

Father Endress officiated the ceremony and they held their reception at the WOW Hall in Ferdinand – long the site of many a wedding celebration.

The newlyweds took an extensive honeymoon, driving through Illinois, Missouri and Kansas and visiting many scenic sites in Colorado, before heading to Texas for a visit with Clem's aunt and uncle.

Mary wrote: "After our visit we took Route 66 heading home to our apartment in Jasper. One thing Clem bought on our trip was a small dish that said 'God Bless this lousy apartment.'"

Nine months and 22 days after their marriage the two welcomed their first child, son Glenn. Sheila followed, then Joey (given the name Joseph but everyone knows him as Joey) and last but by no means least, Brian.

Over time she worked in a variety of places but after Brian was born Mary decided to stay home.

Meanwhile, Clem, who probably would have risen to five star general had he stayed in the Army, knew how to build a

chair. Not just any chair, but the Best Chair. So after giving it a try in his garage, while Mary was pregnant with Sheila, Clem started Best Chairs in Bretzville, later relocating to Ferdinand.

And the rest, as they say, is history. Best Chairs is now Best Home Furnishings and a leader in the industry.

After the kids were grown Mary decided to pursue her own dream. She had been designing wedding florals in her garage and wanted to expand her offerings.

"I always wanted to have a shop in an old home in Ferdinand," she recalls. In 1987 she purchased what had once been one of the town's most beautiful homes, the Peter Muller house at the corner of 9th and Missouri. A woman of impeccable taste, she went to work restoring the home to its former glory. Each room featured something different, from flowers to collectible dolls and bears, gift items and everything in between.

She kept the shop until 1998. By then the couple had been spending time in Sebring Florida and eventually built a home in Frost Proof, Florida with seven acres on Lake Ready.

They enjoyed life, went to dances and spent as much time as possible with their family.

After Clem passed away, Mary continued (and still continues) wintering in Florida, heading south after Christmas.

She raises orchids, scrapbooks and still loves to decorate and arrange flowers. Spending time with her four children and their spouses, nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren (with one on the way) gives her the greatest pleasure of all. When they hug her and say they love her Mary's heart expands immeasurably.

Today Best Home Furnishings is under the auspices of Clem and Mary's children and grandchildren. In other words, in excellent hands.

Life is good!

Be sure to greet 2026 Ferdinand Heimatfest Ambassador Mary C. Lange at this year's celebration on Saturday, June 20. It's guaranteed — she'll welcome everyone with a smile. And be sure to congratulate her as she has been chosen as the 2026 2026 Scouting America Buffalo Trace Council Distinguished and will be honored at the Awards Banquet on October 7.

Mock turtle soup at Heimatfest

Mock Turtle Soup for \$22/bucket will be available for sale at this year's Heimatfest. Turtle Soup is being pre-sold by contacting 812-630-2839, or will be available on Saturday, June 20, at the Hospitality Booth at the Ferdinand Community Center from 11 a.m. until sold out.

Please Join us in celebrating our 50th Wedding Anniversary
At a 2:30 EDT Mass of Celebration
Saturday, October 2, 2010 St. Henry Catholic Church, St. Henry, Indiana

Followed by a Reception and 6:00 EDT Dinner and Dance
at St. Joseph Parish Hall, 9 East Maple St., Dale, Indiana



2010

