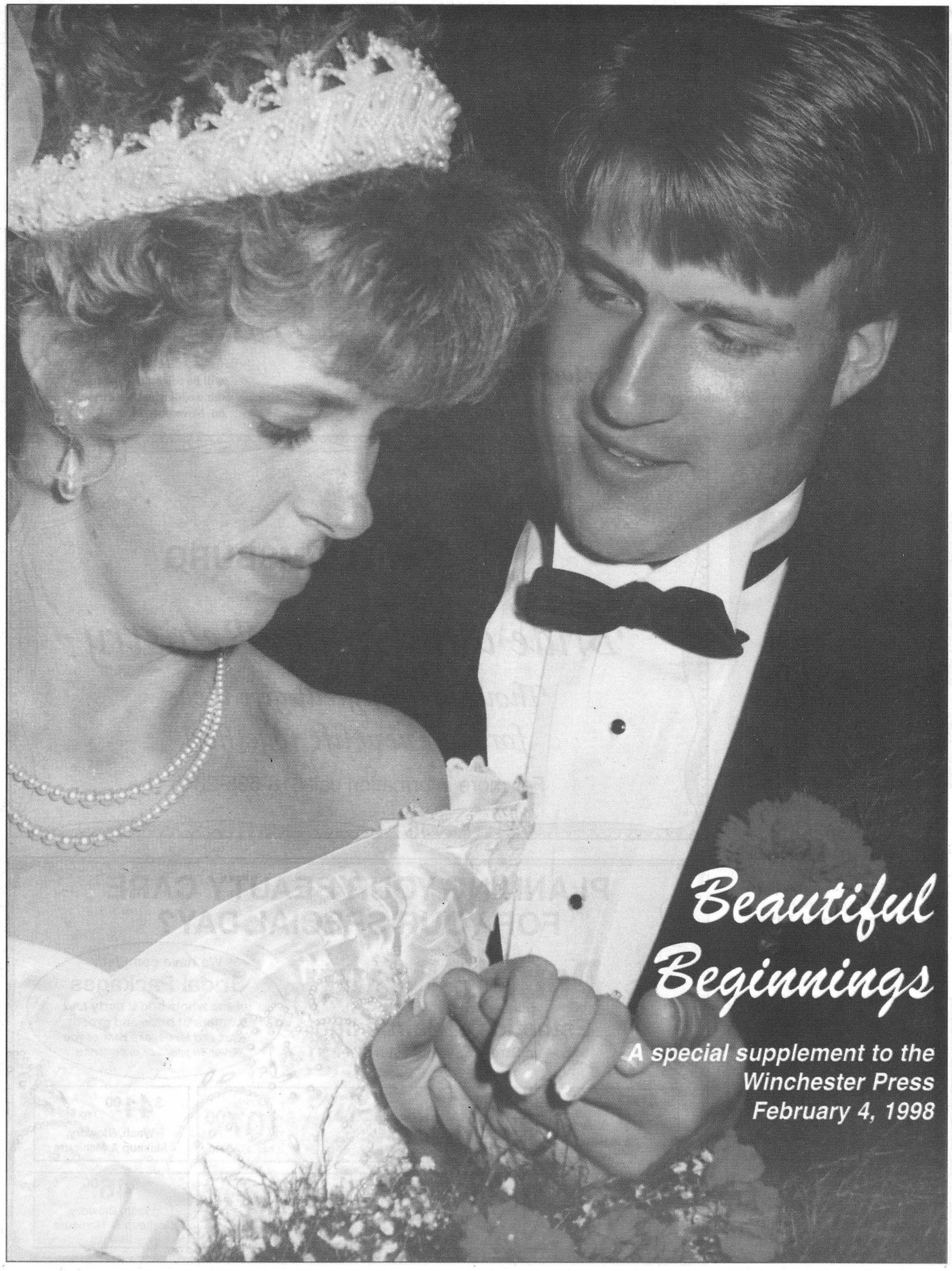
Beautiful
Beginnings
A special supplement to the
Winchester Press
February 4, 1998



Helen (Peggy) and George Wright

will be celebrating their 56th wedding anniversary
on May 16, 1998



Marion and Roy Hart

will be celebrating their 56th wedding anniversary
on August 17, 1998



Clarence and May Gelette

will be celebrating their
66th wedding anniversary
on November 24, 1998

Anniversarys



George and Shirley Cooper

Their family would like you to help them celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary at the Matilda Community Hall (Dixons Corners) on **Saturday, February 7, 1998, 8 pm to 1 am.**

Everyone welcome • Best Wishes only

Music by Runnin' On Empty

Our cover

The bride and groom gracing our cover are Aron and Darlene Sherrer, who were married June 7, 1997 in Winchester. Darlene is the daughter of Nadene Harper and the late Reg Harper of Winchester. Aron is the son of Roy and Pam Sherrer of Mountain.

This photo appears courtesy of Heather Cooke Erwin, Lasting Impressions Photography.

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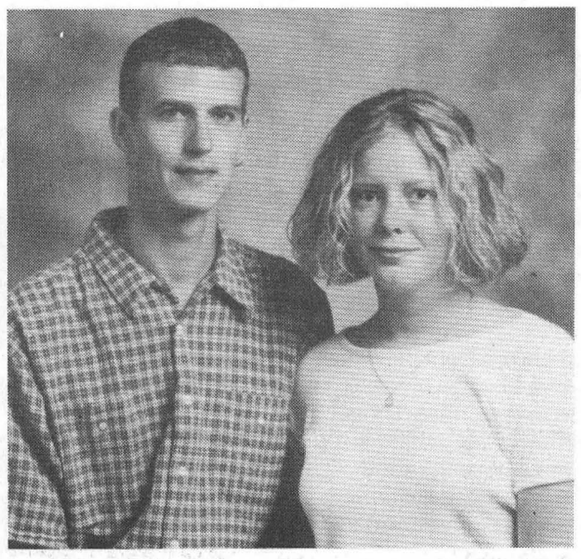
Forthcoming Marriages



McBain–Foster

Sherry and Robert are pleased to announce their upcoming wedding to be held Saturday, July 11 in the Anglican Parish of Chesterville, followed by an open reception at South Mountain Agricultural Hall. Sherry is the daughter of Theresa and the late Vincent McBain. Robert is the son of Catherine Foster of Sooke, B.C. and the late Myles Birket (Abby) Foster.



Castle–Geertsma

Harry and Bonnie Castle of Winchester are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Wendy, to Daniel Geertsma, son of Josie Dikschei of Greely and Homer and Teena Geertsma of Chesterville. The wedding will take place in Winchester on July 4, 1998.



