

Arlene Couyoumjian and Donald Cronin Softball Sweethearts

Many a wise sage knows that there are many factors that have to be right for a successful romance. High on the list is timing and this is frequently rated along with attraction for each other, mutual interests and personalities that compliment.

Don Cronin and Arlene Couyoumjian have been dating on and off for about three years, when the timing was right, they began to make serious plans. They will be married in November at St. John's Armenian Church, of Southfield.

In talking about their three year romance, Arlene says, "Neither of us were ready for marriage before."

Don agrees saying, "I think it is both of our times, we have found what we want out of life and who we want to marry."

Arlene admits with a smile that she liked Don from the first time she was with him. Neither is exactly clear on when and where it all started, but both remember a ski weekend at Alpine as one of the first pleasant encounters.

They find that a mutual interest in sports has added to the joy of the courtship. Both work for the Michigan BankAmericard of Southfield, Don, as chief investigator in charge of the Security Department for the Detroit area, and Arlene, as a collector. Arlene joined the company's girls' softball team. Don is the team manager and this was where they began to know each other. Arlene is a sometime pitcher for the team and judging by her performance recently against a BankAmericard men's team, a fairly fast base runner. The girls won that game.

The mixture of religions between the two young people has presented few if any problems. Don is Catholic, was graduated from Benedictine High school in 1962, served in the Marine Corps before taking his present job.

Arlene is a Southfield High School graduate, class of 1966, and attended Ferris State College for a year. She is a member of St. John's Armenian Church, of Southfield. The wedding will be held there, with approval from both families. While Father Avedikian of St. John's will officiate at the wedding, Brother Leo of St. Scholastica Monastery will be participating in the rites.

The reception, too, will be a blend of backgrounds, with music for dancing provided by both an American and an Armenian band. Arlene anticipates that there will be many of the traditional Armenian wedding dances at her reception and Don, says he has mastered one or two well enough to dance with his bride--if not lead the dancing. That will be left to Arlene's brother, Karl. It will probably start with a long single of dancers and culminate with the bridal couple in the center and solo dancers around them. The first dance could be either the "Jezair" or the "Teh-hayrenyatz."

After his parents moved to West Frankfort, Ill. two years ago, Don purchased his family home near Seven Mile and Southfield. The couple are remodeling and decorating the home to move in after their wedding. It is a labor of love which so far has failed to present any unsolvable problems because as Arlene says, "Our tastes run pretty much the same."

Don and Arlene both feel that marriage is a lifetime commitment. They approach it seriously and with reverence. The three year acquaintance was important, for now--the timing is right.



Between softball practice and getting ready for the wedding, Arlene and Don have little time to be alone. Their families have been helping them with the wedding plans so Arlene and Don have a chance to relax and share an ice cream cone.