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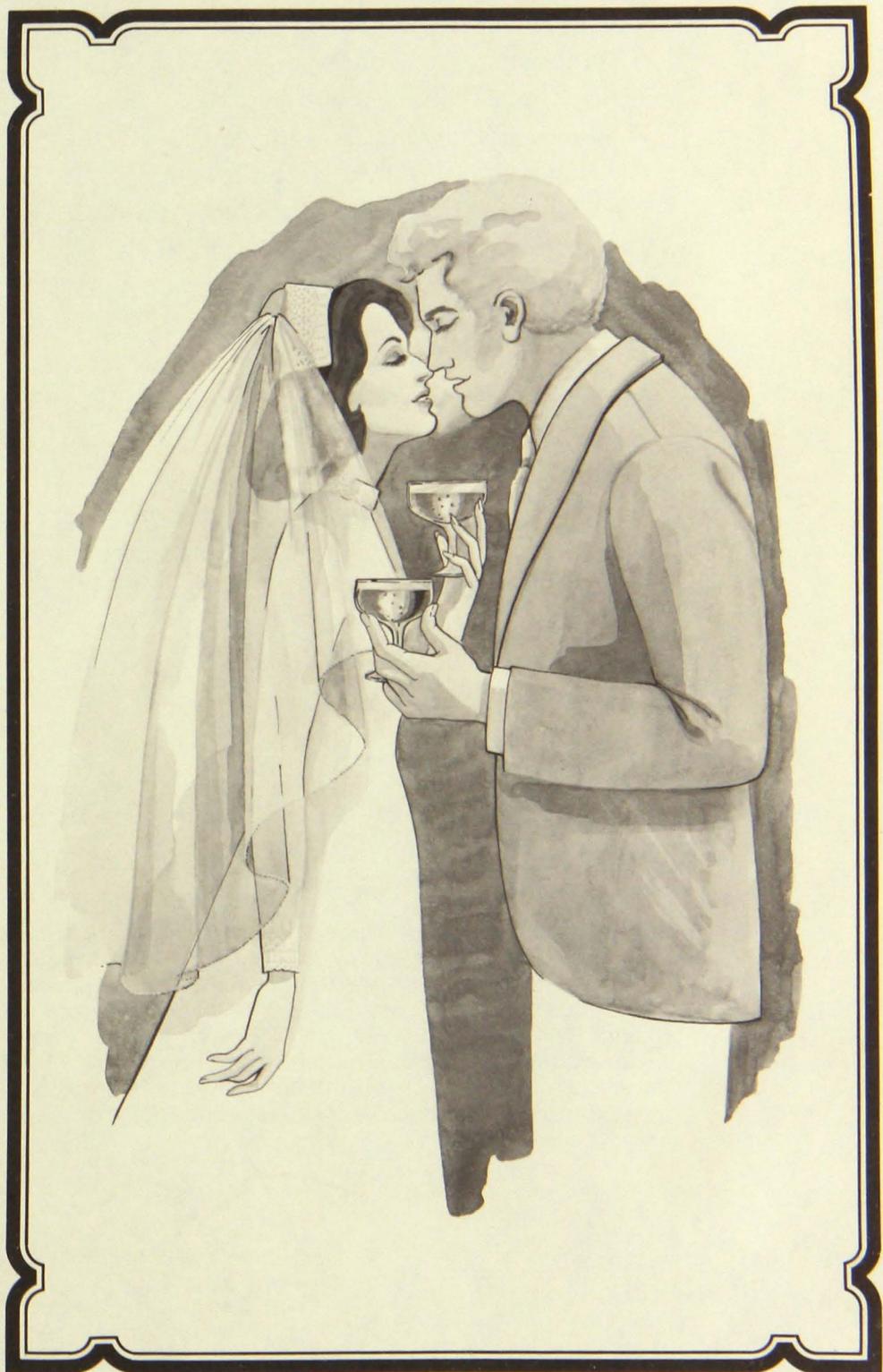
Weddings

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A FOREBODING, ARE YOU READY?

*"When you stand at the helm,
outward bound you will do
so with eyes fixed on the compass
and the stars to guide you
on the course you have set"*

— The Royal Bank of Canada
Monthly Newsletter, "Outward Bound"

"Young people ought to wait a bit before they get married." This is the advice of Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, syndicated medical columnist.

The average couple marries before age 20, but half of them end their marriages in divorce. Dr. Alvarez believes that teenagers are not mature enough for marriage and generally do not have enough income to support themselves. There is a bright note, however. Of the young people who are divorced, 70 percent remarry later and of these second marriages, only one in seven ends in divorce.

Young people constitute a large part of our population so their actions in our society affect many people. One teenage girl about to settle for an early marriage which was discouraged by her parents, remarked arrogantly, "You just don't understand. We are in love." In this instance there wasn't enough money to live on. It did end in divorce and for this girl there was no second marriage.

