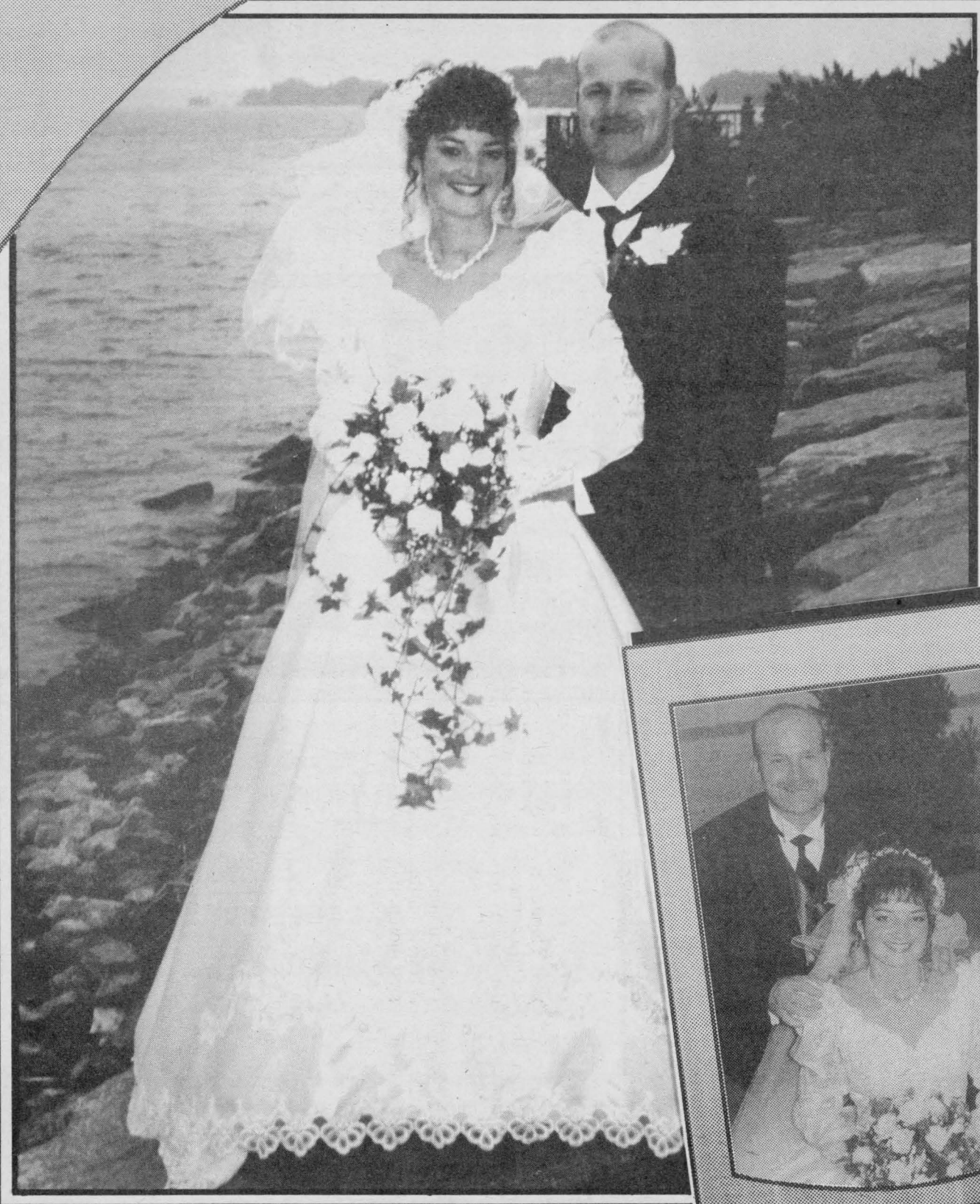
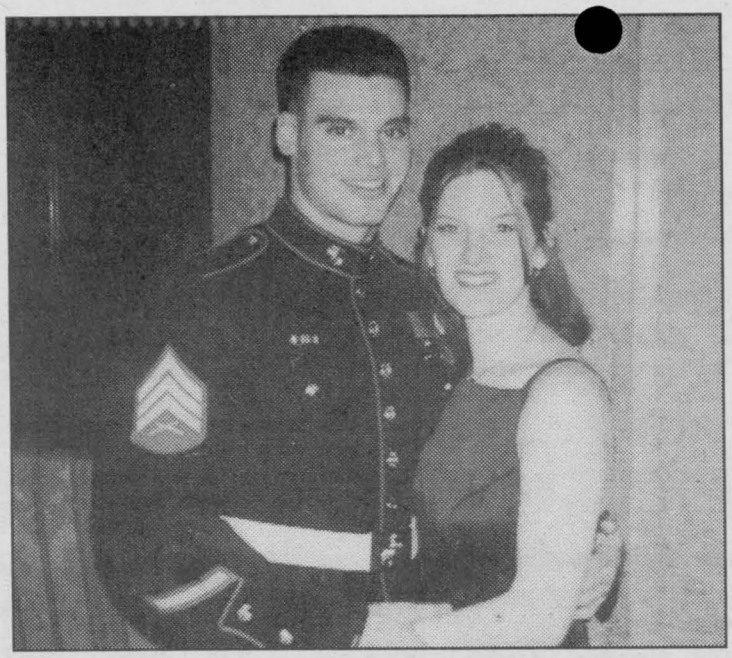
Bridal SHOWCASE 1999



