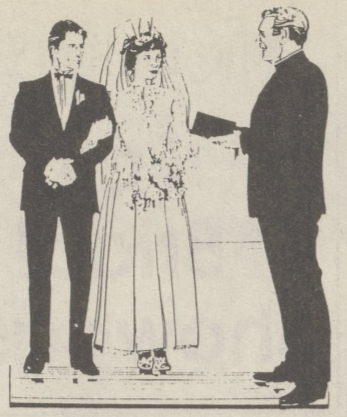


The Dallas Post Fall Bridal Showcase



Getting married the second time around

By Sharon Williams
Copley News Service

No matter if you've walked down the aisle only once before or if you've uttered "I do" as many times as Elizabeth Taylor.

Since a wedding is an occasion that calls for celebration and rejoicing, those marrying for the second time around have every right and reason to plan the event of their dreams.

The fact that one has gone through it before doesn't dim the glow and glory surrounding a second marriage. The event can be big or small, formal or casual, so long as it fits the happy couple in terms of their age, lifestyle, tastes and preferences.

Forget about shunning white, unless you'd rather wear pink, and toss out the old notion that second marriages should be quiet, discreet affairs — unless that's the way you want it.

Simply put, those who are marrying again can do practically whatever they wish. Brides and grooms are free to adopt any of the traditional elements of the wedding ceremony and reception, and to incorporate some original ideas of their own if they so choose.

Following are some tips and trends regarding second marriages. Wedding books, guides and magazines such as *Modern Bride* and *Bride's and Your New Home* can be consulted for additional hints.

INVITATIONS

With invitations, remarrying couples can go as stately or as simple as they wish without stray-

ing outside the gates of good taste.

Formal invitations should follow traditional form — engraved or thermographed on white or ecru stock. The wording should reflect who is issuing the invitation — either the couple's parents or the bride and groom themselves.

For more casual events, the written word can become considerably looser and lighter. For a small wedding, for instance, a couple might send handwritten notes, while brides and grooms with children from previous marriages might choose to showcase a picture of the whole group in their invitations as a symbol of family unity.

Other options include invitations printed on specialty papers, invitations featuring touching verses or poems and invitations adorned with romantic artwork or heart-warming graphics.

CEREMONY

The setting can be as commanding as a scenic historical site or as comforting as the home of a good friend.

In short, the setting for a second marriage can be almost anywhere. Top choices include private clubs, hotels, restaurants, interdenominational wedding chapels or even the judges' chambers at the courthouse, but couples have been known to recite their vows in unique locations such as parks, beaches and mountain peaks.

While many couples choose civil or nonsectarian ceremonies, church weddings aren't necessarily out of the question. Those who do want a religious ceremony should consult clergy members upon their



Many second-time brides opt for a simple ensemble like this elegant two-piece suit.

engagement to find out about any requirements regarding re-marriage.

In some cases, couples find ways to include their children in the wedding ceremony. A son or daughter, for instance, might be asked to read a verse, poem or paragraph they've penned, or to perform a musical number during the service.

Names on the guest list should include a roundup of loved ones.

Not to be forgotten are families and friends of both bride and groom, the couple's mutual friends and former in-laws, if good terms exist.

As for marching down the aisle, second-time brides can go it alone or be accompanied by their father or the groom himself.

Additionally, many couples are attended by a best man and honor attendant. In some cases, children from previous marriages fill these roles or serve as junior bridesmaids, ring bearers, flower girls or ushers.

GIFTS

Those marrying again have every reason to register for gifts — probably more so than the average newlywed couple. Since their new home will be a combination of his things and her things, there will likely be some specific items the couple needs and some they definitely don't.

And when there's nothing they need, chances are good that there are plenty of things they want. Season tickets to the symphony, theater, opera or home basketball games, a new set of china, a joint health club membership or a donation to charity are among the many options.

In some cases, guests pool their resources to purchase a big-ticket item such as a new stereo, a video-cassette recorder or a stair-stepping machine for marrying-again couples.

WEDDING ATTIRE

Second-time brides can truly dress the part if they wish. Depending on their tastes and the degree of formality of the wedding, they're free to wear white — long considered a symbol of joy — or ivory in a long or short, full or fitted silhouette — perhaps accompanied by a short veil or veil-wrapped hat.

Others prefer simpler, sophisticated styles, such as smart suits or slim dresses made of silk, brocade or lace in ecru, off-white or pastel shades.

What the groom wears depends largely on the ceremony and time of day. For a formal affair, he could go black tie, while formal wear or a blazer and slacks would suit a daytime ceremony or a more casual occasion.

Wedding timetable

By Priscilla Lister
Copley News Service

You may have chosen a wedding date six weeks or six months from now. Calendar a schedule so your wedding will run smoothly.

"The Woman's Day Book of Weddings" (Bobbs-Merrill) offers a checklist for a six-week, three-month or six-month calendar. *Modern Bride* magazine offers a wedding checklist when planning six to 12 months ahead.

Here are some of the elements to schedule; if you have less time, adjust your calendar accordingly:

SIX MONTHS AHEAD

- Choose budget.
- Decide on wedding style.
- Draw up guest list.
- Choose attendants.
- Select locations for ceremony and reception.
- Arrange with clergy or justice.

FOUR TO FIVE MONTHS AHEAD

- Have engagement party.
- Select caterer, photographer, florist and musicians.
- Plan honeymoon.
- Visit doctors for physicals and make blood-test appointments.

TWO TO FOUR MONTHS AHEAD

- Buy gifts for attendants.
- Shop for wedding rings.
- Address wedding invitations.
- Arrange rehearsal dinner.

ONE TO TWO MONTHS AHEAD

- Have final dress fittings.
- Plan accommodations for out-of-town guests.
- Mail invitations.

ONE TO TWO WEEKS AHEAD

- Reconfirm all arrangements and reservations.
- Get marriage license.
- Send out newspaper announcement.
- Give bridesmaids' and bachelor's parties.

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