

Letter from Antiquity

How shall we ever be able adequately to describe the Happiness of that marriage which the Church arranges, the Sacrifice strengthens, upon which the blessing sets a seal, at which angels are present as witnesses, and to which the Father gives His consent? For not even on earth do children marry properly and legally without their father's permission.

How beautiful, then, the marriage of two Christians, two who are one in hope, one in desire, one in the way of life they follow, one in the religion they practice. They are as brother and sister, both servants of the same Master. Nothing divides them, either in flesh or in spirit. They are in very truth, two in one flesh; and where there is but one flesh there is also but one spirit. They pray together, they worship together, they fast together; instructing one another, encouraging one another, strengthening one another. Side by side they face difficulties and persecution, share their consolations. They have no secrets from one another, they never shun each other's company; they never bring sorrow to each other's hearts . . . Psalms and hymns they sing to one another, striving to see which one of them will chant more beautifully the praises of their Lord. Hearing and seeing this, Christ rejoices. To such as these He gives His peace. Where there are two together, there also He is present, and where He is, there evil is not.

Tertullian
To his wife
written between
200-206 A.D.

Imagination Carries The Gift

Enhance the bride and groom's romantic ambience of those early months together by giving gifts appropriate for just the two of them: silverplated cognac cups with engraved initials, china Irish coffee cups with silverplated holders or continental champagne glasses.

To add character to the gift include a celebrated bottle of cognac or champagne or a recipe for Irish coffee.

Another way to make a wedding gift memorable is to present it in an unforgettable manner. A tall bell-shaped full-lead crystal vase may look beautiful displayed in a tissue-filled box, but imagine the dazzle of the vase filled with colorful and exotic fresh-cut flowers.

Have the vase filled with flowers and delivered to the bride the day before the wedding. Or have it sent to the couple's new home upon return from the honeymoon as a combination wedding/housewarming gift.

Another approach is to invite the couple to a pre-wedding party and serve drinks with congratulatory toasts from a crystal decanter with matching barware.

Later, present them with the set as a reminder of a special evening spent with friends.

New Horizons

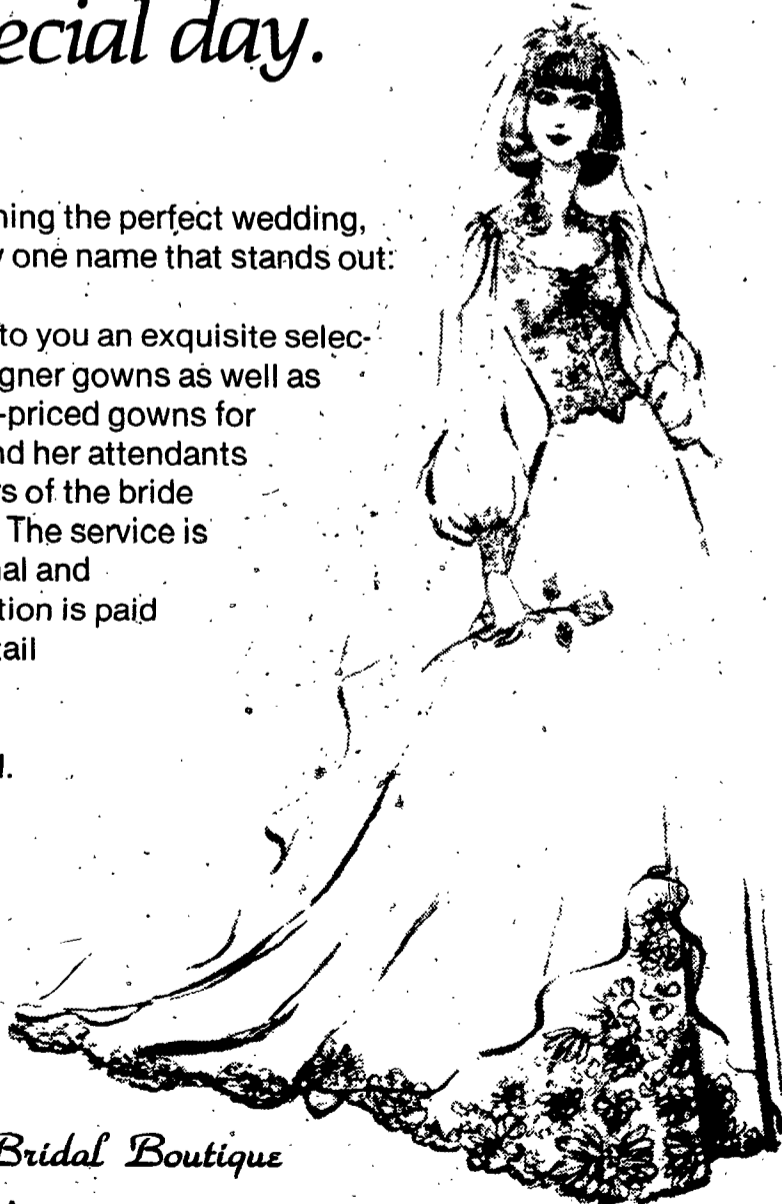
A program for those persons who are entering marriage for the second time and for their intended spouses. Registration cards, available from your parish

