

Love became a family affair when Jodi married Robert and his four children

JODI AND ROBERT HOLLAND

The date: Jan. 10

The bride: Jodi Cahill, 32, University of Texas doctoral candidate in nutrition

The groom: Robert Holland, 45, patent lawyer

The parents: Ed and Donna Cahill of Charlotte, N.C.; Wayne and June Holland of San Marcos

The venue: St. Helena Catholic Church, St. Helena, Calif.

The reception: V. Sattui Winery, St. Helena, Calif.

Presiding: The Rev. Kirby Garner

Attendants: One each

Guests: 50

Wedding planner: Carmela Hartman, InStyle Weddings

Flowers: Mary Ann Souza

Cake: Penelope Jane

Photos: Diana M. Lott

Honeymoon: Italy

By Helen Anders

AMERICAN STATESMAN STAFF

When Jodi Cahill married Robert Holland, she didn't just gain a husband: She also acquired four children.

In fact, one of them was with Holland when the two first met in May 2006 at Mozart's Coffee Roasters.

"I was reading a newspaper, and he was there with his daughter," Jodi says. "I saw him looking at me."

Eventually, Robert worked the courage to walk over to Jodi's table and say hello.

"The first thing he said to me was, 'She ran all the way,'" Jodi recalls. He was talking about 14-year-old Caitlin. Father and daughter had been running around Lady Bird Lake.

Jodi was a little surprised at the sporadic introduction — and intrigued.

"He was so nervous," she says. She figured Robert wasn't in the habit of approaching strange women in coffee shops.



Robert her number, and he called and invited her to dinner. The date went well, but then Robert had to go out of town for a couple of weeks and worried Jodi would lose interest.

"So I asked her for a second date at the end of the first," he says. And he e-mailed her constantly while he was gone.

When he got back to town, they began spending a lot of time together.

"I was thinking that this was like no one I'd ever dated before," Jodi says. Some of that difference had to do with the kids. Holland was divorced with four children. Caitlin, 14, was the youngest; the others were all old enough to be living on their own. The idea of being

Still, she says, "We started getting serious pretty fast." Robert introduced her to his brother, and she began spending time around his family.

What did his children think of her?

"It depends on what day you ask them," Robert says, and any parent knows he's not joking.

In March 2007, Robert asked Jodi to join him and the children for a spring break trip to Lake Tahoe.

A combination family vacation and romantic trip?

"I was a little nervous," Jodi says, "but I thought it would be fun."

One day during the trip, Robert and Jodi went off by themselves to ski. When the

"While he was getting ready to take the picture, I took out the ring," Robert says. He asked Jodi to marry him. As she said "Yes," the girlfriend of the picture-taker burst into tears.

Then, as planned, the couple went skiing.

Did the children know about the proposal?

"Oh, yes, I told them," Robert says. "They'd seen the rock."

For the wedding in January, the pair chose California's Napa Valley because they'd visited the wine country together the year before and loved it.

The wedding was a family affair, with Caitlin as maid of honor and Robert's oldest son, Chris, 27, as best man.

Robert, Jodi and Caitlin now

DIANA M. LOTT PHOTOGRAPHY
Getting engaged on a family ski trip? It might not sound very romantic, but when Robert Holland popped the question to Jodi Cahill, there was plenty of joy to go around.

"I didn't think she'd have any interest in me," Robert says. "I was sweaty and gross."

She did, though. She gave

a stepmom to four children, with the oldest only five years younger than she, was a bit intimidating for Jodi.

Hit deposited them at the top of a mountain, Robert asked a fellow skier to take their picture.

live in Rob Roy with two cats and a dog. Looks like that family vacation worked out just fine.