



Photo by Bill Johnson
HAL KARASEL of California designed this yellow knit suit. The A-line skirt is topped by a double breasted jacket with back belt. Cost is about \$45.

Wedding Gifts Require Notes

The weeks before your wedding will be like Christmas every day—except that you won't have to give any presents in return. The bride's only responsibility is to acknowledge the gifts as they arrive, sending a handwritten note of appreciation for each one—including those from relatives of your fiancé whom you've never met, and from close friends.

The wise bride plans her pre-wedding schedule to allow time each day for acknowledging and recording wedding presents as they arrive. As each package is opened, it should be listed immediately in a record book. Be sure to include a description of the gift, the name and address of the donor, the store from which it came, the date it arrived, and the date your thank-you note was mailed.

Which Was Aunt Susan?

If you expect to receive a lot of gifts, it's best to attach a number corresponding to the listing on each one—then you'll know which silver candy dish came from Aunt Susan.

Thank you notes should be written in blue or black ink on a good grade of white or off-white folded notepaper. The bride's name or monogram may be engraved on the notes but her married name or initial should not be used until after the wedding. Decorated notes and those with "Thank You" or "Mr. and Mrs." printed on them should not be used for thank-you notes.

The important thing to keep in mind when writing your thank-you notes is that each person receives only one—no matter how many you write. Each one should sound as warm and personal as you can make it. This is much easier to do if you write a few each day.

Don't Sound Stuffy

One way to keep your thank-you notes from sounding stuffy is to picture yourself face to face with the person you're writing to. You wouldn't say, "I am very grateful for your most exquisite gift" to anyone in person, and such stilted language should never be used.

Don't be afraid to sound excited. Most people—especially older ones—love being praised because of the unique gift they selected. Refer to the individual

gift—and the use you plan to make of it—as much as possible. If it happens to be a "mystery" gift, with a purpose even Einstein would declare obscure, you can mention its color or material. It is much more gracious to express appreciation for a specific "piece of blue glass" or "silver container" than for a vague "lovely gift." But it's best not to be too specific if you are not two hundred per cent sure of the intended use of the gift.

Try to put one thought besides "thank you" in each note. A personal touch, such as a comment about the wedding, an invitation to visit, or a reference to your new apartment, should always be included.

Duplicate gifts—whether exactly like or only faint replicas—pose special problems. Although it is an accepted practice for brides to exchange duplicates (even Amy Vanderbilt and Emily Post smile on the procedure) no one likes to think their gift was one of the ones that was "exchanged." If the gift can be returned without the giver being aware of it, go ahead—but you should keep it so Aunt Ellie won't be hurt when she discovers her silver icebucket is missing from your new home. Whatever you do, don't even think of mentioning duplication or exchange in your thank-you note. Those select few who are not offended by exchanges are most often the ones who send money.

Damaged Gifts

Damaged gifts should also be handled with great care. If you receive one from a local store, return it on the sly for replacement. If it comes from an out-of-town store, write a letter of explanation and wait for their instructions. Be sure to ask them not to mention the damage to the donor. Some brides who failed to make such a request were most embarrassed to learn that the stores involved did contact the donor—after thank-you notes with no mention of damage had been mailed.

In short, try to make all of your thank-you notes sound as sincerely appreciative as those for your first and most welcome gifts. In the long run, it's the gesture of giving that's important—not the gift itself.

Headed for Divorce

Man's View of Marriage

By STEVE GREEN

There are probably those who will say an article on divorce has no place in the Spring Bridal Edition but when you consider that Oregon and California have the highest divorce rates in the nation, any prospective bride should consider herself a prospective divorcee, too, and plan her first marriage accordingly.

First of all, a girl should consider exactly why she's getting married. If you were to ask one of the unfair or opposing sex her reason, she most likely would respond with three classical reasons—love, happiness, and duty. The latter of the three could more appropriately be termed security, but like nationalism, that's a word that we like to find substitutes for. So we'll call it duty.

Bride Divorcees

Practically all prospective bride-divorcees (in this sense, the two words are almost interchangeable) think they're in love. Ambrose Bierce defines the word love as "a temporary insanity, curable by marriage."

