

Moving from the Combine to the Camera

By Randy Olson

Britt Bailey Photography was not founded in the usual way. Britt was raised on a farm in rural Clay County and enjoyed many aspects of farming. She was active in her FFA chapter while attending North Clay High School, yet seemed like the least likely of her peers to end up as a farmer. In fact, after finishing a bachelor's degree in Creative Writing at the University of Illinois, and a master's degree in Fine Arts at the University of Iowa, one would think that farming would be the farthest thing from her mind.

But, she loved spending time in the field. She enjoyed combining and seeing the fruits of her labor. After college, Britt returned to Clay County and married an Oklahoma boy, Billy Peterman, whom she met in graduate school. He was also raised on a farm. Britt and Billy soon acquired farmland of their own, in addition to helping the family farming operation of her parents, Robert and Jean Bailey. Despite their graduate degrees on the wall, they both embraced farming corn, soybeans, and wheat for the next several years.

About 2 ½ years ago, Britt and Billy welcomed a daughter, Adaline, to their family and things began to change. While Billy continued with the farming operation, Britt turned her attention to motherhood and began to pursue her love of photography that grew out of her writing and journalistic classroom work in college. Britt learned the photography ropes using film in college, which



ing operation with their background and interests in art.

Britt Bailey Photography has enjoyed a lot of popularity in a short period of time. She has already developed a high quality Web site to promote her services and display her portfolio at www.BrittBailey.com. Britt has traveled as far as St. Louis to photograph a wedding. Her work has also been embraced by the Laumeier Sculpture Park Museum in St. Louis, which bought

some of her images for their professional brochures and flyers. "My ambition is to provide this area of southern Illinois with high-end photography at reasonable prices," said Bailey. "My passion in

portrait photography is to make people look great. And my ultimate goal, the thing that has me hooked on portrait photography, is to try to take pictures that capture not just what people look like, but also a bit of who they are."

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative provides electricity to their farm, as well as the new studio building. "The Wayne-White crews did a great job of replacing a pole and coordinating the new service to our new building with our electrician," said Billy. "Anytime we've needed anything, they've always been there for us."

Britt Bailey Photography specializes in Children Photography, Weddings, Senior Portraits, and Family Photography. In fact, now is the perfect time to plan your Family Photo Christmas Card. She can even come to your location or favorite spot so that your pictures are as unique as you are. Call to discuss your photography needs at 676-1271.

included darkroom techniques. She has now taken that knowledge

and refined it in this modern age of digital photography, upgrading her equipment several times along the way. After several years of photographing flowers, landscapes, and children, including her own daughter, the concept of Britt Bailey Photography was born.

Today, the couple is putting the finishing touches on the interior décor of a new photography studio near their rural Clay City farm at 540 Brier Road. Billy has also expanded his interests aside from farming by taking up painting and sculpting, which dovetails nicely with the photography interests of Britt. The couple has found a sense of fulfillment and enjoyment in their lives by combining their farm-



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