



MRS. ROBERT THEAKSTON Edith Robertson Photo

Showers stemmed from old legends

Most modern brides reap sizeable harvests of "loot" at the traditional bridal shower. And many have come to feel this is only fair because in their single days they gave to their friends who preceded them down the aisle.

But still there is a sentimental side to the custom, and most brides enjoy the party atmosphere and being surrounded by their close friends at this great moment in their lives. The gifts are an added bonus.

One legend which tells how the bridal shower originated concerns a Dutch girl who fell in love with a poor but charitable miller who gave most of his flour to the needy. Because the girl's father did not approve of the miller, he refused to give the girl her dowry, necessary to set up housekeeping, unless she married a wealthy farmer.

Townpeople who had been sided by the young miller joined together and donated small gifts to help the couple. When massed together and "showered" upon the girl, the gifts exceeded the value of the dowry she was supposed to receive.

But the term "shower" was not coined until the 1890's when someone conceived the idea of filling a Japanese paper parasol, then a popular fad in interior decoration, with little gifts. The bride-to-be was obliged to open the parasol over her head, resulting in a "shower" of gifts.

WEDDING CAKE

It was customary to break the wedding cake over her as a sign of abundance. Guests took home small broken pieces of cake, and eventually these "tokens" were invested by the superstitious with the power to make single guests dream of those they would marry, if the tokens were tucked under their pillows on the wedding night.

Brides also had rigorous going in the 14th century in Europe. Wedding guests scrambled to obtain the bride's garter a symbol of good luck. The disheveled brides finally took to throwing a stocking instead. And with time, custom has made the event less wearing on the brides. They can just toss their bouquets today, and the girl who catches one is supposed to become the next bride.

Orange blossoms, now attached to the bridal veil or carried in her bouquet were thought by the Saracens to insure happiness and good fortune.

And the reason wedding gowns are white is that in early Rome the color signified joy. Later, the connotation of purity was tied in.

Most of the customs connected with marriage have grown up as the rite went through three phases—capture, purchase and finally the marriage for love.

CAPTURED BRIDE

For instance, from the days when brides had to be captured, comes the term "best man." He was the most able-bodied of the groom's friends who actually caught the bride as she ran away. Other friends who aided in the chase were called "groomsman", today's ushers.

From the same phase came the forerunner of the "honeymoon." After the bride was caught, she had to be hidden from kinfolk out to rescue her. After a length of time, usually two weeks, the groom felt confident they had given up looking and gone away, and it was safe for the couple to come out of hiding.

"Giving the bride away" harks back to the days when fathers looked upon their daughters as commodities to be sold.

And the bridal veil stems from the same period when the bride's face was covered until after the business contract was secure. Then the bridegroom got the chance to lift the veil and gaze for the first time upon the face of the wife he'd bought.

Practical articles make ideal wedding presents

Thoughtful friends of the about-to-be-marrieds, aware of today's high cost of living, lean towards the practical when choosing wedding presents.

There's a wide range of helpful items available, to fit the giver's budget. Here are some suggestions, to use as a starter:

For \$10 or less: Rechargeable flashlight; vase, knife sharpener, silent butler, thermometer, barometer set, tall salt shaker and pepper grinder in hand rubbed wood, revolving three-tier spice rack, for steaks, a c o o k and serve aluminum platter, with protecting board underneath, ice bucket, magnetized knife holder with set of kitchen knives, steak knives.

In the \$20 or less field, there are: Carving set, electric heating tray, foods keep warm for hours for later comers or unexpected delays, salad bowls with servers, electric blanket, carpet sweeper, combination electric can opener, transistor radio, aluminum folding cot with foam rubber mattress, for that extra guest.

Over \$20: Electric food warming table on wheels, table oven clock-radio, automatic deep fat fryer with insert basket, vacuum cleaner, blender, coffee table, floor or table lamp, small oriental rug.

Baby-sitters seen real need

MONTREAL (CP) — Hundreds of Montreal mothers are heading for mental breakdowns because they can't afford a baby-sitter and never get outside their four walls, the Montreal Volunteer Bureau reports.

The bureau recently had a request from one mother, who hadn't been out in 15 years. Now, because another woman is willing to give up a few hours occasionally, she can go out once every two weeks.

Guide for young couples . . .

