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WEEKLY POST

February 20, 1986

How many guests? More might not be merrier

In all of the jollity surrounding engagement and wedding plans, it's easy for a bride to think the more, the merrier as far as wedding guests go.

Unfortunately, it's not as simple as the bride saying, "Come one, come all, the party's about to begin."

In the first place, weddings — even

informal ones — are fraught with tradition that specifies requirements for proper invitations. Second, the bride may have to limit the number of guests she can invite. The number may be restricted by the size of the chapel or hall — or by a strict budget.

If the number of guests must be limited, preparing a final guest list for a wedding and reception — perhaps different lists for each event — is a task comparable to the stickiest political negotiations.

The bride must come up with a final list that not only stays within the confines of her budget but also satisfies her parents, her fiancé's parents and perhaps even grandparents. If the parents are divorced or remarried, she could end up with even more requested guests to juggle.

But preparing the guest list and ordering invitations is a manageable task if the bride approaches it in an organized manner.

According to wedding stationery suppliers, the best way for the bride

to begin is to request guest lists — typewritten if possible — from both sides of the family. These lists then should be organized alphabetically either in a notebook or on 3-by-5-inch index cards, which makes it easier to eliminate duplicates. Then, to reach the desired number of guests, the lists should be purged as *fairly as possible*.

The wise bride — one who doesn't want to be left standing at the altar — will not attempt to eliminate all of her fiancé's fraternity brothers' names from the list so she can invite all her cousins.

Once the final list has been completed, the bride simply has to count up the names and order invitations. According to etiquette, one invitation is sent to a couple. Attendants and clergy or other officials get invitations even though it is assumed they'll be there. Single adults over the age of 18 living with their parents should also get their own invitations.

A few extra invitations should be

ordered for mementos and so that alternate guests can be invited if some guests promptly decline to attend.

When selecting a style of invitation, remember that the style should fit the ceremony. Formal weddings require a more formal look. An invitation on heavy white or ivory paper using classic black ink is one of the most formal looks, according to the stationers.

Less-formal choices range from pastel, verse-inscribed parchment to invitations incorporating a color photo of the couple and using colored ink. Lettering styles range from Old English script to modern block print.

The most common invitations first list the names of whomever is sponsoring the wedding, followed by the bride's name, her fiancé, the date, time and place. Some couples want to include all parents on the invitation, even if only the bride's parents cover expenses or if the couple itself is covering expenses. Again, the formality of the occasion can determine the wording, everything from "request the honour of your presence" to "share in the celebration."

The basic wedding invitation includes the invitation itself enclosed in an inner envelope and mailed in a second envelope, stationers say. But many brides consider additional enclosures essential — especially the response card. On this, guests simply check if they are attending or not and mail back the card in a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Some brides also include a separate card with reception information, a map to the reception or at-home cards that tell guests where the couple will live after the wedding and when they will receive mail at that address.

It's a good idea to order thank-you notes when ordering invitations, stationers say. Notes can be ordered to match invitations and can be imprinted with names and initials or left blank.

If imprinted with names, the bride may want to order some with her name only to use for shower gifts and gifts received before the wedding. She also should order some that both she and her husband can use after the wedding, for example, printed with "John and Susan Jones" or "Mr. and Mrs. John Jones."

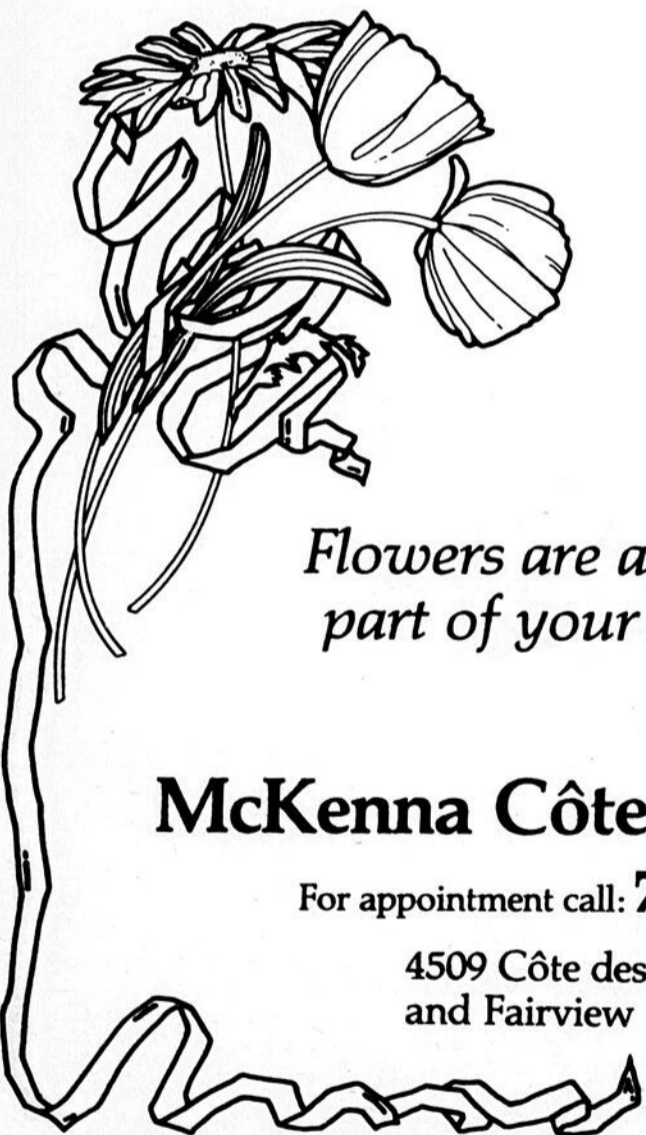
When it comes to ordering, a bride should contact several stationers to compare paper quality and get the best price. Stationers recommend ordering invitations three months before the wedding. The bride should ask for envelopes in advance, if possible, so she can begin addressing them. And she should ask to see a sample of the invitation to check for errors before the final order is printed.

For addressing invitations, rules of etiquette dictate the use of full names of people, streets and states — no abbreviations. Address inner envelopes "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" instead of "John and Mary," no matter how well you know the couple.

