orena, was planning her own fall wedding to David Van Benthuyzen of Selinsgrove. Mother and daughter joined up in Pottstown, where Orena was living at that time, and went shopping for a wedding gown.

"Nothing that we looked at was *the* gown," Irene recalls. "Then Orena asked me where my wedding dress was. I told her it was in a garment bag in a closet or in the attic."



Irene Hubiak is shown on her wedding day to Bill Herold

Back home in Greenfield Township, Irene dug out the dress, which had never been preserved, and took it to the cleaners. Despite a tiny bit of mud at the hemline (the Herolds had been married on a rainy day), the dress cleaned up very well. Another problem developed when Orena tried on her mother's gown. "We could zip it up, but not all the way, because my daughter is a swimmer and her shoulders are broader than mine," Irene explains. "Also, the dress was a little bit short." Orena already knew a seamstress, who was making the gowns for her bridesmaids. The seamstress looked at the gown and came up with the idea of taking off the sleeves and using that material to make an insert at the empire waist to lengthen the gown. She then made new sleeves out of lace, which she also used to frame the scalloped back bodice which was originally solid organza. Voila! Orena now had her gown, slightly altered in style, but still her mother's original dress. In another nod to tradition, Orena took the original round seed pearl crown headpiece that held her mother's double-tiered illusion formal length veil and opened it up to use as a tiara to hold her own flowing veil.

Beyond that, the look of the mother and daughter weddings were vastly different. Irene, who was married in the spring, chose pink chiffon empire gowns trimmed with Venise lace for her attendants, who also wore floral headpieces with short illusion veils, as was popular at the time. Each girl carried a floral ball of pink pom pons, red sweetheart roses and ivy.

Orena's bridesmaids wore deep green two-piece gowns with a scalloped neckline for her fall nuptials and carried large arm bouquets of fall flowers tied with a large tulle bow and ribbon.

Irene carried a lace-covered prayer book accented with a small spray of stephanotis centered with an orchid, while her daughter carried a much larger arm bouquet of white carnations and roses accented with purple and orange blossoms, greens, and baby breath.

Orena was married in the same church as her parents, and her reception was hosted at the new hall at Heart Lake Lodge, while her parents had celebrated at Presty's, the old hall at Heart Lake, which is now closed.

"I was surprised when Orena asked about wearing my gown," Irene admits. "But it really worked out beautifully."

(Do you have a special wedding photograph from your wedding, or that of your mother or grandmother, aunt or cousin, that you would like to share with Wedding Day Magazine? We'll help tell your story. Email Rebecca Garcia-Pons, editor-in-chief, at nepaweddingday@gmail.com for more information.)



Irene is shown with her daughter Orena, who is wearing her mother's gown