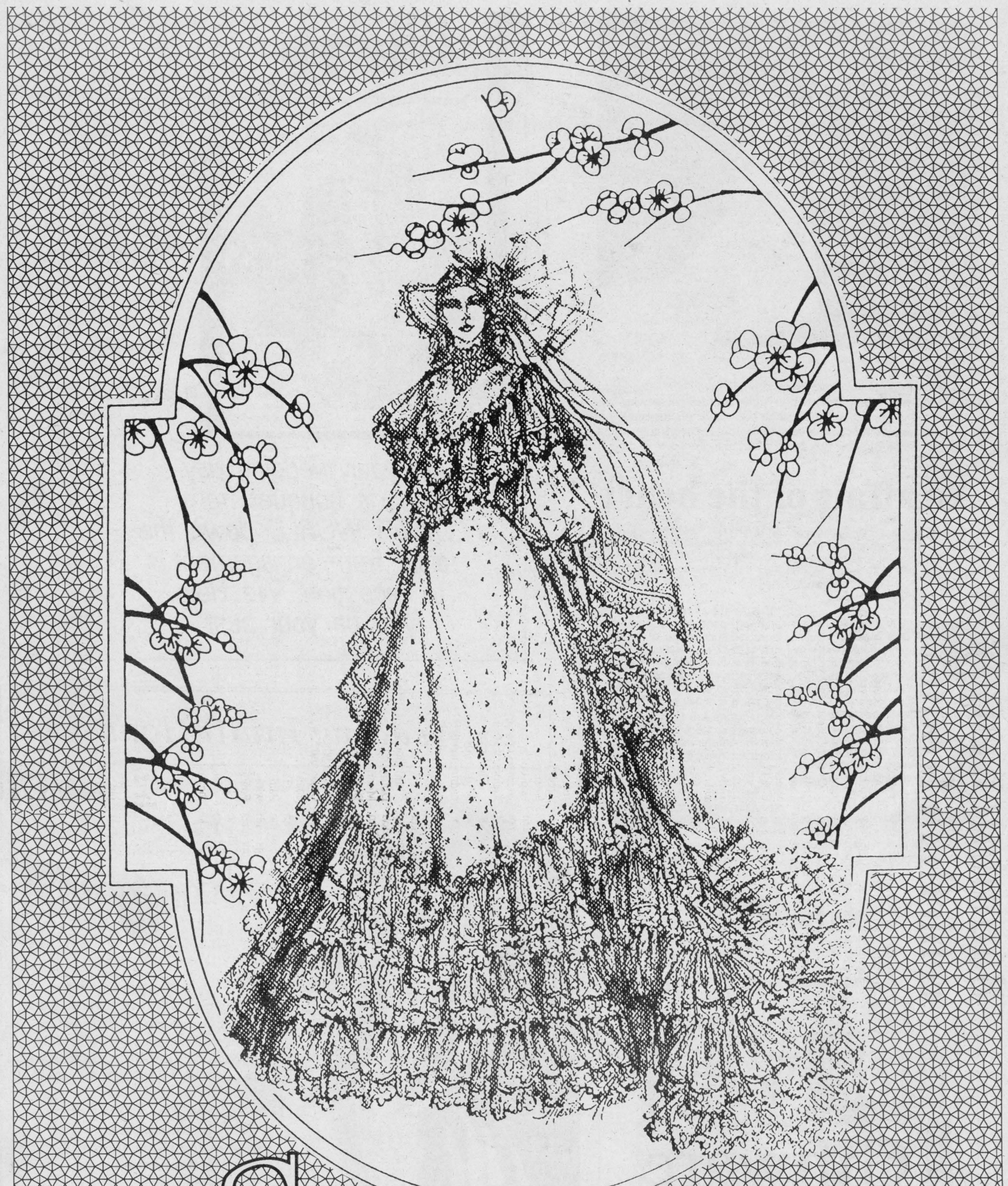

Spring Bridal Showcase

THE CHIEFTAIN Your Community Newspaper
WEDNESDAY APRIL 28TH, 1993



Photo by Johnston

A Fall setting

Many couples are opting for a wedding in the fall. Due to work restrictions and the weather, many young couples chose what was once an 'off season ' to exchange their vows. The photographer has some pretty areas where leaves have fallen to create a different effect. The sky is also a valuable precipt when pictures are taken in the fall.

