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In
Birmingham

for your
Perfect
Wedding
Reception

The gracious, traditional surroundings of The Community House not only lends a home-like atmosphere for your wedding reception, but offers all of the professional catering services needed to make this special day something beautiful to remember.

Personalized attention from a friendly staff, a central location with convenient, ample parking, and of course elegantly prepared and presented food all add to the total commitment The Community House makes to your perfect day. Of course, liquor service is available.

If you wish further information, please contact Mrs. Helen Parrish-644-5832-at The Community House. She will be happy to answer your questions and work out special details just for you.



**A PLACE FOR
ALL SEASONS**

Bates & Townsend in Birmingham
644-5832

Father is THE star

Having become the "Father of the Bride" in the past year, one finds it incredible that Spencer Tracy had so much difficulty marrying off Elizabeth Taylor—the Elizabeth Taylor of 1950—in the film we enjoyed so much in the long-long ago.

Granted, there is that dread sinking feeling in anticipation of the event. But when it is all done and the bride and groom have been whisked off to California on a jetliner for a two-week honeymoon, one is startled to observe that the father of the bride actually has enjoyed the experience.

He has been in the spotlight, bringing the bride down the aisle, while the mother of the bride (who did far more work on the Big Event) must sit in the pews and watch through tear-dimmed eyes.

Actually, of course, as he has pointed out to the mother, the father of the bride IS the most important member of the wedding party. Without him, there would be no bride. The mother of the bride reminds, somewhat testily, that she had a part in that. But, the father of the bride replies, the sex of the child is determined by the father. And with four female offspring, he is well qualified to speak with authority on the subject.

HIS IMPORTANCE firmly established, the father of the bride

This article was written by a recent father of a bride with close Observer & Eccentric ties. He asked to remain anonymous for personal reasons, one of which (unconfirmed) could be that he doesn't want to share any of his leftover booze -- even if it was cheap.

reflects upon the Big Event.

Having observed that Barbara—the bride—has been seen more and more in the company of Gary and talks about him nonstop, it is hardly a surprise when Barbara and her mother announce that they have an announcement.

"Yeah, when's the wedding?" he replies. Advice to other fathers: Don't do this. Act surprised, even if you are not. Appear a bit worried, and demand that the groom-to-be come to you to seek your daughter's hand in holy matrimony. This father of the bride disgracefully said, "Sounds like a good idea." What a clod.

For the next several months the planning goes on. The chapel is reserved, the hall for the reception is reserved, the band is signed up, the food selected, the photographer hired, the minister and priest consulted (two faiths are involved), the music chosen.

The planning for D-Day must have been simpler. Fortunately, the bride is a logistics expert. Ei-

senhower could have used her. Also, she is a graduate mathematician and has a full-time job, thus relieving the father of the bride of one of the main duties most fathers have: Signing most of the checks.

In the midst of all this comes the shower, given by the mother of the groom with the help of the mother of the bride. This is a major production in itself, involving door prizes, mounds of food, and heaps of gifts.

THE COUNTDOWN to the wedding itself begins. The father promises to buy a new suit, only to be told that this is formal and that he must rent a uniform—brown tuxedo, ruffled shirt, bow tie. He throws a mild temper tantrum, then gives in and obediently trots off to get measured for the uniform.

Meanwhile, the mother of the bride has been busy at the sewing machine producing long gowns for the female members of the party. She also has been on the phone daily to the bride and to the mother of the groom with last-minute details—timing, transportation, rehearsal, rehearsal dinner, fitting of gowns.

At this point, the father—although involved very little—feels like suggesting an elopement, just to get life back to normal around the house. But it is too late—you

(Continued on page 19)

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