

Wedding can be very personal event

HEN AIMEE Gauthier and Mike Reed wed last fall in Stamford, Conn., her hobby of collecting 1930s and 1940s tableware and vintage

tablecioths and napkins occupied center stage.

The tables holding the wedding feast were covered with the tablecloths and set with her mixed collection of colorful Depression glass and Fiestaware. The menu consisted mainly of food made by

It was a prime example of couples planning their wedding as a very

personal event.
Gauthier-Reed says colorful tables are conducive to a festive atmosphere. Though unassuming and not normally for a formal table, the settings were a delightful surprise to guests at her wedding, she says.

GAUTHIER-REED, a 25-year-old graphic artist, says she learned some of

her stylish ways by working as an assistant to Martha Stewart, the food stylist and author of books on party-giving, including "Weddings."

She put Stewart's lessons on color to use at her own wedding to create a relatively inexpensive event that was nevertheless original.

The menu included a salad of thinly sliced filet of beef and red and vellow peppers, carrots and snow peas in vinaigrette dressing. There was also tortellini salad with pesto, sesame needles, tomato and red onion salad and broccoli.

Table garnishes included a mix of black, purple, red, yellow, green and orange peppers and edible nasturtium

"We didn't have fancy food, just a simple menu of homemade food. But everyone said it was the most elegant wedding they had gone to. I think the table settings had a lot to do with that. It was a unique way of expressing

ourselves," she says.

So pleased was she with the wedding and the enjoyment she got out of using her rapidly-enlarging collection of dinnerware and tablecloths from the 1930s and early '40s that she decided the experience held the seeds of a new business idea.

SHE HAS LAUNCHED a business renting the pieces to others for parties and special occasions.
"Depression glass was the poor

person's colored crystal. It was given away as a bonus when people bought their groceries. You could also buy it for about a quarter a place setting," she

Formerly scorned and found in junk shops. Depression glass and other old favorites such as Fiestaware and Fire King dishes now command good prices and are getting harder to find.

Though her new business is unusual, it is not unique, she says. She came

across the idea in California where it

appears to have originated.
"I realized this business could be the perfect solution. I would earn money to support our collecting and, after renting it out, I'd get the whole collection back at the end of the day," she says.

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