Published by THE CHIEFTAIN PUBLISHING CO.
MARCH 17TH, 1999



Engagement Announcement

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Whitteker of Morrisburg are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter ***Melainie Dowell to Sgt. Gregory Bolick*** of the United States Marine Corps. Melainie is also the daughter of the late Larry Dowell of Morrisburg. Gregory is the son of Mr. & Mrs. David Bolick of Hillsborough, North Carolina. Gregory & Melainie are planning a May 22, 1999 wedding in Hillsborough, North Carolina.

Build a bridal shower around a theme

One image of a bridal shower is a bride-to-be, surrounded by gift-bearing friends and relatives, quietly sipping tea in a living room.

But today, showers can be held anywhere from a golf course to a spa.

Protocol suggests that individuals should not be invited to more than one shower (because of the expense). This, however, can make it simpler to plan theme showers. For example, if the bride is a golfer and has a number of friends or relatives who golf, consider holding the shower at a golf club and carry the them through the party (an indoor putting contest, etc.) If the course is open, consider a golf tournament shower (or a stag and doe.)

You can do the same thing at a tennis club or a bowling alley. If the bride plays on, say, a softball team, consider a team theme, with the shower at where ever the team goes after the games.

Regardless of where a shower is held, there are lots of other themes to choose from, including:

A "Memory Shower": Each guest could be invited to briefly relate a special memory she has of the bride-to-be. Gifts could be based on that memory, or on how the bride has changed.

Wine and Cheese Shower: The bride and her guests can enjoy a selection of different wines and cheeses. Games could include having participants try to guess what type of wine they are sampling. Gifts could follow the theme of entertaining or the kitchen.

Kitchen Shower: A kitchen shower can be among the most practical for a bride-to-be. There are countless items that can be given as gifts.

Room of the House Shower: Each guest is assigned a different room. Each will then bring a gift that is appropriate for that room. Add imaginary rooms if you have a large number of people coming to the shower. For example, the "room" where glasses are stored; the "room" where towels are stored, etc.

Time Shower: Each guest will be given a different time of day and their gift will have to be for that time. For example, one guest may have 5 o'clock in the afternoon while another may have 5 o'clock in the morning.



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Skimping on the invitations can produce disastrous results for the wedding party

Skimping on wedding invitations can have serious, even disastrous, consequences, as fans of Seinfeld know all too well.

In one of the more outrageous episodes of that quintessential '90's situation comedy, the fiance of the character George Costanza succumbs to toxic poisoning after licking shut one too many cheap envelopes while sending out wedding invitations.