Material contained in this annual Bridal Edition is designed as a useful guide to prospective brides, grooms, families and attendants and touches on the following:

- Planning the wedding
- Invitations.
- The reception.
- Gifts and showers.
- Selecting furniture.
- Homemaking decorating.
- The linen closet.
- Selecting china and utensils.
- In the kitchen.
- The bridal cake.
- The bridesmaid and best man
- Bride's beauty care

BRIDE'S BOOK FOR 1966

2nd SECTION GUARDIAN - PATRIOT, CHARLOTTETOWN PAGE 1A

SPREAD THE TIDINGS

Your newspaper can help others share happy day

The wedding day is one of the most important days in the life of any couple. This fact also applies to not only those directly involved in the plans and ceremony but also to those relatives and friends who may not have been able to attend.

This is where your local newspaper comes into the picture. Wedding accounts are welcomed by The Guardian and Evening Patriot and there is no charge for publishing the picture or the story of your happy day.

Long before the bride-elect is caught up in that last minute whirl of wedding preparations, the women's editor of The Guardian should be contacted. A guide to the preparing of the account may be obtained from her, or it can be mailed direct to the bride-to-be. This guide will ensure that none of the details of that important day will be overlooked or omitted.

The wisest arrangement is to complete the story well in advance of the wedding, and have arrangements made with a responsible friend or relative to add last minute details or changes and get it as soon as possible to the newspaper. The choice of picture should be left to the discretion of the photographer. He knows which photo will reproduce best in the newspaper.

If for some reason the photo is delayed, send the wedding account anyway. The photo and outline can be published later. Publication after a month is doubtful. Timeliness is important in the editing of the story.

A two column black and white glossy print, or negative of the couple is preferred for The Guardian. A two or three column photo of the bride alone, close-up if possible is used in The Patriot. Color prints, slides and transparencies cannot be used.

In submitting your story, the women's editor would appreciate a double spaced typewritten on one side only of the paper, report. If carefully hand-written the same request applies. This ensures quicker editing and publishing.

Remember too, that showers and parties in connection with weddings are of interest to readers and are regarded as social events well worth reporting by phone or mail to the social editor.



PICTURE OF BEAUTY AND HAPPINESS

The place of honor in our annual 'Bride Book' this year goes to Mrs. MacLean, wife of Rev. Hugh Christie MacLean, and the former Norma Hunter-Duvar, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Arthur Duvar of Charlottetown. The happy bride and her husband are now residing in Edinburgh, Scotland. Bill Taylor Photo

Some suggestions for men on chase

Ever since Adam discovered there were more important things in life than ribs, one of man's most fascinating pursuits has been the Great Chase.

He has swum rivers, climbed mountains, tamed lions, written poetry, built palaces and destroyed cities—just to get a sigh of appreciation out of some bored damsel.

In reality, there are five ways to pursue the quarry. For the benefit of those who may be stymied at the moment, here they are:

Be sad. This is a subtle approach which, if applied with some imagination, rarely fails. Act at all times as if you are burdened with a great tragedy in your life.

Stare into space occasionally. Few women can resist the challenge of trying to make you forget your "sorrow". Lord Byron was the perfect

example of the brooding pursuer. He dressed in dark clothing, affected a limp bow tie and reckless forelock. He was always muttering poetry under his breath and sighing audibly; when asked what was wrong, he grew angry. So far as we know, he was actually a very happy person—and a whiz with the ladies.

Be well-informed. Keep your eyes and ears open for amusing anecdotes about famous people; learn the order of the planets according to their distance from the sun; be able to analyze the situation in the world's trouble spots or outer space. Thus armed, you'll feel confident under all circumstances and talk with an air of authority. No woman can resist a man of the world.

GROOMING

Be well-groomed. "Let neatness please you", the Roman poet Ovid advised men 2,000

MEMORABLE MAGIC MOMENTS

Traditional wedding customs had origin dating to Crusades

Whether your marriage is simple or elaborate, ancient tradition is your uninvited guest.

The stalwart, young warrior in an ancient past had neither time nor inclination for ceremony when he wanted a lady for his bride. Only courage and a fast horse were needed, together with a strong armed friend. Marriage by capture was the mode.

But as people became more civilized and fathers of marriageable daughters more mercenary, marriage became a matter of purchase, and society made it more contractual and impressive with ceremony and ritual.

Today's marriage ceremony differs sharply from these ancient forms in its dignity, its religious connotation, and its element of the free choice. However, it still preserves vestiges of many early customs. Your bridal veil, the shower of rice and sharing the first piece of wedding cake with your new husband are symbolic of ceremonies practised during earlier times. Since they'll form memorably magic moments on your wedding day, let's see what these odd bits of old custom mean.

