Retired judge offers stories of wedding follies

Retired Detroit Common Pleas Judge David Vokes estimates he's married more than 10,000 couples in

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Betty Black, the "blondest blonde

bröther's waiting room was my chapel,"
Betty Black, the "blondest blonde I ever married," asked the judge to conduct her fourth wedding.
"She told me, 'It has to be at your house in front of the mantle, because that's my lucky mantle," recalled Vokes, who was accompanied by his longtime court reporter Dolores Bradway and friends Bill and Thelma Stokes.

ANOTHER BRIDE was insistent the marriage ceremony not take place at the judge's house.

"She told me I don't want to be married in a doctor's office. It'd smell like I'm getting a shot. Won't you please come over to the house?"

"I found out that that's when a bid of things happened," said Vokes. "I wondered how they'd have a big wedding in their flay cottage. But they had a couple of big tents in the yard.

yard.
"It was a Polish-Italian wedding. The mothers were fighting over pots of kielbass and spaghett! in the kitchen. They moved the furniture out of the house and put decorations up. The girls were going to be in the front bedroom. The bride and her father were to come through the front door. The groom and groomsmen were to come to come up from the basement.

"They moved me into the room with the girl and the bridesmalds. I was in there just a short time when I knew something was wrong. The bride was crying; weeping like she was in exercicating pain. All her girlfriends were poking and tugging at her.

"Finally the bride sald, 'I'm going

to tell him. His brother delivered me. I ought to be able to tell him.' Then she said, 'My skin is caught in my garter and it's going to drive me out of my mind.' I freed the skin from the garter, the music played and we had a very happy wedding."

from the garrer, me music piayee and we had a very happy wedding."

ONCE, WHILE WORKING downtown, Vokes said he received a phone call asking him if he could marry a bartender right away.

The Justice agreed, and "pretty soon the groom and the best man showed up. The bride and maid of honor were missing. After three-quarters of an hour, they came in wile great hig boxes saying they'd the state of the state

"I've married a couple and then had the wife desert the husband on the way home. I had a basketball star kidnap the wife at the reception. And she wouldn't come back."

OLD MARRIAGE LICENSES were good until "you used them up. One day my clerk said 'There's someone here waiting to be mar-ried.'

ried."

"I said I'd be glad to accommodate them during a break. When we recessed, the wife was there, but the husband had left to go to the bathroom. He was gone for half an hour. We went to the men's room and called out, and no one answered.

"The bride gave up and went away. Two years later, a couple came in, gave me a license and saked me to marry them. I recognized it and said, 'You've been here before, haven't you? Are you the man who left to go to the bathroom? I estaid yes. "What happened?" I asked.

"He said 'On my way to the bath-

"He said, 'On my way to the bath-room the deputy sheriff marched in with all those prisoners in handcuffs and leg irons. When they passed me I suddenly remembered I had a wife in Kentucky I'd forgotten to divorce. That's where my wife found me. I'm divorced and we are now ready to be

divorced and we are now ready to be married."

One morning when Vokes arrived early to court, a couple was waiting outside his door. "I assumed they wanted an extra copy of their li-cense. The man said, 'That's not why we're here. Do you still have our li-cense? I said yes. He said, "Tear it un."

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purser and got the key to the state

One morning when Vokes arrived arrived carly to court, a couple was waiting outside his door, "I assumed they wanted an extra copy of their license. The man said, 'That's not why we're here. Do you still have our license?" I said yes. He said, "Tear it up."

"I said I couldn't do that, and sked what happened.

"Welt ourselves in and it was a watch was waiting outside his lovely. Where it your said, "That's not why we're here. Do you still have our license?" I said yes. He said, "Tear it up."

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The New Nikon N8008.

fered to go up to the room and get it, but she said, 'No, I'll get it.' I never did get in that room "So', he said, 'you'll do us a big favor if you just tear up the license.' I said I was sorry, they would have to have it annulled."

VORES' WIFE was from Yale, Mich., and 'we spent a lot of time up "Hes said, 'Yes I do. I'm not going there. I married a widow in Yale who was to take a boat to Buffalo care of the cows."

and Niagara Falls on her honey-moon.

"The groom and I were busy talk-ing when she told him, "If you don't hurry up, we're going to miss the boat." He sald, 'Here, I'll give you the tikets now. tickets now.

She said, 'You don't have to give







The next time everyday pressures build up to the point where you feel like lashing out—STOP! And try any of these simple alternatives.

You'll feel better . . . and so will your child.

- 1. Take a deep breath. And another. Then remember you are the adult . . .
 2. Close your eyes and imagine you're hearing what your child is about to hear.
- Press your lips together and count to 10. Or better yet, to 20.
- to 10. Or better yet, to 20.

 4. Put your child in a time-out chair. (Remember the rule: one time-out minute for each year of age.)

 5. Put yourself in a time-out chair.

 Think about why you are angry: Is it your child, or is your child simply a convenient target for your anger?

 Checa selected
- 6. Phone a friend.
- 7. If someone can watch the children, go outside and take a
- 8. Take a hot bath or splash cold water on your face.
- 9. Hug a pillow.
- 10. Turn on some music. Maybe even sing along.
- sing along.

 11. Pick up a pencil and write down as many helpful words as you can think of. Save the list.

 12. Write for prevention information: National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, Box 2866L, Chicago, IL 50690



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