

1958

It's Your Wedding "Simply" Beautiful

Barbara Culver Van Sittert
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker>



Part of the [Home Economics Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Culver Van Sittert, Barbara (1958) "It's Your Wedding "Simply" Beautiful," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 38 : No. 2 , Article 2.
Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol38/iss2/2>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.



It's your wedding

"Simply" Beautiful

by Barbara Culver VanSittert
Home Economics Senior

VICTORIAN DRESS AND TASTE have been out of the picture for seventy-five years, but somewhere along the line, Victorian-type weddings failed to make the exit.

Weddings have too-long catered to Gilded Tradition — with evidence indicating that the biggest barrier to practicality may be the mother rather than the bride herself. But, wrath descend if I'm wrong, mothers have had their weddings. Has a mother the right to place her daughter in the lead role in a full scale extravaganza simply because "it's the wedding I'd always dreamed you'd have"?

Today's bride is, perhaps, no less radiant than the bride of a generation ago, but she possesses a new self-reliance. She sees beyond the veil and orange blossoms into married life itself. She knows that an ostentatious wedding may call for months of after-marriage budgeting. Why shouldn't we listen to the dictates of common sense, for a change, and let the bride have her choice?

A simple wedding ceremony fits today's pattern of living. It's not uncommon for modern-day women to take time from work to be married and return two weeks later to pitch in again. Yet, how much more enjoyment these brides would have had if the struggle with the bridesmaid's fittings, the afternoon at the engraver's and the exorbitant expense of the whole production could be blotted from their memories.

I was married last June with college final examinations only one day behind me and a summer job 750 miles away only one week ahead of me. Yet I have memories of a gracious, serene wedding. Why? Because the preparations and the wedding itself were simple.

What do I mean by a "simple" wedding? A simple wedding does NOT imply a small wedding nor does it mean a bleak wedding. It can be a lovely, harmonious wedding (Surely the woman in us would let us

settle for nothing less.), with as many guests as you like.

The first step in any wedding is to decide what you, the bride, prize most highly in a wedding ceremony. Corners can be cut in many areas, and the decisions must correspond to the values of you and your husband-to-be.

My husband and I decided on a church wedding. A church wedding need be no more expensive or complicated (guest-wise) than a smaller ceremony in a chapel or private home.

What about decorations? Time and again I have observed otherwise beautiful churches lose character beneath flower-garden and satin bedecked wedding attire. It seems to me that the dignity inherent in the interior of a church or chapel makes it a lovely spot without added arches of flowers and trailing ribbons. My husband and I settled for a basket of flowers in front of the altar, with plain tapered candles on either side.

A bride, exercising her freedom of choice, can properly vote for the omission of a reception. Time and money limitations both seem justifiable reasons for such a choice. While many couples wouldn't be satisfied without a reception, my husband and I found that the reception line which forms after the wedding ceremony when the guests are leaving the church an appropriate and gracious way of concluding the wedding ceremony. There is ample opportunity to receive the well-wishers and to speak to each one of them. Thank-you notes after the wedding are adequate recognition and thanks for the gifts which were sent.

Holding the number of wedding attendants to a minimum is an important factor in keeping a ceremony simple. Even though the bride's father brings his daughter down the aisle, it's not compulsory to have several bridesmaids in the procession.

Our wedding attendants were a maid-of-honor and best man only. There were no fitting and dress selection problems. I described my wedding dress to the maid-of-honor and she chose her own, with an eye to something she would be able to wear after the ceremony. She appreciated being able to select her own dress and has since reported wearing it several times.

The bride's dress must be selected before other selections can be made, of course. After searching through several department stores and dress shops, I finally found "my" dress in the better-dress section of a small women's shop. The dress was white silk

(Continued on Page 11)

"Simply" Beautiful (Continued from Page 3)

chiffon, street length, with a simple blouse top, button-down-the-front with a tailored collar, and three-quarter length sleeves. The skirt was bouffant, lined with crinoline and topped with a wide satin cummerbund. The cost was a mere \$40. I have since worn the dress several times. I plan to continue to wear it, for the classic style promises to be "good" for several seasons to come.

Invitations to our wedding were personal notes and verbal invitations to the friends we saw each day. I would suggest, however, that if a major portion of the guests to be invited are in another locality, printed invitation which necessitate only addressing envelopes would be easier.

Our choice was the simple wedding, a wedding geared to the times and to our particular needs. I present it to you to stand or fall on its own merits. My husband and I are satisfied with memories of what we consider a gracious and uncomplicated wedding ceremony. Preparation time was about a month, cost just over \$100. AND we finished our senior year in college this year, using some of the money we saved by having our simple wedding ceremony.

You will
be radiant
in your
bridal gown
fashioned
from the
beautiful
fabrics for
you and your
attendants
at



The Fair
FINEST REMOVED STITCH

203 Main

Phone CE 2-5101

Complete Line of Butterick Patterns

Treasures
FOR THE JUNE BRIDE!

A Complete Selection of

Gifts for the Bride

GIFT AND CHINA SHOP

413 Douglas

CE 2-4215



Remember
Loved Ones

For as little as \$5.00
you can send
flowers—by wire

Florist Telegraph
Delivery Association

COE'S HOUSE OF FLOWERS

6th and Grand Avenue
Plenty of free parking space

CE 2-5432



Our Hair Cutting Is
'Shear' Artistry for
the new 'Siren Look'

MAX/HARRIMAN
hair stylist

619 Main

Dial CE 2-5305