

Sentiment remains for wedding cakes

June brides may be pleased to learn that they haven't automated all the sentiment out of the wedding cake.

The decorative roses, for example, are still turned out by hand by craftsmen with a dexterity home cooks would envy.

The icing is pushed through a pastry tube on to a small hand-held base that looks like a golf tee. The rose is usually started on a bud of marzipan, the chef turning the tee back and forth as he squirts layer after layer of icing petals on it.

John Sluiter uses no marzipan. He spins the tee continuously, building bud and leaves with icing.

Mr. Sluiter is one of three men of the Toronto headquarters of General Food Products who do nothing but decorate cakes. In the wedding season, June through September, they do several hundred a week.

Even in their expert hands an average two-to-four tier cake takes an hour just to decorate after a base icing has been put on. With top icing time included, it takes about two hours.

PREFER FRUIT CAKE

In Canada almost all wedding cakes are fruit cakes, Mr. Sluiter says. In his native Holland and other European countries, pound cakes with marzipan icings are favored. White cakes are popular in the United States.

The biggest wedding cake he has decorated was a display cake 10 feet high. The most expensive special occasion one was an eight-tiered \$800 anniversary cake. And the most famous confection he has turned out were the petit fours he decorated for Queen Juliana's wedding.

J. M. Smillie, production manager, explained that fruit cakes are matured for a month or two, then given a coating of almond paste and a base icing. The specialists take over to

apply a top icing — called a royal icing — and the decorations. The royal icing used to be made of egg whites and icing sugar but was too hard to cut through, so a softer icing was developed.

Mr. Smillie says the bakers are no longer asked to bury things, such as wedding rings, in the cakes. They are sometimes asked, however, to match the icing to the color of flowers on bridesmaids' dresses, a switch from the days when all wedding cakes were iced in white.

KEEP FOR YEARS

As a sentimental touch brides sometimes ask that ornaments from their mothers' or grandmothers' wedding cakes be used.

And they often still keep the top tier of their cakes to be eaten at the first christening.

Mr. Smillie says the cake will keep for years in airtight containers, at low temperatures, or in freezers.

Bakeries have a few tricks to keep the cake looking attractive. They will pre-cut the ceremonial slice and set it back in the cake. Then it can easily be lifted out with no danger of disturbing the rest of the cake.

They are also prepared to supply "kitchen cakes" to be cut and served so the ceremonial one can be left untouched.

Most wedding cakes are ordered from a catalogue of standard designs, but they can be made to order, and people sometimes bring in pictures of cakes that they want copied.

Most popular is a three-tier cake weighing about 16 pounds that serves about 120 without the top tier. One of the more expensive standards is a four-tier that weighs about 50 pounds, serves 540 and costs \$85 to \$90. A two-tier 11½-pound cake costs about \$18. The company figures about 10 pieces of cake to the pound.



MRS. DONALD DORAN, NEE FRANCES MacDONALD
Claude MacKay Photo

Special problems of frequent moves

Newly married couples forced into continual migration from city to city by a company's training program or from one army station to another, have adjustment problems that stay at home never have to face.

Particularly, it's the bride whose life may be made difficult by a succession of moves.

"We started our married life in Oshawa, Ontario," says a 30-year-old wife, "then after three months the company sent Bill to the factory in Hamilton, and sometime later, he'll go to the coast to train at the regional sales office there."

She's not complaining because she's a flexible girl who knew before her marriage what Bill's business life would be in its early stages.

And this advance knowledge goes a long way to making the marriage satisfying, says Mrs. Frances Beatman, executive director of Jewish Family Service in New York.

"Before a girl embarks on this kind of life," she says "she must ask herself if she is the kind who can and is willing to take uprooting. Otherwise, it will become a burden."

If her attitude is that these moves are part of her job, since they're necessary to her husband's career, she can feel satisfaction. If she considers them as a deprivation, that she's being cheated from a normal way of life, she'll be unhappy.

Then too, if a girl has her own personal resources, and is not completely dependent on the other person for companionship and for organization of her own life, she'll not suffer, comments Mrs. Beatman.