In days when marriage by purchase was customary, a prospective bridegroom began with a pledge and part payment to prove his worthiness and good intentions. Gifts of cattle, food or jewels to the bride-to-be and her father were called "earned money." Later, the gift to the bride was a personal ornament or ring presented at betrothal, and from this came the practice of engagement rings.

But it was Italy that first favored the diamond. Legend was that the diamond was born from the flames of love, and from this beginning it grew popular. In that country, it was called a token of reconciliation insuring harmony.

Your wedding band has an even earlier beginning. The primitive bride sat before her cave and displayed the circlet of rushes around her wrist or ankle as proudly as you'll show the dainty ring on your finger. Each season lady wife got herself a new circlet and her unappreciative husband soon changed the band to iron to signify the lasting quality of the marriage contract; as the custom evolved, it was placed on the left third finger from a supposed connection of a vein there with the heart.

An Anglo-Saxon rite placed the wedding ring on the thumb, saying "In the name of the Father," then on to the first finger with "and the Son," the second finger, "and of the Holy Ghost," and finally the third, "Amen." And though the ceremony has been discontinued, the wedding band is still placed on the left third finger—its circlet signifying unending love.

As time went on, the bride's father repaid the groom for his purchase money by setting up a dowry for his daughter, though in time it increased her value considerably. Its earliest form was the trousseau, a bundle of clothes and personal possessions which the bride carried to her new home, and the modern trousseau originated from this custom.

ROMAN INFLUENCE

But always, the wedding day was an occasion for ritual, pomp and a lavish marriage feast. The early Roman bride dressed in white ceremonial robes as a sign of purity and was grateful for the veil which hid her blushes. Guests, too, wore white as was customary on sacred and happy days. Actually, the veil is a relic of the days when the bride's face was covered on her wedding day until her husband lifted the veil and gazed for the first time on the face of the woman he had purchased.

An ancient custom of brides in Israel was the wearing of a blue ribbon border on their fringed robes—blue denoting purity, fidelity, and love—from this comes the suggestion that you wear "something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue."

The wedding feast was generally protracted for a week and from ceremonies held to secure abundance of material wealth for the young couple has come the bride-cake. In early Roman days it was made from flour, water and salt; in Greece, from seasoned seeds pounded, roasted and mixed with honey; and your wedding cake though dressed up in white icing and smiling figures, symbolizes abundance just as in those days.

Today, the act of eating the first piece of the wedding cake together means sharing each other's lives, but the ceremony dates back to primitive times when only man and wife ate from the same dish or bowl or even gnawed the same bone.

Fertility rites are also among the oldest and most universal of marriage customs, and though they have varied over the ages and among different peoples the idea has remained the same—to make the union fruitful.

CRUSADE RITUAL

Saracen brides during the Crusades wore headpieces of orange blossoms as the orange was in their country the most prolific fruit-bearing tree. Among the Choccos, and Hindus, brides looked at the sun on the day before marriage, as strong faith was placed in its fertilizing power—hence, the popular, "Happy is the bride the sun shines on." Rice throwing originated in the idea of giving food to the evil spirits to induce them to be propitious and depart, but today has developed into a systematic method of wishing couples an abundance of offspring.

Male members of your wedding party, too, have their counterparts in the past. For the father "to give the bride away" dates back to the time when she was a commodity for purchase, though today it symbolizes she is leaving his household for that of her husband's. The best man is the strong-armed warrior friend who assisted the bridegroom when marriage by capture was popular. And if the lady offered no objections, we have a throwback to the modern eloping couple.

Even old shoes tied to the back of your wedding car have meaning! In ancient Egypt the father handed his daughter's sandal to her groom on his wedding day to indicate that he had transferred her to his care for life; and though the ceremony is no longer practiced, old shoes tied to the bridal car symbolize transfer of authority.

Even the honeymoon is rooted in tradition. In ancient marriage by capture, the groom kept his bride in hiding to prevent searching relatives from finding her. The term had its origin when early Teuton couples drank a honey drink known as mead or methelgin, for 30 days after their wedding or until the moon had waned. Hence, the honeymoon.

And so you see that no matter how simple or elaborate your wedding will be, it has its counterpart in remote antiquity. Society in all times and among different people have given their customs as wedding gifts to you and your husband. Following these customs, not only help make your wedding memorable but sets another perfect link in the chain of tradition—a link that identifies you with all the beautiful ceremony of the past, the continuing ritual of the future.

