

Plan Your Wedding!

*Visit the priest who will perform the marriage at least six weeks before your intended wedding date. Don't make any other arrangements (reception, honeymoon, etc.) until you have confirmed the date with him, and with the church in which you will be married.

*If you share floral expenses with other couples being married on the same day, it will save costs and avoid confusion between weddings.

*Inquire about the manner in which the organist or other musicians are contacted and the customary offering.

*Instruct your photographer to consult the priest on what is and is not permitted.

*Tell the wedding party the importance of being prompt for both the rehearsal and the wedding.

*It is suggested that you and members of the wedding who will

be receiving Communion, go to confession beforehand, perhaps as a group on rehearsal night.

*Remember the Eucharistic Regulation: No solid food or liquids for one hour before Communion; water and medicine may be taken at any time. The bride and groom may receive Communion under both species.

*Each parish has regulations for the conducting of weddings (e.g. throwing of rice and confetti is not permitted at many churches). You will be expected to follow these rules. If you're not sure of the customs, ask the pastor.

*A Protestant clergyman or a Rabbi may participate in the wedding ceremony. Arrangements for this should be made in advance with the priest marrying you.

*The marriage should take place in the parish of the bride; for a justifying reason, it may take place in the groom's parish. Permission must be obtained from the pastor of the bride or

groom to be married in another church.

*A baptismal certificate issued not more than six months before the wedding must be presented to the priest by both bride and groom.

*The following is the schedule of offerings, approved in 1973 by the Priests' Council: Low Nuptial Mass, \$15; Sung Nuptial Mass, \$20; wedding without Mass, \$15.

*Applicants for a marriage license must present physician's statement certifying to a premarital blood test, signed by physician and applicant.

*For minors (males under 21, females under 18) consent of both parents or guardians is required, either in person or notarized statement. All persons under 21 must present proof of age.

*The fee for the marriage license varies from place to place. The license is valid for 60 days from the date of issuance.

Marriage License Stats

During 1973, 2,569 marriage licenses were issued in Rochester. That's a decrease of 275 from 1972, and of 1,065 from the peak year of 1970.

Kathi Corona, who's been a clerk in the city's marriage license bureau for more than four years, attributes the decrease to the fact that couples are going to their own Town Halls to get licenses more and more.

The average age of applicants is 24 to 25 years, she says. The busiest season is between May and September, with August the busiest month.

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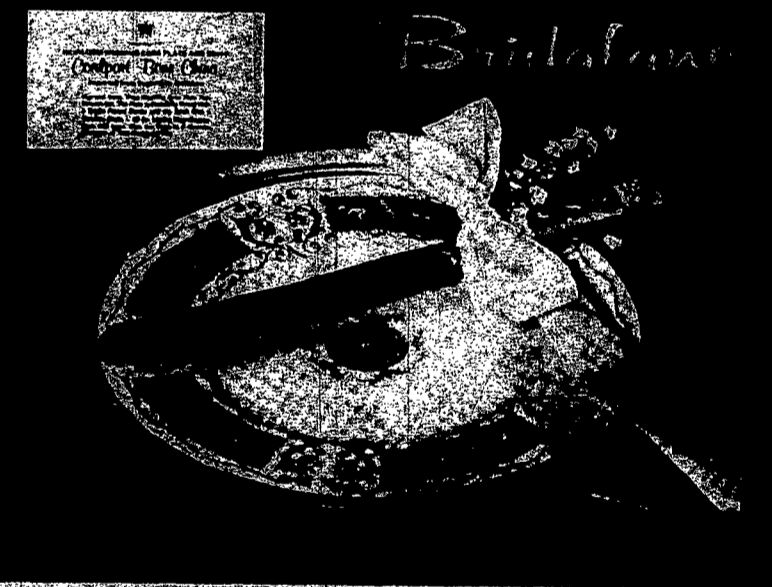
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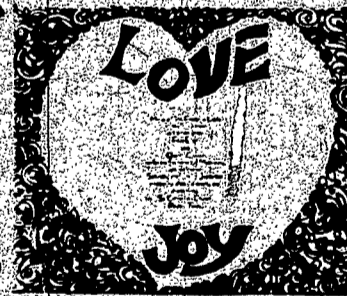
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