Booth–Hall

Brian and Freda Booth are pleased to announce the engagement of their oldest daughter Lisa to Greg Hall, son of Barbara Thompson and Bill Hall of Surrey, B.C. Lisa and Greg will be married in the Toronto temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on April 24, 1998.

Choosing a bridesmaid gown

You've heard it before: "I know you'll be able to wear my bridesmaid's dress again." Sounds promising, but you're skeptical. That is, until you see that the bride has selected something with just the right amount of fashion and classic detailing, and it's a dress that makes you feel like it's your party she's giving!

Can one dress really take on a full social calendar? Donna Morgan, the designer behind her namesake label, has some advice for choosing a versatile bridesmaid dress.

"When selecting dresses for your bridal party, think classic shapes — with trims, but not overly trendy. You want to look back at those pictures and for it all to seem timeless," notes Morgan. "A look that flatters any shape, has detailing that adds interest, with fabric that moves easily — guarantees that your wedding group will feel as good as you do on the big day!"

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Starkey offers casual approach

by Sandy Bierworth
Press staff

One of the most important parts of planning a wedding is choosing the right photographer. Leora Starkey, of the new Silver Springs Studios in Winchester, offers some advice to help the decision be a little easier. She opened her studio on Nov. 29 last year, and finds her casual approach to photography is an asset to her business.

"I was really busy right off the bat," she said. "I shoot everything, like travel, sports, families and portraits and weddings. Having a studio right in town is handy for a lot of families who want a picture, but find it's a big hassle to go all the way into the city for a half-hour photo shoot. And with weddings, I try to do a maximum of half an hour of posed photos, because people get bored of posing any longer than that.

Here are some tips Starkey offers to help find the right photographer for your special day. A good photographer, she says, will not only ensure your precious memories are preserved, he or she will also put everyone at ease and help your wedding day proceed smoothly.

1. Book as early as possible, but remember that a non-refundable deposit is almost always required.

2. Ask family and friends for recommendations to help narrow down your list of studios to visit.

3. Choose someone with whose personality you are comfortable, since you will be sharing your special day with him or her. Make sure you meet the photographer who will actually be shooting your wedding, not an associate.

4. Ask to see photos from previous weddings to see if the style of photographs are to your taste. Try not to evaluate the flowers or outfits, just the quality of the photograph itself.

5. Know how much you are willing to spend. Most studios offer a variety of packages and can tailor the coverage to suit your budget. Be reasonable though, you can't get Cadillac quality on a Hyundai budget.

6. Don't rely on friends and family alone to take pictures. It's a big responsibility and will mean that they won't be able to simply relax and enjoy the wedding. And if their photos don't turn out, your relationship could end up very strained. Suggest instead that your friends and family take candids at the reception and send you doubles, and let a professional take the important photos.

7. Video coverage of your wedding is also an option. Most studios either offer this service or can recommend someone who does.

8. Make sure you understand the terms of the contract. It is important that you know if the engagement photo is included, if you keep the proofs, how much albums and extra prints will cost, and when the payments are due.

9. When you get the pictures, remember that the copyright belongs to the photographer. That means you aren't allowed to copy them in any way without the photographer's permission.

10. A week or so before the wedding, call the studio to confirm dates, times, and places, and inform them of any last-minute changes.

Finally, remember to have some fun on your wedding day. Not only will the photos better reflect your happiness, but your memories will be that much more special.

Silver Springs Studios is open 9 am to 5 pm, Wednesday through Saturday. Monday and Tuesday are left open for photo shoots 'on location', such as a family portrait taken in your own home. While appointments are not required at Silver Springs, short notice is appreciated, said Starkey.

For more information, call Silver Springs Studios at 774-4073.



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Do your homework before gown shopping

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

WINCHESTER — "It's the bride's special day, and if she's not happy, it will show in her photographs," says Kim Link, owner of Classique Bridals, south of Winchester.

Link's philosophy is that, no matter how beautiful a dress looks on the bride, she has to be comfortable and happy with the way it feels.

"First of all, the type of dress you want depends on how formal your wedding is going to be," Link says. "Then we ask what style you have in mind and we look for a dress to suit your body type."

She adds, "I can tell if she likes it by the look on the face of the bride-to-be when she tries it on."

Today's wedding gowns tend to be more informal, plainer, and therefore less expensive, Link says.

"It's a sign of the times. Weddings aren't as large as they were in the 1980s, and the prices are going down to reflect that," she explains.

If you are a bride planning to visit a boutique to try on dresses, Link's first words of advice are: "Don't bring too many people with you when you try on the dresses. You end up with too many differing opinions, and it's just confusing."

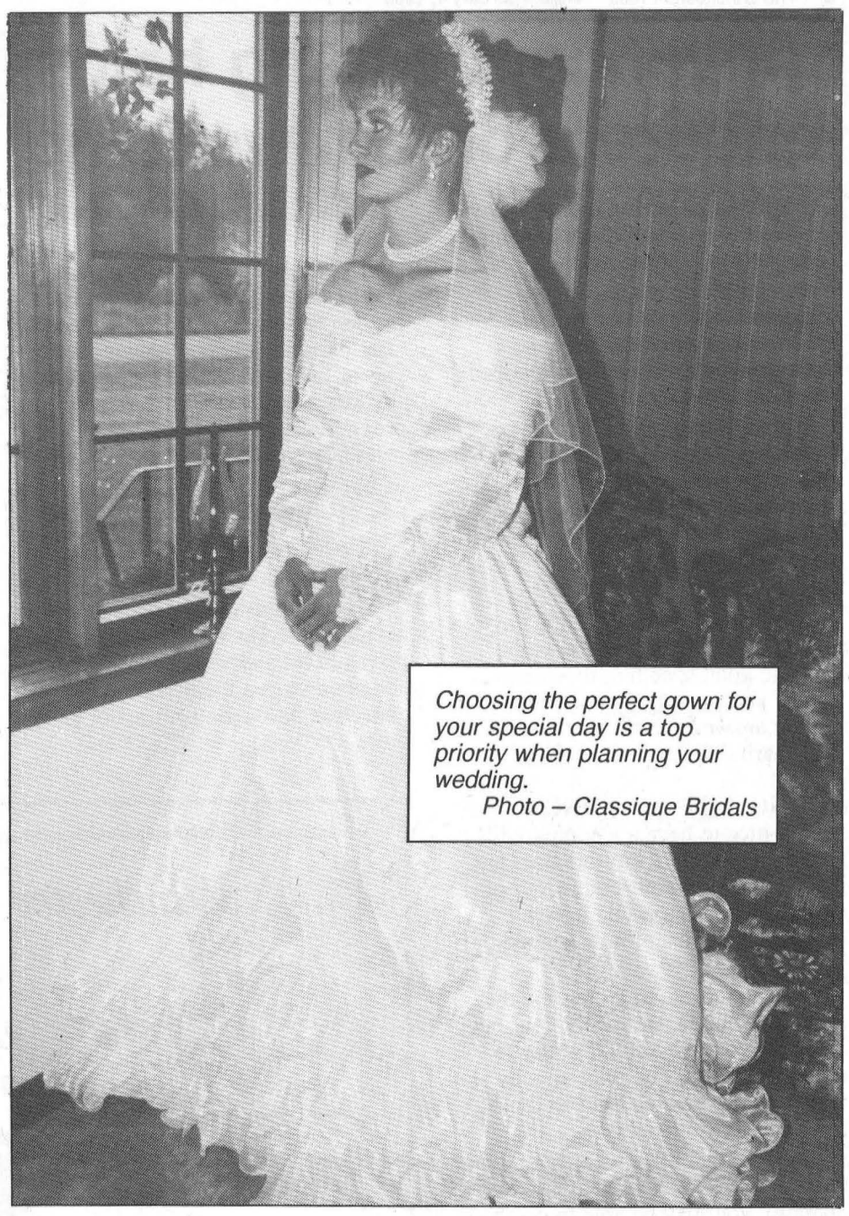
She also advises bringing along magazine photographs of dresses that you love, to give the bridal gown consultant something to work with in helping to find the perfect gown for you.