Buying the wrong materials may not necessarily impair you physically, but it may do so socially.

What happens if you send out invitations without an RSVP in a self-addressed stamped envelope, for instance? One of the effects can be that far more people than you expect -- and that you ordered food for -- show up at the reception.

It's best to use the same kind of stationery (paper weight, style and colour) for everything and know the number of pieces you require before ordering.

Planning is the key. Give yourself plenty of time to address the envelopes and receive the replies. If an invitee hasn't responded by two weeks before the wedding, delegate someone to contact the guest. Always put a return address on the envelope to ensure its return if the invitation is misaddressed.

One way to keep track of who's coming is to lightly pencil numbers on the back of the response cards before you send them out. If you receive a card without a name attached, you will be able to match that number with a reference list.

You don't have to mention the parents of the bride and groom by name in invitations (as in, the bride is the daughter of...) to avoid dilemmas faced by couples whose parents are no longer together, or there are step-parents involved, etc.

As to those RSVPs, protocol experts say it's best to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with them to avoid any impressions of cheapness -- as well as to avoid having more people show up than you expect.

Some other rules to follow:

*The inner envelope always carries the last name only, with no address: i.e., Mr. and Mrs. Jones.

*Each additional adult member of the family should receive a separate invitation.

*When young children are being invited to the ceremony and reception, address the invitations this way: Mr. and Mrs. Richard Jones, Robert and Mary.

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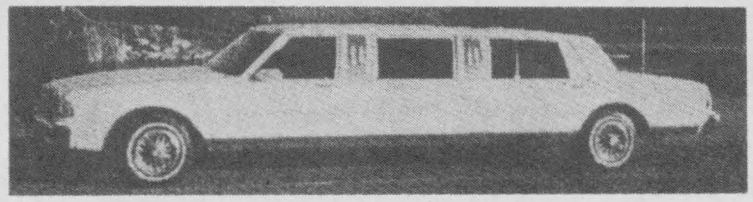

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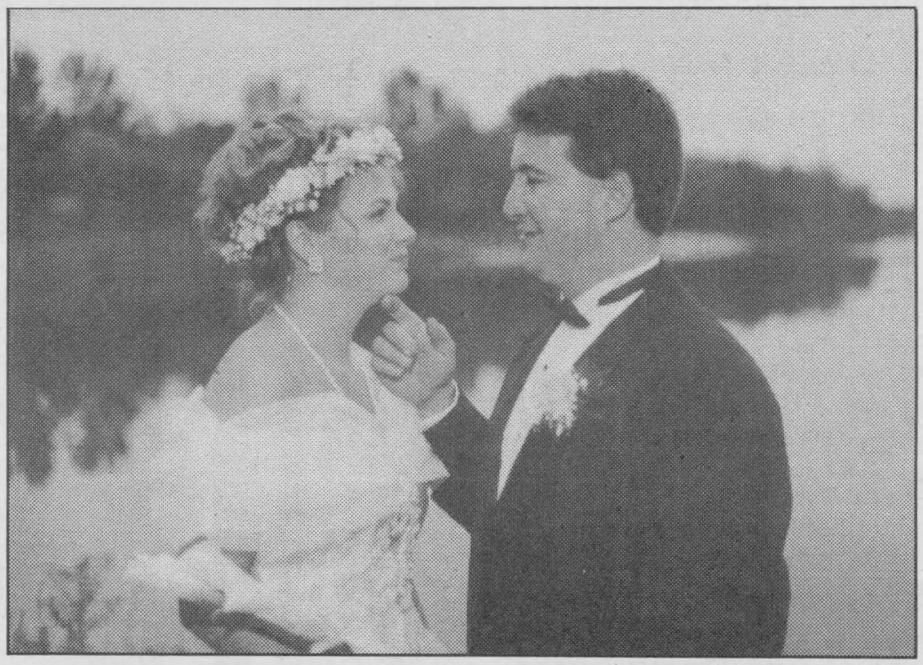

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Remarriage can be twice as nice for both bride & groom

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

One of the greatest joys of remarriage is the opportunity to get another chance at love. Ask a second-time-rounder how she feels about remarriage and you will in all probability be greeted with an unabashed grin. The reason being that there is a trousseau filled with special joys that a second time marriage brings with it. It is just not that starting out, but it can be more rewarding. And that is what it is all about.