Place the invitation in the inner envelope with the printed side facing the flap. The front of the unsealed inner envelope should face the back of the outer envelope, as should any enclosures. Mail invitations four to six weeks before the wedding, and then record who's coming and who's not in your notebook or on the cards as replies come in.

And then hope that Great Aunt Agnes says she can't come so that you can invite one more of your cousins — or your fiancé's funny fraternity brother instead.

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Different cultures mean different wedding customs

Every culture has its wedding traditions intended to symbolize the good things marriage means to a couple: happiness, commitment, sharing. Such customs offer a couple the opportunity to personalize their celebration, perhaps even with traditions of their ancestors. Following are some ideas from *Bride's* magazine:

AFRICA: Some tribes still perform the ancient rite of binding the bride's and groom's wrists together

with plaited grass. Show your new ties by exchanging matching woven bracelets before you walk back up the aisle together as husband and wife.

BERMUDA: Even today, islanders top off their wedding cakes with tiny tree saplings. Plant your little tree in a place where you can watch it grow along with your marriage.

CHINA: Red, the color of love and joy in China, is the favorite choice for the bride's dress and accessories. Tuck a red rosebud in your husband's lapel or wrap bridesmaid's gifts and wedding favors in red.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Country brides wear wreaths of rosemary woven for them on their wedding eve. Include a sprig in your bouquet to symbolize wisdom, love and loyalty.

ENGLAND: The village bride and her wedding party used to walk together to the church, led by a small girl strewing blossoms along the road. Walk to your reception site if it's nearby. If you have young friends or relatives or are young parents marrying again, let the children head the parade.

FRANCE: Couples drink the reception toast from an engraved two-handled cup, the *coupe de*

Continued on page 11



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Toasting tradition began with bread

Here's to the groom with a bride so fair, and here's to the bride with a groom so rare.

People have been marking memorable occasions with toasts to health and happiness for about as long as they've been celebrating the occasions themselves.

Toasting is a tradition — a tradition in which champagne is the usual beverage and the most difficult part deciding what to say.

"We receive many inquiries at the winery about what are the most appropriate toasts," said Gary Heck, president of a California champagne producer. "I suppose people just assume that since we make champagne, we must know something about proposing toasts, as well."

Basically, the best toasts are simple and come from the heart. The proper way to extend a toast is to stand and announce loud enough for all to hear that you'd like to propose a toast to the bride and groom. Make sure everyone has a full glass with which to toast, Mr. Heck said.

Then, turn toward the bride and groom, raise your glass and proceed with your message of warm wishes. You also can elaborate with a short anecdote or appropriate quotation. Whatever your words, remember that toasting is an opportunity to say something special about people you love.

For being such a touching tradition, toasting has unusual beginnings. Mr. Heck told the following

history of how the word "toast" came into being.

The toast began as just that — a piece of dry toast or a crouton added to a drink as an extra fillip of flavor. By the mid-17th century, any type of food placed in a drink was referred to as a toast.

Toast came to its present meaning in 1709, when an admirer of a celebrated beauty, who was soaking in a British resort bath, said that although he didn't care for the liquor of the bath, he'd be pleased to have its toast. The lady then became the "toast of the town."

After that time, toasting became increasingly popular. The toastmaster became a necessary personality at official functions and banquets, books on toasting were written, and many newspapers ran columns with an astonishing array of toasts to almost any occasion.

Indeed, it's difficult to imagine some occasions — such as weddings — without a toast. Glasses raised to the bride and groom has become an integral part of the wedding festivities.

Aside from the reception, where the best man traditionally offers the first toast to the bride and groom, there are many other events associated with weddings that call for toasting. The father of the bride traditionally toasts his daughter and future son-in-law at the engagement party, and the best man toasts the bride and groom at the rehearsal dinner.

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Allan Vosko,
President **CELEBRATIONS**

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Alison Lyons, vice-president of CELEBRATIONS, spent four years at Regine's organizing all kinds of zany theme parties as well as many weddings and private parties. More recently, she was at Bank of Montreal planning their corporate dinners, receptions and arts sponsorship programs.

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Party hosts who know exactly what they want can be confident that their events will be orchestrated without hassle. However, many clients want ideas and suggestions as to locations for their event, menus, type of music and decor, and Allan and Alison have ideas by the dozen. They recently attended "The Special Event" seminar in Palm Beach where they were inspired by the "Who's Who" of U.S. party planners, caterers, decorators and lighting experts.

"Montreal is definitely in the throes of a social and economic revival," said Allan, "and CELEBRATIONS is already involved in planning several large events."

The groom wears clothes too

When walking down the aisle, a bridal couple want to walk in style — and a lot of the style projected is determined by the clothes they wear.

Much attention is paid to the bride's dress, which seems only fair. She takes great pains in selecting just the right gown — possibly even having her gown exclusively designed and sewn — and the groom's attire usually is a rental tuxedo whose primary purpose is to complement the bride's gown.

According to those in the formal wear rental business, the bride's choice of gown determines the formality of the wedding, and the formality of the wedding determines what type of tuxedo is appropriate.

A long gown with a train denotes a formal affair which traditionally requires a cutaway coat and striped trousers for daytime weddings. Formal evening affairs are characterized by black or white tailcoats, with white being the more traditional.

For a semi-formal wedding, in which the bride wears a gown and veil, the groom traditionally would

wear a gray stroller and striped trousers in the daytime. For evening semi-formal affairs, a black tuxedo or a white dinner jacket is the traditional mode of dress.

A more contemporary wedding, in which the bride wears a tea-length dress or casual gown, the groom could wear a tuxedo, an updated stroller or simply a dress suit or dinner jacket with complementary trousers, shirt and tie. Vests and cummerbunds are optional.

In the contemporary evening wedding, any tuxedo will do. Traditional choices for winter weddings are tuxedos in gray, navy or black. For summer, gentlemen most often select white, silver or pastel colors.

"From my observations, the trend today is for semi-formal weddings, but with all the elegant trappings of bridal gowns, veils and flowers," according to D. Gordon Williams, an authority in men's clothing and accessories.

