

1952

Proper Thing to Do

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Recommended Citation

Skinner, Marian (1952) "Proper Thing to Do," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 32 : No. 2 , Article 9.
Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol32/iss2/9>

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It's the

PROPER THING TO DO

by *Marian Skinner*

Technical Journalism Sophomore

AFTER THE FIRST flurry of a ten-pound party and probably the most enchantingly happy weeks of your life, you must come down to earth and to the business of planning the wedding. Nothing concrete may be accomplished until you have decided (1) the actual time of the wedding, (2) where it shall take place and (3) the form. When these decisions are made you are ready to put your plans into action.

You may not want a wedding that will compare with those reported on the society pages of the New York newspapers, but yours may be just as beautiful and just as correct.

Early wedding

When you are to be married is purely a matter of personal preference. Occasionally a wedding is planned for 8 or 9 in the morning. Such a wedding is usually quite informal, with the bride wearing a tailored dress or traveling suit, and only the family and closest friends in attendance. After the ceremony a breakfast, perhaps quite an elaborate one, is served.

Another hour for a "morning wedding" is at high noon or at 12:30. If it is formal the bride will wear a wedding gown and veil, the groom a cutaway or morning coat. In the informal wedding she may wear an afternoon gown or her going-away costume. Whether the wedding is formal or informal, it will involve the serving of a "wedding breakfast". Afternoon weddings are followed by a large reception at a hotel, country club or the bride's home, or by a simple tea or light supper, depending upon whether they are formal or informal.

Evening wedding

The evening wedding is the most formal of all. It is usually scheduled for 8 or 8:30 — never earlier than 6. The men may wear tuxedos, dark business suits, or white suits. Often the bride's attendants do not wear hats, although some sort of head covering may be required.

Tradition governs the formal wedding. A rehearsal should be scheduled one or two days before the ceremony, because in a wedding of this sort it is important to have timing and perfect coordination.

Informal weddings give you a much wider choice of time, place and costume. But here again, no detail is of so little importance that you can afford to be casual about it. While the informal wedding does not entail the expense of the formal, it may be just as lovely an affair.

The use of engraved wedding announcements and invitations depends more upon the size of the wedding and the wedding budget than upon whether it is formal or informal. In the case of a large formal wedding when others than close friends and relatives are asked, engraved invitations, of course, must be used.

Announcements

Wedding announcements should be mailed the day of the wedding, but not until the ceremony is actually performed. Those who have been invited to the ceremony will naturally not receive announcements. The style of engraving is quite similar to the wedding invitation, on the same folded white or ivory sheet of fine quality paper.

Each member of the wedding party has his own special duties. The active honor attendant, besides assisting the bride with her train and with the bridal bouquet during the ceremony, has an important post in the reception line.

Since the bridesmaids must pay for their own outfits, the thoughtful bride will be careful not to put anyone under too great a financial strain when she chooses costumes. Carefully selected styles that the bridesmaids may want to wear later are also "earmarks" of a thoughtful bride.

The best man

The best man, who is the hardest working member of the bridal party, wears exactly what the groom wears at a formal wedding — a cutaway, full dress or a dark business suit. Besides being responsible for the groom's presence at the wedding (grooms are an unpredictable lot!), the best man must take care of the marriage license, make arrangements for the baggage and traveling reservation, be responsible for seeing that the clergyman is paid, that the ring is available at the proper time and other details that a flustered groom may need help with.

There is just one rigid rule concerning the ushers, they must dress exactly alike. They will arrive at least an hour before the service and will be waiting at the church door to receive when the guests arrive. After asking if the guest is a friend of the bride or of the groom, he will offer his right arm if the guest is a woman. If she is a friend of the bride he will escort her to a seat on the left of the aisle; the groom's friends are on the right. The ushers act as escorts to the bridesmaids in the recessional.

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As hostess, the bride's mother is first in the receiving line. At a very large wedding someone may "announce" the guests to her. She will introduce the guest to the bride's father, and he in turn to the groom's mother. This continues until the groom's father, the bride herself, the groom, the maid of honor and the succession of bridesmaids have all been introduced.

At a less formal home reception an usher greets the guest at the door and introduces them to their hostess. When no reception has been planned, the newlyweds will pause in the vestibule of the church after the ceremony to greet the guests.

While gifts to the wedding attendants are not required, they are a gracious way for the bride and groom to thank their friends who helped. A nice gesture on the groom's part, and one which he considers his privilege, is the sending of corsages to the bride's mother and to his own.

Gift Acknowledgments

Wedding gifts must be acknowledged within a week by the bride herself. The minute a gift is received, it should be listed in a "catalogue" and numbered. A corresponding number should then be attached to the gift so that later confusion may be avoided. Above all, notes of acknowledgement should reflect sincerity.

To attend to the countless details of the wedding will take much time and careful planning. Now is the time to chart a plan of action. Then, when the happiest day arrives, instead of dashing up to the altar in a state of exhaustion, you will be a serene bride; and you will be assured of a smooth wedding — one perfect in every concept.

SPRING FRAGRANCE

—by—

DANA

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Josephs

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