

## **Nancy and Clyde Wynia**

### **Nominated by Eileen Kelz**

It was love that brought Nancy and Clyde Wynia to Marshfield. Their story began when Nancy was in nurses training in a Salem, Massachusetts hospital, and Clyde, then a college student, was working in the same hospital as an orderly. Nancy was attracted to the bashful, very kind and handsome young college student, as was he to her. They fell in love.



Nancy's family didn't approve of Clyde as a proper match for their daughter. She had grown up leading a life of privilege, and Clyde was a farm boy from rural Cornell, Wisconsin. Despite her family's protests the couple married and later moved to Wisconsin.

Clyde studied at Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy in 1958. Wanting to further his studies, he applied to the University of Wisconsin Law School at Madison but was rejected because Gordon College credits were not recognized by the university.

As fate would have it, one evening a man knocked on their door telling Nancy that his car had broken down. Nancy went out to the barn to get Clyde, who took the man into town to find help to fix the car. Clyde refused an offer of money, so the man asked if there was anything he could do in return. It turned out the man was the recently elected president of the Wisconsin Bar Association, and within a day, Clyde was accepted into law school at Madison. Nancy considers it divine intervention. While Clyde was in law school, Nancy supported the family by working as a private duty nurse.

In 1961, after graduating and being admitted to the Wisconsin State Bar Association, the young family moved to Marshfield where Clyde established a partnership with attorney William Dehn, with whom he practiced law for 24 years. He then joined the Terwilliger, Waken, Piehler, Conway & Klingberg S.C. law firm. A few years before retiring in 1997, Clyde moved to a private practice with attorney Alan Billings.

The Wynia's enjoyed family life and purchased the former home of lumber baron Benjamin Franklin McMillan in the town of McMillan. They raised their three children, Don, Susan and Todd, in that "farmhouse." They also became a treatment foster home and were foster parents to another daughter, Lois.

Both Nancy and Clyde had an inclination toward the arts participating in the Marshfield Art Fair for many years. Clyde started out in ceramics and Nancy, following the talent of her dad, a watercolor artist, started out painting. Like her mother, an accomplished knitter, Nancy became interested in knitting with handspun wool, so she learned how to spin her own yarn. When she couldn't find the right kind of buttons for her hand-crafted garments, she learned how to make her own buttons with the lamp-worked process at an annual Bead and Button Show in Milwaukee. Wanting further training she spent three weeks at Corning Glassworks in New York and later studied advanced techniques in Murano, Italy, and Ireland.

Meanwhile Clyde began playing around with pieces of scrap metal found around the farm and found he was good at creating "swamp creatures." The whimsical creatures have become his signature. People began stopping around just to meet his creatures and the backyard of Wynia's farm soon became known as Jurustic Park. Within the park is the Hobbit House which houses Nancy's lamp-working equipment and the beautiful hand crafted jewelry that she has for sale.

The Wynia's have left a legacy in the Marshfield community. They have generously donated pieces of Clyde's swamp creatures to the City of Marshfield and to every school in the district. They attract over 17,000 visitors to the park each year. Many come to hear Clyde's irreverent and colorful stories about each of the creatures in his herd.

In addition to the contributions they make, Clyde has contributed his talents to the Savings and Loan board, the hospital board, and Kiwanis Club. Nancy continues doing the art she loves, painting, knitting and doing her lamp-worked beading. She is modest and feels her biggest contribution has been as "chief cook and bottle washer" to her family. As a nurse she donates her time to her church as a parish nurse doing wellness checks for church members. She has also participated in two medical missions to help the people of Cartagena, Columbia.

The couple proved Nancy's family to be wrong and have been happily married for 66 years. They still actively keep Jurustic Park a happy place for visitors and remain their creative selves.

Nancy and Clyde consider themselves blessed to have the life they have and enjoy sharing their creations with the Marshfield Community.