Ushers traditionally wear the same type of tuxedo as the groom, although their attire may differ in

choice of tie color and boutonniere. The ushers' ties should match, although the groom's and best man's may be slightly different, Mr. Williams said.

In some cases, the groom may wish to co-ordinate the color of the ties with the bride's color scheme, but the ties should be conservative, a solid color and not overly decorated.

According to rules of etiquette, each usher pays for his own tuxedo. The groom pays for his own attire and customarily purchases appropriate ties and gloves, if necessary, for the best man and ushers.

Fathers of the bride and groom dress in the same fashion as the ushers and groomsmen.

Bridal jitters? Call it off

How can a bride control her wedding jitters? For a successful carefree wedding she need remember only two things: "One, you have the right to call it all off at any time. And two, if anything goes wrong — like the groom doesn't show up, or worse, the caterer doesn't show up — just keep repeating to yourself, 'It's only my wedding. It's only my wedding.'"

That advice is from the book "The Foolproof Bride," by Gay Haubner and Robert Hoffer (Wallaby Pocket Books).

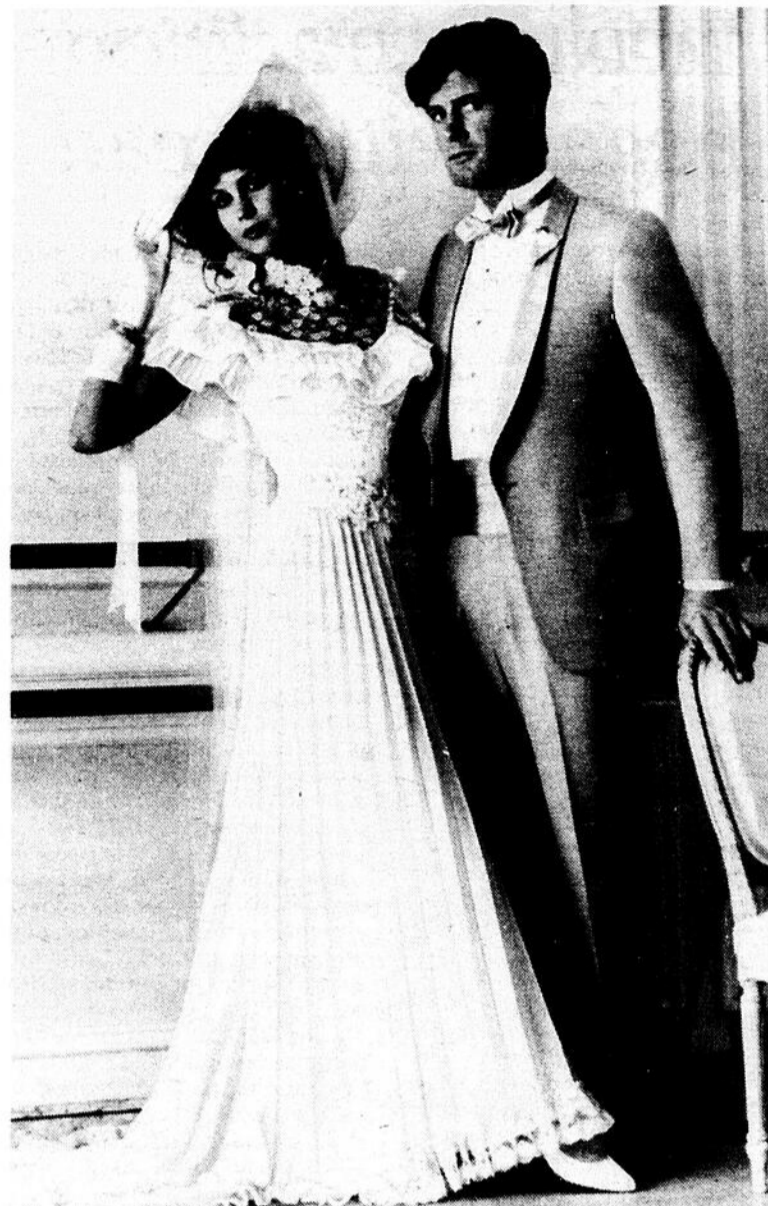
They also tell a bride a surefire way to find out if her diamond is a quality stone: "Tell your fiancé you want to call the whole thing off. If he asks for the ring back before you've had a chance to explain why, it's a good diamond."

The authors also advise the maid of honor to tell the bride that the cigarette hole burned into her wedding gown "doesn't show at all." And all the groom must do is "show up and shut up."

Jealousy harms marital bliss

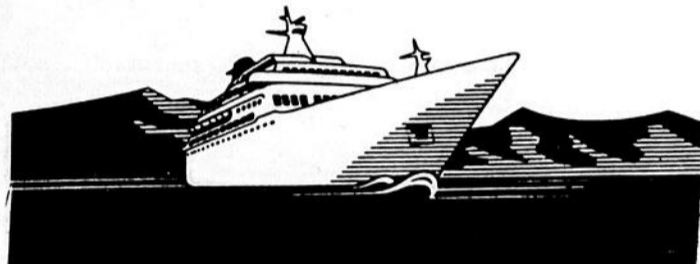
Since most people marry because they find their partner's traits appealing, why then do spouses often pick at each other for having those very traits? Some psychologists think that a simple unconscious jealousy is to blame.

A conscientious, serious husband may yearn for his wife's happy-go-lucky attitude, but it may frighten him at the same time. One way of handling that fear is to criticize.



The groom complements his bride's Bridal-lure gown with a pearl gray shawl collar tuxedo by Bill Blas. Fashioned of 55 percent polyester and 45 percent wool, the tuxedo is worn with gray accessories and a wing collar shirt.

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Symbolism gets thrown away with bridal bouquet

Doesn't it seem strange that the bride tosses away her bouquet? She spends hours, weeks — perhaps even months — thinking of flowers with just the right symbolism.

She may want to use daisies because those are the blooms her fiancé first gave her. Or she may want to include roses because of their romance, or carnations because they symbolize pure, deep love.