An affair of the heart

A wedding is not only an affair of the heart. There are a great many steps to be taken in arranging a wedding, and they need to be taken in a way that will preclude any last-minute uncertainties.

It is important to request a written confirmation or a contract stipulating arrangements made with any supplier. One should note the type of service being supplied, the specific costs attached and payment terms. Where necessary, the number of employees needed for a certain function should be specified, as well as any terms regarding overtime work. Details such as time of delivery, modification or cancellation of services should be put in writing.

To avoid any possible confusion, reconfirm all details with suppliers and professionals at least 48 hours before the wedding.

Ensure confirmation of arrangements, timing and place of delivery. For example, it is critical that details of timing be worked out in advance with the photographer who has been booked for the wedding. Do not hesitate to leave a name and telephone number with suppliers and professionals so they can make contact if necessary.

If a home reception is being planned, consider using a rental store to supply some of the items necessary to take care of the guests at the reception. A catering service is often a solution for a home reception or a reception taking place in a hall where the serving facilities are inadequate. If a catering service is used make sure that the caterer is engaged before reception invitations are ordered.

Many department stores and specialty shops have bridal consultants to assist couples and their families. In larger communities there are wedding co-ordinators who will make arrangements for every detail of a wedding or reception. They usually charge a percentage of the total cost. Some charge a flat fee and others charge by the hour. A bride living some distance from her family might find this type of service useful.



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Making a decision to buy or rent the wedding dress

The decision to buy or rent a wedding dress depends on two factors: the wish to keep a souvenir and the available budget.

Romantic women who fear that in the future they might regret terribly a decision not to keep their wedding dresses usually purchase them. It may always be possible to sell them later if there is a change of heart.

The cost of a purchase will vary according to styles and models. The style will often depend on the formality of the wedding ceremony. A formal and large wedding will mean a more elaborate wedding dress. A simpler or more intimate wedding ceremony suggests a less elaborate dress.

When budget doesn't permit the purchase of a wedding dress, the rental option can perhaps allow the bride to wear a dress that is more attractive than one she might have purchased. When renting a wedding dress it is helpful to remember that current models are the most expensive.

Models from last year are a little less expensive and can be just as attractive.

Before renting it is recommended that one read the rental agreement, especially the part concerning responsibility should the dress be damaged. The dress should be returned the first working day after the wedding ceremony. Generally, the bride is not responsible for cleaning the dress.

