

Bridal tradition

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white gown and veil. She carried stefanotis and gardenias. Her sister-in-law sang "Ava Maria" and other songs at the Catholic ceremony.

"YOU HAD to do what they told you," Olga said. "Today they say what they want to say. They marry after noon and don't have breakfasts, and have strictly evening receptions. Today brides don't go to studios on the same day."

The bride was responsible for supplying the food and hiring cooks for the wedding day, according to Mrs. Pelc.

"Right after the war, things weren't all that plentiful," she said. "You just had to get what you could."

"You were more or less obligated to invite relatives, and friends came last, if there was room."

Traditional weddings were going strong in the busy 1960s, as when Leonard Poger married Judy Barkman in April 1968. The evening ceremony took place at Beth Israel in Flint.

"IT WAS a memorable day for a lot of reasons," Leonard Poger said. "We got the word at the reception at the restaurant that evening that Martin Luther King was dead."

Poger describes his wedding as a

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When we started to compile a list of mistakes past brides wish they hadn't made, Carol McCarthy volunteered to help.

"That's easy because they all make the same ones," McCarthy said, who has worked with Paula Kempton for the past four years staging the wedding productions for brides throughout the metro area.

"It is a stage production and that's the problem," she said. "It's the largest production most will ever stage in their lives and there's never a dress rehearsal for the whole affair."

The couple had chosen "our song" for their first dance at the reception. The problem was that nobody could dance to "our song." The bridal pair stumbled and no one joined them on the floor.

Making the entire production go smoothly, every act and every scene, is the goal.

WHILE THE wedding coordinators list the "our song" story in the minor disaster category, they list the number one havoc-maker as muddled communications. "Make sure everyone knows his or her job. Make sure each family mem-

ber knows what they are responsible for, moneywise as well as dutywise," Kempton said. "Talk specifics."

The bride who has hired a wedding consultant has automatically hired a mediator between the two families. For brides who have to be their own mediator, who is going to pay for what should be spelled out from the onset.

"When many families are meeting one another for the first time, getting the money responsibilities clear can save a lifelong vendetta," Kempton said.

As for communications in duty-responsibilities, the common mix-up here concerns the attendants.

"They are called attendants for a good reason. They are there to attend to the couple's needs. The best man makes the toast; that's traditional, but spell it out, don't spring it on him at the last minute," Kempton said.

The saddest omission in this category is not having any one assigned to be in charge of gifts brought to the reception. With the cost of delivery up so drastically now, more gifts are being brought by hand than being sent to the bride's home.

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