Then the bride must choose a style of bouquet that complements her dress and wedding style and find the florist best capable of making all her floral dreams a reality. Given all the planning involved, why does she just toss the bouquet away?

It's a custom started as a form of self-defence. In times past, a belief in the mystical value of a bride's adornments prompted friends and strangers to try to grab a piece of her outfit.

Eventually some clever bride found that by flinging her flowers away, the crowd would have something to fight over — and she could escape intact. Passed down through the years, this custom now comes to signify that the young lady who catches the bouquet will be the next to marry.

There are several styles of bouquets most popular for brides, depending on the formality of the wedding and the size of the bride.

Cascade: Flowing groups of blossoms reaching to the knee or thigh are appropriate for formal attire and larger brides. A short bride might be overwhelmed with too large a bouquet.

Puff or clutch: Small, hand-held group of flowers tied with ribbon. This is a less formal look that also is popular for bridesmaids.

Wreath: A woven circle of blossoms and greens held in the hand.

Single flower or arm bouquet: A single bloom or a group of long-stemmed flowers cradled in the arm. This bouquet works well with any style of wedding and for brides-

maids as well.

The bouquet, however, is only the first floral decision a bride must make. Many brides have floral headpieces made to match their bouquets. They also may have floral hat decorations made for attendants or mothers. And, of course, there are the traditional corsages for mothers and boutonnières for groom, fathers and attendants.

Wedding cakes can be stunning with fresh floral decorations co-ordinated to match centerpieces on the reception tables. Of course, there also are the floral decorations for the chapel or room in which the ceremony is performed.

The more flowers a bride uses, the greater the expense, of course. One way to keep costs down is to use flowers that are in season at the time of the wedding, and a florist can make recommendations. Given color swatches and descriptions of dresses, he also can suggest bouquets that harmonize in shape and style.

Before making a final decision, talk with several florists and get written estimates. Find out if the florist delivers and, if he does, if there is an extra charge for this service. Florists suggest that a bride make her final choice and place the order about two to three months in advance of the wedding.

Music selection good way to personalize wedding

Gone are the days when all wedding processions were accompanied by an organist playing the bridal chorus from Robert Wagner's "Lohengrin" and all recessionals were accompanied by the wedding march from Felix Mendelssohn's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Many brides now see music as an ideal way to personalize their weddings, and so have their wedding marches to the beats of many different drummers — from recorded versions of "The Theme from Love Story," to simple hymns sung by members of the congregation, to festive Baroque tunes played by musical ensembles featuring real trumpets for the fanfares.

Whereas yesterday's bride relied almost exclusively on the church organist for wedding music, today's bride is likely to interview a horde of potential musicians to find just the right sound. The selection of musicians has a high priority on a bride's list of things to do early in the planning stages, and *Bride's* magazine recommends beginning the search as soon as the wedding date is set.

Clergy members are some of the first people to contact about wedding music. Many churches restrict

the types of music that can be played in the chapel. Also, clergy members often can recommend musicians that regularly perform at the chapel. If a bride is being married in a hotel or banquet room, managers can be contacted for recommendations.

Even if an organist is affiliated with the church at which the wedding is performed, weddings are not a part of his regular job. He therefore expects to be paid a fee, usually between \$25 to \$50. Vocalists and instrumentalists will quote a separate fee of their own, probably at least \$50, as will choirs and ensembles, which will be more expensive.

A less expensive option for the bride is to have high school students, friends and family members perform musical selections at the wedding. There is nothing more personal than having the bride's sister sing a solo accompanied by her brother on guitar, but if the bride is concerned that every detail be perfect, she should stick with the professionals.

Once the musicians have been selected, individual songs must be chosen. No matter what a bride's tastes in music, there are multitudes of appropriate songs, and she should have musicians play or sing several for her and then pick her favorites.

For the simple ceremony held at home or in a garden, records or tapes of wedding music are appropriate replacements for musicians. All types of wedding music are available on records or tapes that often can be rented from record stores or taken out on loan from libraries.

To find musicians for the reception, a bride can first ask the manager of the hall or hotel in which the reception will be held for recommendations. She also can check telephone book listings, call the musicians' union in her area and contact school band and orchestra directors.

The first step in making a selection is to call each group to determine if they are available the day and time of the reception and if they play the types of music required — whether that be big band, country, soft rock or a mixture of all types. Then, the bride should get a cost estimate for the number of hours she'd like the band to play.

If responses to these inquiries are acceptable, the bride should ask to hear the group perform — preferably at a club or wedding, but at least at one of their practice sessions.

Once a bride selects a group, she should get a written contract that specifies the mix of music to be played, the name of the leader who will appear, the number of musicians, their total hourly rate, overtime rate and whether they bill for partial hours or whole hours.

Another possibility for reception music is one of the mobile music units that plays records and tapes.



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Successful honeymoon needs advance planning

The wedding ceremony was moving, the catered dinner was elegant and now the newlyweds are off on their long-awaited honeymoon.

But for many couples, the honeymoon is nothing more than an ill-planned trip that tests the maxim "love conquers all." These couples devote countless hours to wedding plans — from floral arrangements to guest lists — but leave honeymoon plans to fate. They assume they'll get a romantic suite with a view, but end up with a cramped room near the elevator.

But a honeymoon is not that difficult to plan — even if it's in a faraway land, according to a travel consultant. And long-distance honeymoons don't have to be expensive, either. With tour packages and charter flights, couples can travel to far parts of the world for bargain prices, often with hotel included.

"Why stay in your own back yard when you can honeymoon in an exotic location?" asked travel consultant Dominic Capezza of New York City. Capezza arranges tours worldwide, although he favors Greenland as a honeymoon spot.

"How often can you go dogsledding on your honeymoon?" he asked. "And you can even sip wine in your room while watching the magnificent view of fiords and icebergs at two in the morning. During summer months, the sun never sets."

In Greenland, the hotels are charming and modern, and the cuisine is a mix of European and local styles. What's more, Mr. Capezza said, the temperature during tourist season — from May to October — is a fall-like 10 degrees Celsius during the day.

But whether you choose to vacation in Greenland or the Caribbean

or a different region of your own country, Mr. Capezza stresses the need for detail in long-distance planning. Following are some of his tips.