Bierce goes on to say that this disease, like gout, is prevalent only among civilized races living under artificial conditions; barbarous nations breathing pure air and eating simple foods enjoy immunity from its ravages.

So we can readily see that any marriage based on love—especially those that spring from a University community—are

headed for the rocks. For what is more artificial than the atmosphere that surrounds a university community? (and Oregon slab burners and pulp mills certainly are not very conducive to pure air).

Polluted Atmosphere

Once married, half the battle is lost already, for the new bride moves out of the artificial university into the reality of dirty diapers, no more monthly checks from home, a disagreeable partner . . . and more dirty diapers. Before she knows it, the love disease is cured. The only thing remaining is the polluted atmosphere.

The second factor as you remember, was happiness. Bierce defines this as "an agreeable sensation arising from contemplating the misery of another."

The prospective bride-divorcee can take consolation in the fact that her friends who don't marry are really more miserable than she, for they will never know the joy of supporting a husband while he finishes school. They won't have the opportunity of coming home to a cozy "love-nest" after putting in an eight-hour shift as a waitress and being greeted by dirty dishes, laundry, and a husband who can't wait to get out of the house so that she can take care of the brat.

The more she sees the "misery" of her independent friends, the more she might be inclined to

think the grass is greener elsewhere. And that's a requirement for a prospective divorcee.

Thirdly is the factor that really does make for a successful marriage. Security, or duty as we call it in this case, is that which impels us in the direction of profit along the line of desire.

A marriage that is founded on duty is usually successful if the prospective bride-divorcee has the foresight to choose a rich husband, for then everything else fails, money can practically always keep two people together. But if the husband gets wise to the fact that all he is is a meal ticket, this could lead to a divorce, too. Presuming, of course, that it is the husband, not the wife, who has the money.

Divorce Court

From this, it is easy to see why the prospective bride-divorcee is practically headed down the aisle of the divorce court as soon as a ring is clamped on to her finger. So during her first or "experimental" marriage she should plan for the second and the interim period between them.

In choosing an area to live, the prospective bride-divorcee should pick a state which has strict divorce laws (alimony, child support, etc.). There is no reason why she should have to go to work during the interim period.

When acquiring household good and furniture, buy things of

good lasting quality. Chances are the bride-divorcee will get most of it in the divorce settlement.

Of course, the cardinal rule is don't buy anything engraved! If the divorcee's initials were C.H. in her first marriage, for instance, it would be very awkward to use silverware with those initials engraved on it in the second marriage. Someone might think she lifted it from a hotel. Besides, it will be worth more if she wants to pawn it.

Plan Children

If you must have children, it might be best not to have them until you are sure that the experimental marriage will work. Children always complicate a divorce and you might have trouble trapping a second husband if you have an established family.

But above all, remember the poor slob has a legal obligation to support you, the bride-divorcee; and when you decide to unload him, don't let him get out of it cheap. If he has to work harder to pay alimony it will probably be good for him. Besides it might even help to stimulate the economy.

To the fellows who may be reading this, don't be too disappointed. No matter what happens, you don't have a chance anyway. There are only two kinds of women: plain women in a wicked league with the devil, and attractive women with wickedness, a league beyond the devil.

Etiquette States Bride Always Gives Wedding

May the groom's family give the wedding?

Regardless of the wealth of the groom's family or the modest financial means of the bride's family, it is a rule of etiquette that the bride's family give the wedding. This maintains the dignity and independence of the bride's parents, whose prerogative it is to give their daughter the kind of wedding they can afford. The only case in which an exception can be made is when the bride has no family.

How about wedding gifts displayed?

A bride should show her appreciation for the gifts given her by placing each one in a position of greatest advantage. Very valuable presents are better put in contrast with others of the same quality—or entirely different in character. Colors should be carefully grouped and pieces that jar when together should be placed as far apart as possible.

The bride's mother is the first to select her gown. She should shop promptly and tell the mother of the groom the color of the fabric and style of the dress chosen.

At a formal daytime wedding, both mothers may wear either long or short cocktail dresses. Only after 6 p.m.—the arbitrary hour set for formal evening ceremonies—should they wear traditional evening dresses.

Shoulders should, of course, be covered at the church.