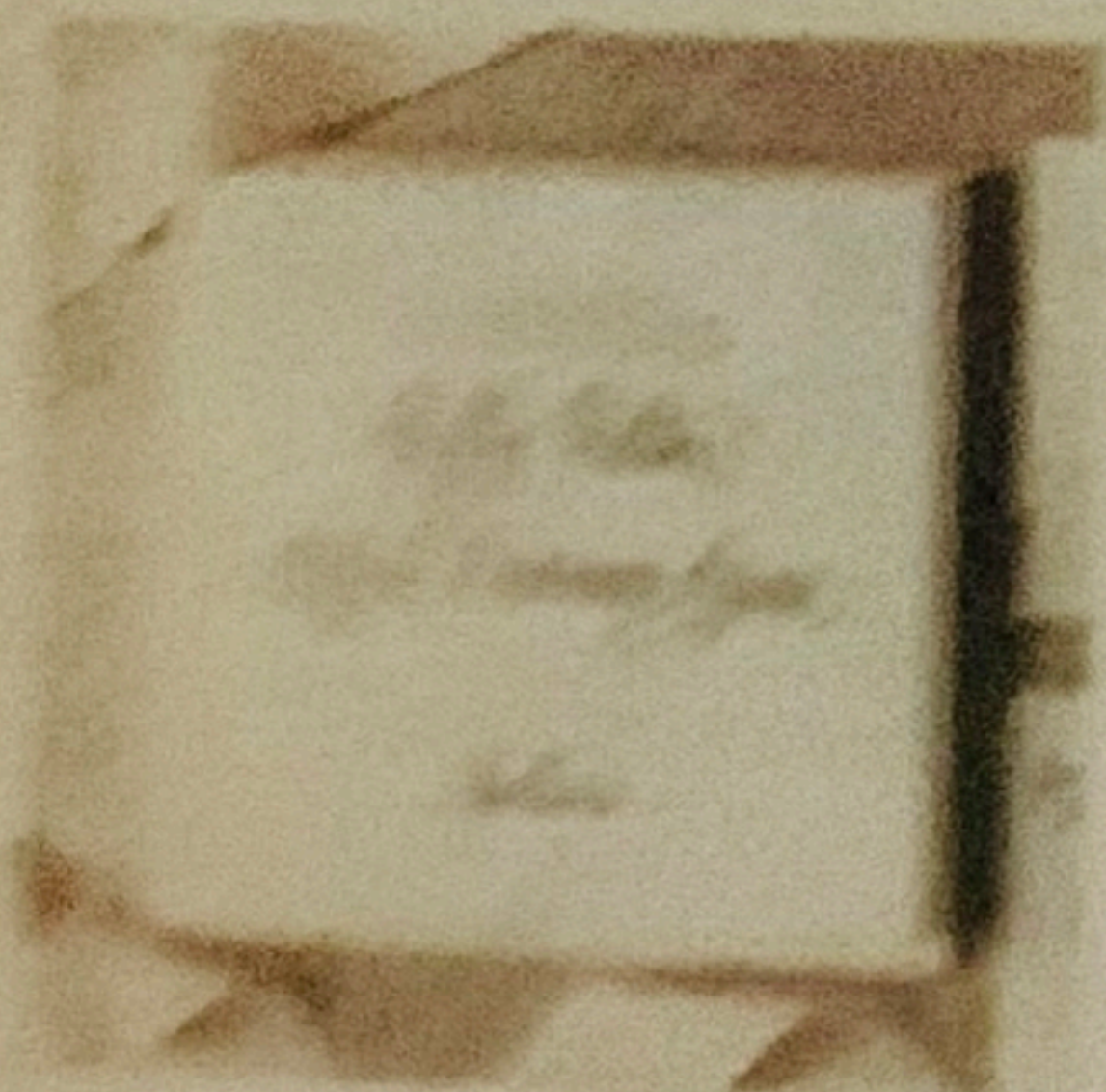


WEDDING
Inspiration



WEDDING DRESS

Suzanne Perrier
St. Paul, MN

BRIDEGROOM DRESS

Manrique Brothers

GROOM'S SUIT

Don James Co.
MN

FLOWER GIRL DRESS

Isabel Couture

BRIDEGROOM SUIT

Stacy J.
Lynn, MN by
P&H Bridalwear

CAKES

John Bock
www.johnbock.com

SEAT

Wedding cake
by John Bock
Catering cake by
Lynn by Linda
Catering

HAIR

Sharon Howard

THE GROOM'S SUIT

Don James

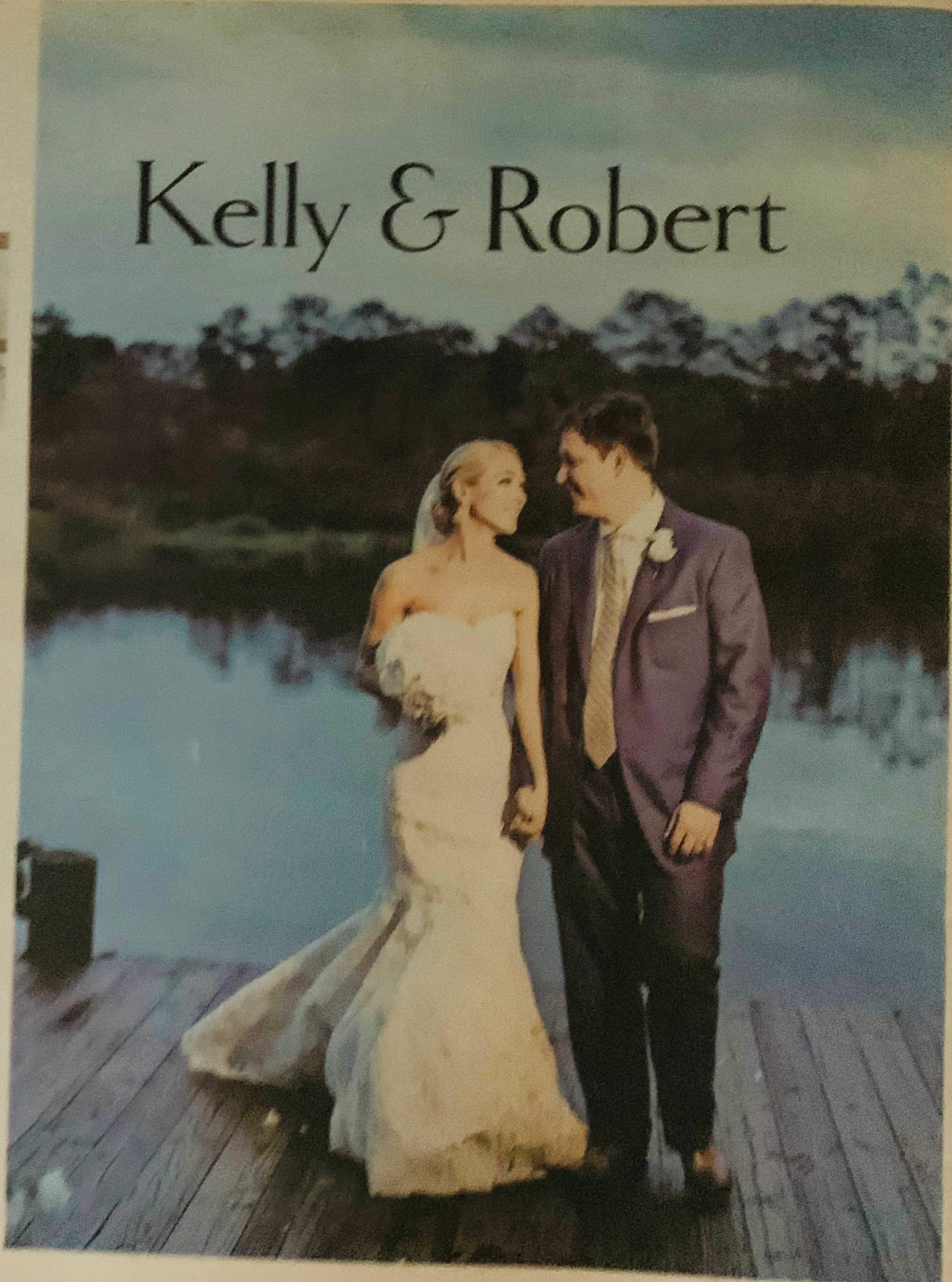
THE GROOM'S SUIT

Don James & Co.
of St. Paul, MN
Katherine K. Kasper

PHOTOGRAPHY

Lynn by
Photography
www.lynn.com

Kelly & Robert



In this new column, WISH chronicles local couples' journey to "I do."

It takes years for some couples to find their intended through a chance encounter, a set-up by friends or modern-day dating devices.

For Kelly Baltar Reily and Robert Downman Grace, all they had to do was look across the family dinner table. The couple's parents, Anne and Bill Grace and Karen and Tim Reily (now divorced), are best friends and have done "everything together," Kelly said.