There are many things to think about when choosing a bridal gown.

"Basically, we're trying to create an image," Link says. "Fabric matters. A matte fabric is much more slimming than a shiny fabric. And sleeves can help to make you look taller or shorter. Sleeves that stop at the shoulders make you look shorter."

You should order your dress six to nine months ahead of your wedding date, although, Link says, you may want to order it as much as a year ahead if you want to pay for it in installments.

"My advice is, look through magazines, do some homework before you go shopping," Link says. "And be flexible. Go into your fitting with an open mind. Then, go home and think about it. Don't make a snap decision unless you're absolutely sure about what you want."



Choosing the perfect gown for your special day is a top priority when planning your wedding.
Photo – Classique Bridals

Today's bridal registry not just china, crystal

Move over china patterns, silverware and crystal stemware.

Although these traditional wedding gifts still top bridal-registry lists, brides and grooms of the '90s register for items that will help them in their everyday lives.

Changing with the times, bridal registries are starting to reflect these new lifestyle priorities.

Today, they have expanded to include more nontraditional items, like sporting goods, artwork, furniture and electronics. Equally surprising is the rise in those items geared towards working from home. With the increase in home-based businesses, items such as answering machines are often now included in gift registry lists.

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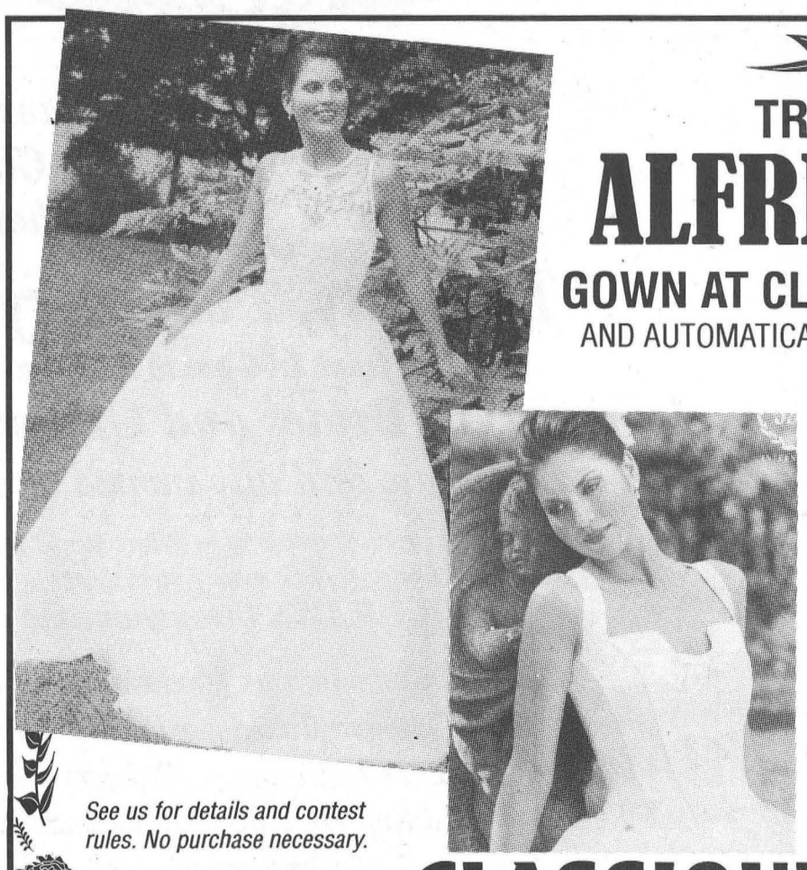

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Advance planning helps ensure a dream wedding

It's all about saving money - even the wealthy are careful not to splurge outrageously in these times.

Of course, there are certain occasions in which money, and a lot of it, is necessary in order to make a lasting, memorable and forever-treasured impression.

Birthdays, holidays, promotions - all are very special and important, but also occur more than once in a lifetime.

The singular glorious ceremony that is celebrated and treasured forever is your wedding.

And, although the wedding day is a precious one and perfection is the ultimate goal, spending thousands of dollars and running yourself ragged is not the answer; it will only result in post-marital blues.

SAVING, NOT SKIMPING

It is nice to have a wedding with traditional touches, but this does not mean stretching your budget out of bounds just because you have a preconceived idea of how a wedding "should be."

Don't be afraid to go against the laws of etiquette and invent your own ideas for your wedding in order to reduce the impact on your already slim wallet, your valuable time, and most importantly, your sanity.

If you gather all of your family and friends (and somehow get them to co-operate), you may be able to come up with some money-saving ideas for your wedding.

For example, outside weddings or receptions are absolutely beautiful, and if someone close to you has a large back yard or piece of land, it can be decorated lavishly enough to be compared to a garden park or private grounds that some people spend big money to rent.

How about an evening wedding?

