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And Now He's A Groom

by Marlys Hedelund

Science Senior

Marlys, who became Mrs. Michael Noonan on May 10, gives you a humorous insight into the behavior of a groom.

Scientists working in atomic research have yet to find anything more dynamic or reactionary than the modern American groom.

When this "ionized" male suddenly turns in his Bachelor Button and accepts the tremendous responsibilities for the "ritual" of marriage, he becomes a warrior in a magnetic battle field, struggling through the months of pre-wedding planning.

He'll show you at times that deep down inside he's still made up of "rocks and snails and puppy dog tails," but in this new role he is charged with atoms of frustration, impatience, and strong feelings regarding this "rig-a-ma-role" of getting married.

His mind is as full as Pandora's box with electrifying schemes for saving money – like playing records at the wedding rather than hiring an organist. He knows just how he's going to hide the car from eager paint-brush-in-hand fraternity brothers, and his adding-machine mind has long ago calculated the rate-per-hour of running reception guests through the receiving line.

One of the worst enemy resistors to the groom is wedding etiquette. He struggles with it from the day he announces his engagement, and by the time The Big Day is over, he's pretty disgusted with his ancestors for having some of their "silly" traditions.

How different the groom of today is from the valiant knight of times gone by who would sweep his lady-fair off her feet and carry her away as his bride. Nowadays the Best Man sees that nothing sweeps him off his feet in the confusion of the wedding day.

Most grooms are a combination of waves of excitement and unadmitted fear. He loves to have his relatives and friends at the wedding, but as my husband-to-be explained, "each guest has two eyes, and two times 300 is 600 staring beads watching me wait for you at the altar."

Turning back the pages to when the groom decided that he wanted to make the Big Step, he probably braced his shoulders and took on the "tremendous" responsibilities of wedding planning.

He looked at his bride-to-be as being on a pedestal – one that's plenty big to accommodate all the work she has to do in the next few months. He's going to let her plan that wedding she's always wanted, and they'll meet at the altar on the wedding day. (At this point dear brides, just let him have these pleasant thoughts. Time will teach him his lesson).

Shopping is a violent word to our reactionary man. If you two must go downtown together, just leave him in the sports shop while you make the decisions. Don't be discouraged if he doesn't care whether you have blue or yellow in your bedroom, or what kind of china he'll eat from every night. Try subtle techniques for getting his opinion – like "which would you rather have, a blue or yellow shirt?" He'll probably still leave you lost, but make your own decisions along the women's line and he'll go along with your selections.

Most likely he'll tell you that he could pick out everything in 2 hours after it's taken you a week of afternoon shopping. Even excited grooms remember to be romantic at times and like to plan and dream for those days to come. It gives him a great feeling of pride to think of signing "Mr. and Mrs." in the motel register, and introducing you as "this is my wife."

If you ask him why he has that new twinkle in his eyes he may tell you it is a reflection of love from your shiny diamond – then again he may look in the mirror and say, "I don't see it."

But to us brides, our groom is the dynamic leading character in the drama. We have to chuckle inside at some of their ingenious suggestions such as the one Michael brought up the other day of wearing roller skates down the aisle to make getting out again much faster. Still, these days before the wedding will be just as precious in memory as any could be – watching a man in transition from groom to husband.