First, book your transportation and hotel room at least six months in advance and insist on *written* confirmation from the hotel. If you haven't received a confirmation two months before departure, splurge on a long-distance phone call or write again to ensure that you have the right room — or any room at all.

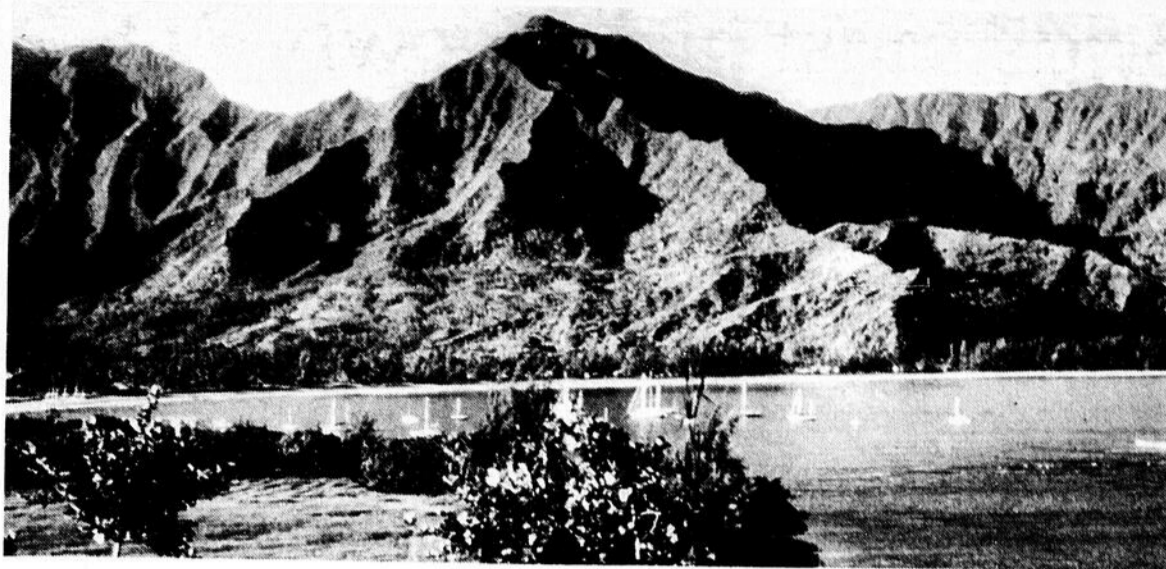
Be specific. Do you want a double bed? A quiet room on a high floor? Many people think it's picky to make many demands, but "if you don't ask for what you want, you might not get it," Mr. Capezza said.

For example, in many hotels, the rooms on one side of a corridor face mountains or a lake, while the rooms across the hall, for the same price, face a noisy main street. Ask, of course, for the scenic room.

Well beforehand, research the vacation area. Write to a country's tourist bureau or chamber of commerce for maps and brochures. You'll probably uncover some interesting sidetrips along the way — it would be a shame, say, to visit only one of the Hawaiian Islands or not to take a boat ride up the Jacobshavn fiord in Greenland to view ice sculptures. For some day trips you must book bikes or boats far in advance.

Bring along medications and sunscreen. In arctic climates you're as susceptible to sunburn as in the tropics, and nothing ruins romance more than nursing a sunburn. As for tropical climates, make sure your hotel has central air-conditioning if you're sensitive to heat. Ceiling fans look romantic, but they can't provide enough cool comfort.

Most important, check out the



A view of Hanalei Bay in Kauai, one of many faraway destinations popular with honeymooners.

weather conditions for the vacation area in an international newspaper or through a reliable travel agent a few days before you leave. Sudden changes in weather can catch you unprepared.

Make sure to let hotel management know if you need a specific menu, such as vegetarian, or if you're allergic to down pillows and need synthetic ones.

Finally, decide if you want to tell hotel management, a cruise line or anyone you meet that you're on your honeymoon. Some couples avoid fanfare in favor of solitude. Others like the attention and free flowers and champagne. Either way, a well-planned honeymoon insures a great start for your new marriage.

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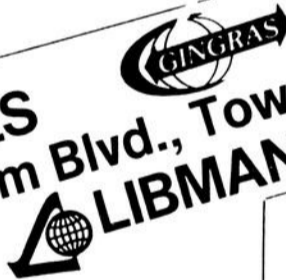
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Bride must pick a gown to suit her personality

Most brides want to feel like royalty on their wedding days, so they dress the part — head-to-toe lavishness in yards of expensive materials and lace. Instead of feeling like princesses, however, many brides end up feeling like overdressed guests at a costume party.

The conservative regal look — with its cathedral train, illusion

neckline and beaded or sequined Basque bodice — is a traditional favorite, but it's not a look that sweeps every bride off her feet. If that look doesn't suit your style, don't fret. The wedding will not have to be called off. And you don't have to wear that style of dress.

There are other traditional styles from which to choose, from lacy,

covered-up Victorian dresses to romantic and frilly off-the-shoulder Scarlett O'Hara gowns. Neither of these appeal to you either? Still no need to fret. Although tradition plays an important part in weddings, it is *not* the final word. And what's popular in wedding gowns is not the final word in selecting a gown for yourself.

The primary consideration is not style, but comfort, according to bridal store consultants. That means no pinches or pulls and nothing too tight, but it also means that the gown must suit a bride's personality. Too many ruffles on a tomboyish sort of bride and she's in for a most uncomfortable day.

If you've always had visions of Southern belle ruffles and parasols for your wedding day, go for it. Make your grand entrance in an organza gown with double-layered skirt and an off-the-shoulder fitted bodice. Top off the look with a wreath of flowers in your hair or a large brimmed hat.

If you have a pristine bend, however, Victorian elegance may be more your style. The straight lines, high neck, long sleeve and antique lace of this look create an aura of charm and femininity.

Does your wedding gown fantasy stray far from the norm — into black silk or red velvet? Never fear — there are designers who can cater to your needs. One bride wore an exclusively designed red velvet gown and a red veil covered with hundreds of glitter beads. Another wore a black taffeta



This bride presents a Southern-belle image in an off-the-shoulder full-skirt gown by Susan Lane's Country Elegance.

gown with a 10-yard train and a black, glitterbeaded veil.

