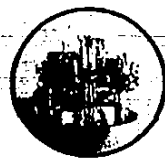


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Are weddings throughout the world the same as those in the United States?

And, indeed, do weddings in the United States have the same general characteristics?

In her book, "The Eternal Bliss Machine: America's Way of Wedding," author Marcia Seligson attempts to chronicle the customs, rites and traditions surrounding the ceremony of marriage in the United States.

Claiming to have "attended 45,000 weddings (or so it seems)" throughout the country in a two year period (that would come down to a mere 61 per day), Ms. Seligson draws the following conclusions:

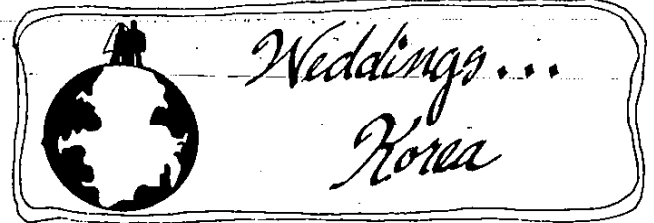
- 1) The American Way of Wedding is a glaring reflection of the American way of life. Primarily, it is a metaphor for our two paramount lifelong concerns as people -- Love and Money.
- 2) Americans are getting married almost precisely as they used to a hundred years ago.

3) The wedding is the most important day in life to an American girl. "She is, today, the fairy princess, queen for a day, Eliza Doolittle at the ball... For a man, marriage is but a continuation of growth and change; for her it is the REAL beginning."

4) To the bride's family, those who actually create the wedding, it becomes a symbol of the fulfillment of their roles as parents.

5) The so-called "New Wedding" involves only a small fraction of today's couples, but will distinctly influence the future. (Ms. Seligson foresees having to reserve cow pastures six months in advance.)

6) There is no such animal as "The Typical American Wedding."
 To discover what American weddings have in common with those in other countries, come with us on a quick tour of six nations led by Observerlanders who have been married in, or have first hand knowledge of, their marriage customs.
 As Observer Newspapers presents "World of Weddings"...



By JUDITH BERNE

In Korea, there is a vast discrepancy between the old and the new -- which shows up well when trying to discover Korean wedding customs.

Dr. Young Mo Lee and his wife Sang Yeon Kim, residents of Livonia, were married in their native South Korea 12 years ago. They had what they term "a western-style wedding" modeled after those in the western countries and popular in the large cities of Korea.

"I wore a long white dress in a Presbyterian church," Mrs. Lee related. "For the reception, I changed into a Korean dress ... but many do not. It was very much what you do here."

"There was no large wedding cake," Mrs. Lee said, "but many small ones. When guests bring gifts to the church, they are given individual cakes in thanks."

CONFETTI WAS THROWN at the bride and groom, rather than the rice which marks many a wedding in the United States. "When we were married, the government was trying to cut down any extravagance, attempting to simplify our lives," Dr. Lee reported. "Throwing rice -- our main food -- would have been considered a waste."
 The Lees took a honeymoon, rid-



OLD-STYLE KOREAN bride and groom...

ing a special "honeymooners' train" which was headed for Korea's resort area. Upon their return, a party was held at the bride's house; later, another was given at the groom's house.

"It is the custom for the bride and groom to live at the groom's home -- for at least a short period -- so that the bride may learn the 'ways of his house'," Mrs. Lee said. Many Ko-