Second-time-rounders are smarter and wiser, therefore, you choose a mate for better, deeper reasons. You learn who the person is, what his values are, what he is like underneath and what kind of long term companion he will make.

Many first-time spouses expect that once they are married, every dream will come true, their every wish fulfilled. But this has little to do with making a marriage work. Speaking from thirty years experience, it can be noted that marriage is a job, perhaps the most demanding a couple will have. It is also a two-way street, and both parties must be deeply committed if it is to work. The man you marry need not only be your lover and your husband, but also your very best friend in the whole world. Someone said that opposites attract, but you and your spouse need a multitude of similar interests on which to build a relationship that can endure. Time alone, even after children come along is important to a marriage and being willing to admit you are wrong can go a long way to creating an atmosphere that will allow your marriage to grow. A walk along a familiar path or a few minutes out of your busy day will certainly do wonders for you and your spouse. You both need to feel a sense of worth, you need to be appreciated, afterall we all have special talents and abilities and when they shine, so do we. A vital ingredient to a good marriage is that both parties respect one another.

This is not to say there will not be disagreements along the way, or problems that seem unsurmountable. Too often we tend to make a game out of these and a certain behaviour pattern can become routine. Learning that games get you no place helps a marriage as does learning to listen and be patient. Talk things through rather than tossing accusations and lecturing never amount to any thing good. Talking things out in a calm and controlled manner will benefit both. Not trying to be critical or hurtful is an advantage as well.

Back to those second-timers, who may find themselves thrown into the world of singles when a spouse passes. A scary situation, the singles scene can be lonely. When you remarry, you realize that a commitment is not just about saying "I love you" but is a long term investment that involves some compromise and concern for the other person as well as for yourself and coupling these with a respect and appreciation for the life you will share, many second-timers tend to work harder at their relationship to make it last. Too often young couples find it easier to walk away and forget about what could have been.

Taking the walk down the aisle the second time brings with it some questions and concerns that were just not present the first time down there...if there are children involved, they need to be the first told about your plans to remarry. For a small, intimate gathering invitations by phone, telegram or handwritten notes are fine. You can wear white, these days anything goes and that holds true for style as well. When choosing a gown, be certain to choose one that suits the setting and tone of your wedding. A tea-length dress will be fine for an afternoon wedding; while a sleek beaded gown is perfect for a sophisticated evening celebration. It is best to pass on a veil. A beaded comb, a wreath of fresh flowers, or a satin bow are good choices instead. And above all, take time for a honeymoon...you both deserve it and need it.

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Golden Anniversary celebrated with the ones you Love

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

A few short months ago the family gathered to celebrate fifty years of marriage for mother and dad. Not only were the children and grandchildren there, but the cousins, nieces and nephews and some close friends, for without friends what are we?

A social time to gab and hug, to offer best wishes and to regain old acquaintances all presented themselves. A hot cup of tea and a sweet treat and the presentations...the Township, the Province, the Country, afterall fifty years of marriage is quite an accomplishment.

Starting out as youngsters, my parents have endured a pile of hardships, of long hours of work to provide for us and of jobs that were less than glamorous to provide a home for us. Five of us came along to enhance their lives and make things a bit wild and crazy at times, four boys and a girl. I was lucky, I think to have been born first. The teasing was not too unbearable!!