Their families have been so close, the couple was a bit cautious to announce they were dating. "We had to wait for a while to see if it worked," Kelly said. "We didn't want to ruin our family relationships."

"And ours," Robert said.

The attraction, though, always has been there for Kelly. "I had a crush on him my whole life," she admits.

As they got older, their time together was less frequent. Robert went to Trinity-Pawling School in New York, then graduated from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, where he lived until 2008, when he moved back to New Orleans. He now sells spine devices for Pro Spine.

Kelly went to Country Day School, then the University of Georgia, graduating in 2009. She taught kindergarten in Montgomery County Public Schools outside Washington, D.C. for two years.

It was during those years in D.C. that Kelly started thinking about moving back to New Orleans — and about Robert. On visits home, they would hang out.

When she finally moved back, they had their first date — dinner at Sylvain on Halloween.

"There was always something there," Robert said.

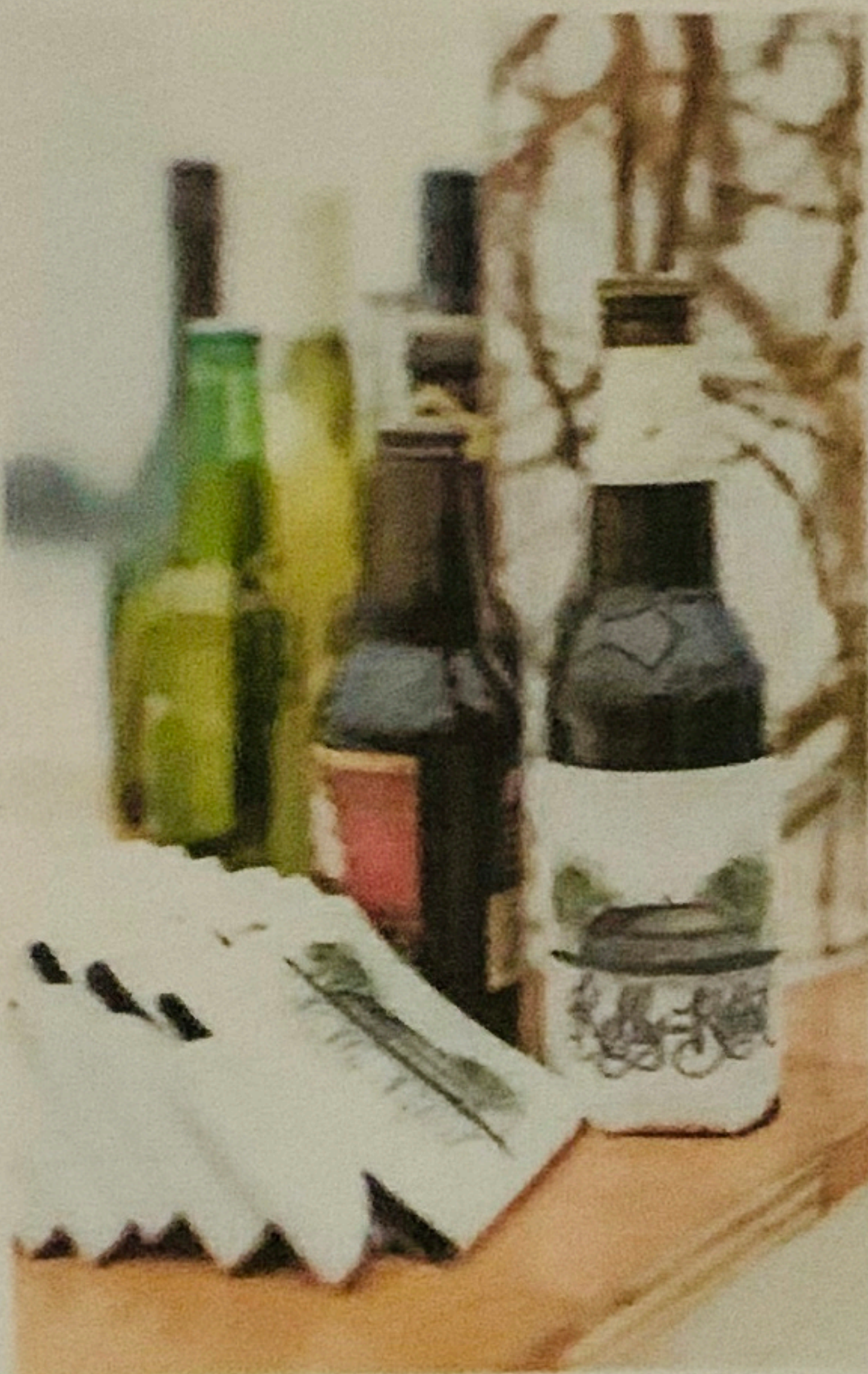
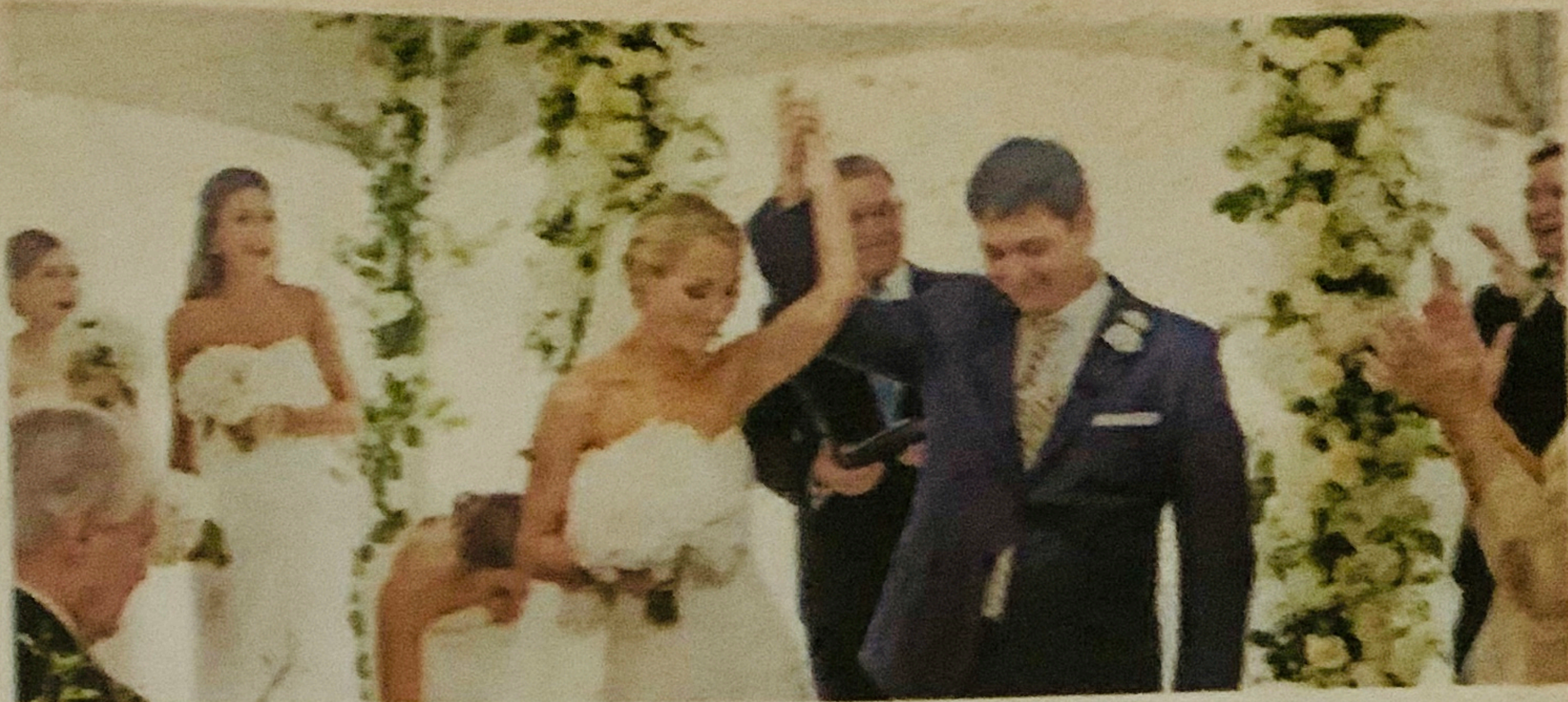
A trip to get crawfish at the Galley in Metairie was the moment he knew she was the one.

Their parents, of course, were thrilled, and a wedding date was set: Halloween 2015, chosen because it was the anniversary of their first date; it didn't fall on an LSU football game (Robert is a huge fan); and the weather is typically brisk and lovely, though it didn't turn out that way.

The ceremony and reception were held at Marshdown, the bride's family's country home in Slidell. A torrential rain storm proved a challenge, but the wedding — with absolutely no Halloween elements, except a robust candy bar — continued.

Destiny had made its match.

— Sue Strachan, Social Scene columnist



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