

A Few Basic Rules For the Groom's Attire

The bridegroom's clothing has traditionally taken a backseat to the bridal gown. While the groom has shuffled politely off to rent his attire, much thought and hundreds of dollars have gone into the selection of the bride's outfit.

The bridegroom who wants to hold his own without upstaging the bride needs equal say in the formality of the wedding attire. He should familiarize himself with the traditional nuptial garments.

Usually traditional dress is suited to the season and the hour of the ceremony and is determined by the degree of formality of the bridal gown.

For a formal evening wedding the groom and other men in the wedding party wear black tailcoat with matching trousers, white pique waistcoat, starched shirt, white tie, black socks and patent leather shoes.

The formal daytime wedding attire is a cutaway coat with striped trousers, gray vest, white wing-collar shirt with silk ascot or shirt with turned-down collar and four-in-hand, black shoes and socks.

The semi-formal evening wedding means a tuxedo or dinner jacket, white shirt with turned-down collar, a bow tie, black cummerbund or vest, black socks and shoes.

The semi-formal daytime version is a stroller, vest, striped trousers, white shirt

with turned-down collar, a four-in-hand, black shoes and socks.

The informal daytime ceremony requires a dark or lighter suit depending upon the season, while the informal evening wedding means a dark suit.

In the early 1970s tradition for the groom changed with the introduction of the costume look. Specifically, one formalwear manufacturer had a style called the Prince Edward, a single-breasted, three-button jacket with notched lapels and a velvet back collar. By the mid-70s the Prince Edward was replaced with the Charleston, a tail coat with squared off front and back offered in pastel colors.

As the styles come and go, the groom must do a little research on his own to find out what type of style is

popular. He doesn't have to follow traditional rules of dress or even the fashion.

Whatever his feelings about men's wedding attire, he should follow a few basic rules to help things go smoothly. About two months before the ceremony, he and the bride-to-be should discuss their feelings and expectations about the clothing for the entire bridal party. Attendants should be briefed on the type of clothing they are to wear. As is so often common, members of the bridal party may not reside in the same community. The prospective groom should write to his attendants and get their sizes in order to assure correct fit. He should order all of the men's clothing from the same source, for uniformity. Attendants pay for their own clothing rental. The groom provides boutonnières. He should also make arrangements of the rented clothing as soon as possible.

May Unlucky?

The ancient Romans were superstitious people and watched carefully for omens, making sure the auspices were good before taking any major step. They were most concerned that weddings occur only at favorable times.

The old saying, "Marry in May, rue for aye," was perhaps an outgrowth of the Roman belief that May was an unlucky month in which to be married, as both the

festival of the Bona Dea, the goddess of chastity, and the feast of the dead, the Lemuralia, were celebrated at that time.

On the other hand, the most favorable time to enter into matrimony was the waxing moon of late autumn. At all times, someone who was able to read omens was employed, to determine the best time for the wedding to occur.