Dr. Alvarez encourages young people to keep open lines of communication with their parents and to let them know about their love life to help prevent fears and distrust from arising.

June is still the most popular month for marriages in Minnesota. August, September and July follow in that order.

In 1975, the number of marriages in Minnesota by age and sex were as follows:

Age	Brides	Grooms
Under 18	1,476	6
18-19	7,843	3,545
20	3,987	3,230
21-24	10,613	12,353
25-29	4,072	6,831
30-34	1,386	2,303
35-39	711	1,093
40-44	504	714
45-49	437	576
50-54	373	448
55-59	296	352
60-64	241	267
65-over	280	509
age unknown	18	10
Total marriages	32,233	

INTRODUCTION, WHERE DO YOU BEGIN?

*"To have and to hold from this day forward,
for better for worse, for richer for poorer,
in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish,
till death do us part."*

— Solemnization of matrimony

"I didn't know anything about it, but I made the plans. It was all new to me." "I had to shop in eight or ten places for one item if I wanted to keep the price down." "There was so much to do I had to quit my job to get ready for the wedding."

These are comments from brides.

Since today's young brides generally continue working outside the home, it is imperative that they plan well to save their good health and happy spirits. Their feelings and attitudes readily rub off on other members of the family — especially their parents. What starts out as a happy occasion shouldn't become a nightmare.

One clergyman remarked, "It's at weddings that people ought to cry, not at funerals." He was referring to the couple's life after the wedding. All the more reason to think things through carefully beforehand.

Most young people still believe when they get married, it is forever — "until death do us part." Maturity, honesty, enthusiasm, industriousness are good qualities for partners in marriage. The union is a legal contract, a written agreement between the two parties. The clergyman is a witness to the vows, which are the terms of the contract. A clergyman may say that it is more than a contract for it is a statement of belief in a "one-man-one-woman relationship."

Haven't you heard couples say, "We planned on a small wedding, but before we knew it things got out of control and it was much larger than we intended." Making decisions at the start and sticking to them will give you the type of wedding you want.

THE BASIS OF PLANNING, IS IT FOR YOU?

"Imagination is more important than knowledge."
— Albert Einstein

Use your imagination. Plan a wedding just for you. One to be remembered.

During the sixties and particularly since the thirties, many changes have taken place in all phases of the American wedding. The bride of the seventies will want to review these changes and consider how they affect her. Her exposure to some of the changes, her needs and wishes, her family and religious background, community customs, and her lifetime goals will help her choose the type of wedding she wants based on her true values. Her selections of goods and services for her wedding may be determined by past experiences, but they could also be a forerunner of the standard, status, and style the couple intends to follow as man and wife. Remember, the level established can bring about a rewarding and meaningful family life only when it is completely natural to the couple.

As plans for the wedding are made, be considerate of others who will participate: the bridegroom, the bride's family, the bridegroom's family, and the friends and relatives invited to share the festive day. Don't plan anything to make them uncomfortable or lessen their enjoyment of the day.

The following pages help unfold the wedding plans. Your situation may differ from the order in which they are presented here. Each wedding is unique.

THE ENGAGEMENT, WILL THERE BE JEWELRY?

"The ring, so worn as you behold, so thin, so pale, is yet of gold."
— George Crabbe

This is a blissful event and you may wish to keep it a personal secret for a time. Perhaps you'll want to share it with a few family members and friends. You may want everyone to know it, so announce it in the local paper. There is no charge for this, but each newspaper has regulations you must follow. Contact the newspaper and ask for engagement forms. Once you have made the announcement, you'll find the whole world of sales crowds into your life.

This is also the time to discuss with your fiancé when your family should meet his family, if this has not already been done. It may be a casual meeting, an informal social event or a formal or ultra-formal occasion. Whatever you plan, have it comfortable for both families.

Jewelry may be your symbol of engagement or you may want to omit jewelry and save the money instead for your future home. This should be a decision made together. If you decide to have jewelry, your fiancé may wish your help in the selection or he may want to surprise

you and make the selection alone. It may be an heirloom with a new setting. Whatever it is, the future bride should be pleased.

If engagement and wedding jewelry are to match, it is well to purchase them at the same time. Jewelry already owned may be a clue as to what to select. If a double ring ceremony is planned, matching wedding rings for bride and bridegroom are generally chosen.

A diamond ring is still the most traditional engagement jewelry, but some brides choose colored stones. Some may prefer a birthstone:

January	Garnet or zircon
February	Amethyst
March	Aquamarine or bloodstone
April	Diamond
May	Emerald
June	Pearl
July	Ruby
August	Sardonyx or carnelian
September	Sapphire
October	Opal, moonstone
November	Topaz
December	Turquoise, lapis lazuli

Who knows? In the future it may be moon rock.

