

barbara's paper bag
not a bag at all - but a wonderful store filled to the brim with the greatest invitations, stationery, etc., etc. ever! we even toss in your "personalized" thank-yous when you place your bridal invitation order with us... come and see - we make it so-o-o easy for you.

barbara

150 PIERCE • BIRMINGHAM, MICH. 48011 • 313 / 642-3550

1st year's rough...

The last kernel of rice tumbled out of your suit coat pocket yesterday. All the wedding gifts have been stored away. And you're looking forward to a life of marital bliss.

What are your chances of making it for a lifetime?

In fact, what are your odds for getting through the first year?

A casual look at the statistics may make you think they are not all that good. Even with the option of living together before formally tying the knot, many divorce lawyers are still earning a living.

"There's no question that many marriage breakups start very soon after the wedding," says Ruth Abel, a social worker and marriage counselor at Family Service in Plymouth. "But couples never come in for help then. They usually let the situation go until they are faced with serious problems."

Although Family Service offers a pre-nuptial counseling program, Ms. Abel said, not very many of those planning to get married take advantage of it. "I think we've had about three people ask about pre-marriage counseling in the last couple of years. With all the excitement before the ceremony, it's not the first thing on their minds," she observed.

In Ms. Abel's view, people going into marriage don't have any idea of what to expect. They are still the victims of unreal expectations and bad role models.

"Maybe it's not as bad as it was 10 years ago. Couples are a little more sophisticated. But they have to go through some hard adjustments during the first year."

The biggest adjustment difficulty, she said, comes under the general heading of sharing, whether it's time, money or household chores.

"Both men and women can and do go into marriage with some very selfish ideas," Ms. Abel said. "If they have been living alone, they are used to having things pretty much their own way."

"They can get up when they want, eat when they want, leave the cap off the tube of toothpaste, and nobody says anything to them. But after moving in together, it's a different story. And it may sound clichéd, but it is the little things that count."

Also, the responsibility of deciding who does what and when can be a real stumbling block, she said.

For example, who is going to handle the money? Who is going to do the shopping, take out the garbage, or do the dishes?

"A lot of couples never think about those everyday things until they are in the middle of an argument about one of them," she said.

With many couples both working outside the home, she said, it takes some planning and cooperation to make things run smoothly around the house.

(Continued on page 20)

...but next 30 are fun

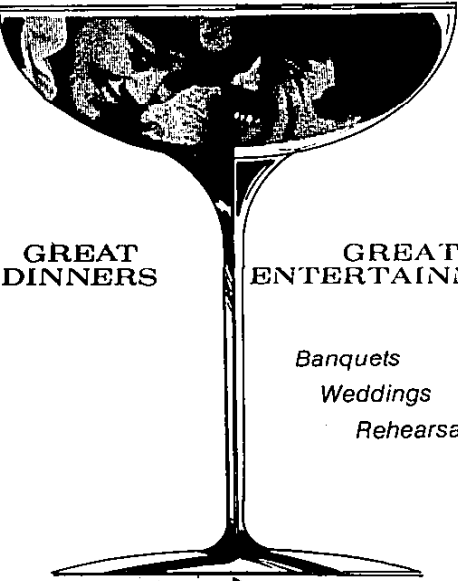
Thirty years of marriage may seem like a prison term to some, but talking to a participant in a three decade marriage puts a different, and much more optimistic, light on it.

The solid marriage achieved by Lanny and Leigh Dennis (fictitious name) was one steadily worked at for the past 30 years, and one that continues to be interesting, exciting, and loving.

"Keeping the home fires burning is a matter of both partners keeping busy gathering wood," said Dennis.

"You go out and bring purpose into your life by gathering social experience, educational expertise and job knowledge. You both have to keep yourselves interested and interesting and alive. After all, to keep a fire burning, you need fuel."

(Continued on page 20)



GREAT COCKTAILS

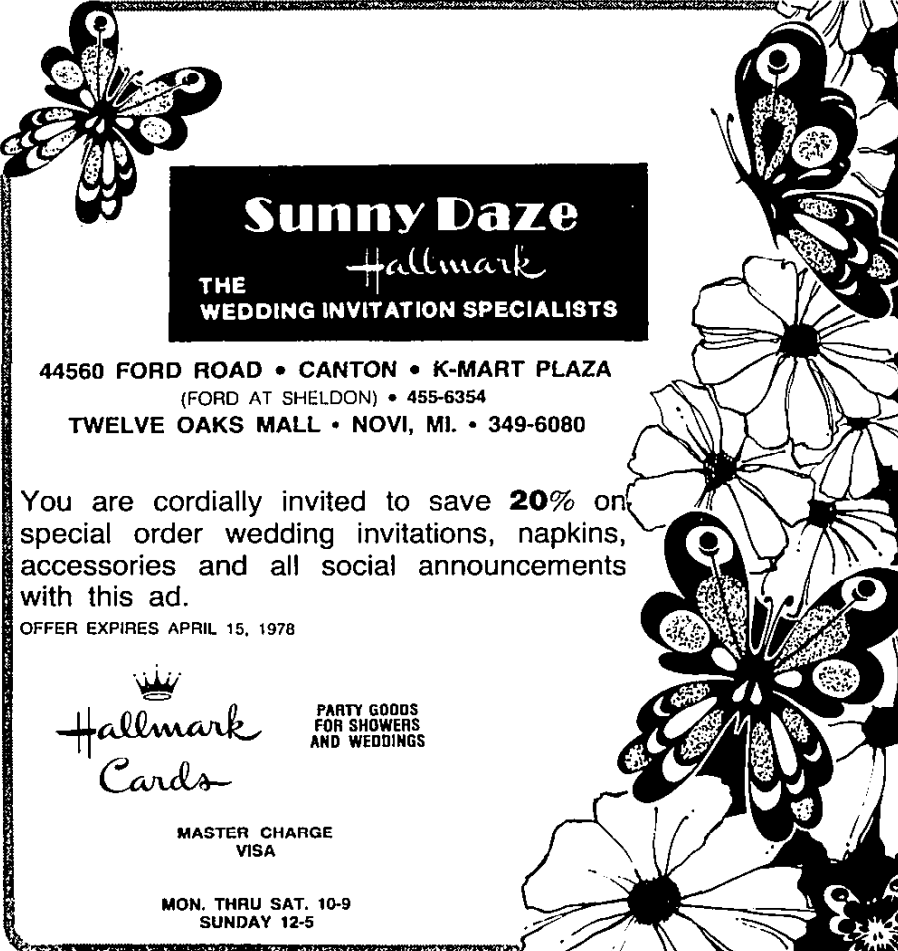
GREAT DINNERS **GREAT ENTERTAINMENT**


Banquets
Weddings
Rehearsals

ted's
Old Town Inn

Woodward at Square Lake Road,
Bloomfield Hills 644-7764

"Call Our Banquets Manager"





Sunny Daze
Hallmark
THE WEDDING INVITATION SPECIALISTS

44560 FORD ROAD • CANTON • K-MART PLAZA
(FORD AT SHELTON) • 455-6354
TWELVE OAKS MALL • NOVI, MI. • 349-6080

You are cordially invited to save **20%** on special order wedding invitations, napkins, accessories and all social announcements with this ad.

OFFER EXPIRES APRIL 15, 1978

PARTY GOODS FOR SHOWERS AND WEDDINGS

MASTER CHARGE VISA

**MON. THRU SAT. 10-9
SUNDAY 12-5**