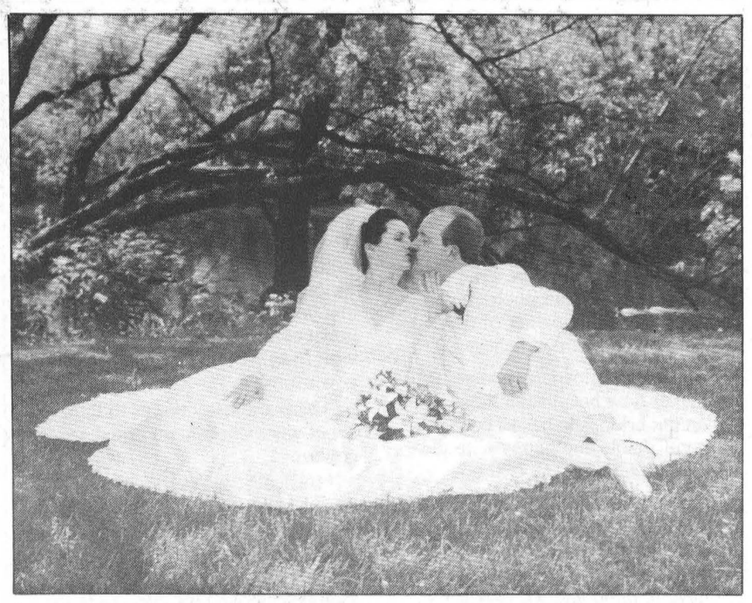
By holding your ceremony at dusk, a romantic, elegant and memorable atmosphere is created.

An evening wedding also enables you to stretch your money a bit further, as some couples have a small after-party with hors d'oeuvres for the guests, and a dinner gathering for the wedding party and family later in the evening.

This may save the money that would have been spent on an elaborate hall.

A wedding gown does not have to only be worn once.

There are beautiful gowns that have been designed in ways that allow for pieces of the fabric to be cut and/or added on so that the dress can be converted into a semi-formal or party dress.



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Pearls: The first and favorite wedding gem

Like most glowing brides-to-be, you probably dream of the perfect wedding. An eloquent exchange of vows, a beautiful gown, a scrumptious cake and a handsome groom are all elements of any memorable wedding ceremony. However, as most women who have graced the halls of matrimony will tell you, their wedding ensemble would not have been complete without a lustrous strand of cultured pearls.

Since a cultured pearl necklace often adds a finishing splash of elegance to any wedding gown, they are often a bride's gem of choice on her special day. Although pearls have become synonymous with brides, most people don't realize how and when that special bond was formed, or why pearls have become a staple of any bride's wardrobe.

Looking back in time, you can understand how the long-lasting relationship between pearls and brides has come about and how it will survive for many years to come.

One of the earliest relationships between brides and pearls is illustrated in ancient Hindu writings more than 3,000 years before the birth of Christ. According to these tomes, Krishna, the most revered god of Hindu worship, dove to the depths of the sea to collect a single, perfect pearl as a gift for his daughter on her wedding day. The gift of a pearl symbolized the purity and truth of the wedding bond.

Other cultures that associated pearls with brides include the ancient Greeks. They believed pearls could prevent brides from crying and would ensure marital bliss. Another story in Greek mythology tells how a strand of pearls was given by Hymen, the god of marriage, to princess Psyche on her wedding day.

During the dark ages, knights returning home from the Crusades often brought back pearl gifts for their "fair maidens" to wear on their wedding day. At the time, pearls were believed to embody the virtues of chastity and devotion.

Throughout the Middle Ages and into the Renaissance, pearls were used exclusively in wedding ceremonies by European nobility. Weddings in the royal families of Burgundy and Tudor were described as being "awash in a sea of pearls." Serving as emblems of regality and honor, the lustrous gems would retain a special place in bridal history forever.

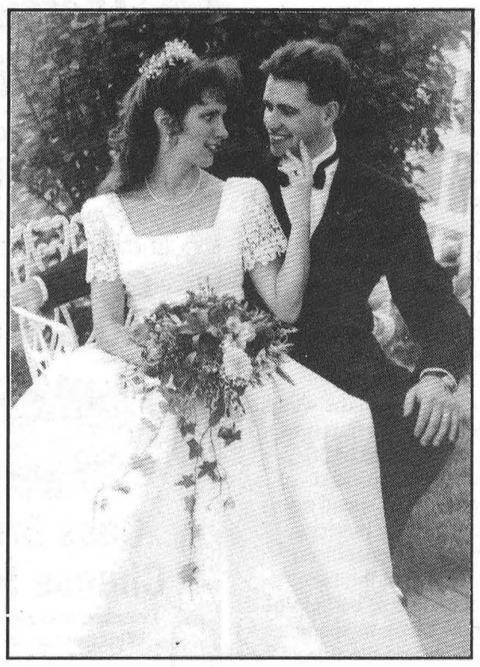

Photo – Studio Berube

With the advent of cultured pearls in the 1920s, what had once been a gem reserved for only the powerful and wealthy, now would be available for all brides. According to tradition passed down through the centuries, a gift of pearls usually was bestowed upon the bride by either her groom or his family. This simple token is a wish of love, good fortune and a long, happy marriage.

For those seeking to buy a gift of cultured pearls for the bride, it is important to choose a piece of jewelry that will last a lifetime and bring many years of joy.

Since cultured pearls are products of nature, they are seldom, if ever, perfect. Every pearl grown by an oyster has its own individual identity. However, when choosing a strand of cultured pearls, it is important to keep several quality points in mind.

Probably the most important aspect, as far as quality is concerned, is the luster of the pearl. Luster is the clear shine on the surface of the pearl. It should be clear enough to reflect the images of objects near the pearl.

Another important factor is the surface of the pearl. It should be relatively free of damaging blemishes that appear as cracks, bumps or pits.

Finally, all the pearls in a strand should be closely matched in terms of color, size and shape. They should all combine together to give an appearance of uniformity within the necklace.

Just as cultured pearls celebrate the bride, they also celebrate the wedding. They make fine gifts for the bridal party.

Bridesmaids will be delighted with gifts of inexpensive, yet lovely, freshwater cultured pearl necklaces or bracelets, while cultured pearl tie tacks, tie bars, cuff links or shirt studs are handsome tributes to the men in the wedding party.

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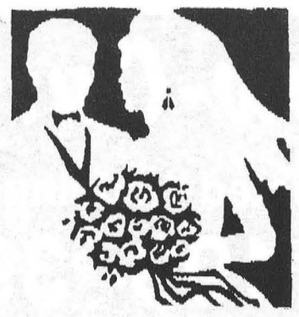

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The four C's: The key to buying a diamond ring

The diamond engagement ring has been a symbol of love and romance since 1477 when Archduke Maximilian of Austria gave Mary of Burgundy a gold ring set with a diamond as a token of his love.

