

Brides need practical gifts

A gift they will appreciate

Choosing the right products for a first home can be overwhelming...from sheets and towels to china and crystal...from small electric appliances and kitchen gadgets to pots and pans...there are just so many different decisions to make!

Many brides-to-be opt for the help of a bridal registry coordinator at a local retail store. These "new home" experts have been trained in the pros and cons of many products by the manufacturers and through trial and error as they use the items themselves. Bridal registry coordinators can help match china, crystal and silver patterns, locate towels in just the right color and help choose the kitchen appliances that fit each couple's lifestyle.

When choosing items for a first kitchen, most bridal experts recommend that couples look for space-saving sets of pots and pans with time-saving features like a non-stick interior. Clean-up will be quick, which is important for today's busy dual-career family. Kitchen gadgets, knives, bakeware and casseroles should also be chosen with versatility, ease of use and storage needs in mind.

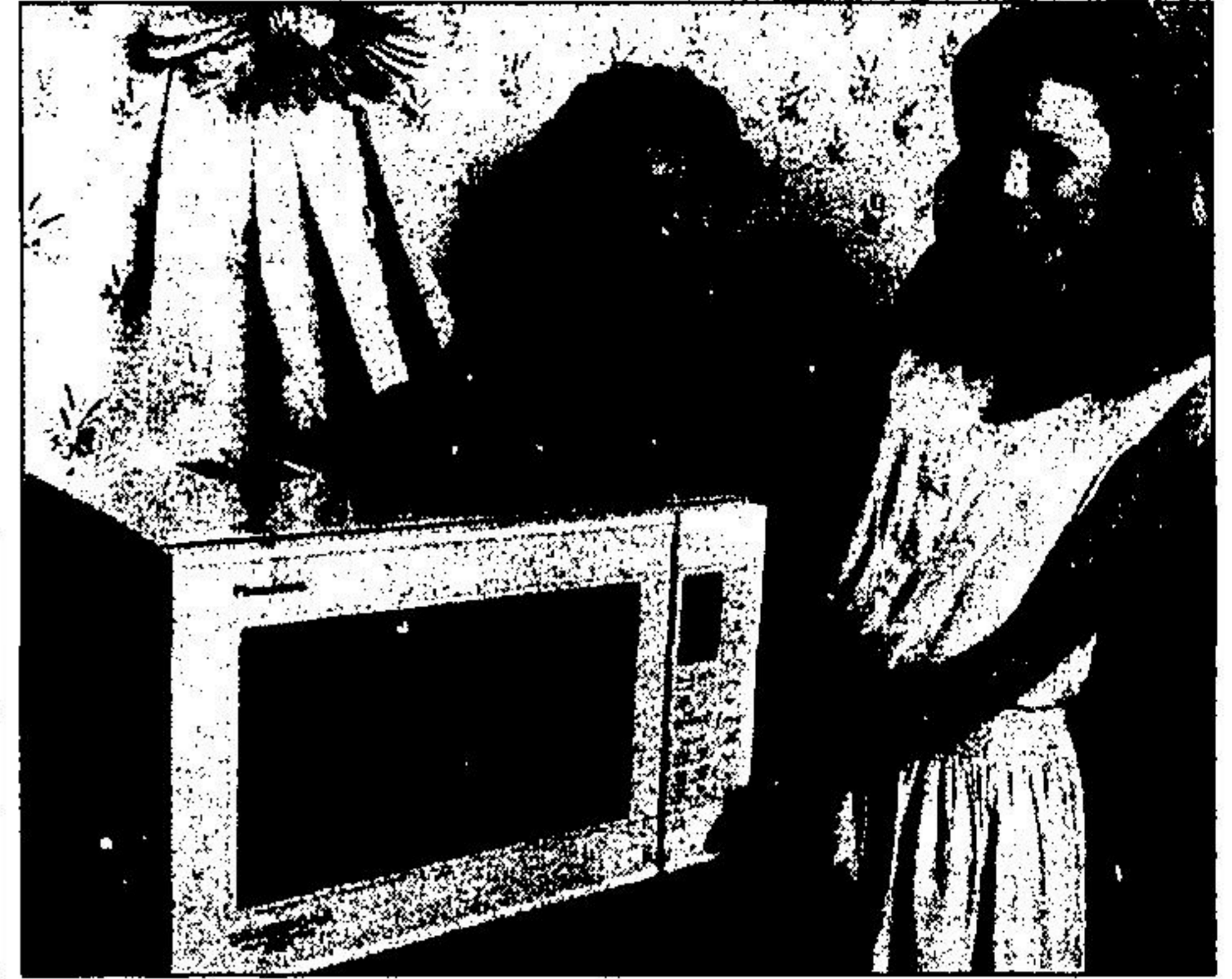
The same considerations should be put into place when choosing appliances for a first home. Oster's bridal coordinator, Elizabeth Kathan, suggests that the first decision that a couple should make is what type of food preparation they will be doing. "A couple needs to determine exactly what appliances they will truly use," accord-

ing to Kathan. "Asking for, and receiving, every gadget and appliance available is silly, especially if most of them sit unused in a cabinet."

Kathan suggests that choosing appliances that serve more than one function will save space and money for a newlywed couple. While a couple that doesn't cook often may only need a toaster, a small coffeemaker and a blender, a couple that cooks (or entertains) several times per week will need more. An all-in-one appliance like Oster's Kitchen Center appliance is

often just the thing. One motor base that serves five functions (a blender, a mixer, a doughmaker, a food processor and a slicer/shredder/saladmaker) can be a true spacesaver.

Brides-to-be should not be afraid to be as specific as possible when indicating the color, style and brand name of the items they choose. "Most wedding guests don't want to play a guessing game when choosing a gift for a favorite couple," says Kathan. "They prefer to know exactly what a couple would like to receive."



