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Brides

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GROOMS

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Fashion Trend

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your wedding

HONEYMOON
In ancient marriages by capture, the bridegroom kept his bride in hiding to prevent finding her. The term comes from a honey drink which the couple drank for thirty days - or until the moon waxed - while hiding out after the wedding.

BRIDAL BOUQUET
Tradition says that the bridegroom buys the bride's bouquet, but it doesn't say that he should buy it without consulting her. Most brides prefer to select the combination of flowers that will go well with her gown, even if it means picking up the tab.

GROOM'S PARENTS
When a couple becomes engaged, it is the parents of the bridegroom who take the first step in welcoming their son's fiancée and bringing the two families together. Wisest procedure seems to be for the mother of the bridegroom to telephone, suggesting that she and her husband come to call. The mother of the bride will indicate her pleasure and specify a time for them to come. During the evening, she might offer coffee and cake but she should not appear to have made elaborate preparations. At this time, the bride's parents might discuss plans for an announcement party at their home, and the bridegroom's parents might extend an invitation for dinner to the bride's immediate family. Once these initial gatherings have taken place, relatives of the engaged couple can entertain whomever and whenever they wish. If the bridegroom's parents live in another city, state or country and cannot come to call, his mother should write a letter to the bride's mother, indicating their happiness over the fine choice their son has made.

MEMORABLE WEDDINGS
Memorable weddings just don't happen, they require a lot of advance planning and attention to detail. Almost as important as the bride and bridegroom themselves are their attendants; the maid or matron of honor, the bridesmaids, the best man and the ushers. Their duties are extremely important to the organization of the wedding. Just one unreliable attendant and things can start to go wrong. Here is a list of their duties, compiled from various etiquette books:

Fashions in Flowers
Flowers are an integral part of weddings and fashions in them change just as much as in clothes. Today's bride prefers simple garden-type bouquets for herself and her attendants rather than the formal effect favored in the past. As far as the church goes one well-known city florist says "we do not have as many standards as formerly. We make more round decorations, and a lot of pew end floral arrangements." Instead of decorating the whole church, the trend now is to have two or three simple arrangements adorning the altar. These may be either in stark white or in soft colors to blend with the bridesmaids' ensembles. "We never make a bride's bouquet of carnations any more," the florist added. "Baby roses and miniature carnations are quite popular as are small white orchids. It's a case of small flowers rather than the big. We use a great amount of marguerites." Another well-known city florist remarked that "only a few brides today use traditional white flowers. They prefer the loose nosegay type, for a natural-looking effect, in brighter colors." One florist likes the bride to consult with them "not more than two weeks before the wedding so we know what flowers will be available. We always ask for sample of the bridesmaids' dresses so we can harmonize the bouquets." Generally, the attendants all carry the same flowers in

MAID OR MATRON OF HONOUR
She should be someone who is very close to the bride - usually the bride's sister - or a very good friend. The bride needn't ask her fiancée's sister to be her honor attendant unless she happens to be a very close friend. - The honor attendant is expected to help the bride as much as possible. - If the bride wishes, she can assist in addressing invitations, and the recording and displaying of gifts. - She precedes the bride and her father down the aisle, arranges her train and holds her bouquet during the ceremony. - If the ceremony is a double-ring one, she carries the groom's ring for the bride, unless there is a ring-bearer. - She stands on the groom's right in the receiving line and sits on his left at the bridal table.

THE BRIDESMAIDS
Together with the maid or matron of honor they should: - Help the bride in any way they can. - Be at the bride's home at appointed time and dress there or before, whichever the bride prefers. - Be ready for photographs, if desired, one hour before the service begins. - Arrange own transportation to the bride's home, if possible. - Together, or individually, hold a shower for the bride. - Attend all showers and social functions which are given in the bride's honor before the wedding. - Help the bride pack for the honeymoon. - Participate in the receiving line. - Help the bride into her going-away clothes and carefully put away her wedding clothes.

BEST MAN
The bridegroom will welcome the best man's help and advice throughout the weeks before the wedding. But it is on the wedding day itself that the best man's alertness and moral support mean most to the bridegroom. If the two live in the same city or town, the best man can also be especially helpful during the week preceding the wedding.

LAST WEEK BEFORE THE WEDDING
- Check details of the bridegroom's plans; plans necessary messages, do last minute shopping, help with home.

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BRIDE OF THE MONTH
Married at St. John's United Church, Barbara Burt and Floyd Hillier now reside in Georgetown.

- Attend bachelor party, rehearsal and rehearsal party. - Offer to meet planes or trains of visiting guests, drive members of the party who require transportation, etc. - With the bridegroom, make sure of the bridegroom's and usher's clothes are complete. - Prepare speech for the wedding reception. - Help with packing; make sure that wedding ring, licence and fees for clergyman are handy. - Make sure that the going away car is ready, and that the bridegroom has tickets, passports, confirmations of reservation and keys for the new home in a convenient place.

ON THE WEDDING DAY
- Check that flowers ordered by the bridegroom have arrived. - Help the bridegroom to complete packing; pick up bride's luggage and lock it, with the bridegroom's bags, in the going-away car.

- Take the bridegroom's going-away clothes to place of reception. - Help the bridegroom to dress. Get him to the church at least 20 minutes before the ceremony. - Have the ring safe and accessible; have the licence at the church vestry. - Pick-up the boutonnières at the church for yourself and bridegroom. - Have outdoor clothes of men of the wedding party brought to front of church after ceremony. - Give the gratuities to clergyman and organist. - Help bridegroom change into going-away clothes; put away bridegroom's wedding clothes. - Be prepared to be toast-master and time-keeper at the bride's table during the reception. - Reply to the bridegroom's toast to the bridesmaids; propose the health of the mother of the bride and bridegroom. It is appropriate and thoughtful to include the fathers as well. In some cases, the best man proposes

the toast to the bride's attendants and the head usher then assumes responsibility for the best man's reply and toast.

USHERS
The only absolute requirement before the wedding day is to have the necessary clothes ready and to attend the rehearsal. - On the wedding day, ushers should be at the church at least a half-hour before the ceremony. - On wedding day, ushers should be at the church at least a half-hour before the ceremony. - They pick up their boutonnières in the vestry and then are ready to escort guests down the aisle. - Ushers should have a typed list of guests who will be occupying reserved pews. - They meet the guests at the door, offering each woman their right arm - giving preference to the eldest if many arrive at the same time.

Also give the florist a description and swatch of your bridesmaid's dresses so their bouquets can be made to match or harmonize. Flowers at a wedding are worn by:

1. Bride - bouquet and head piece, going away corsage;
2. Bridegroom - boutonniere, Bridegroom always wears white flowers;
3. Bridesmaids - bouquets and headpieces;
4. Ushers, fathers, grandfathers, best man - boutonnières;
5. Mothers - corsages;
6. Other members of the family - corsages for the bride's sisters, aunt, grandmothers, bridegroom's sisters, aunts, godmothers, etc. (optional).
7. Matron of honour - usually a bouquet;
8. Flowergirl - a bouquet, basket or headpiece of carrying type promenade arrangement.
9. Ring bearer - boutonniere and usually a pillow decoration in the case of a younger boy;
10. If the Minister is not in robes, he may wear a boutonniere;
11. The person who lights the candles - if in the service (usually two of the ushers perform this duty just before the procession).
12. Organist - corsage or boutonniere (optional).
13. Vocalist - corsage or boutonniere (optional).

Standard color of boutonnières for the men is white. When in season the standard flowers are lily-of-the-valley.

HAPPILY EVER AFTER
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something old,
something new,
something borrowed,



Something beautiful!

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