If you can't find — or afford — an exotic designer (exclusively designed

dresses can cost thousands), you can consider sewing your own gown or hiring a seamstress. Most pattern companies have at least a few wedding dress patterns and a number of evening dress patterns that could be appropriate for a bridal gown.

If you're a practical sort and want a dress you can wear again, you might consider a tea-length or street-length dress in white, ivory or a pastel. With such a look, a headpiece and veil usually are omitted, although the bride may decide that a matching silk flower would look lovely in her hair.

If you have your heart set on a truly formal wedding, however, don't get too practical — the style and formality of the gown set the tone for the wedding.

The gown, therefore, should be selected far in advance so that other preparations can be made. Bridal consultants recommend beginning the bridal gown search eight months to one year before the wedding. That gives plenty of time to suit your style and find attendant gowns that complement it.

No matter what your style, choose all the embellishments the look requires and your heart desires. A bride is entitled to get carried away — over her wedding gown as well as over the threshold.

Got feathers? Buy a bride

Currencies used for purchasing brides have varied considerably from country to country.

In the Santa Cruz Islands, brides were bought with coils made from mango-bird feathers wrapped in banana fibers.

In New Guinea, bird-of-paradise feathers were used; in Siam, silver ingots with a special stamp, and in Zimbabwe, iron bells.

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Professional photography keeps wedding memories alive

Almost as much a part of the wedding as the couple saying "I do" is the image of a photographer hustling about — setting up shots and taking photos to be placed in an album and looked at again and again over the years.

A growing trend, however, is to videotape the ceremony and reception. This is an ideal way for a couple to rerun the event for relatives and friends who couldn't be there, as well as to see for themselves everything that went on.

Videotapes, however, are not a substitute for photography. Ralph Romaguera, a member of the Professional Photographers of America, said he never has had a request for a videotape in place of photography.

Videotape, he said, "is a great addition, a touching way to capture the sound and motion of any memorable event."

But it can be a disaster if the photographer doesn't know about the videotaper and vice versa — for example, the lighting required by one may ruin the other's work.

Any photography of the ceremony also should be cleared in advance with the clergy. Some churches do not permit photography of any kind

during the ceremony, and others permit photography only from the back.

Whatever the bride's choice — photographer, videotaper or both — there is a variety of services available at a variety of costs. When interviewing potential photographers, a bride should ask to see samples of wedding tapes and photos and then avoid people — even highly recommended

professionals — without wedding experience.

Photographers and videotapers usually offer several package deals. A bride should shop around to find the package that suits her best.

Photography packages range from \$350 to \$1,000 or more. Each package specifies the number of hours during which the photographer will be at the wedding taking pictures as

well as the size of the wedding album and number of prints included. The most costly packages provide for larger albums, more photographs and also may include portrait sittings taken at the studio in advance of the wedding.

The wedding couple also may choose to make up their own package or to work with a photographer who charges an hourly fee for being at the wedding and then bills separately for each print ordered.

A preset package price generally is more economical, according to the professional photography association.

Video packages differ in the quality of equipment used, the length of the tape and the look and sound of the finished product. They range in price from \$150 to several thousand dollars.

In the medium price range (\$500 and up), the wedding tape can take on the appearance of a "real" movie complete with titles and special effects.

Whatever packages eventually are agreed upon, the bride and photographer and/or videotaper should sign a contract that spells out exactly what services will be provided and how much they will cost.

Variety of lingerie for the 'total woman'

Male chauvinists take heart — unisex styling may be invading some areas of fashion, but the lingerie and loungewear markets are completely safe from such influences.

New collections do justice to the "total woman" concept, from old-fashioned looks lavished with ruffles, ribbons and bows to frankly sexy silhouettes with low-cut necklines and seductive slits.

These romantic styles are perfect choices for trousseaus and for bridal shower gifts. There's a wide selec-

tion, from flowing, full-length nightgowns to brief minis and every length in between.

When assembling a wedding trousseau, include a variety of pieces that won't wrinkle easily when packed for travel, said Mary Vane, marketing manager for a fabric manufacturer.

For basics, Ms. Vane suggests "seven pairs of panties and no less than three bras; two or three gown/robe sets and a fleece or casual below-the-knee wrap robe for lounging."

Particularly popular for the bridal set are shorty styles — teddies, chemises and baby dolls — from provocative flyaway styles to demure step-ins. Many have matching cover-ups — both long and short.

Lingerie fabrics should be smooth and non-bulky to be practical, but to be pleasurable, as well, they should feel wonderful next to bare skin. Soft fabrics such as lightweight crepe, crepe de chine, china silk, crepe-back satin, batiste and tricot are recommended.

Some of the finest lingerie on the market today is 100 percent silk. The soft, smooth fabric is lightweight, yet it keeps you warm in cold weather, cool in hot weather. Most silks are hand washable — in fact, washing renews silk fibers and makes them look new again.

Easy-care nylons also are favorite lingerie fabrics. They appear in soft-to-the-touch knits and wovens that drape and gather in graceful folds of fabric to envelop the body. Nylons are popular because they are machine washable and wear well. Some nylon tricot has an anti-static finish, certainly a plus for any lingerie item.

Colors are soft and pretty — mint, mauve, violet, iris, ruby, geranium — from pale tints to vibrant jewel tones. White and black are classic favorites.

