

## **Miller Beginnings – The Courtship of Dean and Dixie**

Before there was mom and dad, there was a young Deano and Dixie. This week, I interrogated mom to find out more about how her and dad met and what their wedding was like. I'm still amazed at the new information I learned.

A friend of Dean's and a friend of Dixie's were dating. They set Dean and Dixie up. They met at the skating rink, where I hear Dixie was a fantastic skater. It was in the fall when they decided to get married in the spring. They dated a little over a year in total.

Dixie had to have her mom sign a document allowing her to get married as she was just shy of 16, which was the legal limit without parent consent. This was news to Dean who thought she was 16. Dixie's dad had already passed away and her mom did not object to Dixie getting married. Getting married at this age was pretty common back then.

The wedding was held inside Dean's house (on Clinton Street, where Arvella still lives). It was a very nice wedding. Most of the family was able to show up. Dixie wore a lovely two piece navy suit with white trim. She had a lovely heart shaped diamond ring wedding set. This ring set had to be pawned in California years later in order to buy food for the family.

After the wedding, they went to the drive-in movie that evening. Later on that evening, a tradition that was common back then, all the neighborhood kids showed up outside their house banging pots and pans. Dean and Dixie had to throw candy bars to the kids.

Some of the details of the time of the wedding include:  
Dad was working at a gas station at the time (he dropped out of school to work at this station. This was why he didn't want any of his kids to know anything about cars). Mom was busy as a baby sitter. Once married, they moved into an apartment on Jefferson Street. This was up the street from the Amoco.

This was the beginning of our fantastic family.