



by Omar Lopez

White Horse & Carriage Company

Cinderella. Is there a more iconic Bride? The glass slipper, the tiara, the Hummer limousine... wait. There was no Hummer limousine. In fact, the ultimate story book Bride arrived in the most stylish of transportation: a horse-drawn carriage.

In the year 2011, can a South Texas Bride arrive in a horse-drawn carriage at her wedding without hauling her whole wedding party to Disney World? Ask Christina White and Jamar McCracken, the owners of White Horse and Carriage Company. The horse-drawn carriage company arrived on the streets of Corpus Christi in July and has quickly changed the landscape. The company provides romantic transportation for couples taking a leisurely stroll down the Bayfront. With weddings already booked for the next year, Christina and Jamar are already making plans to add more horses and carriages to their fleet, er, herd.

"I think a lot of people want something different, and the carriage ride is a very romantic, very relaxing and a very different way for Brides to make an entrance," White said.

The couple, who used to work in San Antonio where horse-drawn carriages are part of the downtown landscape, decided to move to Corpus Christi over the summer and start their own company. Their two horses are kept at a ranch in Bishop. The horses

and carriages are parked along the Bayfront at the corner of Shoreline and Peoples St. along with the quadricycles and food vendors.

White says the concept of a horse-drawn carriage appeals to Brides for many reasons beyond the princess fantasy.

"A lot of Brides and couples come to us because they used to be around horses when they were young. They may no longer have horses, but they want to incorporate horses into their ceremonies," she said.

White, who used to ride horses, said the carriage also serves as a very functional ride to and from the wedding and reception – a needed break in a hectic day.

"The ride is very relaxing, which most people do not consider," White said. "When our couples leave the excitement of the ceremony, they are surprised at how relaxing the ride can be. The pace of the ride is slow and relaxed. It's a special, romantic time for the couple. They get to be alone."

White says most of their customers are people who consider horses important to their lives. When she gets an inquiry from a Bride who may be unsure, she never persuades the Bride to make a quick sale. Their presence at a wedding is just as important as every other detail.

"We always want to make sure that we are the right choice for the Bride and Groom," she said. "If a Bride is unsure whether to choose a carriage or a car, we always ask her to take a break and think about the choice. This is her special day – probably the most special day of her life. We would love to be a part of it, but if we are not a good fit for the wedding or theme or couple, we understand. We always want the Bride to have the most special day ever, because we feel like our horses and carriages are equally as special."

For more information, call 210-646-4102, visit www.whitehorseandcarriage.com or email info@whitehorseandcarriage.com

photos courtesy White Horse & Carriage Company and Cory and Frank Gilbert