Brides who are dependent on a fixed daily routine will find a succession of new homes bewildering, as well as their husband's changing working hours, says the executive. But the flexible girl

will take this kind of life in her stride.

Mrs. Beatman suggests wives in the migratory world study the offerings of a given community, and find out if they can use the new situation to their advantage. Can they continue their schooling? Can they make use of community programs? What about a temporary job?

Says Mrs. Beatman, "If a girl is lucky enough to find a temporary job in her own field, then she's home."

Rely on skill of the florist

Prospective brides should rely on the skill and artistry of their favorite florist to make their wedding a success.

Flowers play an important part in the ceremony—from the church decorations to the bouquets to the reception decorations.

And this season's weddings should be more colorful than ever, says Alvin Wayne, flower stylist.

"Many bridal creations will feature white set or tulle or lace over pastel pink, blue, lavender or yellow. To harmonize with this color, florists are emphasizing pastels, and even red roses in bride's bouquets," claims Wayne.

"More than ever before interest will be centered on elegant tiaras and headpieces. And as these headpieces—varying from crowns to half hats—are becoming more interesting, so are wedding bouquets," he noted.

Here are three floral suggestions for prospective brides as listed by the stylist:

1. Be sure to give your florist all the details of color, style and height of the girls in the wedding party. Then he can design appropriate bouquets.
2. Do not be afraid to have colored flowers in your bouquet. One of the most talked-about socialite weddings in New York featured bride and attendants in white dresses and carrying red roses.
3. Do not have your going away corsage in the middle of your bridal bouquet. A corsage should also be designed to complement your suit or tailored dress. Bouquet flowers are generally not appropriate. After a wedding ceremony and reception the flowers are likely to be wilted. It also appears somewhat awkward and ungracious for the bride to remove the prettiest part of the bouquet before throwing it to her attendants.

Wayne adds that for a sentimental touch custom decrees that the bridegroom wear a boutonniere fashioned from one of the small flowers in the bride's bouquet.

As a final reminder, church decorations must always be cleared with the clergyman to make sure that customs or regulations are not being violated.

White remains favorite for most bridal bouquets

As decorations or parts of your bridal outfit, flowers can lead dignity and warmth to your most memorable day.

Although white still is the favorite color, there is a trend toward delicate and skillful use of color in bridal and bridesmaids bouquets.

Your florist can personalize your bouquet to complement your dress, carry out an overall color pattern, capitalize on the time or season of your wedding.

Florists classify bouquets into five different categories. Of course a bouquet can be a mixture of types, flowers and colors.

STYLES OF BOUQUETS

First the round, French, or old-fashioned bouquet. Flowers tightly packed in concentric circles in the traditional pattern. Then there is the loose, old-fashioned bouquet more freely fastened. In the cascade flowers just seem to fall lazily from the centre. The flowers can be shaped into a crescent, perhaps into the same natural way in which they grow. And the newest addition, the basket bouquet in a basket.

Foliages are being used again with reserve and careful selection, and bouquets made completely of them can be ordered. Coronets and tiaras of blossoms and foliage are popular, especially during the summer.

The flowers chosen should complement the gown. For a very lacy, fussy dress, a flower with some weight might be used such as camelia, orchid or gardenia with a touch of their own foliage. For satin, a light flower like lily of the valley or stephanotis is preferred.

If the bridal dress has a slight tint of pink or blue in it, that color might be delicately placed in the bouquet. A pink bridesmaid's dress could have red roses of just the right color. A lavender gown might go with violets mixed with white flowers.

The florists prefer that the bride bring samples of the dress material when she comes to choose flowers. About two weeks before the wedding is all the time needed for the bouquets. Start planning about one month before the wedding the overall floral decorations.

Church decorations may be governed by the preferences of the clergyman, the size of the church, the elaborateness of the affair and the number of guests.

Decorations be they floral or candelabra, should lead the eye to the altar. Sections may be walled off if there are only a small number of guests in a very large church.