priest, are required. A Pre-Cana Certificate is received. Dates: April 19, 21, 23 from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m., Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road.

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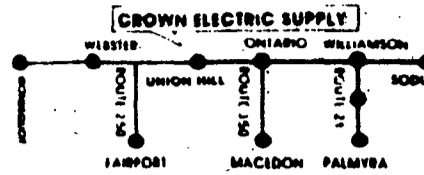
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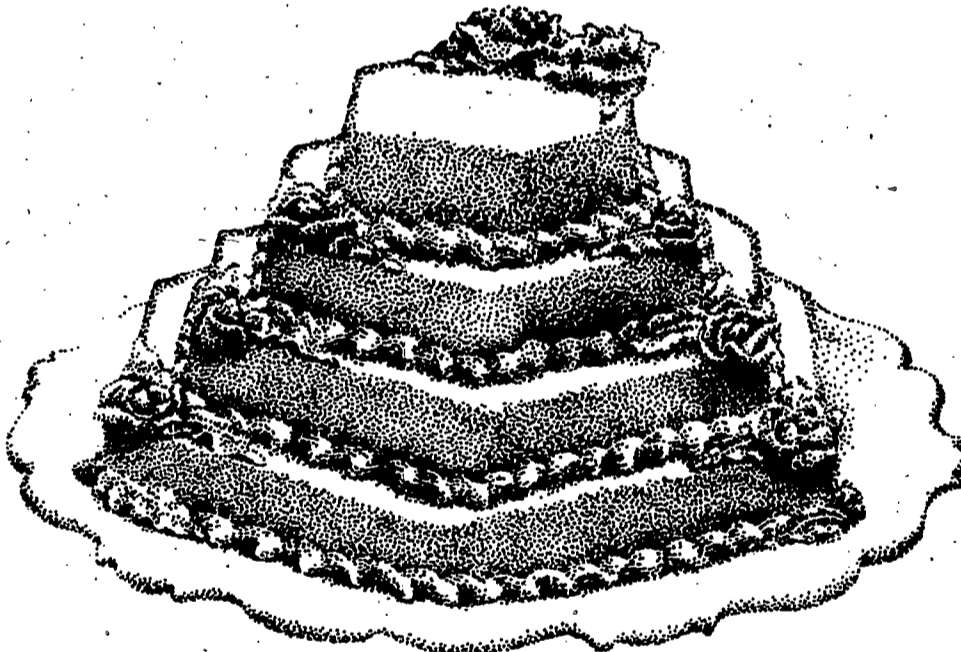
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