



Barry & Janet Flanders on February 10, 1984.....and today.

**How did you meet?**

We met at "The Barn" in Alexandria at a several band music fest Memorial Day weekend in 1982.

**Who proposed?**

By Christmas of that same year Barry's best friend and confidant Ron Hendrickson (now deceased) let it slip to Janet that Barry might be ring shopping. Janet was not quite ready to make that commitment having dated only 6 short months. So Barry asked her for a list of suggestions for a gift that she might want. Not wanting to put all inexpensive items on the list that might understate her feelings, or expensive items that might overstate them and make her look high maintenance, she gave him a very long list with a wide range. To her overwhelming surprise Barry and another close friend, Scott Shramel, went shopping and bought every item on the list. As sweet as that was, she was a little embarrassed to open them all one by one in front of all the Flanders (that she was meeting for the first time). It must have worked though because a few short months later they shopped for a ring together and Barry gave it to her on April Fools Day 1982!

**When was the wedding?**

February 10, 1984 (February because it didn't interfere with hunting or fishing.)

**Where was the wedding?**

St. Luke's Catholic Church in Clearwater, MN at a Friday night candle-lit service. A reception followed at Cedar Point Ballroom in St. Augusta. We had about 400 guests.

**What food was served?**

Roast beef and sausage. Janet's dad, Doc, was very proud to have "killed the fatted calf." (He also made sausage.) P.S.: Ken Flanders turned cash into wine."

**What were some memorable moments?**

Many but here are a few: - Janet's dad repeatedly told her that he was going to be the last one to call her "Miss Gohman." He also told Barry that he might have a hard time handing her over. The moment finally arrived for him to walk her down the aisle. When they arrived at the front of the church he held onto her hand for a very long and uncomfortable moment, just before she was about to pry her hand free he let go softly saying, "Good-bye Miss Gohman." Yes, there were tears. He later gave her the thumbs up during the vows. Janet recalls her mom's much appreciated help with all the arrangements and how stunning she looked in her red suit with matching hat. Pat Flanders caused sister Angie to bust out laughing as he told her he felt a fart coming on while walking her down the aisle.

A very, full Lonny Schmidt flirting with Barry's mom Eileen said "Hey sexy lady do ya got a light?" Nate Mohr dancing about 1,000 circles around his very pregnant and nearly stationary wife Michelle. The live band "Beats Working" announced that

since they were having so much fun they would play an extra hour on-the-house!

**What was your most memorable gift?**

Janet's brother Mike rented them a room at a hotel right near the reception hall that opened for its' first night that day. He handed them the keys at the end of the night saying "have a toast on me." So they kind of expected champagne but all they found were three random beers in the fridge, a Big-Mouth-Schmidt, a Grain Belt, and a Billy Beer. The next morning they ran into the only other guests, Bill and Kay Spooner. The Spooners said that their room was filled with balloons and champagne. Huh? Mike went back to point out the mix-up and retrieve the champagne bucket, (that was supposed to be their keepsake). Since the hotel could not find it they agreed to order a replacement from their wholeseller. Mike, with receipt in hand, went back to get the bucket. The beautiful stainless steel champagne bucket with stand was several dollars more expensive than the original. So when Mike finally got it to the newlyweds he asked them to go half in on it since he was now greatly over budget. Another memorable gift was their marriage license. The priest had just found a very old, ornate, gold embossed and unused license in the attic at the parish house. It had a colorful depiction of the wedding at Cana on it. Turned out to be the same one received by Janet's grandparents Herman and Olga Gohman 55 years earlier. So, grandpa framed them both in his woodworking shop. They are on display in their home today as a reminder of long-lasting vows.

**What wedding gift do you use most today?**

- Stoneware dishes from Janet's mom
- A garbage can from Pat Flanders

**Who caught the bouquet and did they shove to get it?**

Janet's little sister Kay, and hell yes there was shoving! Then her dad yelled "OH NO! Drop the damn thing!"

**Who's relative, or friends had the most fun?**

This was too close to call.

**Where did you honeymoon?**

They took in the skiing, shows, and casinos at Lake Tahoe, NV.

**How do you keep the romance alive?**

They take road trips with no specific time limits or agendas. "Like little mini adventures."

**What advice would you give yourself if you could go back in time?**

Plan for the future but don't waste energy worrying about it. Then be willing to change the plan if needed. Keep close to friends and family. They offer valuable support. Be willing to laugh at yourself and each other.

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