

Learning The Mother-In-Law, Grandmother Dance

My son is a new dad. On a recent visit, I met his wife for the first time. Theirs was a whirlwind courtship, one I questioned, but turned over to God, because I have no clue how to handle things, usually.

When they got married ahead of (my) schedule, I wondered. When they got pregnant ahead of (my) schedule, I wondered. My son is 23, doing well in the Navy, and hasn't lived at home for four years, but I still visualize him playing with Legos in his room.

I arrive at the airport wondering about things. What if his house is a ramshackle mess? What if I don't like his wife? What if HER mother stakes out a claim and I feel like a stranger in my son's house? What if I disapprove of their parenting skills? I command my mind to be still as I head toward baggage claim to meet my son, hoping that he didn't forget to pick me up. He didn't.

It is a strange ballet, the dance between mother and son as he becomes the driver and she becomes the passenger. He met me with a huge hug and a grin, gathered up my luggage and efficiently deposited me in the back seat by his newborn son. I cautiously hugged my daughter-in-law. We were both a little scared, I think,



Kerry Peresta
Columnist

since we'd never met and covered it up with innocuous prattle for the next 20 miles. Since the baby was wound up like a burrito in his carseat I impatiently anticipated the moment I could scoop him up in my arms. Would she be generous with him? She was.

I didn't know quite how to act in their home. My son surprised me by setting firm boundaries. When I wandered into their bedroom with a question, he stepped to the door and explained his WIFE was showering in the master bath, and their bedroom was off limits for the time being. Thus chastened, I scampered downstairs. Proud, actually, that he'd protected his wife's privacy. My brain was absorbing mother-in-law rules at warp speed.

One day we left baby and wife home and grocery shopped together. Mother and son time. It was good. For once, I kept my mouth shut and listened. He shared a young man's dreams — dreams set in motion through establishing a family. I felt I was on holy ground; observing the emergence of seeds I'd planted his entire life. His glad words pelted me like welcome rain after a long drought.

This young man and I have weathered indescribable storms together. I was not sure at the time that he would recover enough to clutch at dreams, let alone realize them. He has not experienced the blessing of a long-term, peaceful and stable family unit. In his formative years, healthy male role models were in short supply; so he did the best he could, and so

did I.

And now he was talking about dreams. His vision for his son. He wondered why I had not thought to bring his Legos; he wanted to give them to his son now.

I had a big chuckle over that one.

Their home on the Navy base was spacious and secure; a young couple's home — bare walls, hand-me-down furniture and mismatched dishes. A baby monitor. Two baby swings — one upstairs and one down. A crib and changing table. A puppy. Filled with the exuberance and foolishness and love and innocence of youth. His friends filed in the last night — at

his request — to meet me; a few single guys, two married couples and three kids under age four.

A merry chaos. I savored every minute, my grandbaby clutched firmly in my arms.

Too soon, it was time to return and my son and his family drove me to the airport. My new daughter-in-law hugged me goodbye, said she loved me and asked if she could call me

'mom.'

Does life get any better than this?

Kerry Peresta is a mother of four adult children, a syndicated humor columnist and a career marketing professional. She and her husband live in Ft. Pierre, SD. Visit Kerry at www.employmenttesting.webs.com for more information.

Authorized Dealer
MERIDIAN
Several Models
SEED TENDERS
For Sale or Trade
2-Box, 4-Box, Tanks
TEMME SEED, LLC
402-843-8440
1-800-790-2676

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$
\$ **Spring Cleanup** \$
\$ *Don't throw it to the curb.* \$
\$ **We pay CASH** \$
\$ **on the SPOT!** \$
\$ Furniture • Electronics • Tools • Bikes \$
\$ Fitness Equipment • Lawn Mowers • Etc. \$
\$ **River City Tool & Pawn** \$
\$ 21st & Broadway • Yankton \$
\$ **665-3588** \$
\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

If
YOU READ THIS YOU KNOW...
ADVERTISING PAYS!
CALL THE
MISSOURI VALLEY SHOPPER
AT 665-5884
OR STOP BY TO PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!
MISSOURI VALLEY SHOPPER

We Have Parts!
Parts for Tractors, Combines, Machinery
SALEM TRACTOR PARTS
Salem, SD 877-530-4010

