

# Marrying again? Plan a celebration

By RUSTLE SHAND

Now that you're in love again and considering marrying again, you may be interested in the options for second-time weddings.

And don't think you're all alone. According to Jeff Atkins, general manager of Boulevard Bridal Salon in Birmingham, second marriages now account for 35 to 40 percent of the bridal market. There were approximately 720,000 remarriages in 1979. Half of those brides were under the age of 30.

"In the past," said Atkins, "remarriage was considered an etiquette problems and everything was expected to be low profile. Things have changed in recent times and now couples are able to create a wedding day that suits their age and lifestyle."

"There are not any hard fashion rules for remarrying and very few designers do not make a line of second marriage gowns today," explained Atkins.

Perhaps Jeff Atkins' response to the following questions will be

helpful to those planning a second marriage.

**Should the bride select a traditional wedding gown?**

Although some do buy traditional gowns, most opt for a stylish, sophisticated look. Ankle length, floor length and handkerchief hem gowns are more popular than long trains. Second marriage gowns are usually more simple than the traditional gown.

**Can the bride wear white?**

Most brides getting married for the second time prefer to wear ivory. But white looks terrific on lots of women and it's a valid fashion choice.

**What kind of headpiece?**

Hats or small flowers in the hair are more popular than the traditional headpiece with veiling.

**What does the bridegroom wear?**

He also is free to wear what he chooses. A tuxedo is still a good choice as is a business suit.

**Where should a couple have the second wedding?**

This can be a problem for some couples. They might contact a dis-

trict court judge or mayor to perform the ceremony, either in a home or in the judge's chambers. Non-denominational chapels offer simple services which many couples desire. The wedding may be as private or as public as they want it.

**Who pays the wedding costs?**

Both bride and bridegroom should pay for the cost of the wedding. If the bride has not been married before, her parents may wish to pay for it.

**How about wedding attendants?**

Attendants are usually kept to a small number — perhaps only the best man and maid or matron of honor. No one "gives away" the bride this time. The children of the bride or the bridegroom should be asked to participate.

**What kind of reception is appropriate?**

Usually, receptions are held to very small affairs with friends of the couple helping out. You may have an entirely new circle of friends coming to the second wedding, so by all means make it a festive occasion, a celebration.



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