

PAST AND PRESENT MEET

Many traditions blended in rites

Bills and pieces of bygone days live again in the beauty of our modern marriage service.

Even primitive tribes dignify marriage as a ceremony marked by both solemnity and celebration. Among the early Hebrews, Greeks and Romans the bride's father performed the wedding ceremony. Rise of the early Christian church added the priest's blessing to the ritual. And in time the church took on an increasingly important role with all marriages performed by the clergy.

There are differing points of emphasis in the wedding rites of various faiths. If you are planning your own wedding, or are a wedding guest the church ceremony will take on added interest if you know what the ritual signifies.

The Protestant wedding ceremony is probably the most familiar in this country. But there are a number of variations according to denominations and one of the most striking is that of the Friends or Quaker.

NO MUSIC
In this, the bride and groom make their vows to each other after a period of silence and without the assistance of a clergyman. Orthodox Friends omit music at the meetinghouse in keeping with a goal of strict simplicity. In most church ceremonies the bride is "given away" by her father, recalling ancient times when the bride was "purchased" by her groom. However, in the Orthodox Friends ceremony, the bride and groom walk together in the procession, as was done in the early days in this country; her father does not "give her away."

A vital part of the Friends marriage is the "certification." This document is signed by the bride and groom after they have married themselves, and then by guests who witnessed the ceremony.

Many Protestant services are patterned on the Episcopal marriage ceremony which includes a betrothal service and the marriage ceremony itself. These include the exchange of vows and blessing of rings. Some years ago there was

much discussion over the bride's promise to "love, honor and obey." Now the controversial "obey" is replaced by "cherish" in many churches.

The Roman Catholic wedding ceremony itself is not greatly different from the Protestant. But it is often followed by the impressive ritual of the Nuptial Mass, in which special prayers are said for the bride and groom. They join the priest at the altar at various times during the Mass for this benediction.

The ancient Jewish marriage ceremony reflects that faith's 3,000-year history with many symbolic touches. A conspicuous feature is the rectangular canopy, or chupah, under which the bride and groom stand. The canopy symbolizes the couple's new home.

At the rabbi's side is a small table with a decanter of wine and glasses. After the wine has been drunk, the wine glass is broken or ground under the groom's heel, recalling the sorrow of the Jewish people at their eviction from Jerusalem.

An essential part of the ceremony are the seven blessings, usually given in Hebrew. The rabbi also gives a personal address to the bride and groom. In some Conservative and Orthodox Jewish rites the groom's father walks with his son in the procession while the bride's father escorts his daughter. The two mothers also take part in the procession, walking together. And the men wear hats or some form of head covering.

The Eastern Orthodox Church has one of the most colorful of all modern wedding ceremonies. Oriental in feeling, it takes place at a flower bedecked table in front of the sanctuary and near the center of the church.

Only vocal music by a choir accompanies the service; no instrumental music is permitted. During part of the ceremony the bride and groom hold candles, representing the light of God.

Richly ornamented crowns are held over the couple's heads while the priest reads the New Testament account of Christ's presence as a guest at the wedding feast of Cana.

Holman's of P.E.I.

An Announcement of Interest

HOLMAN'S 1962 BRIDE CONTEST WILL BE HELD IN AUGUST

Recent surveys have indicated that June is no longer the popular, traditional month for weddings in Prince Edward Island... with this in mind and always anxious to be of the greatest service to the greatest number of people, Holman's this year will hold their annual "Bride Contest" in August, a month which, surveys show, is far more popular for weddings than the month of June. At the same time, Holman's take pleasure in expressing their appreciation for the phenomenal interest in this annual contest... and invite you to look forward to an even greater event in 1962.

By Ralph Cameron
Patriot-Guardian Staff Writer

Changing times and fashions no longer agree with the old song "Happy the bride the sun shines on today," in referring to the merry month of May. In fact, even the long-time favorite, June has fallen into disfavor.

Whatever the reason, Island brides have a definition shown by cold statistics which strip the glamor from towards later-in-the-year weddings.



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Each year Holman's award thousands of dollars in prizes to six lucky brides in Prince Edward Island. Every year there are three winners in each of the Charlottetown and Summerside stores... and this annual contest has become, over the years, one of the most popular promotions in Prince Edward Island.

Twenty-Four Bride Contest Winners In The Past Four Years!

1958	1959	1960	1961
Charlottetown (1) Bride Sue Jones (2) Bride Ellen Mullally (3) Bride Isabel MacLeod	Charlottetown (1) Bride Sadie MacFadden (2) Bride Olive Parkman (3) Bride Virginia Coffin	Charlottetown (1) Bride Barbara Darah, Cornwall (2) Bride Dorothy Leard, East Royalty (3) Bride Noreen McCarthy, Morell	Charlottetown (1) Bride Lottie MacDougall, Mt. Stewart (2) Bride Ann McGee (3) Bride Marlene Kitson, North River
Summerside (1) Bride Elaine Raynor, Central Bedouque (2) Bride Olive Jelly, O'Leary (3) Bride Gertrude Gillis, S'side	Summerside (1) Bride Mary Rix, Ellerslie (2) Bride Marina MacCollum, Lower Bedouque (3) Bride Norma Harris, Summerside	Summerside (1) Bride Arlene Reeves, Freetown (2) Bride Jessie MacFarlane, S'side (3) Bride Irene Ramsay, Poplar Grove	Summerside (1) Bride Eleanor MacEwen, S'side (2) Bride Helen Lecky, S'side (3) Bride Sandra Gay, S'side

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