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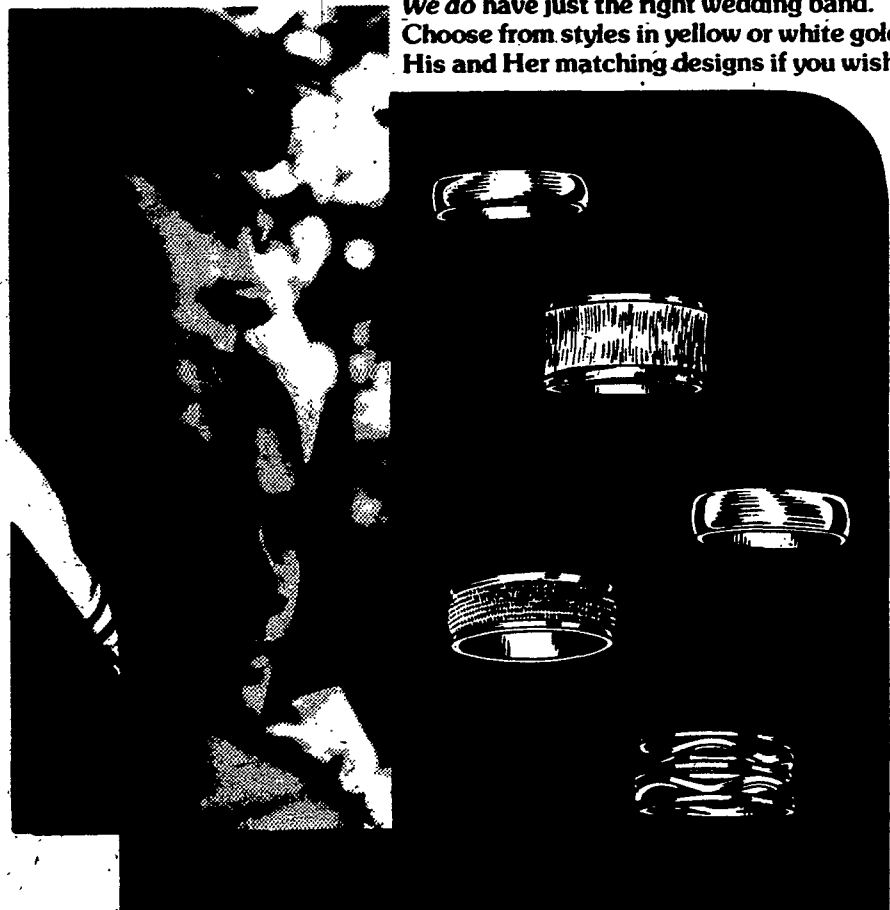
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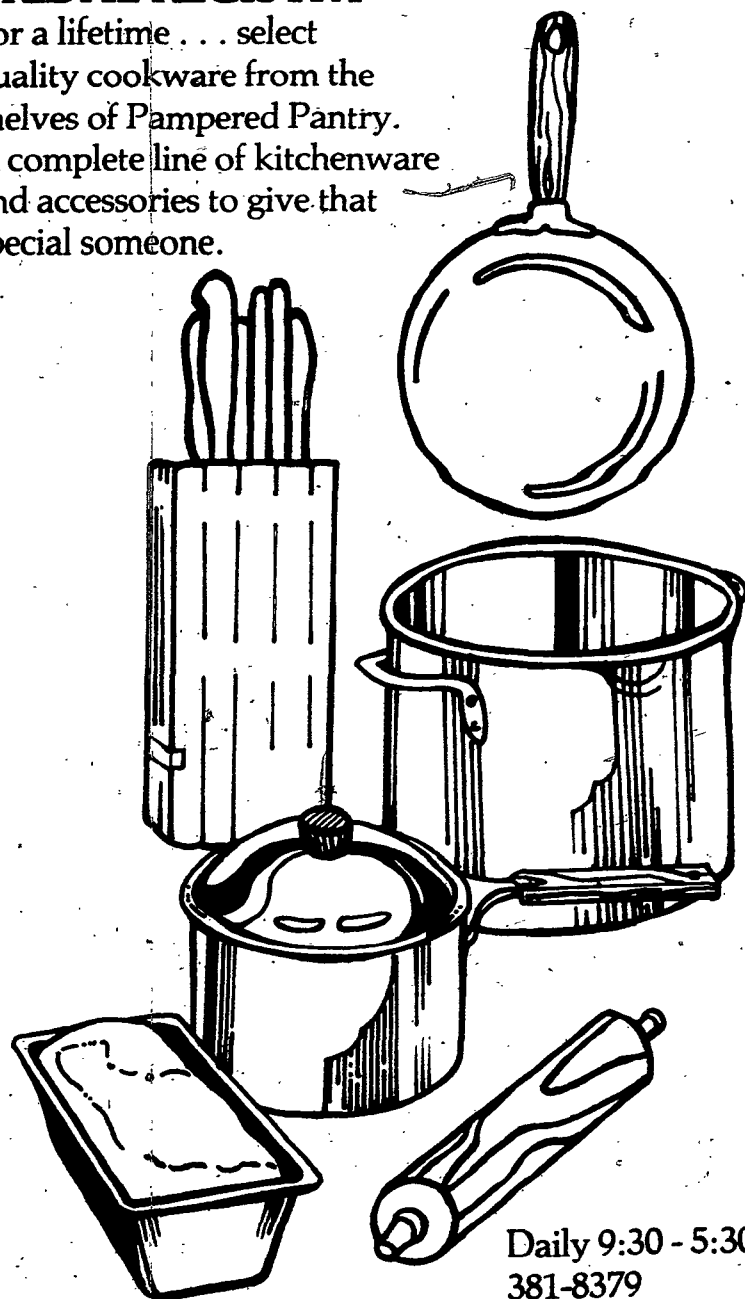
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