Today, the tradition of the diamond engagement ring continues. According to a new consumer survey, 70 percent of all brides-to-be receive one.

A diamond is an expression of individuality. Just as love is unique, no two diamonds are alike. Each diamond has its own personality and sparkle.

Therefore, when purchasing a diamond engagement ring, it is important to become an informed consumer.

A little knowledge can go a long way to help unearth the best-quality diamond within a budget. Understanding diamonds requires knowledge of the four C's: cut, color, clarity and carat weight. These four variables are key to answering the elusive question as to why two diamonds of equal size may not be of equal value.

• Cut — Although diamonds can be cut in several shapes, like oval, marquise, pear or round, it is the quality of the cut that gives the stone its brilliant sparkle. Light is reflected best when all of the facets are perfectly proportioned.

• Color — The best color is no color. A totally colorless diamond best allows white light to pass effortlessly through it and be dispersed as rainbows of color.

• Clarity — The term "clarity" refers to a diamond's lack of naturally occurring inclusions, often called "nature's fingerprints," most of which are not visible to the naked eye. The fewer the inclusions, the more valuable the diamond.

• Carat — Carat refers to the weight of the stone. There are 100 points in a carat. Therefore, a diamond of 50 points weighs one-half of a carat.

Deciding how much to spend on a diamond engagement ring is very personal and obviously depends on income. Most people find the two months' salary guideline to be helpful in determining how much to spend. Most importantly, choose the finest-quality diamond affordable, because a diamond engagement ring is a unique symbol of commitment that will be treasured for many years.

To find out how to get the best diamond, consumers should visit a reputable jeweler whom they know and trust.

The diamond engagement ring is an investment in a couple's future and, like love, can grow more precious with time.

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Create a successful party with lively entertainment

The wedding day is one of the most exciting and memorable days in a couple's life. The bride and groom want everything, from the gown to the flowers to the food served at the reception, to be perfect. Most of all, they want the memories of the big day to be special.

The entertainment provided at the wedding reception is critical in determining the success of the event. The choice of music for the reception can make or break the entire party. Regardless of whether you use a live band or disc jockey, lively music and a personable bandleader or DJ can help build a mood and play songs that can get the guests dancing.

Hiring the right band or DJ for your wedding can be confusing. Asking good questions, knowing the right answers and getting all guarantees in writing will ensure the selection of reliable, reputable vendors. The following questions and answers, courtesy of Modern Bride magazine, can help you hire the best musicians for the reception.

1. Can I determine the quality of a band's performance by listening to a tape or viewing its video? If you like the sound on the tape and/or the way the band delivers on video, inquire about where you can see the group play at a showcase, an actual wedding or some other place where it is booked.

2. How can I be certain that the band I book will be the one at my wedding? It is essential to get the name of the band in writing on your contract.

3. Does the orchestra have liability insurance? A reputable company will maintain such coverage.

4. Does the band take breaks? Most bands take a 15-minute break after a 45-minute set. Taped music can be arranged during the breaks or continuous music (at an extra charge) can be planned.

5. Are there additional charges for traveling time, playing during cocktails and overtime? Probably. Ask about that at your initial meeting.

6. Does the band have an extensive song list with selections that appeal to a wide range of guests? A good band will be able to play a range of music that spans the decades.

7. Will the band members wear appropriate attire? Unless otherwise noted, and depending on the formality of the wedding, members should wear black tie.

8. Is there a way I can be sure the amplification will not be deafening? Tell the bandleader or DJ of your concern.

9. Does the bandleader or DJ act as master of ceremonies and coordinate the sequence of events at the reception, and if so, should I meet with mine about this before the wedding? The master of ceremonies is usually the bandleader or DJ, and you should have an in-person meeting to talk over the reception events.

Classic styles make comeback

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

WINCHESTER — A-line styles and empire waists lead the trend in bridesmaids' gowns this year. Also, low-backed gowns and scarves are popular again, according to Pam Whitteker, bridesmaid consultant for CountryBoy in Winchester.

"This year's dresses have more subtle detail," she said. "There are no rhinestones or jewels on the dresses. They're much simpler."

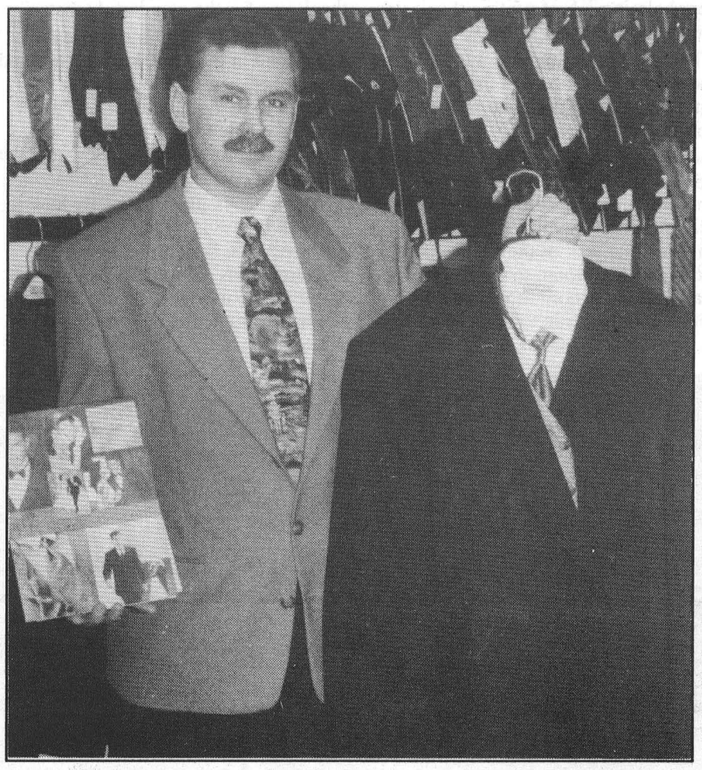
Solid colors reign, although pastels are still in abundance. But, Whitteker said, the trend is toward primary colors such as green, burgundy and royal blue.

"There are a lot of dresses with jackets that are for spring and fall weddings, because couples aren't just choosing the traditional wedding month of June to get married. Weddings go from May through October," she pointed out.

And everything goes. There are few traditional weddings these days, Whitteker said, as more and more couples try to incorporate their own unique tastes into their weddings.