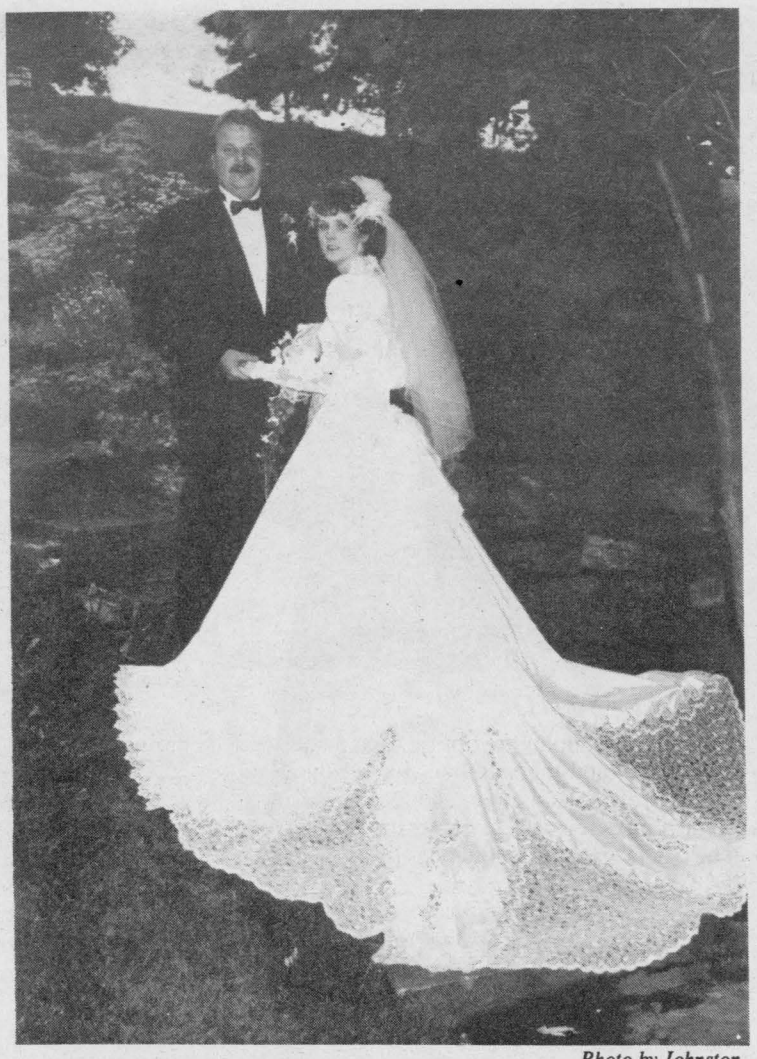

Photo by Johnston.

Pretty picture

This happy couple used a friend's garden for their photo shots on their wedding day. The stone steps climbing to the next level of greenery made a picture perfect location for a shoot. The elegance of the train on the wedding gown can be fully appreciated and the groom stands tall as he waits to escort his new wife up, up and away.

Beautiful headwear

A bride's headwear should be chosen with care. It should complement her wedding dress and suit her face and shape.

There is a wide choice of headdresses available. They can be worn with or without a veil. A bride generally will select her headdress and her veil, if she is going to wear one, at the same time she chooses her wedding dress.

Some styles of headdress have been designed to be worn on the back or the side of the head. Others are designed as headbands.

A range of materials can be found in a headdress. These can include artificial flowers and very small flowers made of fabric and round or tear-shaped pearls.

Today, veils are often short to medium length. The length often depends on the formality of the wedding. Before falling to the shoulders of the bride a veil can be arranged in a manner that complements the headdress.

A diadem, or small crown, is an interesting alternative for the bride who prefers a 'queen for a day' look.



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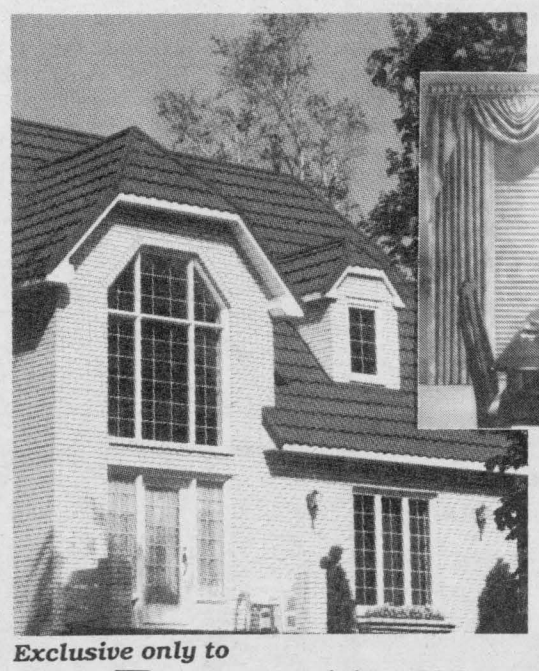

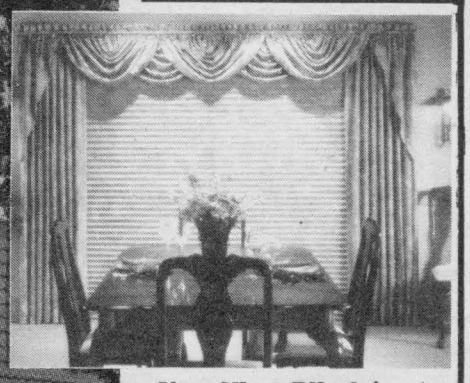

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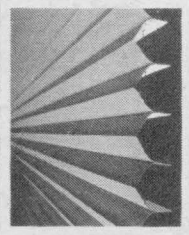

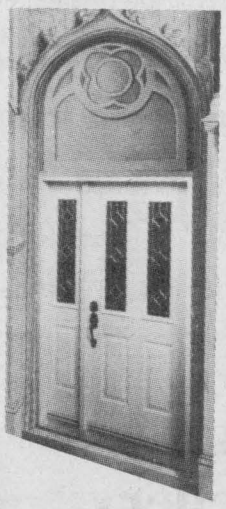

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Local couple wed

Nancy Van Allen and Garnet Waldrof were wed in Morrisburg and had their photos taken in the Village Park. The white birch trees that grow together formed a nice frame for the happy couple. The sky is dark behind them bringing their pictures a sharp clarity that enhanced their features.

