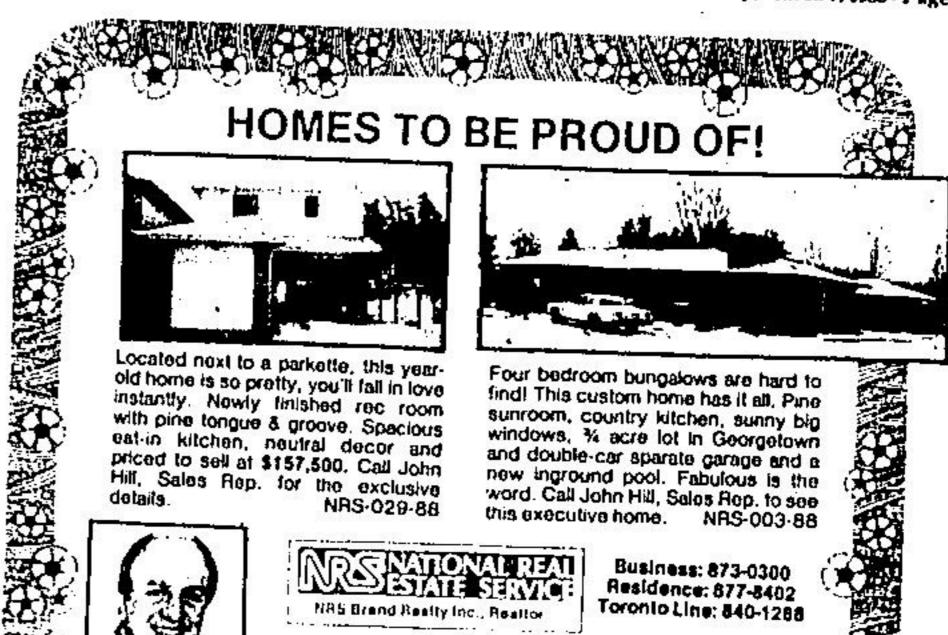
## The origin of wedding traditions

The Bridal Shower

At one time, marriage was a business proposition between parents of the bride and groom. Love was not important. What was? The price the groom's family paid for the bride and the size of the bride's dowry. The first shower? A poor Dutch miller fell in love with a maiden whose father forbade the match and refused to provide a dowry. The miller's friends came to the rescue and showered the bride-to-be with enough gifts in order to start housekeeping. Want to make shower-shopping easy for your friends? When you visit your Wedding Gift Registry to list your china, silver, and crystal choices, also sign up for kitchen gadgets, linens, cookware, and whatever else you need to set up your first home.

The Honeymoon

The first marriages were by capture, not choice. When early man felt it was time to take a bride, he carried off an unwilling woman to a secret place where her relatives wouldn't find them. While the moon went through all its phases — about 30 days — they hid from the searchers and drank a brew made from honey. Hence, we get the word honeymoon, now meaning a romantic trip like the one you and your groom will take after your wedding. If you two want to find out where the pink sand beaches and blue crystal waters are, which places tuck themselves in at sunset, which swing till dawn, just ask your travel agent. He'll help you both plan a perfect dreamy honeymoon you'll love.



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