

PICTURES: Your day lives again with all its memories

"You have to remember," Acton photographer Jim Beaulieu commented, "that besides the relationship itself, wedding pictures are one of the few permanent things you take with you from that important occasion".

The advice from a number of professional photographers surveyed last week cautioned future brides and grooms against treating good wedding photography too lightly.

Neatly arranged in an album, a bright well-taken photographic account of a wedding provides delightful browsing for the couple, their friends and family for years and years.

"I treat it as an essay, a journalistic record of the event," Georgetown's Bill Garrard said. "Looking at it as a story, I begin taking pictures at the bride's home, then pick up with the groom's family at the church, the religious

rites and then follow through at the reception with the cake cutting, the first dance and even the tossing of the bouquet and garter."

Professional wedding photographers prefer to use a type of camera which shoots on two and one quarter-inch negatives.

BIG PRINTS

While slightly larger than a 35-millimeter camera, it's still small enough to easily move around without distributing crowds of people. And the large negative "blow up" to give sharp, crisp prints in a variety of sizes.

The price of a photo package, which traditionally includes three albums (one for the couple, one each for the two sets of parents) can range between \$300 and anywhere over \$1,000, depending on the services sought by the couple.

Book well in advance, the photographers say, not leaving it to less than six months before the wedding.

"I like to have the bride and groom in again about a month before the wedding," Georgetown's Jim Fishback said. "I do a preview, take a few pictures from different angles and that gives me the opportunity to get to know them a bit and see how they react when having their picture taken."

Many people believe they aren't photogenic; but Mr. Fishback said, "everybody has a good side in photography and it's up to the photographer to find it... to find the angle which really preproduces well and shows what the people are really like."

PICTURE

Large professional studios may have a number of photographers, Mr. Beaulieu pointed out, adding that couples should ask who will be taking the pictures at the wedding.

"You may talk to Mr. Personality at the studio but Mr. Prune may show up at your wedding," he said.

Mr. Beaulieu also suggested finding out how professional the photographer is — years of service, where he went to school — and ensuring there are no hidden costs in the package.

Personality is a large part of the photographer's profession. His charm and patience must be maintained working with large and excited crowds as one might find at a wedding.

But, Mr. Garrard warns, be wary of photographers who move

into weddings and seem to be orchestrating the whole show.

"I want to record an event," he said, "I don't want to set up a situation in which two people get married." At some point before the wedding, he, like Mr. Beaulieu and Mr. Fishback, meets with his clients to establish a rapport.

A good photographer checks with the priest, pastor or rabbi to make sure the picture taking doesn't impose on the sanctity of the service, they said.

READY

"If we can find out what's happening in a ceremony, we can prepare for it," Mr. Fishback said. "Things take place so fast, a certain action can easily be missed if you're not ready — and it can never be repeated."

While photographers have to consider the protocol of the wedding service, wedding guests should be mindful of the photographer's job.

Armed with a variety of cameras, guests flock at the earliest opportunity to photograph the bride and groom. But the photographers suggest they give leeway to the gentleman who has been hired by the couple

"I usually back off and let the guests mingle with the bride and groom after the service," Mr. Beaulieu said.

He likes taking family shots around the church

and then takes the wedding party — alone — to a nearby park for more official shooting.

That way the party concentrates only on one photographer, he said.

to take the official pictorial account of the ceremony.



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