THE CLERK OF COURT, ARE YOU ON LEGAL GROUND?

"Wedding is destiny, and hanging likewise."
— Proverbs

Marriage law information is obtained from the Clerk of Court, whose office is located in the courthouse of the county seat. In Minnesota, marriage laws are interpreted as follows:

To make application for a marriage license either or both of the parties must call personally at the office of the Clerk of District Court.

A woman resident of Minnesota applies in the county of her residence. The marriage license is valid in any Minnesota county.

Legally the man must be 18 years old to marry. Minnesota law does not permit a man under 18 to marry.

Legally the woman must be 18 to marry without her parents' consent. If she is between 16 and 18, she must have the notarized, written consent of both parents if they are living. She must also obtain consent from the Juvenile Court where she lives (this may be outside of Minnesota). The parents of the minor woman as well as the minor male, wishing to marry, must appear before the Juvenile Court judge to obtain permission. A girl under 16 may not marry in Minnesota.

The Clerk of District Court may require birth certificates or a driver's license as proof of age.

If either party has been divorced, he or she cannot contract another marriage until 6 months have elapsed. A

divorce decree must be presented when applying for the marriage license for the second marriage. If the divorce was granted in the same office where the marriage license is being obtained, officials will have it available.

If a minor is granted permission to marry by a divorced parent, the parent must show a certified decree proving custody of the minor.

Although no medical examination or blood test is required in Minnesota, it is well for both parties to have these. Law does not permit marriage between closer than second cousins and neither can be afflicted with feeble-mindedness, imbecility or insanity.

The waiting period for the marriage license in Minnesota is 5 days, but this may be waived by the District Court judge for an unusual and valid cause. Both parties must appear before the judge to obtain a waiver.

The fee for a marriage license in Minnesota is \$11.

Although you may not be getting married right after your engagement is announced, you may wish to become acquainted with the rules and regulations of the state where you plan to marry.

The man is legally considered the head of the household and responsible for earning a living, however, many of today's couples share this responsibility. His employment generally dictates where the couple will reside, but this may be reversed if the woman is employed. Should a husband become disabled or unable to provide for his family, the wife assumes these legal responsibilities.

VISIT YOUR DOCTOR, ARE YOU FIT?

"A good Wife and Health, is a Man's best Wealth."

— Ben Franklin

In fairness to yourself and your husband-to-be, ask your doctor to give you a physical examination. Your fiancé should plan to have an examination, too, with his or your doctor.

Are you mentally and physically fit for marriage and possible parenthood? Do you have questions about illnesses in your family background? Are you concerned about using contraceptives or the pill? Is each of you free from venereal disease?

Sometimes women are concerned about bearing children. If you have any doubts or fears, ask your physician about them. It is most important that doubt and fear be removed. A healthy mental state for both the bride and bridegroom is of great importance.

VISIT YOUR CLERGY, WHAT ARE THE CONCERNS?

"When two people are under the influence of the most violent, most insane, most delusive, and the most transient of passions, they are required to swear that they will remain in that excited, abnormal, and exhausting condition continuously until death do them part."

— George Bernard Shaw

Clergy and churches are often spoken for months in advance. If you plan to have either or both in your wed-

ding plans, discuss your intentions with your clergy and get advice at least 3 months in advance.

Some clergy insist on religious instruction before marriage. When information is up-to-date, young people appreciate the guidance. Often the couple is given marriage literature, which deals not only with religion, but advises on various aspects of a well-managed life together.

Many couples today write their own vows. Some clergy encourage this trend and assist the couple in planning a very personal exchange of promises after exchanging pledges of faithfulness. Consult with him; his permission will be needed.

Your clergy is concerned about your future happiness and fulfillment in marriage.

PLANNING THE WEDDING, IS IT FITTING?

*"Under this window in stormy weather,
I marry this man and woman together,
Let none but him who rules the thunder,
Put this man and woman asunder."*

— Jonathan Swift

The type of wedding you choose will determine the necessary preparation time — also the expense involved. You will want whatever type you choose to be acceptable to the bridegroom as well as the two families. Shall it be an informal, personal affair? A semi-formal or ultra-formal affair? Or will you make it a "do your own thing" celebration? It is your day, but be realistic about it, too.

In some communities there is little difference between the ultra-formal and formal wedding. There are more bride's attendants at the ultra-formal (from 6 to 12) and more ushers because there are more guests. It is estimated that one usher can seat 50 guests. The ultra-formal is more elegant and more involved as to preparation and service. Invitations are printed or engraved. The time of the wedding may differ from one community to another.

For excellent, detailed wedding planning information, there are inexpensive paperbacks or more costly hard-cover books. Some are listed in the bibliography and these are usually available in any bookstore. The public library may have some of these on their shelves, too.

