

Creative celebrations before the vows

By Sharon Achatz
Copley News Service

The words "we're engaged" set off a whirlwind of activity — not only of preparation, but also of celebration.

Sandwiched between the engagement party that formally announces the news and the reception that culminates the event is a slew of corollary celebrations — from showers and maids' luncheons to bachelor bashes and rehearsal dinners.

While the idea of the parties themselves is traditional, many couples today are finding that such parties are anything but traditional.

Since more couples are having formal weddings, informal pre-wedding parties can be an especially fun contrast. No longer necessarily based around serving a meal, today's parties can range from volleyball on the beach to a fashionable cocktail party to a weekend-long stay at a country inn.

For example, whereas the engagement party customarily was hosted by the parents of the bride in their home, now this event often is given by couple themselves and at locations as diverse as bowling alleys and candlelight restaurants.

And while showers used to be female-only gatherings filled with kitchen appliances, now they're just as likely to be co-ed celebrations with gifts ranging from his-and-her lingerie to lawn mowers.

Here's a nuts-and-bolts outline of these and other parties that are an integral part of prewedding festivities:

The engagement party, generally hosted by the bride's parents, is the first official celebration after the proposal to give family and friends from both sides a chance to get to know each other.

Showers traditionally are hosted by a friend or relative of the bride for female friends of the bride — although many showers today are co-ed and include friends of both the bride and groom. Most showers take place two months to two weeks before the wedding and include only guests who are also invited to the wedding since gifts are expected.

The maids' party is an opportunity for the bride to show appreciation for the support and friendship of her attendants by treating them to a brunch, lunch or afternoon tea a few days before the wedding. Another popular option: a day — or even a weekend — at a beauty salon or spa, with manicures and makeovers for all.

The bachelor party is planned



The ideal bridal shower can be a small eat-at-home gathering for friends after work.

Flowers That Warm The Heart

Southfork Floral

69 N. Memorial Hwy.
Shavertown, PA
675-6515

Special Orders
For Any Size Wedding
- We Will Stay
Within Your
Budget

Tuxedo Junction

Hanover Twp. W-B (near Carey Ave. Bridge off Rt. 11)
829-4999

THE LATEST STYLES
at the
LOWEST PRICES
Area's Largest Show Room & Selection (over 200 styles)

- Perry Ellis
- Christian Dior
- Ralph Lauren
• After Six
- Henry Grethel
- Ralfinatti
- Bill Blass
- Michael Jordan
- Karl Lagerfeld

Bring this Ad and receive a Free Gift for the Bride with your Consultation

Pastry on Lace Bakery

Carverton Rd. Trucksville (Near the Checkerboard)
696-4302
Daily 8 to 6 - Closed Sunday

★ **Wedding, Shower & Bridesmaid Cakes** ★
COOKIES - Italian filled, butter, anise, pepper, chocolate chip, macaroons, etc. * Loose or Tiered (*Great for showers, too!*)
MINI PASTRIES - eclairs, cream puffs, danish, fruit squares, brownies, turnovers, etc. * Great for dessert TABLES!!

Your Wedding Rings Can Be As Unique As Your Wedding.

Make this commitment symbolic by creating your own wedding bands, or having a unique design created for you.

14K White Gold
14K Yellow Gold
Diamonds & Precious Stones

Handcrafted
Sr. Regina Kiel
Jewelry

For Information
675-1865

Pictorial Wedding Stories

Skilled Professional Photographers

- Photographs
- All Kodak products
- Printed in our lab with the latest in computerized processing equipment
- Albums
- Library or perma bound
- Only the finest

Lyons PHOTOGRAPHY
Serving Wyoming Valley For Over 40 years
138 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
824-0906

Good planning can stretch the wedding budget

for another 6 percent. You may, for instance, decide to spend more on music and less on photography if entertainment is your priority.

- **Keep track of what you actually spend.** Compare it to your written budget. The more detailed your budget, the easier it will be to keep a lid on expenses.
- **Plan an off-season celebration.** You pay a premium to tie the knot at a high-end hotel on a Saturday in June. But you might get a discount on the same venue if you



The wedding cake is the centerpiece of any nuptial celebration.

say "I do" on a weeknight in October.

- **Save on decorations.** Choose flowers that are in season, and have them taken from the wedding site to the reception to serve as centerpieces and decorations for the buffet table. If another couple is getting married at the same site on the same day, you can split the cost of decorations. Hotels, reception halls, historic sites and churches are often festively decorated during the holiday season.

YOUR COMPLETE

Wedding

CATERER

Make your Special Day the Talk of the Town

550 Memorial Hwy. Dallas 675-0790

D.H. OLIVER FOODS

The Bridal Registry'

our finest tradition in Scranton for over 40 years!

- silver • china • crystal
- pewter • brass • lamps
- occasional tables • fine linens

helen schwartz . . . gifts

300 Spruce St., Scranton, Pa. 18503 342-8241
— **1-800-637-8495** —

- Baccarat
- Belleek
- Christian Dior
- Lenox
- Lladro
- Nambe
- Orrefors
- Waterford
- Royal Doulton

and much much more

U.S. TUXEDO

AT GENETTI'S WILKES-BARRE

The Area's Largest Selection of Designer Tuxedos... Over 200 styles

GUARANTEED LOWEST RATES

* Register your 1993 wedding before Feb. 28th and receive Special Discounts!

FREE TUX FOR GROOM
with party of 4 or more

CALL **823-7658** FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT