

## family of the bride Financial aid available for the

It's traditional in the United States for the par-ents of the bride to cover the entire cost of a couple's wedding. But according to a recent article in Bride's Magazine, this situation is

changing. For the first time, there's a definite trend toward the sharing of wedding expenses. The groom's family, as well as the bride and groom themselves, are taking on a chunk of the

ies, with everyone contrib-uting to the festivities. second reason is

financial responsibility.

One reason for this may be changing attitudes

toward the nature of mar-riage. In this era of libera-tion, a bride's parents are no longer considered to be

"marrying off" their daughter. Rather, the wed-

ding is seen as the joining of two people, and two famil-

Ideas for the bride

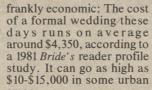


PACK A BRUNCH and surprise the bride with a picnic shower or a simple patio get-together with friends. Plastic Servin' Savers, new from Rubbermaid, hold picnic fare and make a nice take-home gift for the bride. Center press lids seal tightly to help keep foods fresh and avoid spills. For an appetizer serve shrimp vinaigrette, a refreshing change from the traditional cocktail sauce. Round out the meal with cold sliced beef, rolls, salads and relishes. Ele-gant nastrices add a festive note for dessert. gant pastries add a festive note for dessert.

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areas Rather than cut back on their idea of the perfect celebration, many couples and their families are instead finding new ways to meet the expenses. Especially where the bride and groom are on their own and earn-ing money themselves ing money themselves (increasingly common as the average age for mar-riage goes up), it only makes sense for them to pitch in.

\* Figure from a 1981 BRIDE'S Reader Profile Study

The actual dividing up of the costs can be done in

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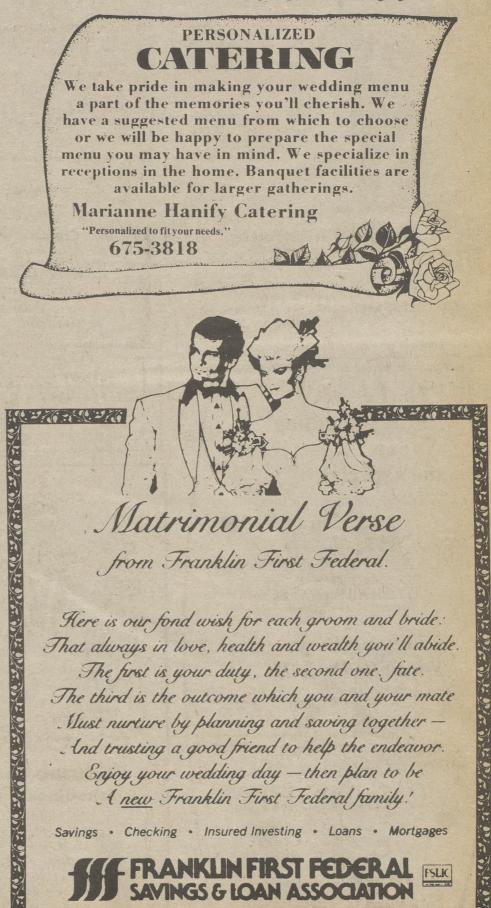
## several ways. An easy, tactful method is to settle on specific expenses in advance, rather than to just split the cost of the whole wedding down the middle. For instance, the

groom's family might agree to cover the flowers, the music and the liquor. They would then discuss the gen-eral budget for these items with the couple and have the bills sent directly to them. This eliminates the need for money changing hands or for further talking about costs between families

An alternate idea would be for one family to pay for the ceremony (flowers, church rental, limousines), the other to pick up the reception tab. Each family then has complete jurisdic-tion over their part of the celebration.

There are many possible arrangements and the options should be discussed openly and early in the engagement so an agreeable plan can be worked out. It's also important to remember, that it's still the prerogative of the bride's family to decline an offer of help if they wish. If this happens, the groom's family can cel-ebrate the marriage in another way, such as hosting the rehearsal dinner of throwing an engagement

party. Incidentally, the idea of sharing wedding expenses is not really a new one. In many countries the practice has been followed for cen-turies. For instance, Span-turies that and the brids and ish fathers of the bride and groom traditionally issue the invitations and host the wedding together.



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