Turning a house into a home takes a lot of love and a load of perspiration, whether from working on the structure or from worrying about the everyday little things that keep everything on track. How my mother took care of all of us, plus a barnful of animals and then raised Boxer dogs to sell, killed our own beef and chickens, raised pigs and still found time to drive the schoolbus for dad, take a dump truck to the pit for him and draw a load of sand on a Saturday afternoon, ensure that each of us was well nourished and dressed appropriately for the weather, I'll never understand. Baking pies and perserves, gardening, teaching us how to accomplish a task or playing euchre, she was never too tired to listen or offer advice. He worked on the highways in the winter sanding and salting until all hours and then could come home to a disaster and deal with it in a calm and cool manner. Whether shovelling coal or digging a basement, building a laneway or a house, he found time to teach each of us what we might need to know later in life.

How among all the trials and tribulations of family life they found any time for themselves or one another is beyond my comprehension, but there is no doubt they were able to do it and do it in style. We all grew up and have families of our own, all live within a stones' throw of our folks and try to stop by at least once a day to see how they are making out.

They taught us so many things, above all to love one another and even when we disagree, we come back to their teachings and somehow make our way through the tough times.

They taught us all that when you marry, it is for life. They showed us by example that even after fifty years, all the tears and the smiles; the good and the bad, they could stuck it out. A sprinkle of religion and a large dose of love has held them like glue. They are not the couple who never quarrels, they also showed us this side of the coin, but they try to have at least one kiss for the other every day and a smile that radiates between the two of them. It is not at all difficult to see that they are as happy now as they must have been when they married so many years ago. Perhaps the one thing that has grown throughout the relationship is their respect for one another and what they have worked towards. Their love is much deeper now than it ever was.

A heart attack, a by-pass, medical emergencies, scares that caused pain, losses that can never be regained (a son gone all too young, parents and friends drifting away and then passing on), events that came and went, family history of fun and hurt...it is all there like a book to peruse. The important thing is they endured and they will continue to be strong, to guide not only their children but their grandchildren along life's roadway. Eager to share their knowledge and abilities with others, they are very selfless. Their faith in one another is steadfast and true and they are loyal to one another.

They laugh together and they

Please turn to page 7



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Picture perfect bride and groom in the backyard.

Traditions...

Wedding cake...

Beginning in early Roman times, the cake has been a special part of the wedding celebration. A thin loaf was broken over the bride's head at the close of the ceremony to symbolize fertility. The wheat from which it was made, symbolized fertility and the guests eagerly picked up the crumbs as good luck charms. The couple was not considered valid until they ate together.

Today the bride and groom feed each other a piece of cake as a sign of unity.

During the middle ages, it became tradition for the couple to kiss over a small cluster of cakes. The groom's cake is often rich chocolate or fruit to ensure fertility. Later a clever baker decided to amass all these small cakes together, covering them with frosting. Thus the modern tiered cake was born.

Continued

Anniversary

continued from page 6

cry together. They enjoy being a team and are an excellent combo, no matter what they face. They share everything and they find comfort in the small things in life...a Ford for dad and a flower garden for mother. Whether out snowmobiling or taking the dog to the vet, they are together. While he watches the races on the tube, she reads a good book. She creates a flower arrangement while he arranges for a hose to be delivered to fix the backhoe. They are together a large part of the time and yet seem like they have been apart for hours everytime you drop by. They have something rare and special between them. They know what it takes and are not afraid to work it through.

I am proud of them and what they have accomplished, I hope the thirty years I have shared with my other half can grow into some semblance of what they have.

Happy 50th folks and many more!!



