



Observer-Eccentric writer Louise Okrutsky dreamed of a simple white suit for her wedding to fellow staffer Craig Piechura. But frothy won out over sensible.

Satin wins out

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

I wanted a small, simple wedding. I really did.

In fact, I had a simple white linen suit all picked out. All I needed was a hat to go with it and I would be all set for that long walk down the aisle.

Instead, we wound up with a ceremony that could have almost passed for a dress rehearsal of "Father of the Bride."

It all began, as some of these things do, with a conversation between my mother and me.

"No daughter of mine is getting married in a suit," thundered my offended parent.

"People will think you can't afford anything better."

"People will think I'm sensible," I countered.

"Besides, brides with drivers' licenses expiring on their 30th birthday look silly in those frilly dresses.

"And you were married in a suit."

My mother was not about to be hoisted by her own petard.

"That was different. It was 1942. There was a war on," my mother said, working up an indignant stance.

"And you are not too old," she added.

Of course, mother stopped counting my birthdays when I reached 23. She said it made her feel old.

Out of this conversation I gleaned the first rule of buying a wedding dress: Pick frothy over sensible.

I DID.

But only after my mother brought out the heavy artillery.

"But you're my only daughter. I have no one else to buy a beautiful wedding dress for," she said.

So, on the day we shopped for a wedding dress, I found myself wearing enough white satin to clothe a refugee family of five.

Mother and Aunt Jane amused themselves by trying on veils behind the saleswoman's back. While they giggled madly at each other, I entertained myself by trying to guess the weight of each dress.

As a history major in college, I wondered about the stamina of medieval knights who clanked around in armor. I revived that reverie, adding a few new insights.

Finally, I tried on a dress with a train that should have been part of the Amtrak system. Its billowing skirt forced me to sidle through doorways.

"That's it," my aunt cried. "Don't try on another one. That's it."

I looked at my mother. She was crying.

I settled on the dress and sidled through a potential crisis.

That little scenario left me with the task of learning to walk gracefully from table to table during the reception while balancing a dead weight in the general location of my derriere. Most fashion experts call this phenomenon a bustle.

IN FACT, it allowed me to do anything but bustle through the crowd.

I hadn't planned on the crowd, either. I wanted something simple but I hadn't reckoned with marrying into a family which if so inclined, could start its own township.

My family's numbers have dwindled to the point that they could have just as easily fit into a large booth at Big Boy's.

But by the time we listed our families and the friends we absolutely must have at the big event, we ended up with a reception twice the size we originally envisioned.

At least we have the decency to blush when we say 250 of our closest friends and relatives attended the nuptials.

And at least the mother of the groom had a chance to eat with the guests at one family wedding. When my brother-in-law married six weeks later, the room was so crowded, his parents ended up eating the wedding dinner in the cloak room.

Exclusive Wedding and After-Five Fashions
 Largest selections of Bridal Wear in the Greater Metropolitan area

Boulevard
 Bridal Salon
Exclusive Wedding and After-Five Fashions

1095 S. Hunter Boulevard
 (Woodward at 14 1/2 Mile Rd.)
 Birmingham 642-4110

Exclusive But Not Expensive

Large Selection of Bridal Gowns and Attendants' Gowns, Mother of the Bride, and after five fashions.

Available in all sizes including half sizes.

Ingrid's
 BRIDAL SALON
 LI 8-0010
 2875 N. WOODWARD
 BERKLEY (2 Blocks S. of 12 Mile)

Genna's
 Gallery of Collectables

Norman Rockwell's
 "The Marriage License"

NEW LIMITED EDITION FIGURINE
 by Gorham

Marriage License Plate \$35

A Lasting Gift For All Their Tomorrows

\$400 limited to 5,000 pieces

29092 Van Dyke at 12 Mile
 Tech Plaza, Warren, MI 48093
 (313) 573-4542