Photo by Johnston

Many women keep their surname

More and more women are opting to keep their names after they get married.

Initially, women who had established themselves in a career decided to keep their surname rather than change it to their husband's in order to avoid confusion in the workplace.

But now it seems more women are keeping their surname simply because it is the name they were given at birth and it is an integral part of their identity.

The decision for a woman to keep her surname is not always an easy one, and it may raise a few eyebrows or even cause some conflict.

Ultimately, the decision is the woman's but she will need full support from her husband-to-be.

When the subject is first brought up men may react negatively to the idea. The tradition is engrained in our culture and has become the norm, so when a woman goes against the tradition the man may take it personally.

When a woman tells her partner that she would like to keep her name he may immediately become defensive and ask, "What's the matter, is my name and family not good enough for you?"

Assure your partner that the decision to keep the name you were born with is not a rejection of him or his family. It simply means that you don't want to give up an integral part of yourself.

If your partner is still having some trouble with the idea, ask him to put himself in your position. How would he feel if he was asked to give up his name and accept yours?

Another barrier you may have to overcome is the opinion of your family and your future in-laws, but once you and your partner are comfortable with the decision it will be much easier to deal with family concerns as a team.

Of course using both names is also an option but many women find the names may not work well together or it simply becomes inconvenient.

Some couples have even taken each other's surnames and both the man and the woman share the same two last names.

It is best to talk about your decision to keep your own name well before the wedding.

Another issue that will have to be discussed is the name your children will take.

Will you hyphenate their names so they have both yours and his? Or will you simply include your surname on their birth certificate but use only your husband's name? You could even follow matriarchal lines instead of the traditional patriarchal family lines, but society may not be quite ready for that one.

Many women who do keep their name will simply use their husband's surname for their children to avoid confusion.

Whatever your final decision, make sure you and your husband-to-be are comfortable with it because it will affect the rest of your life together.

Wedding budget a must

Here are some suggestions to help you with your planning, if you do not have a bottomless budget.

*Decide on what you can afford. There's no sense going into debt. Shrewd planning, imaginations, and a few compromises can work wonders no matter how limited your budget.

*Plan the type of wedding - formal, semiformal, or informal. Keep in mind that the more formal a wedding, the more expensive it will probably be.

*Make up a list of what you want for your wedding. Include: dress and accessories, invitations, flowers, music, transportation, photography, catering - food and beverages - cake, church or hall fees, gifts to attendants and each other, and all the various gratuities.

*"Shop around" for wedding professionals. Ask friends for recommendations and then make an appointment. Be frank about what you can afford to spend. Remember, though, that not only do prices vary in different areas of the country, but there's a wide range for each budget item.

Finding that gown of your dreams

A bride chooses her wedding dress with care. Often she will have the assistance of her mother, although the final decision should be the bride's.

Important criteria to consider are budget, the shape of the bride and her personal taste. The wedding dress should be just right for the bride and at the same time its cost should not exceed the budget that has been established.

To find that dress of the bride's dreams the first step should be to peruse various bridal publications to determine what styles the bride thinks are most attractive. She should then visit different retailers to try on some of these models. It is a good idea to shop around to find the right dress at the right price.

If the bride's mother is not available it is advisable for the bride to take along someone else with taste and an objective opinion before making the final decision. A wedding dress should not only please the bride, it should show her to her best advantage.

Some styles suit large women and some flatter small women, and independent advice can be helpful in this regard.

If the wedding gown is being ordered then it is important that it be ordered well in advance of the date of the wedding ceremony.

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Wedding invitations must respect rules of etiquette

Wedding invitations are sent by the parents of the bride, or parent, if one is deceased. Otherwise, it is the closest member of the bride's family who should send out the invitations.

Invitations, announcements and enclosure cards can generally be ordered through jewellers, engravers, bridal consultants, printers, gift shops, department stores or specialty shops.

Engraved invitations should be ordered at least two months before the date of the wedding. Printed invitations may be ordered six to seven weeks before the ceremony, although it is wise to mail wedding invitations no later that six weeks before the date of the wedding.

It is a good idea to order a few more wedding invitations than the number of guests on the guest list as mistakes in addressing can be made. Wedding etiquette dictates that only an engraved invitation or announcement is correct for a formal wedding or for any wedding held in a church.

Conventional invitations are folded with the invitation text on the front page. With so-called contemporary invitations the text goes on the interior with a motif or thought on the front page.