WHAT A WEDDING GIFT! The Panasonic NN-3959 Bread Bakery Microwave/Combination Oven allows you to microwave, bake, broil, or combination-cook any favorite food. Also featured in this microwave is a bread bakery that will automatically knead and bake a fresh loaf of bread within four hours. Just add the ingredients. It's a great unit for any newlyweds' kitchen.

Traditions do change

It's traditional in the United States for the parents of the bride to cover the entire cost of a couple's wedding. But according to *Bride's* magazine, this situation is changing.

For the first time, there's a definite trend toward the sharing of wedding expenses, says *Bride's*. The groom's family, as well as the bride and groom themselves, are taking on a chunk of the financial responsibility. One reason for this may be changing attitudes toward the nature of marriage. In this era of liberation, a bride's parents are no longer considered to be "marrying off" their daughter. Rather, the wedding is seen as the joining of two people, and two families,

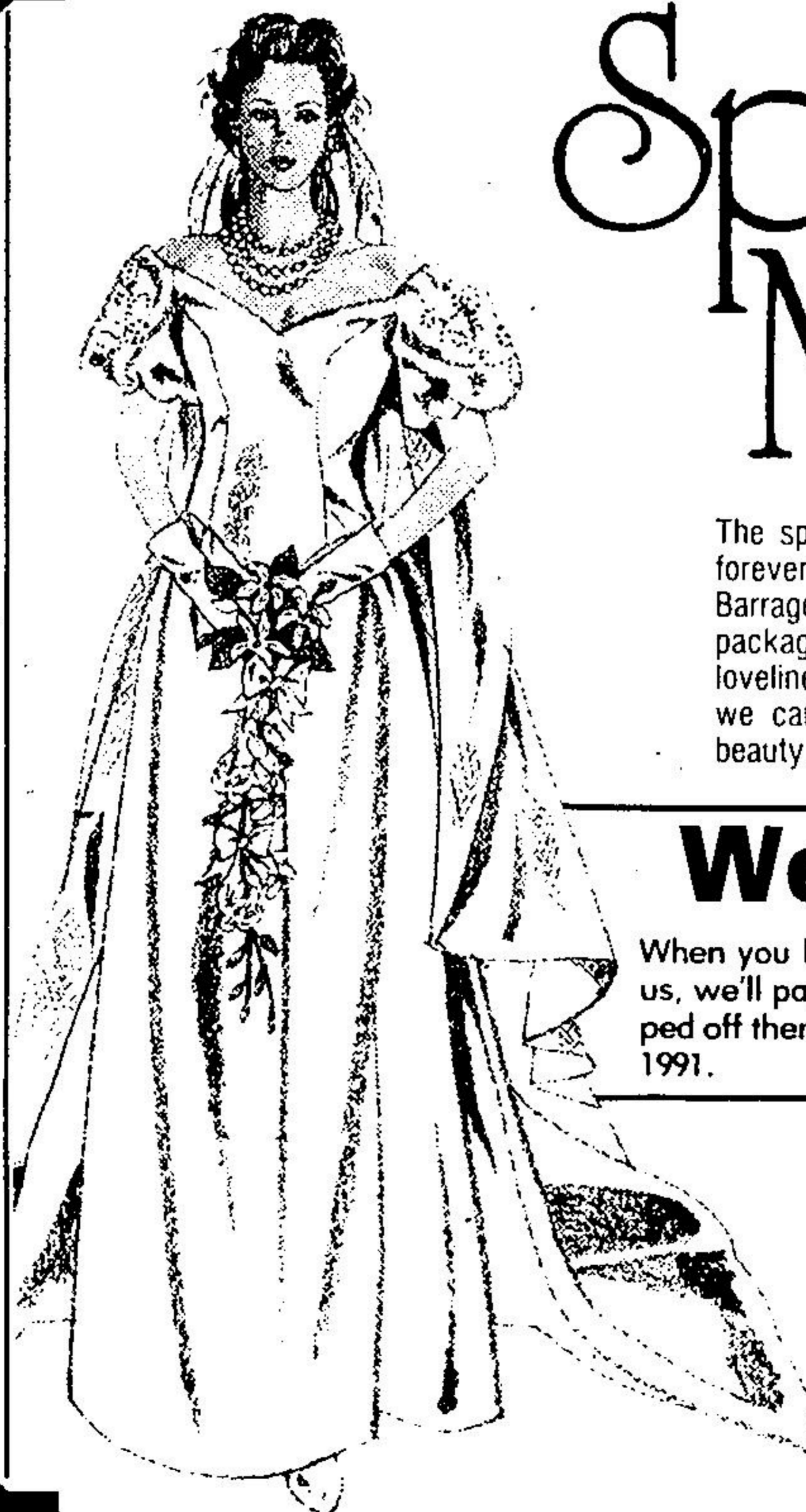
with everyone contributing to the festivities.

The actual dividing up of the costs can be done in several ways. An easy, tactful method that *Bride's* recommends is to settle on specific expenses in advance, rather than to just split the cost of the whole wedding down the middle. For instance, the groom's family might agree to cover the flowers, the music, and the liquor. They would then discuss the general budget for these items with the couple and have the bills sent directly to themselves. This eliminates the need for money changing hands or for further talking about costs between families. For more wedding information, see the current issue of *Bride's*, at your newsstand.

Wow!



SHE LOOKS FANTASTIC on a motorcycle, knows all the latest bands, and has enough energy for three people. So don't expect her to be completely out of character on her most exciting day. This very daring, very modern bride wears a white pearl-trimmed off-the-shoulder denim jacket over a white denim five-pocket short jean skirt.



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