

# Let's Take a Look

By

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## Ever Been a Best Man? And Other Matters

For the second time in my life, I've been asked to be a best man. The first time I couldn't perform the honorary duties for the Army is not thoughtful and ordered me to report at a distant camp the same hour I was to have stood by the bridegroom, John S. Pen-nish.

But this time nothing (I hope!) will interfere . . .

Do you know how about the duties of a best man?

His responsibilities include, my studies show me, those of a valet, nurse, expressman and, generally speaking, chief of staff at key times.

### TAKES ON NEW DUTY . . .

(And I've assumed a new duty: Chief executioner of all persons who pay practical jokes on newlyweds. Let these jokers beware! They will not be tolerated!)

Histories say a best man springs from the pagan past. He is a symbolic representation of those strong-armed warriors who helped the bridegroom capture his bride after which the trio galloped away.

Now the Atomic Age marriage is slightly different: Nowadays the couple usually roars away in a car; and the bridegroom usually doesn't have to capture his bride-to-be.

### DUTIES INCREASE . . .

The best man's job has increased during the years . . . and it seems his work earnestly begins when the BIG DAY nears.

First, there's the bachelor dinner . . . a toast to the bride (a non-alcoholic toast in this case, thank goodness!) . . . and a great deal of well-wishing.

Next, there's the night before the ceremony . . . the church rehearsals, repeated many times . . . And, finally, the BIG DAY . . .

### NURSE, VALET, EXPRESSMAN . . .

On that day the best man automatically becomes nurse, valet, expressman, and commanding officer in charge of seeing that everything is in readiness.

I must make certain the groom has not mislaid the marriage license; he frequently does, it is reliably reported.

Then there's the "new bill" to present to the clergyman. The best man attends to that, of course.

Then I begin my expressman duties . . .

I make certain bags are packed for the journey . . . that the groom's going-away clothes and baggage are taken to the bride's home . . . that the bride's and groom's suitcases are safely stowed in the car.

(And, by the way, I'd like to station one of my old and rugged first sergeants by the car to keep away all would-be jokers!)

### LIAISON OFFICER . . .

Next, I act as liaison officer between the bride's mother and the groom . . . receiving last minute "Operation Marriage" instructions which I convey to the groom . . .

Now it's time to get dressed . . . and this is no easy task, particularly if it's to be a formal affair, and this is.

I'd better have a couple of extra collar buttons around, too; you always lose those little things just when you need them most.

They say the groom usually can't tie his tie that day . . . or

adjust his boutonniere . . . or get the right glove on the right hand. So, I'm now a valet . . .

### GO TO CHURCH . . .

How about the ring? Into the watch pocket it goes . . . with a couple extra rings in other pockets just in case . . .

Fifteen minutes before the ceremony we — the groom and I — arrive. We wait for a few moments, (why, I don't know) . . . then I take the groom's stick (how about that) and gloves to the sexton in the vestibule.

I give the groom a final inspection. And a pep talk.

### BEFORE THE ALTAR . . .

Now we're before the altar . . . I'm holding his gloves.

No, the sexton has those! Calm down!

I'm not getting married. I'm watching to see if everything is alright . . . and I'm ready to hand the ring at the proper time . . .

The ceremony over, I rush to the vestry . . . hand the clergyman his fee . . . speed to the bride's home.

(By the way, the best man is boss of the ushers, too!)

At the bride's house I check to see if all ushers are on duty . . . check to see if the bags are in the car . . . enjoy the reception ceremonies for a few minutes . . . then help the groom ease into his going-away clothes . . .

### GET SUITE IN ORDER . . .

If the newly-weds are staying at a near-by hotel, I'm to see that reservations are in order . . . that the suite is immaculate . . . and that fresh flowers are in the room . . .

Then there's the confetti-throwing (I'm back at the bride's home now!) . . . The dash to the car . . .

Yep, I close the car door . . . And they're off! . . .

And the best man goes to bed for a week! (Editor's note: Names were not mentioned for the engaged couple have not made a formal announcement yet.)

### DEDICATES MUSIC TO SON . . .

Arvid Magnuson, who has lived in Highland Park since 1897, recently published 25 piano compositions in a 56-page volume, now on sale at Larson's stationery store.

The volume, containing expertly written scores, is dedicated to the memory of Lloyd Magnuson, who died in action at Tunisia, Feb. 15, 1943.

Mr. Magnuson is in retirement now after faithfully serving at Highland Park's post office for 37 years.

May we recommend that you look over Mr. Magnuson's compositions.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, May 2, 1947— 7:30 pm Rifle and Pistol (rifle). Deerfield range. Saturday, May 3— 8:15 pm High school operetta. High school. Monday, May 5— 10:00 am Trinity guild. Parish house. 12:15 pm Rotary. Moraine hotel. 1:15 pm Presbyterian Woman's association groups. Homes. 1:30 pm Mussart club. Homes. 6:30 pm Kiwanis. Sunset Valley. 7:30 pm Rifle and Pistol (pistol). Deerfield range. 7:30 pm Rebekah lodge. Masonic temple. 7:30 pm Playground and Recreation board. Com. center. 8:00 pm City council. City hall. Tuesday, May 6— 1:00 pm Arden Shore. Home. 1:30 pm Lincoln PTA spring party. School. 8:00 pm Elks. Elks club. 8:00 pm Men's Garden club. Com. center. 8:00 pm No. Suburban Philatelic. Com. center. 8:15 pm Dunbar group. YWCA. Wednesday, May 7— 9:45 am Girl Scout leaders. Com. center. 7:30 pm Eastern Star Grand Representatives night. Masonic hall. 8:30 pm Women of the Moose. Witten hall. Thursday, May 8— 10:00 am Sewing group. YWCA. 12:15 pm Lions club. Moraine hotel. 1:30 pm Bethany Missionary society. Home of Mrs. Henry Hawes, Deerfield. 2:00 pm St. Johns Women's guild. Home. 8:00 pm American Legion. Legion hall.

### WONDERFUL PLACE TO EAT! . . .

The writer has eaten in many cafes across the nation . . . and outside the country, too.

But we've never found a spot so to our liking as quaint San Pedro, in No Man's Land.

Here's a delightful eating place with soft lights, good music, efficient waitresses, a pleasant owner, Bill Bruns, and the most delicious chef salad ever prepared!

If you've missed this friendly place to eat, Highland Parkers, may we suggest that you try it soon?

### VFW Auxiliary Meets To Make Plans For Poppy Day

The Women's auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars will have a business meeting, Monday, May 5, at the Community center, at 8 pm.

Plans for the sale of buddy poppies to be held Saturday, May 24, will be discussed. Members and prospective members are urged to be present.

### Winter Vacations

The F. A. Watkins family will return to their home at 29 Dale tomorrow (Friday) after a winter spent in Florida. Also the John S. Bells, who wintered in California, are again living at 916 N. St. Johns avenue.

### A Better Hospital Means Better Health!

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# Mr. Merchant!

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# 100-BED HOSPITAL!

SINCE our hospital was built, the population it serves has increased over 130%—yet for 25 years not one cent has been spent to increase its building facilities. That is why our hospital is not equal to the health demands of our growing community. That is why it is so vitally important that you make a contribution to make possible its enlargement.

Highland Park Hospital is a community non-profit enterprise. It is YOUR hospital. Your home may be the next to need its services. When your neighbor calls to solicit your contribution, GIVE generously . . . give MORE than you first thought you would . . . spread your contribution over a 3-year period to make your gift as large as possible. Remember, illness plays no favorites—no one knows when his own family may need the facilities that cannot be provided by a hospital that is too small.

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