The bride-to-be and her attendants should order the gowns about eight to 12 weeks before the wedding date. It's best to call ahead and make an appointment for a fitting, Whitteker said, and it's advisable that all of the attendants go for the fitting together.

"We advise taking a number of dresses and having everyone try them on," she said. "Trying a dress on gives you the true shape it. You can't tell what it will look like when it's on the hanger. Sometimes the gown can look beautiful on the hanger, but not quite right when you try it on."



The saying "Everything old is new again" is especially true in the line of tuxedos this year. "The old styles are coming back," says Danny Lecours, tuxedo consultant at CountryBoy in Winchester. He holds the special edition cut-away tux with the euro tie, which has become popular again for grooms. Vests are also in vogue this year — full back or open back — with several new colors to choose from.

The trend for mother of the bride and groom dresses is long and straight, Whitteker said. "The styles are very slimming and flattering. And we sometimes even sell bridesmaid gowns to mothers of the bride and groom."

CountryBoy, Whitteker said, is a one-stop shopping place for bridesmaids, mothers of the bride and groom and tuxedos.

They also offer dyeable shoes and accessories, and dying is done on the premises.



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Thank the ones who make the day special

One of the most important tasks that the bridal couple must complete is the overwhelming job of writing thank-you notes to all who sent gifts.

The job of sending these notes is so time-consuming, because they must be written; a verbal thank you is not enough.

Wedding gifts are given to both the bride and groom. When writing a thank-you note, be sure the signature reflects both of them. Writing the notes is not just the task of the bride, so be sure to put the groom to work. One idea is for the groom to write to his friends and the bride to hers. It is fine to sign only one name, so long as the writer says, for example, "Tad and I thank you for the wonderful toaster."

Make sure the gift is specifically mentioned in the note, keeping in mind that monetary gifts should never be referred to by dollar amount. A guest should be able to see that the couple appreciated, as well as remembered the gift.

The note should say exactly how the gift will be used. Additionally, if the gift needed to be returned, either because it was a duplicate or it simply could not be used, never inform the sender; a simple thank you is enough.

Be prompt in sending thank-you notes. Although it is perfectly acceptable to send a thank you up to three months after the wedding, couples should start writing before the wedding for gifts received in advance.

This eliminates a lot of work and informs guests that the gifts were received and not lost during shipping.

Finally, couples should share any special memories they have of their guest from the wedding. Not only will they be thanking the guest for the gift, but most importantly, they'll be thanking them for coming to and celebrating the happy occasion.

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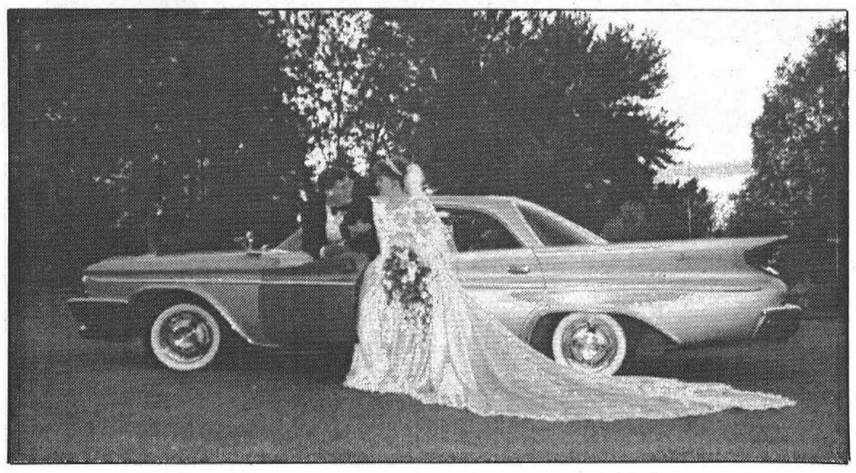

Dave VanBruinessen and Tracy Holliday on their special day.
Courtesy Photo — Wayne LaPrade Photography

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Make your gown — and your memories — last forever by preserving your gown after your wedding day.

Courtesy photo — Wayne LaPrade Photography

Preserve your wedding gown with proper cleaning, storage

You looked through store after store for just the right wedding gown.

After you found it, you spent a few hours getting it adjusted so it fit perfectly — and a few more at the gym to make sure your shape didn't change before your wedding day.

When the bill for the dress and the alterations came you paid gladly, because you knew this gown was everything you had hoped for.

And, right after the wedding, you kicked it off, hung it on a hanger, covered it with a plastic bag and then got on with the rest of your life. That beautiful gown was now out of sight and out of mind.

It's enough to make someone cry.

That someone is probably going to be you. And the tears will probably flow the day you finally decide to take the gown to a drycleaner to be cleaned and, possibly, preserved.

Charles Goodfellow, who owns a drycleaning business in Ottawa, said that neglected wedding gown may now have a spot or a stain on it that can never fully be removed. Not only that, the plastic you covered it with also allowed moisture to oxidize on the dress and turn it yellow.

"A plastic bag is terrible. With any kind of garment, it's best to let the fabric breathe," said Goodfellow.

He recommends brides bring their gown in to be cleaned — and preserved if that's what they want — immediately after the wedding.

"Most of the gowns are of such material that, if any stains get on them, the sooner they are cleaned and preserved, the better. The longer a stain stays on a garment, the more it ages on and the more difficult it can be to remove," he explained.

Gowns can be preserved after they are cleaned. They are wrapped in a blue tissue — which seems to prevent aging and yellowing — and then vacuum-packed in a box with a plastic window. The box should be kept in a cool, dark location where there is low humidity.

The cost ranges from about $90 to several hundred dollars and the gown could last indefinitely.

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Junior elegance

Incorporating a junior bridesmaid into your bridal party is a great way to involve a young person who is at that in-between age – too old to be a flower girl but too young to be a bridesmaid.

Courtesy photo – Classique Bridals

Wedding etiquette for divorced family

With separation and divorce more common in every generation now than it ever was before, weddings have had to evolve to fit the times.

Because no two sets of circumstances seem the same - there are friendly divorces, unfriendly divorces, step-parents and live-in loves - there are no hard and fast rules to follow when planning a wedding.

If there is any rule which applies to divorced parents at a wedding, it is: Try to get along. The rule for brides and grooms is just a little more complicated: Don't try to force your parents to do something they just don't have it in their hearts to do.

Parents may get along well enough to handle the wedding ceremony and the subsequent reception just as if they were still married. If they can, let them do it.

Parents who fight on sight should not be treated as if they were still happily married. This means don't have them share a front pew in the church, don't seat them together at the reception - and don't put them together in a limousine.