Informal weddings are often planned for smaller groups. There is one attendant for each bride and bridegroom and they also serve as the legal witnesses. These can be held any time of day often with short notice. Invitations may be verbal, printed, or handwritten.

The bride's dress or wedding gown often determines how formal the occasion will be. It will also guide the total cost of the wedding as other items will be added in keeping with the type of gown.

There must be agreement as to the number of guests to be invited. Usually the parents of the bride set the number and inform the bridegroom as to the number of guests he may include. A card file of the guests will be handy throughout the planning as well as when writing the thank you notes after the wedding.



BUDGETS, WHAT WILL IT COST?

*"Something old
 Something new
 Something borrowed
 Something blue
 And a lucky sixpence in your shoe."*

"There is nothing so degrading as the constant anxiety about one's means of livelihood . . . money is like a sixth sense without which you cannot make a complete use of the other five." This quotation is from *Of Human Bondage* by William Somerset Maugham. It reminds us that money can be combined with other resources which we possess as we plan many events. The total cost will depend on your skill in using what is free or low cost with that which is costly.

The wedding budget which follow were actually planned by young women who were concerned about having a lovely wedding on a modest budget. Much ingenuity, skill in workmanship and know-how kept the costs reasonable.

First Budget

A young student couple who paid most of the cost themselves

Invitations (typed on cards, 20/\$3.00)	\$	9.00
Church, clergy, reception at church		50.00
Wedding cake		37.00
Paper service		15.00
Punch		A gift
Bride's dress		120.00
Groom's suit		180.00
Clothes for 3 groomsmen (only shirts, pants, and ties)		37.00
Bridesmaids (made their own; \$20 each)		60.00
Flowers (corsages and boutonnieres)		52.00
Music		A gift
Groom's dinner (paid by parents)		320.00
Food for outdoor reception (200 guests)		130.00
Beverage		60.00
Rings		Unknown
Total		\$1,070.00

Second Budget

A young adult couple who have worked a number of years

Bride and Her Family Costs*

Marriage license (Iowa)	\$	5.00
Flowers		150.00
100 Invitations, 50 Announcements, 200 Napkins		50.00
Postage		20.00
Bridal gown, slip, shoes, veil		181.00
Bridesmaid's gown, slip		61.00
Wedding book		10.00
Photographs		450.00
Organist		15.00
Wedding cake		75.00
Candlelighter's dress (Hand made)		10.00
Reception (Help \$35.00; Food \$50.00)		85.00
Gifts (Attendant and Reception Helpers)		60.00
Thank You Notes and Postage		30.00
Subtotal		\$1,202.00

Bridegroom and His Family Costs**

Engagement and Wedding Rings	\$	500.00
Wedding suit (Business Suit)		160.00
Neckties for attendants and groom		22.00
Rehearsal dinner (at Hotel)		110.00
Gifts for attendants		18.00
Flowers (Dinner and Attendants)		50.00
Clergy		20.00
Subtotal		\$ 880.00
Total		\$2,082.00

*Pre-wedding costs included lunches for relatives

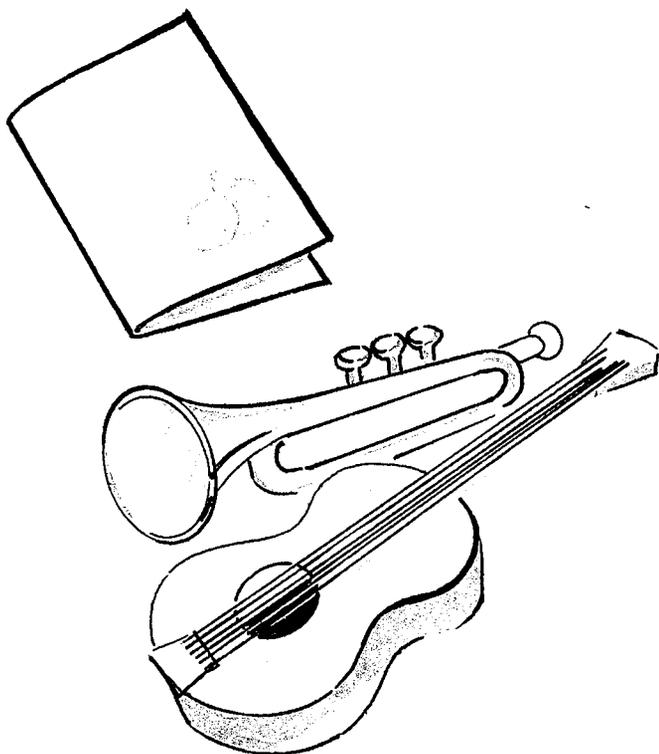
**Honeymoon cost not listed

Third Budget

A student couple who split expenses with their parents

Invitations, thank you notes, postage	\$	60.00
Candles, programs, guest book		20.00
Recording of ceremony		5.00
Flowers		54.00
Cake		37.00
Reception (Food and service for 120 guests)		95.00
Beverages		110.00
Groom's luncheon		150.00
Minister and license		35.00
Gifts for attendants		46.00
Reception		92.00
Chapel rent		75.00
Photos		200.00
Wedding dress		60.00
Groom's suit		118.00
Rings		690.00
Total		\$1,847.00

(No honeymoon)



WEDDING INVITATIONS, DO THEY BLEND?

