

**THE BRIDAL SHOWER: A REPORT**  
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Taken at Big Rapids, Michigan

Some of you have written me and asked how the bridal shower for my daughter May went. I can only give you a hearsay response because guys were not invited, even when we volunteered to bring all the food down and serve it. We were left on our own all afternoon and all evening. Anyway, here is what I know along with some pictures thanks to my oldest daughter Lotis who was at the shower with her camera..

I can tell you something about the days leading up to all of this. They were like a hurricane of activity, mostly thanks to my daughter Michael Anne, one of May's two older sisters. Michael Anne (who is a professional cook and gourmet caterer among other things) came up Thursday and she began to cook.

There was food everywhere and all refrigerators were crammed with all kinds of interesting-looking stuff. May herself came early and saw to all the décor. The Heart Center Astrological Library was transformed into a room filled with flowers and tables and a lot of things I have no idea about. I never got to see it in motion, but from the pictures it was nice.

The attendees began drifting in after 2 PM on Saturday and somewhere between 3 or 4 PM the party was on. Cars lined the streets and I am told carloads of folks came from Traverse City and others from Ann Arbor and points south.

I will let these photos by Lotis Even, my oldest daughter, tell the story. I know Lotis came without my grandkids, leaving them in the capable hands of their Dad Dana. I believe this is the first time she has ever left the kids. Lotis is a pastry expert and I believe she helped to create one of the main deserts which I am told were Ding Dongs, whatever they are... chocolate cupcakes filled with pure chocolate and topped with white frosting. We boys snatched three of them from the refrigerator and rearranged the plates so that it looked like none were missing.

The actual goings on and doings of the event were kept secret. I can see from the photos that there was a lot of paper cutting and I know May had personally painted each of the guests a little paper bird that was part of a packet she handed out. And I know there was lasagna because they were kind enough to leave a dish of it up at the house where we were so that we would not starve. And I know there was a circle gathering but I have no idea what happened in that circle.

The boys, who included myself, my son Michael Andrew, May's fiancé Seth Bernard, and later Micah Middaugh were on our own. We went on a nature hike with our (male) dog Molotov and I took photos of a Pileated Woodpecker nest. It was warm and we hiked to a trestle bridge crossing a river and watched the water for a while.

Later we went to a local pub and had sandwiches, salad, and French fries. We then came home and watched the Paul Newman movie "Cool Hand Luke" and later had a long deep discussion about finding work (vocation) that would make a living and also be something we did joyfully.

That for me was the best part of the day with the guys.

After that the evening began to get a little long. We expected the girls to end around 7 PM or certainly by 8 PM, but when 9 and 10PM rolled by, we begin to wonder. By that time we had descended into watching a basketball game. Sometime after 10 PM huge tubs of dirty dishes were delivered at the house and we were told it was all still very much happening. It was suggested that it would be a big help if we boys did all these dishes... a mountain of them.

Well, certainly we would not do the dishes since we had not even been invited to the party! However, after ten minutes or so we all realized that we had nothing better to do and set up a dishwashing machine, which was us.

Then around or after 11 PM the party broke up and most of the attendees headed out on the road to home. Our girls straggled in and we got a lot of thanks for having taken on the dishes. We all sat around and talked until I don't know when, because I went to bet sometime after midnight.

So for those interested, there you have the story. A good time was (apparently) had by all. We boys really did have fun but those women are such a mystery and will remain so.



May working on the lasagna.



The mystery birds that May painted, one for each attendee.



Lots of good things to eat;



I have no idea what this was about, but they all sat around and did it.



Flowers everywhere.



My friend Tecla who is one of the most amazing women I have ever met. She made Margaret's wedding dress, our wedding cake, and so much more. Now she is helping May and all her bridesmaids with their dresses. Thanks Tecla! — with Ann Delmariani.



Presents, of course.



The lasagna.



Goings on I don't understand. This is a circle.



Three of my girls... Michael Anne in foreground, then my wife Margaret, and May last. My oldest daughter Lotis is taking these pictures.



Ding Dongs.



May opening presents.