Unless there are hard feelings between the bride or groom and a divorced parent, both parents should be invited to the wedding. It is not fair for any guest - even one of the divorced parents - to threaten not to attend if a person they dislike is invited.

Etiquette experts and advice columnists, from Ann Landers to Miss Manners, veto such practice. Their advice: the bride and groom should invite the people they want to their wedding (and possibly, even a few people they don't want) and let the guests decide for themselves if they will attend. Blackmail from invited guests is not permitted.

The role of a divorced parent or a step-parent should be whatever is most natural and comfortable for the bride and groom.

Seating in the church is changed, naturally, if there has been a divorce or if there are step-parents. If the bride has been raised by her mother, it is her mother and step-father (if there is one) who sit in the front pew on the left side of the aisle. Step-brothers and step-sisters from this subsequent marriage are seated with the bride's brothers and sisters.

The bride's grandparents, aunts and uncles on the mother's side, are seated in the pew behind them. The bride's father, whether he escorts her up the aisle or not, sits with his wife and their family in the next pew.

If the bride was raised by her father, much will depend on how close she has remained with her mother and how amicable the divorce was.

If it was a friendly divorce and the bride feels close to her mother, then her mother and her mother's new husband, if there is one, will sit in the front row. If the divorce was less than amicable, her new husband should sit further back.

Her father - and her step-mother if there is one - would then sit in the second row. If the bride hasn't remained close to her mother, then her father and step-mother, if there is one, take the front row.

If the groom's parents have divorced or remarried, the same seating arrangement applies to his family - on the other side of the aisle.

If there is a great deal of bitterness between divorced parents, then second spouses and their children may be seated further back in the church.

In instances of real bitterness, it is best if one of the parents absents themselves from the wedding reception.

As Miss Manners puts it: "Anyone... who feels in danger of spoiling the wedding should decline the invitation."

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Releasing doves adds nice touch to wedding day

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

OTTAWA — Just picture it. You have just said "I do" to the mate of your dreams in a beautiful outdoor wedding, sealed your vows with a kiss, and turn to your guests to be presented as husband and wife. At that moment, you each release a white dove from your hands, signifying the beginning of your life together.

The practice of releasing doves at a wedding or other significant ceremony is not common in this part of the world. A custom in places like the Philippines, the tradition has been adopted in the United States in recent years.

But in the Ottawa area, there is now an opportunity to add a unique touch to your wedding by releasing doves into the sky. It's something that will be remembered by you and your guests for years to come.

It's a nice touch.

And that's what Shirley Jadowski of Gloucester named her company — A Nice Touch.

Jadowski's husband, Rick, has raised homing pigeons as a hobby since he was a teenager. When the Jadowskis released their smaller, white pigeons (doves) at a friend's wedding, everyone was impressed with the effect.

"Of course, it's not for everybody, but having the doves released is unique and different," Jadowski says. "A lot of people find it touching — it's romantic and very symbolic."



A sign of peace and love, doves can be released at a wedding to symbolize the couple starting their new life together. Shirley Jadowski, holding one of her doves, offers this service at A Nice Touch.

Press Photo — Culliton

There are two options for having doves at your wedding, Jadowski says. In one scenario, the bridal couple can release two birds as they finish their vows. Or they can make a bigger production of it, and release a cage full of 20 birds.

"It depends on what you want for your wedding, and where the church is located," Jadowski explains. Releasing doves is appropriate for both an outdoor wedding and a church wedding, as the couple leaves the chapel.

"Doves are a symbol of peace and love," Jadowski says. "Releasing them at your wedding is a symbol of beginning your life together."

For those uninformed about the winged creatures, a dove is a relative of the pigeon, only smaller and whiter. Rick Jadowski trains the birds twice a week, taking them farther and farther away and releasing them, to hone the homing instinct.

"They always return to where they're fed," Jadowski points out.

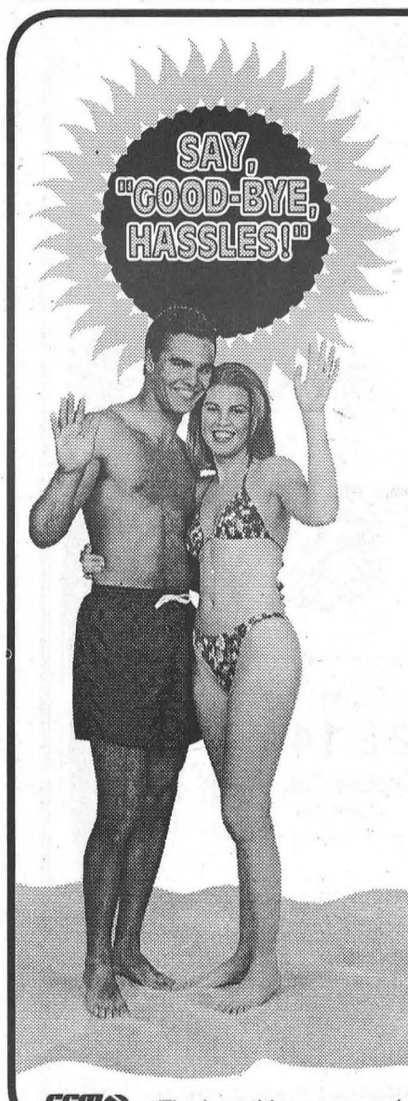
At the moment, the Jadowskis' birds can fly from as far as 100 miles away. Eventually, they will be able to be used for weddings as far away as 600 miles. According to Jadowski, the birds can make it home in one day.

The doves are vaccinated against disease and are fed a variety of food for energy.

And the answer to the most commonly asked question, Jadowski says, is "no".

"In 12 years of raising the birds, one has never pooped on me," she says. She explained that the birds rarely do in flight, and the danger of an unwanted dropping on the bride's gown is highly unlikely.

The Jadowskis have 50 doves, and hope to have up to 80 doves by summertime.