"He that has not got a wife, is not yet a complete man."

— Ben Franklin

The choice of wedding invitations is yours. And the choice in recent years has expanded and become much more individual.

Today there are many colorful products as well as the severely plain. Some brides prefer to make their own invitations. Select what blends best with the type of wedding you have chosen.

A phoned invitation is suitable for the smaller wedding. Nothing could be more personal. With some weddings dependent on an uncertain military furlough or someone being sent out of the country on business, the phoned invitation may be essential.

If you wish to have printed or engraved (generally, more expensive) invitations, check prices in at least three different places before placing your order. Ask some recent brides for information.

If your invitations are to have formal double envelopes, ask for the outer envelopes when you place your order so that you can begin addressing and stamping them before the printing or engraving is completed. Then they will be ready to stuff, seal, and mail. There is nothing to say you must have double envelopes with the invitations you choose. They are simply customary with some types of invitations.

If napkins and thank you notes are to be printed or engraved, order them at the same time. Placing your order 4 to 6 months in advance will permit addressing invitations without rushing. Every bride needs to evaluate her own use of time.

Generally mailed invitations should go out 3 weeks ahead of the wedding.

DECIDE ON THE GOWN: CALICO OR LACE?

*"Field well till'd and a little Wife well will'd,
are great riches."*

— Ben Franklin

Since today's weddings are not always traditional, the gown may be a calico peasant dress, a more or less formal white, off-white, or colored wedding gown. The cost may range from a few dollars to a thousand dollars. Brides in Minnesota often pay between \$125 and \$200 for new bridal gowns, but used gowns can also be purchased or rented. A used gown may sell for half the original price or a gown may be handed down in a family.

Allow at least 3 months when ordering a wedding gown and have the final fitting 2 months in advance so that time can be devoted to selecting the rest of the accessories and helping with plans for the bridesmaids. Try the gown on a week before the ceremony, you may have lost or gained weight. Slight alterations may be needed.

Gifts of appreciation to the attendants are often a part of the wedding expenses. The groom or his parents often present the bride with a gift of jewelry. These suggestions are optional, you may have an original idea.

For greater detail in selecting the more traditional attire for various types of weddings, consult references in the bibliography. Either paperback or hard-cover books are available for purchase or borrowing at the library.

SELECT THE MUSIC, IS IT SUITABLE?

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring."

— Bach

The clergy of your church (or perhaps both your churches) will expect to have a part in planning and participating in the wedding if it is a church wedding. The clergy at the church where the wedding takes place will have the final word on what music will be used. No doubt he will suggest music to glorify God. Make known your special musical preferences and those of your husband-to-be if you would like them included in the ceremony. Hymns of trust, inspiration, protection, obedience, may be used for congregation participation.

The organist may have some good suggestions, too. Music should reflect a standard and be for guests as well as the couple. String and brass instruments, well played, may add a festive note. Singing hymns, anthems, solos, and chanting a psalm, may be a part of the service. The wedding ceremony may be a part of the regular church service or a separate event.

Most churches have printed material suggesting specific music. It may be recorded, done by friend, or by paid musicians. It may be rock as well as Bach.

Walk slowly and reverently down the aisle — don't run, don't march.

The music helps set the mood for the entire wedding.

VISIT YOUR FLORIST, SHALL YOU USE FLOWERS?

"Say it with flowers"

— Slogan of the Florist Association

Shall you use flowers? And there is an added question, shall you use flowers in season?

Ferns and other greenery or just evergreens may background the wedding. Flowers in season will cost less than those which need to be special ordered. Do consider using your own garden flowers. A December or January wedding may have unadorned evergreens and poinsettia plants as the church or home decorations.

Consider the season, the type of wedding, the cost, the space, the color, and the overall desired effect. In busy wedding seasons, when there are several weddings the same day at a church, often the clergy can help the brides get together ahead of time to share the cost of one set of church flowers that will harmonize with all the weddings.

Generally the bride or her family is responsible for the flowers. But the groom usually buys corsages for the mothers and boutonnières for himself and his attendants as well as the bride's going-away corsage.

Sometimes some of the floral arrangements may be used for both the wedding ceremony and the reception immediately following. Someone should be assigned the responsibility of transporting the flowers if this is the plan.

