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## Photos and videos capture wedding

Almost as much a part of the wedding as the couple saying "I do" is the image of a photographer hustling about — setting up shots and taking photos to be placed in an album and looked at again and again over the years.

A growing trend, however, is to videotape the ceremony and reception. This is an ideal way for a couple to rerun the event for relatives and friends who couldn't be there, as well as to see for themselves everything that went on.

Videotapes, however, are not a substitute for photography. "Videotape," says Shirley Porter of Angel Video Production in Bloomfield Hills, "is a great add-on, a touching way to capture the sound and motion of any memorable event."

But it can be a disaster if the photographer doesn't know about the videotaper and vice versa — for example, the lighting required by one may ruin the other's work. Any photography at the ceremony also should be cleared in advance with clergy. Some churches do not permit photography of any kind during the ceremony, and others permit photography only from the back.

Whatever the bride's choice — photographer, videotaper or both — there is a variety of services available at a variety of costs. When interviewing potential photo-

graphers, a bride should ask to see samples of wedding tapes and photos and then avoid people — even highly recommended professionals — without wedding experience.

Photographers and videotapers usually offer several package deals. A bride should shop around to find the package that suits her best.

Video packages differ in the quality of equipment used, the length of the tape and the look and sound of the finished product.

Whatever packages eventually are agreed upon, the bride and photographer and/or videotaper should sign a contract that spells out exactly what services will be provided and how much they will cost.

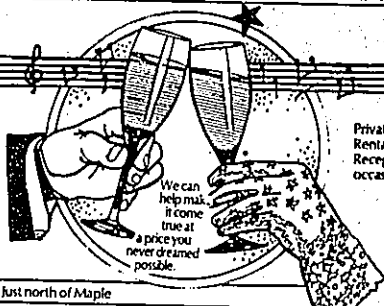
It may be helpful to include in the contract, or simply as a note on the side, a list of "not-to-be-missed" shots for the photographer or a script for the videotaper. The photographer and videotaper will know, of course, to take standard shots such as cutting the cake and the first dance, but they probably will appreciate advice on other special shots such as the bride's great aunt and uncle dancing. Or a bride may ask the videotaper to go to each table at the reception to get all the guests, and perhaps their comments on film.

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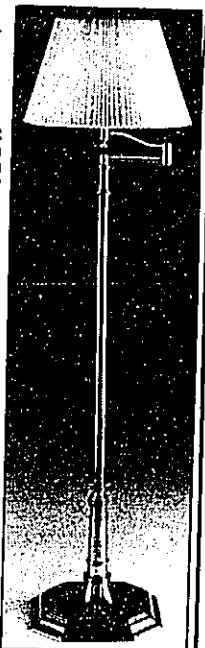
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## Mother-in-law is important

Hear the phrase "mother-in-law" and the word "joke" often springs to mind.

Throughout history, the mother by marriage has been a figure of fun in folklore, literature, even botany: The alternate name for the snake plant is "mother-in-law's tongue!"

But is it really impossible to get along with your mother-in-law?

A recent book, "Between Mothers-In-Law & Daughters-In-Law," by Helen S. Arnstein (Dodd Mead & Company) which was excerpted in a past issue of *Bride's Magazine*, has this advice for young people getting married today:

Realize that times have changed. Says Arnstein, "The days are long past when a mother-in-law dropped by at her daughter-in-law's home, lifted the lid of the simmering pot to inspect her son's dinner, or commented on the dishes stacked in the sink." Your mother-in-law, if she's like many women today, holds a job and leads an active life — with little time or energy left over to inspect your home. Her own home may be far from perfect!

LET GO of preconceived notions.

"First impressions can set the tone of a relationship," claims Arnstein. Think of your mother-in-law as your spouse's mother, instead of associating her with

the stereotype. She is the mother of the person you love, and part of the things you love were fostered by her. Give her every chance to be known as an individual: Isn't that what you want?

Borrow from her wisdom now and then.

Put yourself in your mother-in-law's place and think how an older person would feel if there was nothing she could contribute to the younger generation. So if she suggests something in good faith, give it a try. After all, under her tutelage, your spouse turned out pretty well.

SHOULD SHE nag and complain, realize that this behaviour may stem from unhappy experiences in her life and may not necessarily be a reflection on you. The "interfering mother-in-law" often doesn't have any outlets for her abilities. You and your spouse may be able to work on that.

Check your own behavior. Could you unknowingly be doing or saying something to upset her? Are you as critical of her ways as she is of yours? "Speaking out," regardless of which generation does it, is more likely to be successful if done at the right time and with tact.

Give it time. With the right attitude, problems often resolve themselves simply through living . . . and learning.