Nearly all invitations are white or creamy white in color and a high quality paper is generally recommended. It is customary to write on an interior envelope in black or dark blue ink the names of the couple invited without their given names or address. Each adult member of the same family should receive his or her own invitation.

The words 'honor of your presence' are used on all church ceremony invitations, while the expression 'pleasure of your company' is used on invitations when the wedding ceremony is taking place somewhere else than a church.

R.S.V.P. means "reply, if you please." An invitation to a church ceremony requires no R.S.V.P., although invitations to a church ceremony with a reception or to a reception alone do add R.S.V.P.

White need not be the chosen colour

Must every bride be married in white? There are, of course, no steadfast, unyielding rules regarding the selection of color for the wedding dress; one of the greatest pleasures the modern bride enjoys is the knowledge that she is absolutely free to plan her wedding as she sees fit, with no "musts" other than the marriage license itself to hinder her creativity!

Yet every woman planning to marry might be interested to know a little more about the tradition of bridal white before she makes a decision on her wedding attire.

From ancient times, white has been a symbol of purity and joy to all nations, all cultures. The Orientals and the people of India worshipped white animals, and ancient Romans donned white robes for all joyous occasions.

This is not to say that white was always the color connected with matrimony. The ancient Roman brides were covered from head to toe in orange-colored veils.

And for hundreds of years European brides went to altar dressed in red! This was probably a carry-over from the Chinese custom of wearing red as a symbol of gaiety.

The first white wedding gown (in Western tradition of wedding attire) was worn by Anne of Brittany when she married Louix XII in 1499. Her gown of pure white set the trend in Europe, which soon became the standard for all bridal dress in Europe and the Americas.

If a bride chooses to wear purest white on her wedding day, this information will enhance the meaning of her color selection. However, it is quite acceptable — even traditional — for brides to choose gowns in shades of ivory, candlelight, blush pink or ice blue, or white gowns with an accent of color.

After the honeymoon.....

Living married and loving it

You're just back from the honeymoon, ready to settle into a cozy life as husband and wife. Now comes the "happily ever after" part, right? Well, it's not always that simple. Even couples who live together before saying their vows are likely to find "playing house" for keeps quite different than they expected, according *Bride's* magazine. According to their research, the following tips might make the transition to married life smoother.

• *Check with your partner before making big decisions or social plans.* He may dislike the paisley couch you bought for the living room; you might get angry because he's invited his boss to dinner the night you'd planned a long evening in a bubble bath. Making sure something is okay with one's mate first can head off headaches (and arguments) later.

• *Be flexible.* People come to marriage with different ideas about everything from religion to who should walk the dog. Compromise is key; if you're not thrilled that he expects you to make him breakfast every morning (like his mom faithfully did for his dad), offer to whip up a terrific morning meal for the two of you on the weekends. During the week, he should share in the work.

• *Watch your "fighting styles."* When a heated discussion begins, do you burst into tears, while he withdraws? Learning to disagree effectively is essential to marital success, as is swallowing one's pride once in a while. All couples hurt or disappoint each other now and then; it's only human.

• *Don't be afraid of change.* It takes some work (not to mention patience and a sense of humor) to create a lifestyle which makes both partners happy. But the reward — a marriage that's able to grow in the face of both prosperity and adversity — is well worth the effort.

Limo adds grandeur

A limousine offers a grand alternative for making a memorable arrival at the wedding ceremony. It can certainly offer a great deal of space so that the bride and her father can be at ease on their way to the wedding.

Check the reputation of the limousine rental company beforehand and reassure yourself about the driver's punctuality. Shop around to find the make of limousine that is most stylish and comfortable.

They come in all sizes. Some are convertibles and others are antiques. Several limousines come equipped with a bar, a television and even a video cassette recorder.

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With this ring I thee wed....

Have an enjoyable honeymoon

To have an enjoyable honeymoon doesn't demand excessive effort, just good planning. It is always a good idea to consult a travel agent who will be able to advise you on questions of destination and lodging.

The travel agent will take into consideration your budget, your tastes and what you hope to find in the way of ambiance, climate and activities. He or she will recommend some alternatives. What's more, the agent can help you obtain any necessary documentation.

Conventional honeymoon destinations are those places in the sun that spring immediately to mind. Cruises are popular. There are exciting big cities to visit in North America. And of course there are many fine resorts across Canada for those who wish some peace and quiet on their honeymoon.