Florists appreciate 3 or 4 months advance notice for wedding orders. A busy florist often must turn down weddings since supplies of baskets, candelabra, aisle carpets, and other accessories are limited.

In Minnesota, actual florist prices are often less expensive than the suggested retail prices given in bridal display books seen at the florist shops.

ARRANGE FOR THE RECEPTION, WHAT DETAILS ARE THERE?

*"Keep your eyes wide open before Marriage,
half shut afterwards."*

— Ben Franklin

Whether your family, a church organization, a local caterer, or the social manager of a hotel is responsible, plan the reception details at least 3 months in advance. By now the guest list must be firm. The bridegroom's family may be reluctant to make a list until the number of guests permitted is known. The host family should not be kept waiting for the list.

The number of guests and the entree or main course chosen will be the determining factor of expense. Chicken, roast beef, or seafood are less expensive than filet mignon. Liquor may add enormously to the cost, especially if there is an open bar.

It is to your financial benefit to be specific as to the number who will attend the reception. Phone your caterer this number as soon as you have received all the acceptances.

Other details to be considered are reception line, seating arrangement, table decorations, linens or paper supplies, silver, china and glassware, punch table facilities, guestbook, gift acceptance and display, music and other program or announcements, and toast to the bride and bridegroom.

Close friends and relatives are usually honored to be given a work assignment at this special event. List all the assignments, request help well in advance (and especially if out-of-town guests are asked), and make clear what the assignment is and the exact time that help is needed. Keep a running record of progress; review it from time to time.

Reception Work Assignments

Name	Assignment	Date and Time
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Such a list can be extremely helpful for the overall wedding assignments also. It may be that a separate list for each special part of the event will be more manageable than a single list. That is, one for the wedding ceremony, one for the reception, etc.

Not all invited will come to the wedding and reception. One church group has found that between 66 and 75 percent of the guests invited generally attend. Their estimate was calculated after catering 33 wedding receptions. Only at three weddings did all the guests who were invited attend and at two there were eight and eleven more guests than invited.

This group also found that having two chairpersons manage the event is much more practical than having a single chairperson. It took 18–20 hours of time from each of the chairpersons for each wedding of 100 guests, and 17 or 18 additional volunteers donated at least three hours apiece.

A worker chart listing telephone numbers, addresses, and convenient working time is helpful.

Often committees for wedding and other receptions have made many useful items as special table covers. They have records for cost of napkins, candles, mints, and other accessories that are helpful in figuring for 50, 100 or 200 guests. They suggest menus for various prices and can adjust for color schemes quite readily.

THE WEDDING CAKE, WHITE, CHOCOLATE OR FRUIT?

*"A good woman is like a good book –
entertaining, inspiring and instructive;
sometimes a bit too wordy
but when properly bound and decorated, irresistible.
I wish I could afford a library."*

— Marcus Long in Ontario, Canada
Library Review

Weddings can take place without a wedding cake. Some brides may choose to have a favorite dessert instead.

If a wedding cake is chosen, it may be a white cake, a chocolate cake, a fruit cake or a mixture of layers. For instance, the base might be chocolate, the center layer white, and the top layer, which is often frozen and eaten

on the first anniversary, a fruit cake. Traditionally, however, it is white with elaborate decorating. It may be used as the centerpiece for the bride's table at the reception or on a separate table where it can be admired by guests.

The icing is usually made with vegetable shortening for ease in cutting and serving as well as decorating. The cake is used most often as a dessert, but it may be cut and packaged for guests to take home. Sometimes a separate bridegroom's cake is baked and a piece taken home "to dream on." Plan how the cake is to be used and served before ordering. It may be ordered well in advance, but bakery management asks at least a week's notice. They can also suggest cutting instructions.

If cake is to be served at the reception, it is given a prominent place where the bride and bridegroom may choose to cut the first piece from the lower tier. Each has a bite as a symbol of sharing. After this the cake may be cut by someone given this honor or it may be cut in the kitchen. Because cake cutting is a highlight of the reception, the person or persons asked to cut it should be confident, poised, and expert with a knife.

In cutting, remove the upper tiers and begin with the bottom tier away from the guests. Cut uniform size pieces. Squares, rectangles, or wedges can be cut depending on the shape of the cake. Keep cutting in a direction which preserves the front view of the cake as long as possible.

The cake knife used by the bride and bridegroom may be a wedding gift with their names and the wedding date engraved on it. It is generally decorated with tulle, ribbon and small flowers.

Books on wedding etiquette will offer further details. Others to consult, in addition to your baker, are the persons handling your reception.

