



Paula Kempton (at left) and Carol McCarthy talk about mistakes commonly made when planning a wedding that run from small embarrassing moments to ones that cause longtime regrets. The wedding consultants own and operate Manners Inc. in Michigan.

On bloopers

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Unhappily un-attended gifts disappear, and no one realizes they have been stolen until some miffed relative reports he or she didn't get a thank-you note.

Opening gifts at the reception is a no-no, say the women who own and operate Manners Inc.

"The attendant responsible for the gifts is responsible for getting them out of the reception room and into a car and back to the bride's mother's home," McCarthy said.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS to make for a smooth stage production:

If there are divorced parents involved, think long and hard on who sits where.

Spend the small amount of money and time it takes to make place cards. This will prevent your beautifully set tables from being marred with coats, purses and tipped chairs which is the way guests reserve a spot for themselves.

If you know ahead of time that great grandpa is going to want to leave at 9 p.m. give the job of getting him home to one of the attendants. (The wedding consultants say this detail has caused more than a little consternation in mid-wedding festivities and is not one to be overlooked.)

Find an assertive friend or relative to keep the receiving line moving at a decent clip. With 200 guests, this can be more time consuming than you planned.

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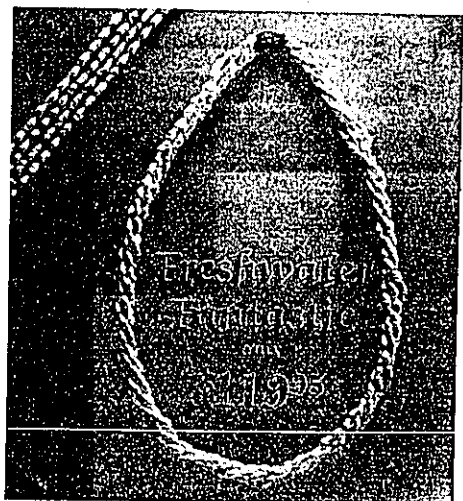


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