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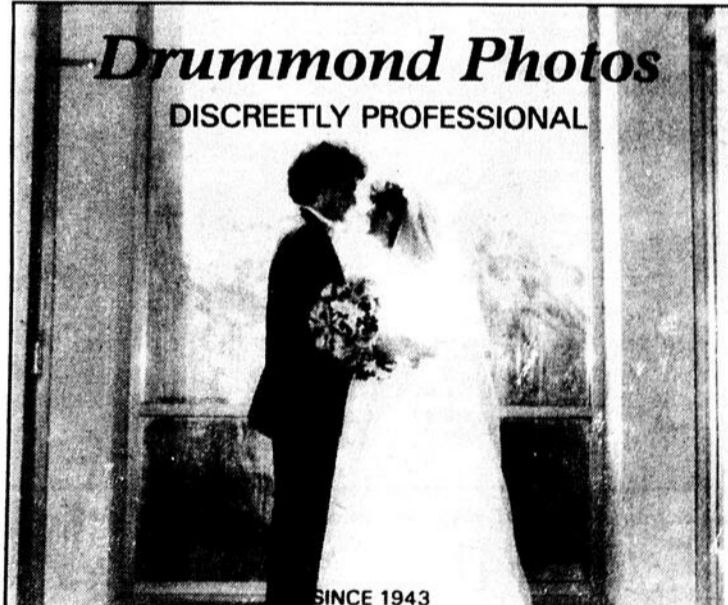
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Tradition of bridal showers a celebration of the future

The bridal shower tradition in North America began with established homemakers sharing their stitching and culinary skills by presenting a new bride with a handsome honeymoon quilt or special recipes from their kitchens.

Today, the bride's community of friends and family continues to celebrate her future happiness with tasty refreshments and thoughtfully chosen gifts.

Following are some suggestions

for planning a bridal shower and selecting gifts:

THE PLANNING

The Invitation. In addition to the time and place of the shower, be sure to include other pertinent information such as whether the party is to be a surprise, has a particular theme or requires guests to help out with music, food or special activities.

Mail invitations at least two weeks ahead of time, earlier for out-of-town guests. A self-addressed, stamped return envelope will make sure you receive responses quickly. The hostess should make follow-up phone calls the day before the party to ascertain the exact number of guests.

Setting Up. To give your home a quick decorating lift, make use of a bright two-color scheme, perhaps one the bride has chosen for her wedding.

If cut flowers are too costly, decorate with potted plants. Cover pots

with wrapping paper tied with ribbons. Mass the plants at the center of the dining table or place about the room. When guests leave, they may take them as party favors.

As another alternative to flowers, consider a balloon bouquet. Blow up helium balloons in the color scheme. For example, attach lavender ribbons to yellow balloons and vice versa. Cut the ribbons to varying lengths and tie around a brick covered with wrapping paper. Place shower gifts around it.

Protect your furniture while creating a festive look. Cover tables with cloths of practical fabrics that will be easy to clean after the party. If your buffet table is too long for one cloth, use two of the contrasting hues of your color scheme. Festoon the tables with matching ribbon.

Take inventory of chairs and place settings a week before the party, noting what items you need to borrow or buy. You can save on clean-up time by using sturdy, pretty paper plates. If your heart is set on using your silver service, polish in advance and store afterward in plastic or cloth silver bags to maintain shine.

Refreshments. If your goal is to stay out of the kitchen as much as possible during the party, prepare finger foods in advance and store until serving.

Some examples: melon and prosciutto; shrimp wrapped in steamed snow pea pods; mixed nuts and dried fruits, and sliced baguettes with tuna spread. Involve the bride's circle of friends in a potluck dinner. Write down all the recipes in a blank, clothbound book and present it to the bride as a cookbook.

THE GIVING

His And Hers. The practice of inviting couples rather than just female friends to a party in honor of the soon-to-be-married pair is growing in popularity.

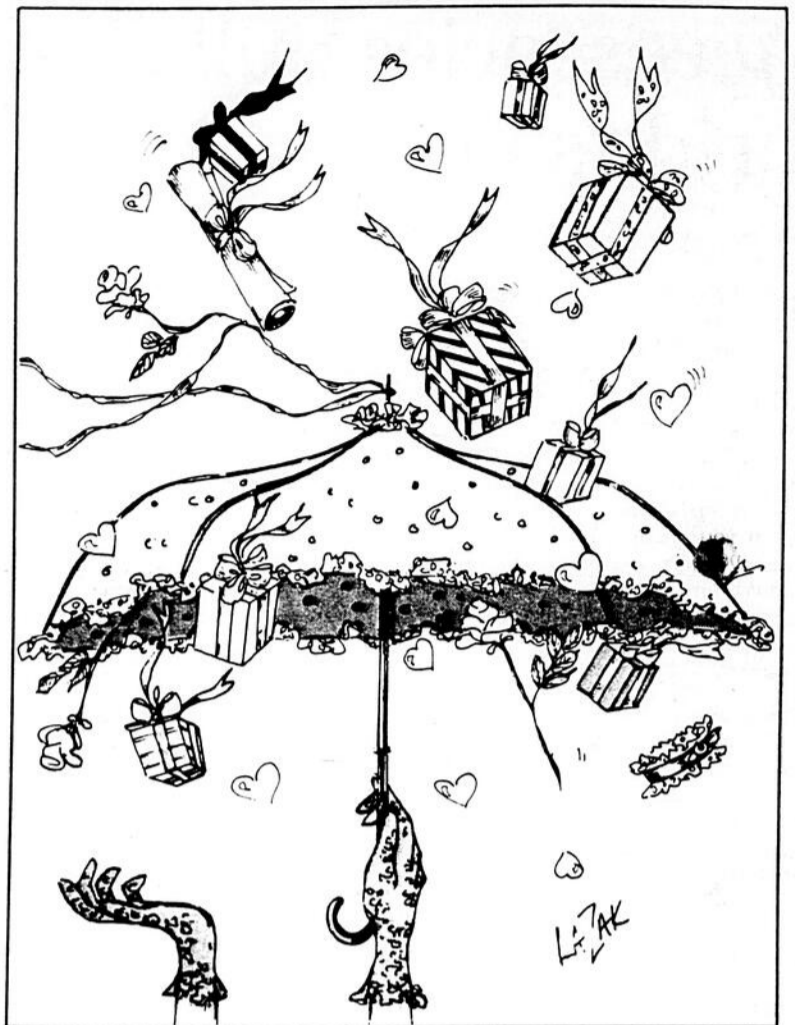
Gifts can be selected using the bride and groom's hobbies as a theme. If the couple enjoys home entertainment systems, it would be appropriate to give records, video-cassettes, a remote-control device, a subscription to appropriate magazines, a cable-TV subscription or a disc washer.

