

Good Pictures Demand Time and Thorough Planning

A wedding photographer expert was asked, "How does the bride-to-be choose a photographer to record one of the most important days in her life?"

"Very carefully," he advised.

According to the professional, some \$200 million is spent for wedding photographs a year. Because of this, he said, "amateur picture-takers can't resist the opportunity to shoot weddings, even when they don't know how!"

It is tempting for a bride to try to save money by having a photographer friend shoot the wedding as a gift or at a bargain rate. However, said the expert, "few non-professionals have the lighting equipment, the right cameras, backups for everything..." And he maintained this leads to disappointments in producing the wedding album.

The professionals offer some tips to help the bride-to-be in her selection of an expert photographer: inquire about names of recent brides to contact for references; to insure the day will be captured as the couple wants it to be, have a conference with the photographer and this meeting should take place as soon as the ceremony location is confirmed; because some professionals prefer to record events without being obtrusive and others believe the wedding is being held so photos can be made, alter the schedule so there is time to

have a photo session at a nearby park prior to the ceremony.

Now for the amateur photographer. The primary concern for this person is cost. It can be expensive to record a wedding in pictures. If one can get by the initial expenses, then here are tips to insure success.

(1) Carry twice as much equipment as you would normally. This includes two cameras, two flash units, a double set of replacement batteries, etc. Rely on the unexpected to happen. If something can go wrong, it will. Having the extra equipment along will help prevent an embarrassing situation from surfacing.

(2) Carry twice as much film as you think you would normally use. If you expect to shoot three rolls, then carry at least six. The reason — you can figure on losing about 25 percent of your pictures due to camera movement, flash failure, mechanical difficulties. Also, no matter how many pictures you take, there is always that unique shot you won't want to miss.

(3) High speed film makes better use of available light during exposure so your wedding pictures can be taken inside, under existing lighting conditions, if your camera has this capability.

(4) If you know there is a specific shot you want, like the cake cutting, but are not sure when it will take place,

find out exactly when it will happen. You should not have to ask the parties involved to set up the shot again because you were somewhere else.

(5) Try to sit on the aisle to record the wedding procession. You'll also be in a position to picture the newlyweds as they walk down the aisle after the ceremony.

(6) Take the time, to thoroughly plan your schedule. If your itinerary calls for being at the bride's home on the wedding morning, then be there a little early to catch the excitement of everybody hustling about. If you know there will be relatives from out of town, make sure that their visit is recorded.

Groom Hints

Who pays for the wedding?

The bride's family.

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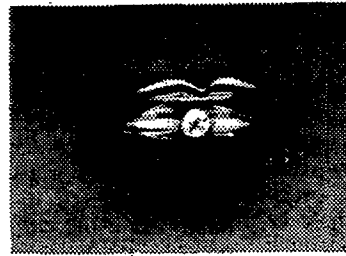
If I am a member of the military is it correct for me to be married in uniform?

In the U.S. one usually only wears a uniform if in active service. In that case, it is correct to wear full dress, or at least your Class A's.

If your attendants are also in the service, they should be similarly attired and officers may wear swords or sabers. Except for regulars, uniforms are best avoided in peacetime.

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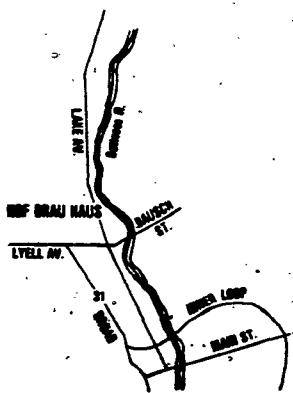
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