Expert advice for new brides wedding etiquette problems

Even for the simplest wedding there are countless details to be attended to and questions that come up in planning the wedding. Every bride wishes her wedding to be just perfect.

To help you prepare for the wonderful day, here are a list of questions most commonly asked by the bride-to-be. The answers are taken from authoritative sources on etiquette.

May your wedding day be a perfect one, from the time you say "I do", to your joyful departure in a shower of rice.

Q. What does the groom provide for his ushers?
A. Boutonniers, ties and gloves.

Q. Who provides the corsages for bride and mothers?
A. The groom.

Q. Who provides for the wedding reception?
A. The bride's parents.

Q. What gifts may a bride give a bridesmaid?
A. A small lasting gift, perhaps jewelry.

Q. What gift does a groom give to his bride?
A. Something personal, usually jewelry.

Q. How are wedding bands installed?
A. Bride's initials come first inside the band, then groom's and date of marriage.

Q. How many ushers are needed?
A. It depends on size of wedding. Figure one usher to 50 guests.

Q. Is it necessary to have the same number of ushers and bridesmaids?
A. No.

Q. In a church wedding, which side is usually reserved for the bride's family and friends?
A. The left. The groom's is the right side. (In some synagogues this is reversed.)

Q. What if a church has two centre aisles?
A. Pick one aisle and run the whole wedding as though it were the only one, or use the right hand aisle for the processional and the left for the recessional.

Q. May any feminine member of the wedding party wear black?
A. No.

Q. Are divorced parents of the bride seated together in church?
A. No. The mother keeps her front-row seat, with her new husband if she's remarried. The father sits in the third left-hand pew.

Q. What is the church seating if the groom's parents are divorced?
A. His mother sits in the front right-hand pew, the father in the third.

Q. Does the groom always kiss the bride at the altar?
A. The clergyman will rule on it, according to church practice.

Q. Who gives clergyman his fee?
A. The groom pays, but best man hands is over in plain white envelope before or after the ceremony.

Q. Is the clergyman invited to the reception?
A. Yes, with his wife. He sits at parents' table.

Q. May a house wedding be just as formal as a church wedding?
A. Yes, although there are never as many attendants.

Q. Is there usually a recessional at a home wedding?
A. The married couple turn around after ceremony and receive best wishes of the guests.

Q. How can wedding gifts be displayed if a home reception isn't being held?
A. Close friends may be invited to a tea or cocktail party, several days before the wedding.

Q. Are cheques displayed with wedding presents?
A. No, but they may be noted on a card.

Q. Are identifying cards put with the presents on display?
A. Not these days.

Q. Is it socially correct to exchange duplicate wedding gifts?
A. Yes.

Q. Are gifts ever brought to the reception?
A. No.

Q. Where may a reception be held?
A. At the bride's home, the house of a friend, hotel or a club.

Q. Should the bride and groom smoke or hold a drink on the receiving line?
A. No.

Q. Do ushers and est man stand in receiving line?
A. No.

Q. When should invitations, and announcements be ordered?
A. About two months before the wedding.

Q. When are invitations to a formal wedding sent out?
A. Three to four weeks before the ceremony.

Q. When should announcements be mailed?
A. A day or two after wedding.

Q. When are at-home cards sent?
A. Usually with the announcements.

Q. Are wedding announcements ever sent to anyone who's been invited to the ceremony or reception?
A. No.

Q. May guests be invited to a reception and not the wedding itself?
A. Yes, when the ceremony is attended only by relatives and close friends.

Q. Does a formal invitation to a church wedding require an answer?
A. No.

Q. If the bride's parents are divorced, who issues the invitations and plans the wedding?
A. The mother.

Q. May wedding invitations be sent to those in mourning?
A. Yes.

Q. May a divorcee send invitations for her second wedding?
A. No, but she may send announcements.

Q. How does the fact that the groom has been married before affect a bride's wedding last?
A. No difference.

Q. If the bride is a very young widow, may her family send out invitations?
A. Yes.

Q. Are reception cards enclosed with invitations?
A. Yes, and so are reply cards.

Glenn Ford wed Sunday

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — Glenn Ford, Canadian-born veteran movie actor, and television actress Kathryn Hays were married Sunday, Ford, 49, is a native of Portneuf, Que.

Peter Ford, 21, the actor's son by dancer Eleanor Powell, was best man. Ford and Miss Powell were divorced in 1959 after a 16-year-marriage.

MR. AND MRS. RAYMOND MATTERS Claude MacKay Photo