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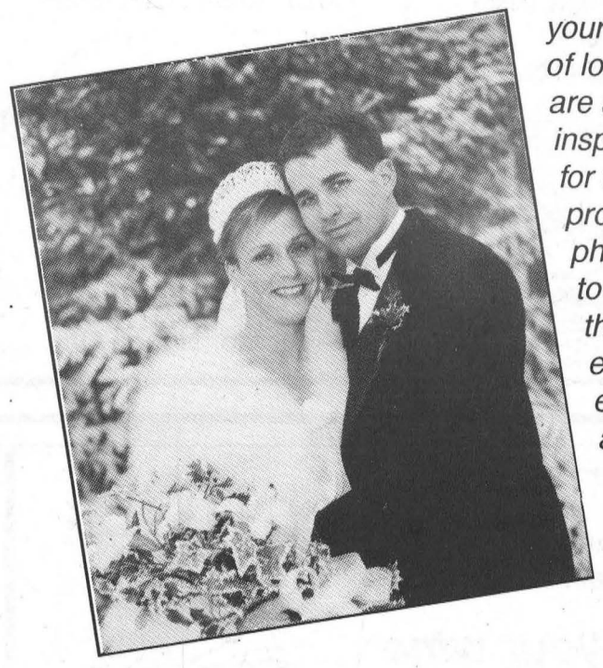

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There are many resorts that will accommodate your combination wedding-honeymoon. Packages are usually available and the location provides a backdrop to your wedding day. Courtesy photo — Studio Berube

Travel agent offers advice

These tips from eastern Ontario travel agent Jennifer Farmer might help planning a honeymoon go smoother.

1. Work only with a travel agent who makes you feel comfortable.

2. If you really want a certain destination then book your honeymoon early. A year in advance isn't too early if getting your choice location means a lot to you.

3. If you're not exactly certain what you want or where you want to go, sit down as a couple and talk about what you both want. Then go in and see your travel agent to see what she can suggest.

4. Things to consider when picking a honeymoon location include: do you want to get a passport (and possibly vaccinations), how much money do you want to spend, do you dislike certain types of foods? Let's face it, if you hate Mexican food you probably wouldn't enjoy honeymooning in that country.

5. Decide if you want a lot of modern conveniences. "If you want hot water 24 hours a day don't go to countries like the Dominican Republic, because you won't get it," said Farmer.

6. Don't eliminate certain types of vacations because of preconceived ideas. Some people, men in particular, shy away from cruises because they think it means getting dressed up all the time, said Farmer. "There are a lot of cruises where you don't have to get dressed up every night," she said.

7. Ask your friends where they have travelled on vacation and if they enjoyed it. But don't feel pressured into taking the same trip someone else took simply because they had a good time. The general location might be good — Europe or the Caribbean — but there are all kinds of little things they wanted or were willing to compromise on that could make it unpleasant for you.

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The final countdown

Checklist helps bride handle final details

After all those months, and even years, of planning, your wedding day has almost arrived. However, with the wedding almost one month away, the final details must be taken care of. You may be driving yourself crazy trying to remember everything that needs to be done, so the ceremony and reception will go off without a hitch.

To ease the tension you may encounter during the next month, Modern Bride magazine offers some helpful tips to ensure that all tasks will be completed, so you can relax and enjoy your wedding day.

THE MONTH BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

• Develop an orderly system of tracking guests' responses.

• Discuss the bachelor party with your fiance. Suggest the event be scheduled at least a week before the wedding day.

• Call the caterer, and finalize the menu. Be sure the cake has been ordered.

• Give your caterer a reliable estimate of the number of guests expected at the reception.

• Confer with the florist to be sure everything is ordered. Confirm the time that flowers will be delivered and decorations will be completed.

• Arrange the transportation schedule for the wedding party.

• Make certain you are insured against damage or loss in transit.

TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE WEDDING

• Set a date with your fiance to get your marriage license.

• Be sure all clothing and accessories for the bridal party are in order.

• Submit your wedding announcement and photograph to the society editor of your local newspaper.

• Change your name on your bank account, Social Security card, license, insurance and other documents if you are assuming your husband's last name.

• Call guests who have not responded to their invitation to ask if they'll be attending.

ONE WEEK BEFORE THE WEDDING

• Confirm ceremony vocalists and musicians, and recheck your musical selections.

• Present a small gift or note of appreciation to friends and relatives who did special favors and made the planning run smoothly.

• Add last-minute acceptances, and phone your caterer with the final guest count.

• Do a final check on details with your florist, caterer, sexton, clergy, musicians and photographer.

• Finalize your honeymoon plans, and begin packing.

ONE DAY BEFORE THE WEDDING

• Have a manicure, pedicure and even a massage to pamper yourself.

• Attend the rehearsal. Review all important duties with the principals in the wedding party.

• Give ushers the list of guests to be seated in the reserved section.

THE WEDDING DAY

• Rest and thoroughly relax in a nice, warm bath.

• Allow plenty of time to dress — about two hours before the ceremony, if possible.

• Have a wonderful wedding, and enjoy every moment.

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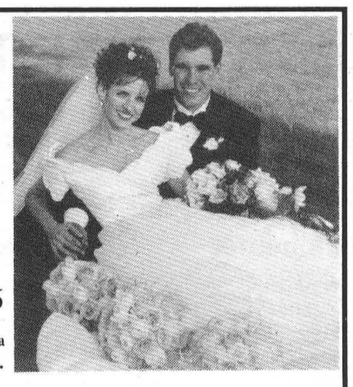

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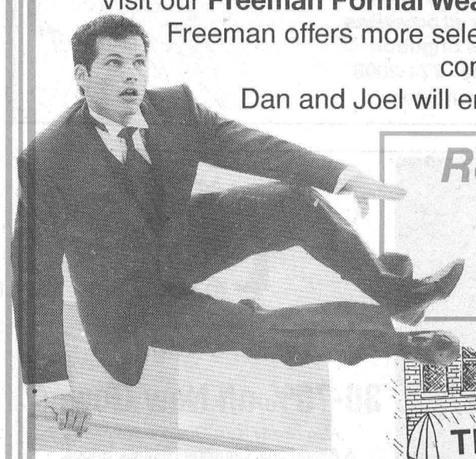

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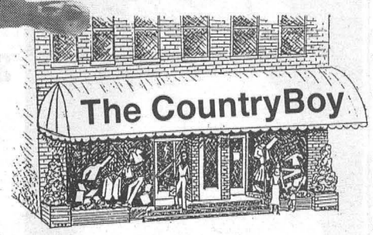

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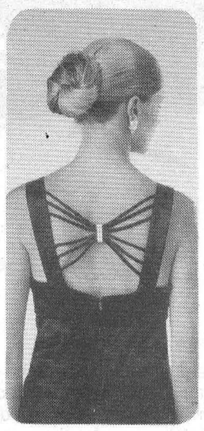

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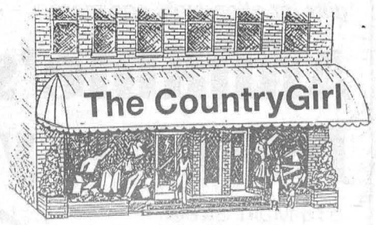

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