A word of caution on wedding etiquette may be in order. Obtaining complete agreement among etiquette books is something like obtaining complete agreement among people. It is not something to keep you awake nights or to make a nightmare of your wedding planning. In these days of flexibility, exercise your prerogative in wedding planning, decide your course of action, stick with it, and it will be right for you. Don't fear making a move because it might be the wrong move — meaning something someone has read in an etiquette book might disagree.

SOCIAL EVENTS, WILL THERE BE ANY?

"He that takes a Wife take Care."

— Ben Franklin

Many brides have been married without a single shower. Certainly they are nice, but not essential to weddings.

Yet many brides have well-wishing friends wanting to give them showers. Because of duplication of time, effort, and guest lists, it is best to have one or two large showers rather than many small ones.

This event may be a brunch, an afternoon or evening dessert shower, a coffee hour, a tea, or a luncheon. Cer-

tain types of showers, such as a kitchen shower, recipe shower, garden shower, personal shower, call for a certain type of gift which will be specified on the invitation. An unusual event may need an oral or written explanation to the guests.

Friends or relatives of the bride act as hostesses. It is poor taste for members of the immediate family to give a shower.

Invitations, decorations, gifts, and the recreation may have a specific theme.

In many communities today it is customary for the bride to register her pattern choices for silver, glass, and dinnerware, as well as to select color preferences for furnishings. She should list her choice of small appliances, too.

If these choices are uncertain, let this be known. It is not necessary to list preferences. Experience in home-making will bring wiser choices later.

The bride or some of the bridesmaids may wish to have a prewedding luncheon. If the bride wishes to say thank you for what the bridesmaids have already done for her, this is a gracious way of doing it. It can be a seated luncheon, a patio-buffet or any other type of light meal.

The bride usually presents a small gift of appreciation to each of the girls and they in turn may present her with a group gift.

There may be a bachelor or stag dinner given by the bridegroom or his father. It is merely a social event with the groomsmen, giving the bridegroom an opportunity to toast his bride and present small gifts of appreciation to each of the men.

Another custom, though not essential, is the rehearsal dinner given by the bridegroom's parents. Often it is arranged at a restaurant and seating is to honor the bridal couple. The bride is seated to the right of the bridegroom with the best man to the right of the bride and the maid or matron of honor to the left of the bridegroom. The hostess is seated to the right of the host and an honored man guest, such as a grandfather to the right of the hostess and perhaps a grandmother to the left of the host. Other honored guests seated near the host and hostess might be the bride's parents. Guests are arranged alternately, man and woman. For variations in seating arrangements (depending on the shapes of tables), consult several etiquette books.

The rehearsal dinner is often an informal, happy event with toasts made by anyone wishing to. The host usually begins and the bride's father follows. There may be music and dancing during the evening.

If the bride and bridegroom have not already given gifts to the bridesmaids, bestman, and ushers, this is the appropriate time. It is important that everyone in the wedding party get a good night's sleep before the wedding day so they look and perform their best.

During the festivities immediately preceding the wedding, relatives or close friends may assist with other special meals to relieve the bride's and bridegroom's families. Out-of-town guests are often entertained at informal events as a thoughtful gesture to the busy parents. The possibilities are endless.

TO THE GUESTS, WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

"Wish not so much to live long, as to live well."

— Ben Franklin

Traditionally the wedding service has been planned with serious thinking. It includes dignity, reverence, and joy and retains the spirit of the church. Nothing should come ahead of this — not the gown, the music, the flowers or the actions. If the wedding is in a religious setting, guests come to worship even though it is a social event.

The wedding is a public ceremony at which the bride and bridegroom pledge love, faith, and fullness. They are announcing to their community that they are legally changing their status. Their new responsibilities are generally outlined by the clergy, who also gives them spiritual sanction. The wedding is an indication that they want to celebrate the event and receive guests' approval.

Those attending are often reminded that it is a good time to renew their own vows.

Wedding gifts, even something masculine in furnishings, are sent to the bride, ordinarily before the wedding day. (In some instances it may be more convenient to bring gifts to the wedding. Someone should be designated at the reception to receive and look after these gifts.) An exception to the gift going to the bride's name alone is a check, which may be written to both bride and bridegroom, using their married names such as: Jack and Jan Jones. It may also be sent to the bride.

Being invited to the wedding does not require a gift. However, if an invitation to the reception is accepted, a gift is generally appropriate. If a prewedding shower was attended, another gift is given as a wedding gift.

Anything for the house such as furnishings or table settings is appropriate as a wedding gift.

Universally the following are accepted as appropriate for wedding anniversaries:

1st year	paper or plastic
5 years	wood
10 years	tin
15 years	crystal
20 years	china
25 years	silver
50 years	gold
60 years	diamond

RECORDS TO BE CHANGED, ARE THERE MANY?

"Tis easy to see, hard to foresee."