There are many brochures available from your travel agent, and public libraries usually offer a wealth of travel guides.

Calendar of events for brides

WEDDING CHECKLIST

Depending where you live you may have to start thinking about your wedding more than a year in advance in order to coordinate the reception and service. If you are getting married in a large city like Toronto or Ottawa where the demand for facilities is high make sure you book well in advance to get what you want. But if you are not having a traditional Saturday wedding or you are having a very small, intimate wedding, you won't need to worry about plans until a few months before your date.

Delegate responsibilities to friends and family - they will only be too happy to help - and make sure the groom is participating in all aspects of the planning.

A YEAR IN ADVANCE

❑ Decide on the type of wedding you want: formal, semi-formal, garden, home, lakeside, afternoon, evening, morning ...
❑ Decide who pays what and sit down together to draw up a budget.
❑ Meet with clergy or justice of the peace.
❑ Book reception facility.
❑ Book caterer if needed.
❑ Start organizing a guest list.

FOUR TO SIX MONTHS IN ADVANCE

❑ If you are having your dress made talk to dressmaker (this may have to be done sooner depending on demand in your area).
❑ Order wedding dress (it may take six to eight weeks for delivery and alterations).
❑ Outfit bridesmaids.
❑ Order men's tuxedos if they are renting or start coordinating suit purchases.
❑ Finalize guest list.
❑ Order invitations and thank you cards.
❑ Book D.J. or band.
❑ Book photographer.
❑ Arrange for music during ceremony.
❑ Order flowers and other decorations.
❑ Order cake.
❑ Set menu with caterer or at banquet facility.
❑ Arrange transportaion to church and reception for wedding party.
❑ Arrange for liquor licence if necessary or decide on type of bar service you will have during reception.
❑ Make arrangements for honeymoon

ONE TO TWO MONTHS IN ADVANCE

❑ Send out invitations.
❑ Book facility for rehersal dinner or arrange for at home dinner.
❑ Meet with clergy to decide on format, personal vows, readings, etc...
❑ Mark off confirmations as replys are returned.
❑ Select bouquets, flowers for decoration, boutonnieres and corsages.
❑ Purchase wedding accessories for women and men.
❑ Coordinate mothers' outfits with bridal party.
❑ If friends are participating in ceremony inform them of readings and responsibilities including your master of ceremonies.
❑ Arrange accommodations for out-of-town guests.
❑ Confirm honeymoon plans.
❑ Book appointments for hair styling.
❑ Pick up extras like guest book, cake knife, etc...
❑ Buy going-away outfits if you are changing.

ONE WEEK BEFORE

❑ Pick up marriage licence.
❑ Last minute alterations on wedding dress, bridesmaids dress, men's suits or tuxedos.
❑ CONFIRM all previous bookings with D.J., caterer, banquet facility, florist, transportation, ceremony site, clergy or justice of the peace, travel agent, hotel accommodations, hair stylist, photographer, etc...
❑ Make last minute changes to guest list and seating arrangements.
❑ Confirm order of events with master of ceremonies.
❑ DELEGATE responsibilities and arrange for flower pick-up, decorating, cake delivery, clean-up of hall.
❑ Arrange for payment and thank you to clergy, organist or anyone else who will be paid the day of the wedding (the best man can deal with these responsibilities).
❑ Rehersal and party or dinner.
❑ Relax and enjoy the day.

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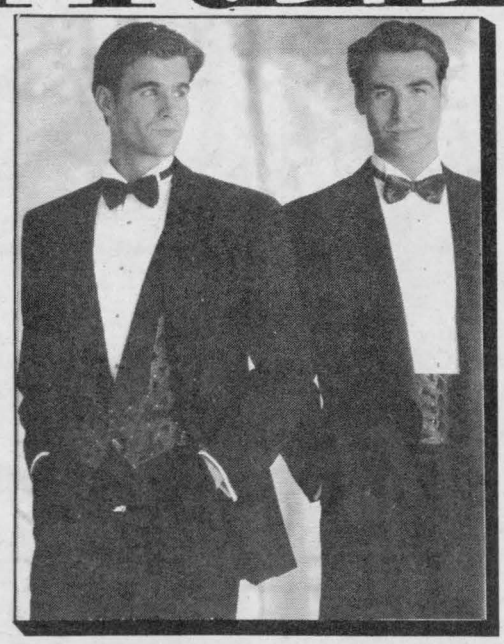

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Organizing the wedding day

The processional

Different traditions have their own different ceremonies and styles. The following is offered as a general guideline.