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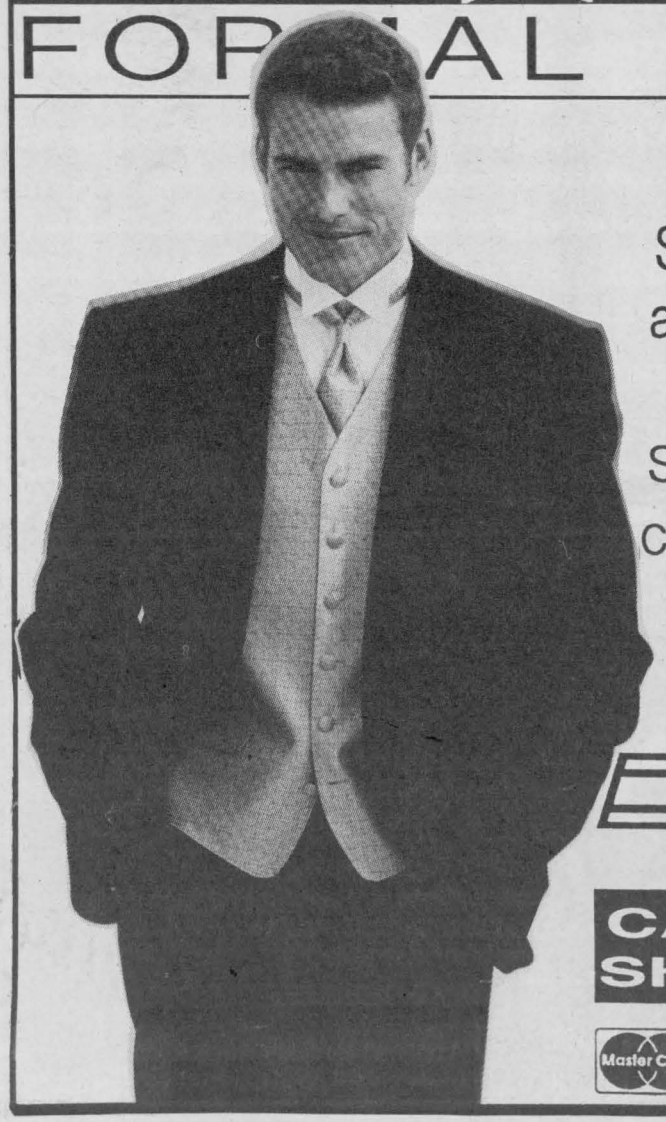

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Fashion options for the bridal party

The bride is the central focus of a wedding, so co-ordinating the look of the bridal party is all-important. The word "co-ordinating" kept popping up when we checked with different sources.

"I've always tried to do a wedding party where everything flows, where nothing is too much of a contrast to the bride and takes away from the bride," says Carol Sefton, a bridal salon manager.

An online advice site, A Wedding Assistant, notes that the only thing the women have in common is their close relationship with the bride or groom, so when it comes to organizing a co-ordinated look for the bridesmaids, "you'll have to consider that each woman may wear a different size and more importantly, have her own sense of style and beauty."

The experts we checked with agreed that making fashion and beauty plans well in advance of the wedding is essential.

Choosing dresses for the bridal attendants can follow the same procedure as that for choosing a bridal gown, but there's that one major exception: you have to consider the preferences and size limitations of every bridesmaid.

Once the bride has chosen her attendants, she should discuss with them what type of dress they prefer, and then make a decision on a consensus basis. Since the attendants will generally be paying for their own dresses, they should be able to end up with something each will enjoy wearing.

Hosting a casual get-together so the bridesmaids can meet each other, brainstorm about wedding ideas and talk about wedding styles is essential. Here, the bride can get an idea of their tastes and budgets.

A Wedding Assistant advises that being up front about what you will pay for and what you expect them to cover will avoid misunderstandings or hurt feelings later on.

If the bride is aware that one of the bridesmaids is having severe financial problems and her own family can not assist, the bride and groom should discuss ways to discretely assist the bridesmaid with her wedding-related expenses. If you are able to offer assistance, do so, but do not insist that the money be accepted.

If any of your bridesmaids finds the financial responsibilities too much, don't pressure her," says A Wedding Assistant. "If you can't help her with the cost, tell her that you still value her participation and give her a role to play, either in the ceremony or wedding planning, that does not require her to be a member of the wedding party."

Clothing for bridesmaids usually "follows the style of the bride's dress and they complement the bride -- it's her day." says Sefton. The advice is similar for the flower girls, where again you're looking for the same fabric and style as the bride, but they should be dresses "that are the most affordable for the mother who's buying the dress."



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