— Ben Franklin

Before you leave for the honeymoon or soon after returning, make the necessary record changes in establishing a new life together. Following are some of the changes often necessary:

If you have a job, you'll need the payroll changed to your new name and address.

Your Social Security number will remain the same but a name change will be in order.

Your publishers need notification of the new name and address (magazines, clubs, associations).

Your will needs to be rewritten. You may want to change a beneficiary. In Minnesota, marriage automatically revokes an existing will.

If you own a car, the registration will require a name change. If you move to another state, a new registration plus license will be required. The driver's license also needs a name change.

If you have a checking account or a savings account, you may wish to change the kind of account (from a single to a joint account) as well as change the name and secure new signature cards.

If you have charge accounts, you may wish to close them and open new accounts in your new name.

If you have life insurance, you may wish to review the coverage as well as change the name. The beneficiary may need to be changed.

If you are still in school, such official records need a name change. Also church and club membership records.

If you belong to a group health plan or have individual coverage, you'll want to review your present eligibility for health and accident insurance. Do not drop your present insurance until the new coverage becomes effective.

Income tax records (especially the tax withholding forms) will need a change. The employer generally asks for a revised W-4.

If you own securities, be sure to review them in light of your present situation and change your name on the ownership listing.

Your friends and relatives will appreciate a notification of a name and address change if this wasn't included in the wedding invitation or announcement.

It is a blissful time, but there are duties and responsibilities involved in getting married.

THE HONEYMOON, CAN YOU RELAX?

*"The good or ill hap of a good or ill Life,
is the good or ill choice of a good or ill Wife."*

— Ben Franklin

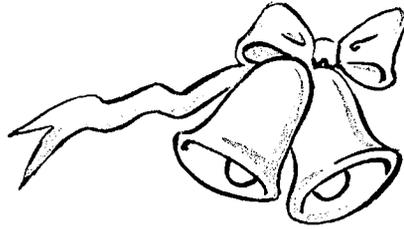
After the hustle and bustle of a wedding, it is well to have chosen an unhurried honeymoon. During the engagement the couple often plan their wedding trip. Don't shut out people completely, but make it a time to relax, to sightsee, to be alone.

Hopefully you can agree on the type of honeymoon. If one wants to camp and the other places high value on a fashionable resort, perhaps some of each can be planned.

Consult others for ideas — your parents, your friends, travel agencies. Bridal, tourist and travel magazines, Consumer Research, and newspapers have a wealth of suggestions.

Be aware of the costs so that overspending is no problem. Also let someone, such as a parent, know your whereabouts should a family emergency occur.

The honeymoon is a time to dream about your new life together.



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Appendix I

Reception Work Sheet
(Chairpersons in Charge)

RESPONSIBILITY

1. Figure Finances Name: _____ Date: _____
Phone: _____ Time: _____

2. Tea Table Name: _____ Date: _____
Phone: _____ Time: _____

3. Punch Table Name: _____ Date: _____
Phone: _____ Time: _____

4. Guest Book Name: _____ Date: _____
Phone: _____ Time: _____

5. Reception Line Name: _____ Date: _____
Phone: _____ Time: _____

6. Gift Table Name: _____ Date: _____
Phone: _____ Time: _____

7. Wedding Cake Name: _____ Date: _____
Phone: _____ Time: _____

Add other responsibilities as fit the situation, such as coffee servers, punch servers, gift girls, cake cutters, etc.

Appendix II

Reception Work Assignments
(Each Chairperson May Use)

NAME	TASK	DATE/TIME	PLACE
One Day Before:			
1. Ann Kerr	1. Prepare celery	1. 3:00 p.m.	1. Church Kitchen
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	3. _____
Morning of the Wedding:			
1. Jan White	1. Make sandwiches	1. 10:00–12:00	1. Black's Home
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	3. _____
During the Wedding:			
1. June Ley	1. Prepare Coffee	1. 1:15 p.m.	1. Church Kitchen
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	3. _____
After the Wedding			
1. Mary Sell	1. Return accessories	1. Before 6:00 p.m.	1. Church Dining Hall
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	3. _____

Appendix III

Reception Food Cost
MENU

	ITEMS	COST PER UNIT	TOTAL COST
Punch	frozen lemonade	.30 (6-oz.)	
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
		Sub-Total	\$ _____
Salad:	Turkey	.59 (lb.)	
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
		Sub-Total	\$ _____
Breads:	Fruit — Bread	1.50 (loaf)	
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
		Sub-Total	\$ _____
Pickles	_____	1.30 (qt.)	_____
Olives	_____	1.00 (pt.)	_____
Butter	_____	1.30 (lb.)	_____
Coffee	_____	3.00 (lb.)	_____
Coffee Cream	_____	.60 (½ pt.)	_____
		GRAND TOTAL	\$ _____

(Bride also furnishes wedding cake, mints, nuts, candles, and paper accessories.)