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COMMENT

I've never done chores in a 'tux' before...

By Ted Brown tedbit@hotmail.com

As we all settle into 2015, I'll always remember this past New Year's Eve as being a bit unique.

December 31 is traditionally a night to party and ring in the New Year. It's also the time to transfer all the dates of birthdays, anniversaries and upcoming events in the coming months to the kitchen calendar too.

For the past few years, The Sidekick and I have got together with another couple and spent the evening in front of a warm crackling fire, good food and sociable beverage in hand, reminiscing about the past 12 months, all while trying our very best to NOT fall asleep before midnight.

Let's face it, if you're gonna get together for New Year's, you really outta be conscious when that old clock strikes midnight.

After that, we'd usually kick out our guests (who go quite willingly—they've been struggling to stay awake for the past three hours as well), and trudge off to bed, prepared to wake to a brand new year, in which you have to remember to write the correct year on any cheques or documents for the next little while- as if many people write cheques any-

But this year was different.

Seems we had a wedding to attend that night.

And in the process, I acquired another 'son'.

Yup, my oldest daughter Lindsay tied the knot New Year's Eve, becoming the bride of Josh, the newest Brown 'son' addition to my team, joining long-timer Kevin, and more recent acquisition Jeff, who came on board in September.

All my 'sons' bring certain talents to the family- besides being husbands to my daugh-

Kevin, measuring in waaaay above the six foot mark is my drywall-screws-in-ceiling/ change-high-light-bulbs-guy.

Jeff, (an appliance repairman by trade-



A Ted Bit

sheep when I'm out of town. Newest addition Josh is my go-to-guy for anything electronic/ smart phone/60s Beatle music and for that matter any concert info in North America sort of guy. And he's also my newest son-in-law.

The wedding was picture perfect, the ceremony at Limehouse Presbyterian Church, followed by the New Year's Party/wedding reception at Blue Springs Golf Course, as we rang in New Years in style.

There were a few challenges during the day- there are with any wedding. I shot enough of them during the 1980-90s to know that things rarely go as planned.

But adjustments in the schedule went by unnoticed, and all had a fabulous time.

The photos were a bit challenging, as my daughter wanted group shots taken in front of our 1880 barn at Brown Farm, the place she grew up-she wanted it in the background. The only problem was the severe cold.

Wedding party, parents and bride and groom managed to tough it out, as they arrived at the farm to do the photos after the ceremony, before heading to the reception.

It was around 4:30 p.m. as the photographer wrapped up, and all headed to the bus to set out for Blue Springs.

That was a perfect time—chore time!

Ordinarily, I'd have had someone else do the chores—most times a family member.

But since they were all at the wedding, and I was gonna be there anyway— well, it was a no-brainer.

After emerging from the barn, still attired in my Father-of-the Bride tux, I'm certain Hamish the dog and the sheep shook their heads and had quite a conversation.

You see, I've never done chores dressed in a tux before.

And at the reception, The Sidekick repeat-