VERMILLION Ford
101 West Cherry Street
Vermillion, SD
605-624-8624 • 800-624-6690
www.vermillionford.com
Tom Taggart 624-8701
David Halverson 624-4097

3 - 2010 Ford Fusion	2010 Ford Mustang Convertible	2009 Ford Edge SEL All Wheel Drive	2009 Ford Explorer XLT	2009 Ford Escape Limited	2009 Ford Escape XLT	2009 Lincoln Town Car Signature Limited
2009 Mercury Grand Marquis	2008 Ford Focus	2008 Ford Taurus Limited	2009 Ford Taurus Limited	2008 Ford F-350 Crew Cab Lariat Diesel	2007 Ford Edge SE	2007 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT
2007 Mercury Milan S speed	2006 Chevy Impala	2005 Ford F-150 Super Crew XLT	2006 Ford Fusion V-6	Many More to Choose From		

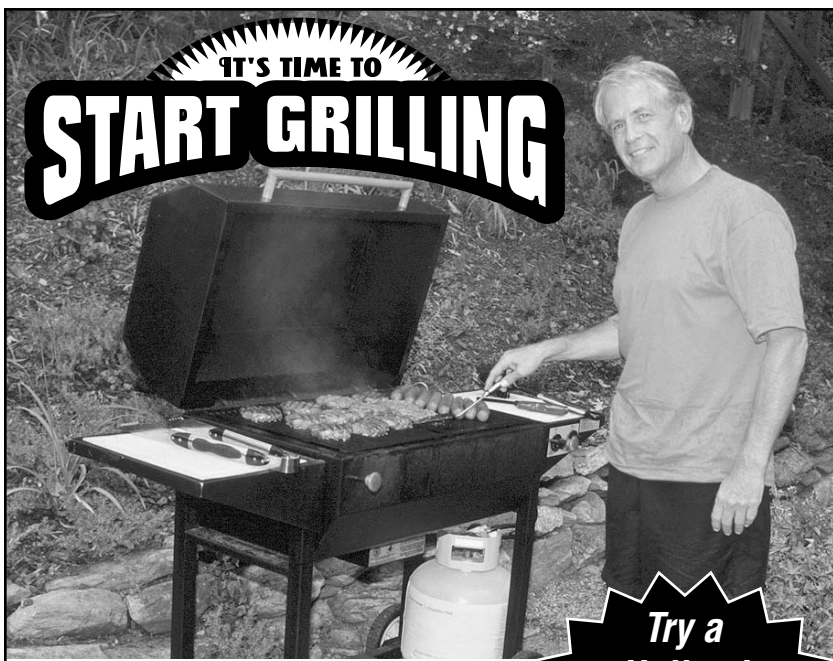
CHECK OUT OUR INVENTORY AT WWW.VERMILLIONFORD.COM

ATTENTION Mushroom Hunters

We will be buying
Morel Mushrooms
Paying up to \$12⁰⁰ per pound for good quality Morels
(Price subject to change daily — CALL AHEAD.
We reserve the right to adjust the price according to the market and the quality and condition of the product.)

Mushrooms should be free of dirt and debris, but not washed.

People's Grocery
Crofton, Nebraska
Day Phone (402) 388-4329 • After 7 p.m. (402) 388-2471
Cell Phone (402) 640-2192 • (402) 640-0211
Certified and Licensed



Holland, The Hassle Free Grilling Solution.
The only grill guaranteed not to flare up!

Sleek new design includes features like NuStone® side shelves, thermometer, ignitor, utensil holder and sturdy base. 5 Year warranty. Cooks Great Tasting Food!
With the Holland, you get a grill, a steamer and a smoker... all for the price of one!

Check out "The Companion" by Holland

- Portable Table Top Gas Grill
- All Stainless Steel Construction
- Uses 1 Lb. Disposable Tanks



Kayton International, Inc.

Web Site: www.kaytonint.com

2630 State Hwy. 14, Albion • 402-395-2181 • 800-248-2215
1211 W. 2nd, Crofton • 402-388-4375 • 800-798-4376
West Hwy. 275, Neligh • 402-887-4118 • 800-247-4718
South Hwy. 81, Norfolk • 402-371-3656 • 800-456-0317