Your honeymoon should be planned

Most experts agree that newlyweds should honeymoon. It's a rite of passage, a carefree interlude away from family and friends that cements the bond and creates memories to share forevermore.

"A honeymoon is a way to ease into reality," says Harvey Asch, a
New York clinical psychologist, "An
important step has been taken and
special time is needed to assimilate
it. You can't just plunge back into
daily living. A honeymoon should be
a carefree period of relaxation."

New Status

While less important for couples who lived together before marriage, the honeymoon nevertheless separates their old arrangement from their new and allows them to adjust to their newly married status. For young couples who have not had premarital intimacy, a honeymoon marks their break with the single life, sets them apart from their families as a family of their own, and allows getting-to-know-you-time under optimum stress-free vacation conditions.

Most honeymoons average two weeks but, shorter or longer, all serve the same purpose, giving the stars of the long wedding day an opportunity to savor each wonderful moment of the reception and enjoy togetherness.

"Ideally, honeymoons should be so well-planned there's never cause for aggravation," says Barbara Tober; editor-in-chief of Bride's, a magazine devoted exclusively to wedding planning. "But things can and do go wrong, especially if planning is left until the last minute."

* Should Please Both

of prime importance, she suggests, is choosing a place that suits both husband and wife. If he's allergic to the sun or she isn't into winter sports, then beach and ski resorts should be ruled out. The best bet is to agree on an affordable destination offering leisure activities that cater to the interests of both, she advises.

Everything you need to know about planning a perfect wedding trip can be found in "The Honeymoon Handbook" (Macmillan, \$12.95 aby Marcia Powell and Lynn Graeme. The definitive book on the subject, is an absolute boon to the bride because it covers a great deal more than travel plans.

The authors also touch on ways to set the stage for intimate moments, sex, getting to know each other, and making memories. There are comforting anecdotes from honeymooners who found their wedding trips less than perfect — the bride who spent the entire two weeks wondering what her new husband thought about her less-than-perfect thighs, the bridegroom who was unpleasantly surprised to discover his bride still disagreed with his political views.

And there are stories from those who remember their honeymoon as a perfect interlude in their lives.

Learning from Experience
The couples interviewed for the book contributed a great deal to its effectiveness because it's always comforting to learn from the experiences of others.

One of the most instructive sec-

important things to say about the etiquette of honeymooning — dining out, meeting people, living with each other. Equally important is a section of suggestions and how-to hints on deciding just where to spend those first weeks as Mr. and Mrs.

Ideally, everything — the place, the weather, the two of you will combine to create a perfect honeymoon. But be prepared for catastrophes, says Barbara Tober, so that if they happen you'll know how to cope.

For example, here's how she sug-

For example, here's how she suggests handling some common mishaps

You lose your plane tickets. Simple, let your travel agent handle it or contact the airline. If you have proof of purchase, they'll simply reissue the tickets when you sign a pledge of responsibility in case of fraud.

The Manager's Problem
The hotel doesn't have a room for you. Cool it out, speaking firmly to the manager and producing your confirmation. It's basically his problem, not yours, and he will come up with accommodations for you, elsewhere if need be.

The room is dreary or has twins instead of a double bed. It's back to the manager, pushing your honeymoon status, and asking for a change. The world over, people are extra nice to honeymooners. Take advantage of that attitude instead of suffering in silence.

Most emergencies have solutions, so devote your energies to coping instead of letting muddle mar your happy mood. Remember that upsets have a way of turning into the funniest anecdotes when the honey-moon's over

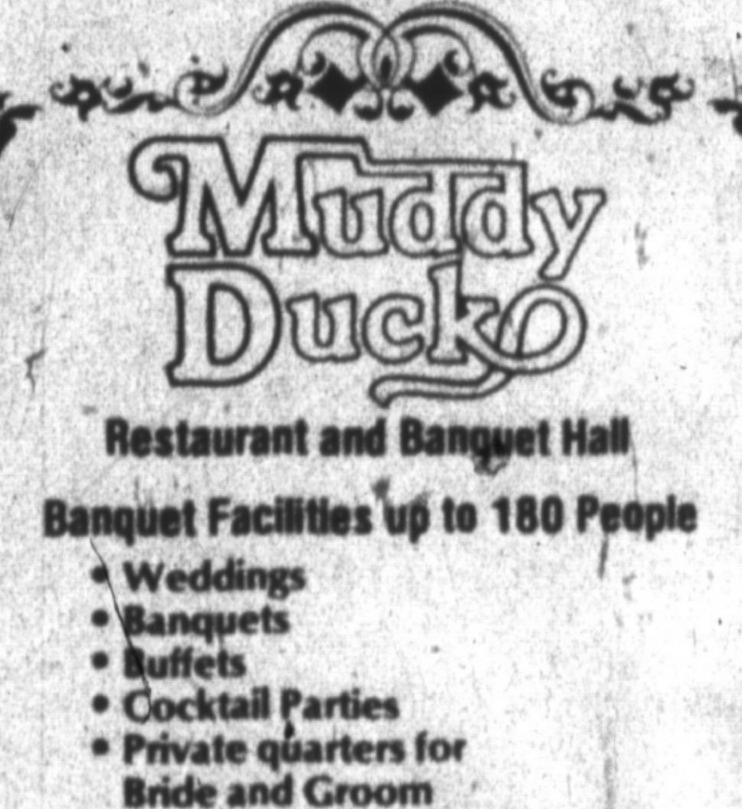
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