First come the ushers, then the bridesmaids, often walking two by two. The maid of honour follows alone, followed by the flower girl. The bride enters last, on her father's right arm. The bridegroom and his best man await the bride at the right.

When the wedding procession reaches the front of the aisle, the ushers move to the right behind the best man. The bridesmaids stand at the left, where the flower girl joins them. The maid of honor stands just to the left of the bride, the best man to the right of the bridegroom. The bride and bridegroom stand in the centre facing the clergyman. The bride's father stands immediately behind the bride.

The receiving line

After the ceremony, a receiving line is usually composed of the bride's mother, bridegroom's father, bridegroom's mother, bride's father, bride, bridegroom, maid of honor, bridesmaid (if desired) and flower girl (if desired). The ushers are not part of the receiving line. The receiving line remains complete until all the guests have been graciously greeted.

Speeches and toasts

The formal order of speeches and toasts given at a wedding is as follows:

1. To the bride, - by the clergyman or friend of the bride's family, not a relative.
2. Response - by the bridegroom.
3. To the bridesmaids - by the bridegroom.
4. Response - by the best man or the head usher.
5. To the parents of the bride - by the best man or master of ceremonies.
6. Response - by the father of the bride.
7. To the parents of the bridegroom - by the best man or master of ceremonies.
8. Response - by the father of the bridegroom.

All or some of these toasts may be proposed. It should be remembered that today, even at a formal wedding, rules of etiquette have relaxed, so you shouldn't feel compelled to prepare and give a speech, unless you really want to. By the same reasoning, anyone, male or female, who has a few words to say should not be refused.

Here are a few traps to avoid:

* Long-winded speeches.
* Forced humor; don't be a comedian if it's not your natural style.
* Monopolizing the time.

If you keep your praise and congratulations simple and honest, and let your true feelings show, you're bound to give a speech that will be well received and appreciated by all.

Duties of the best man

The best man is the bridegroom's right-hand man. As such, he has more responsibilities than all the other attendants. His duties include:

* Making arrangements for the bachelor dinner, if any.
* Helping the bridegroom dress properly for the wedding.
* Seeing that the ushers are on hand an hour before the wedding.
* Making sure that the bridegroom has the marriage licence.
* Getting the clergyman's and organist's fee from the bridegroom in sealed envelopes to give to the clergyman at the appropriate time.
* Getting the bridegroom to the ceremony on time.
* Carrying the ring and presenting it at the proper time.
* Arriving at the reception with the ushers, immediately following the ceremony.
* Reading the congratulatory telegrams.
* Helping the bride and bridegroom with their luggage.
* Sending a thank-you telegram composed by the bridegroom to the bride's parents the day after the wedding.
* Being prepared for any emergency.
* Paying for his own formal wear.

Duties of the ushers

The number of ushers can vary. They are special friends, and often include a brother of the bride. The ushers:

* Attend rehearsals on time.
* Arrive an hour before the ceremony, fully dressed and prepared to carry out duties.
* Have a complete guest list.
* Seat the guests graciously: friends of the bride to the left side of the aisle, friends of the bridegroom to the right. The usher offers his right arm to each female guest.
* Escort the bridesmaids.
* Place the aisle ribbons and roll out the white carpet after the guests are seated.
* See that the wedding party gets away quickly to the reception.
* Arrange for transportation for guests who do not have any.
* Pay for their own formal wear.

Duties of the maid of honor

If the bride's sister is unmarried, she often fills the position of maid of honour. If she is married, she is known as the matron of honor.

The maid of honor may also be a special friend of the bride.

Her duty is to be helpful to the bride in every way, before, during and after the ceremony.

* She takes charge of the bride's bouquet when the ring is being slipped on the bride's finger.
* When there is a double-ring ceremony, she brings the bridegroom's ring to the ceremony.
* She assists the bride with her veil and train after the ceremony.
* She usually pays for her own clothes, which are coordinated with those of the other attendants.

Duties of the bridesmaids

The number of bridesmaids can vary. Their duties include:

* Assisting the maid of honor in every way in her services to the bride.
* Paying for their own gowns.