At a Jewish wedding in a hotel the canopy under which the rabbi and the bride and groom stand, may be covered with garlands of flowers. The same room and decorations can later be converted in to the reception hall simply by calculated and quick re-arrangement.

DECORATE THE HOME

For a home wedding, a professional florist can decorate to suit your budget and your house. The mantelpiece before which the bride and groom will be married can be covered with flowers. The staircase from which the bride throws her bouquet can be sprinkled with foliage of flowers.

If you are planning a daytime garden wedding or reception consider, such factors as insects, a shady place for the bride and groom to receive guests, natural backgrounds your own flowers may provide.

Good advice, too, is for the bride-to-be to assume it will rain and plan an alternate setting for the reception.

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Wedding planners need timetable

BOTH

THREE MONTHS BEFORE— Set wedding date, consult clergyman, choose attendants, start master list of guests, check duplicates, make honeymoon plans, start house hunting.

TWO MONTHS BEFORE — Get house furnishings ready, have premarital examinations and blood tests.

ONE MONTH BEFORE — Buy gifts for attendants, get marriage license, buy wedding rings.

ONE WEEK BEFORE — Wrap gifts for attendants, see that new house is in order.

DAY BEFORE — Hold rehearsal with supper afterwards, usually at bride's house, finish packing.

BRIDE:

THREE MONTHS BEFORE— Decide type of wedding, select place for wedding reception and reserve dates, select color scheme, plan dress and attendants, gowns, start shopping, confer with mothers on their gowns, order invitations and announcements.

TWO MONTHS BEFORE — Arrange for caterer, musicians, florist, photographer, address invitations, check rehearsal plans, select trousseau, going away clothes.

ONE MONTH BEFORE — Mail invitations, buy groom's gift, check on reception menu, order cake, register at bride's registry.

TWO WEEKS BEFORE — Send story to paper, write thank you notes as possible, get hair done.

ONE WEEK BEFORE — Have picture taken, arrange for out of town guests, make hairdo appointment for day or so before wedding, select and order flowers, start packing.

DAY BEFORE — Dress in time to practise handling gown and flowers.

THE DAY — Finish up as many thank you notes as can.

GROOM:

THREE MONTHS BEFORE— Order tickets and make honeymoon reservations, giving wedding guest list to bride.

TWO MONTHS BEFORE — Order wedding suit, arrange for necessary documents — baptismal certificate, etc., for church wedding.

ONE MONTH BEFORE — Have final fitting on wedding suit, plan for bachelor dinner.

TWO WEEKS BEFORE — Buy bride's gift, put licence and rings in safe place, order utilities, phone, etc., turned on in new home at proper time.

ONE WEEK BEFORE — Start packing, arrange transportation for wedding party, have bachelor dinner, if wedding trip is by car, have auto checked thoroughly.

DAY BEFORE — Check with best man on transportation, church arrangements.

THE DAY — Have ring, licence, money, tickets in hand, give best man envelope with clergyman's fee.

SKY SEEMS CROWDED

Canada, Britain and France each have two satellites in orbit, compared with Russia's 45 and the United States' 158.

Informality makes function happier event

A man who has steered several brides and their mothers through the pitfalls of a wedding reception has one succinct comment to make: "They all worry too much."

Receptions should be enjoyed, says Roger Ross, manager of a large country club. But many brides worry so much about details that they fail to enjoy their own party.

Ross feels receptions need not be stiff, formalized affairs. "The bride naturally wants to greet all her guests, but if she talks 30 seconds each to 300 people, she has spent 100 minutes in line."

A zealous photographer can become an annoyance to a wedding party unless he photographs what's happening, "not try to cause a scene to happen." The reception, says the manager, should not be made the site of a photographic studio-sitting, with accompanying self-consciousness.

There may be an awkward moment, too, when the dancing begins. Ross suggests that this is made easier by following the traditional order:

The bride and groom dance alone once around the floor.

Then the groom's father cuts in. The groom dances with the bride's mother, the bride's father with the groom's mother. All the male members of the wedding party claim dances with the bride before dancing becomes general, and likewise the groom with the bride's attendants.



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