For Her Eyes Only. If you're planning to focus on the bride alone, make the shower gift meet her needs. She may be setting up house-keeping for the first time and therefore might appreciate a kitchen shower offering gifts from egg timers to food processors.

A bride-to-be who already owns many household items might prefer a shower with a more personal touch. Make her feel as pampered as a movie star with lacy lingerie, feminine peignoir sets, perfume and certificates for facials, manicures or massages.

When choosing sleepware, look for pretty garments that will pack well for the honeymoon. Easy-care fabrics are especially appreciated by a busy bride because they eliminate hand washing and dry-cleaning.

Family Tradition. During the first year of marriage, newlyweds may find themselves without the props necessary to carry out family traditions. Ensure the couple's happy holidays by asking each guest to contribute a hand-made ornament, box of candles or decoration sym-



bolic to the bride.

Another idea full of tradition is to present the bride with a photo album in which she can record memories of her new married life. For a

special touch, include favorite family pictures from the past for her to share with her spouse. Or give a leather-bound datebook with family birthdays and anniversaries noted.

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Accessories pull together bride's fashion look

Once a bride has found the perfect wedding dress and headpiece, she might think she's all set. But what about shoes, lingerie and jewelry?

Accessories pull together and complete any fashion look so brides who obviously want to look their best should allow plenty of time to find just the right accessories. *Bride's* magazine has these suggestions:

Underpinnings: Pick a slip when you choose your dress. The right slip makes a dress fall the way it should. And if you buy one without trying it on with the dress, you may not be able to duplicate the effect you saw when you selected the dress.

A full skirt with lots of flounces calls for a bold petticoat made from a firm fabric like nylon taffeta. Tiers of ruffles add body and shape. A moderately full skirt achieves its free-falling look with a slip that fits smoothly over the hips and adds ruffly fullness for shape at the hem.

If the dress is a clingy jersey or a slender style, pick a plain evening slip to create a smooth line underneath and prevent the skirt from gathering between your legs. Side slits make for easy walking down the aisle — and the most graceful reception dancing.

Before your dress is fitted, choose a bra that looks right under it and feels comfortable. If the neckline or bodice is sheer, low cut or off the shoulder and no bra is built in, get a strapless.

If your dress has a snug fit through the waist and hips, a long-line bra might smooth you best. Under a soft, clingy crepe, jersey or chiffon, try a no-seam, soft cup for a natural look. What color? Play it safe by picking a nude bra — it's least likely to show up.

Which hosiery is best? Choose a color that matches your dress shade so flesh tones don't break up the flow of color from the dress to shoes.

Shoes: A formal dress with sleeves, a high neck and sumptuous material calls for closed-toe shoes. If you're wearing elegant satin with lace and pearls, try a pump in a matching satin or a Chanel-type with a satin tip and open sling back. A more casual dress also looks best with a pump, but look for one in a less dressy matte fabric.

For any style dress, and particularly if you don't want your shoes to add much height, classic ballet-style slippers are a pretty choice. You can find them at shoe or dance supply stores. Try decorating plain slippers to complement your dress — glue or sew on

tiny beads, pearls, sequins, lace or ribbon.

When you shop for shoes, take along a fabric swatch from your dress so you can match colors. To be certain the dress is long enough for the heel height, take along your shoes to the final fitting.

Hankies, gloves, purses: A delicate white hanky might come in handy if you shed any tears. Make it a lacy one that's either "something new" or "something borrowed." If your dress has short sleeves, you might wear long or wrist-length gloves made of lace or kid. To hold a hanky, comb or any wedding checks you may receive, take along a white beaded bag or satin clutch for you or a maid to carry.

Jewelry: If your dress has a plain bodice or a bare neck, set it off with a necklace — a pearl drop, a heart, a precious gem — or a classic single or double strand of pearls. A high-necked dress doesn't call for a necklace, but a brooch — perhaps an antique cameo — pinned at the throat is lovely.



A picture hat beautifully tops off this Alfred Angelo gown with embroidered neckline and yoke. String pearls, a feather fan and delicate gloves lend nostalgia to the look.

TRADITION...

Continued from page 2

marriage, which is passed on to future generations. You might engrave a silver cup with your initials and then use it not only for the champagne toast at your reception but also for all future special occasions.

GERMANY: Both bride and groom hold candles trimmed with flowers and ribbons. A late afternoon or evening wedding is perfect for saying vows by candlelight. And you can save one of the tapers to relight for a romantic first anniversary dinner.

INDIA: To ward off evil, the groom's brother sprinkles flower petals on the bridal couple at the end of the ceremony. After your ceremony is over, have a special relative or friend hand a single flower to every guest.

IRELAND: The traditional wedding cake of the Emerald Isle is a heavy, rich fruitcake with golden raisins, ground almonds, cherries and spice. In true Irish spirit, lace your reception cake with brandy or bourbon.

ITALY: For centuries wedding guests have tossed *confetti* — sugared almonds — at the couple to symbolize the sweet and bitter in

life. Decorate reception tables with pretty boxes or bags brimming with almonds.

JAPAN: Bridal couples take nine sips of sake, becoming husband and wife after the first. The two of you could drink together from a wine cup then ask your parents to exchange sips, too.

MEXICO: Reception guests gather around the couple in a heart-shaped ring. Your friends and relatives might do the same as you whirl through your first dance together as husband and wife.

POLAND: Guests customarily have pinned money on the bride to "buy" a dance. Collect your pin money in a white satin purse.

SCOTLAND: Traditionally, a bridegroom purchased a silver "wedding spune," engraved with the couple's initials and wedding date, to give to his bride. You and your groom might buy something special to commemorate the day.

SPAIN: In certain regions, the bride wore a black silk mantilla and orange blossoms in her hair. The groom wore a tucked shirt hand-embroidered by the bride. Try a lacy white mantilla for your headpiece and give your groom a formal shirt on which you've embroidered his initials on the cuff.

WALES: The bride gives her attendants cuttings of myrtle from her bouquet. Tell your bridesmaids that if their plants bloom, they'll soon wed.

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