So Cute

Children can be just so cute in a wedding party, whether as ring bearers or flower girls. They can wear matching outfits to the groom and the bride respectively, or be completely different. Adding their special timidness and sparkle, they often steal the show. They need to be mature enough though to realize what is expected of them and be able to carry off their assignment with some decorem.

Photo by Johnston

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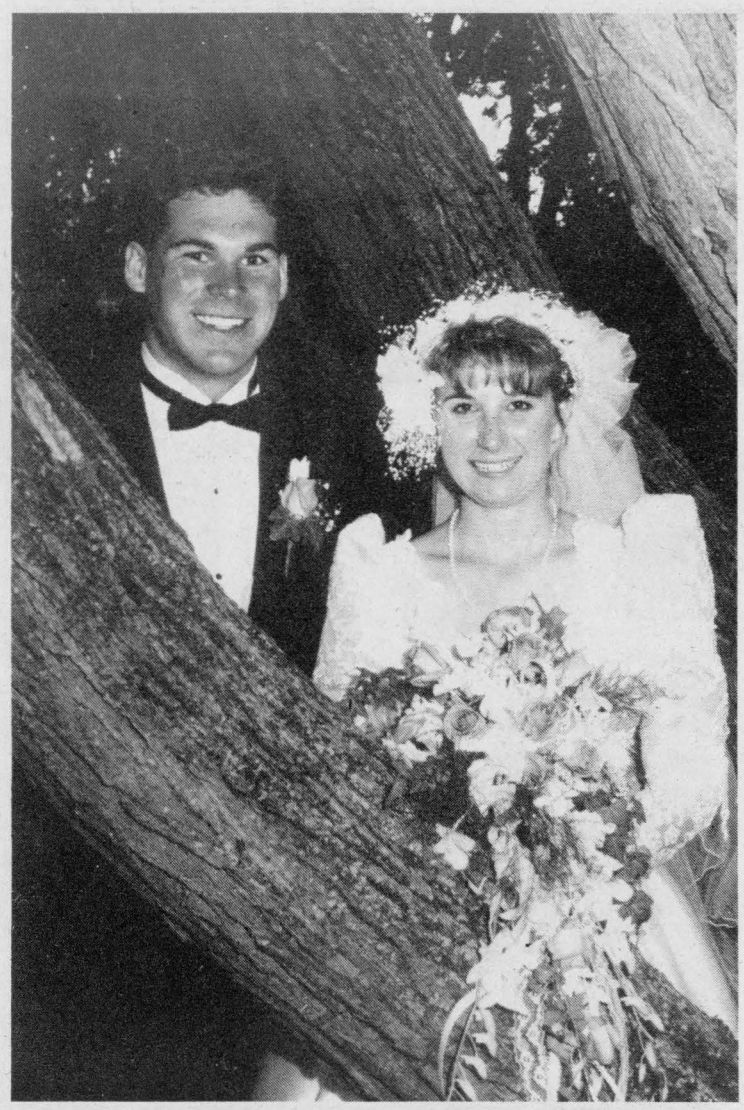

Start planning for the big day six months before

The wedding that is carefully planned is one that comes off beautifully. Wedding plans should be laid starting at least six months in advance of the wedding date.

The first thing to decide is the type of wedding desired. It can be simple or elaborate. The reception can be held inside or outside. There is always the option of being married on a boat or some other extraordinary site that suits the temperments of the bride and groom.

The next step is to determine the budget available for the wedding and to allocate resources as equitably as possible. There is also the list of guests, which will have an impact on the budget.

There will be meetings to organize with the church minister or civil official, as well as with various suppliers and professionals.

Think of the florist, musicians, limousine service, caterer, hotel or restaurant, the photographer and video producer.

You will have to choose the bride's wedding dress and the outfit for the groom. There are rings, invitations and members of the wedding party to consider, as well as the attendants' outfits.

If the bride and groom wish, there is a list of potential wedding gifts to be drawn up. Thought should be given to the lodging of out-of-town guests. Arranging honeymoon plans is something that should not be overlooked.

There are gifts for the wedding party and thank you notes to think about. And a visit to the hairdresser and beautician should not be forgotten.

Unique setting

A choice location for those special photos need not be a garden of flowers. Sites that are barren and sparcely planted tend to offer more choices for special picture opportunities. A tree and some water can create a mood that will show through in the photos. The happiness of the day captured on film will last a lifetime. This couple chose a park in Brockville for their pictures and the knarly tree with it`s spreading branches offered a picture perfect snapshot.

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