



Boulevard

Bridal Salon

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bridal party:

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Bridesmaids Gowns

Mother of the
Bride and Groom,
and guests

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proceed to the florist again encountering albums of pictures, this time of table settings and corsages, bouquets and boutonnieres.

Well, the florist wonders, do you prefer your bridesmaids to carry cascades, crescents or Edwardian style bouquets? Have you settled on a lot of greenery in the bouquets or very little? Did you want ribbons, a basket or maybe a Bible in addition to the flowers?

Will the groomsmen have carnations, one miniature rose, or maybe two, with greenery, or without tinted or untinted?

Most of the months preceding marriage are spent answering a barrage of questions and involving details.

If you're preparing to go down the aisle, begin with a book on planning weddings. There are several available in libraries, bridal shops and bookstores which serve as a checklist for the details too numerous to remember.

In all likelihood, an engaged woman will receive a visit from an area Welcome Wagon representative who comes armed with information about neighborhood bridal shops, tuxedo rental stores, florists, photographers, bakeries and wedding-related retailers.

This will give you a place to

start but when choosing a with friends and relatives who have planned weddings. Ask for recommendations and tips.

For example, the best way to see if you'll be satisfied with your wedding pictures is look at a photographer's work. Check your friends' wedding albums and make appointments to visit several studios.

You may do the same thing when obtaining a caterer or banquet hall. Visit the hall, obtain price lists, menus and check out staffing arrangements and your obligations.

And don't forget some of the smaller details.

For example, you might want to ask a close friend or relative not in the wedding party to handle the wedding guest book. That same person could be asked to bring a roll of tape to the reception if it is likely guests will arrive with gifts. The tape ensures that cards will not be lost from packages.

And remember to make it legal. Michigan law requires couples to have a physical examination and file for a marriage license with the county clerk's office. It takes five days from filing for the license to become valid, so give yourself some leeway.

Then just sit back and relax. You haven't had time to be nervous so why start now?

—MARY CONNELLY-SZCZESNY



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