

Bridegroom 'Stars' In Wedding Of Rugged Baluchistan Tribesmen

KARACHI (UPI)—The bridegroom is the star of the show in weddings among Baluchistan tribesmen.

Unlike their Western counterparts, who often are overshadowed by the bride even at the engagement party, these rugged tribesmen are expected to prove their ardor right up to the wedding itself by participating in wild camel races and often taking good natured physical beatings from their in-laws to be.

What foreigners might consider to be a brawl is simply a traditional expression of one's honor and worth in this rugged arid land where people tend to be more practical than sentimental.

After all, isn't the bridegroom taking away a member of the family? It would be considered an insult to the bride and her family if they did not fight to keep her until the very last minute before the ceremony.

These rough rituals, reminders of an era when only the bravest won fair ladies, do not mean that the ancient ceremonies are without charm, however.

Engagements have no age limits among the Baluch tribesmen of the old Northwest Frontier Province. Even children on the way may be engaged. The engagements are irrevocable with heavy penalties to be paid by any party responsible for its not culminating in marriage.

When the date of marriage is

finally determined the parents and relatives of the bridegroom bring gifts of scents, sweets, henna and dry fruit to the bride's relatives about one week before the ceremony.

The locks of the bride's hair are opened to show she is about to be married. The girl then is placed under strict confinement in the house, where she is allowed to receive gifts of milk, cream and other foods and articles to help her pass the time as pleasantly as possible. Her sisters and girl friends spend long hours applying beauty aids and singing and dancing to keep her happy.

When the wedding day arrives, relatives and friends of the bridegroom and bride gather in their respective houses, where wedding gifts and the dowry are displayed while beating drums proclaim the event.

Later in the afternoon, the brilliantly costumed members of the wedding party, including the old men with their hair freshly dyed with brilliant henna to hide the grey, proceed slowly to the mosque or shrine, preceded by a band of musicians.

The bridegroom, with his head veiled and carrying an iron rod in his hands, follows the procession accompanied by friends and his many relatives.

Four of his closest friends protect him from dust and a blazing sun by holding a multi-

colored silk canopy over his head at swordpoint. His oldest sister is given the honor of carrying a jug of water with which he later will be bathed. To emphasize the closeness of family ties, his long shirt tail is tied to her.

Women sing folk songs commemorating heroic exploits of the family and praising the masculine charms of the bridegroom until they reach a pre-arranged place where he is bathed and dressed in new clothes given by his father-in-law.

Flower garlands are heaped about his head and the eldest member of the family offers prayers for the happiness of the couple.

But the toughest part of the ceremony for the groom is yet to come, for now begin the trials of strength.

While he and his best friend race on camel-back to his bride's house to take her away, her relatives pelt him with stones and sticks and shoot arrows, often causing serious physical injury.

After being fooled, tricked and kicked, and sometimes beaten by members of the bride's household, he must smash down the door to her room with his bare hands, twist an iron rod, and force open her clenched fists, a symbolic gesture by which the girl shows she is not anxious to leave her family.

Christmas Card Idea Started 120 Years Ago

NEW YORK (NEA)—Back in 1843, John Calcott Horsley, an English painter and illustrator, thought it would be appropriate to send a simple greeting to a friend at Christmas. Little did he realize what he was starting.

That first card has mushroomed into an avalanche that this year will see millions of people dashing to mail boxes to deposit the estimated one hundred million Christmas cards that will be mailed between Thanksgiving and Dec.

CHRISTMAS COLORS

Red and green are the favorite colors in just about every decorating situation at Christmas. The most popular ribbons for tying packages, for example, are red and emerald green — yet, they rank 16th and 17th in popularity throughout the rest of the year, among the 17 colors manufactured, reports the Rust Craft greeting card company.

25, according to the Greeting Card Association.

Card senders will be able to make their selections from the more than 30,000 designs that are available. Religious themes and Santa Claus, as usual, lead the preference parade. However, now that Americans have so much time to devote to hobbies, there are cards to be had that will appeal to the golfer, the bowler, the photographer and many others. So, if you like horses, don't be surprised if your greeting comes right from the horse's mouth.

Of course, one must not forget the humorous cards, which seem to be getting more of a play each year. There are even "sick" Christmas cards; they seem to appeal mostly to persons in the same category.

For art lovers, museums can be a source for cards that are different and interesting. You can check with your local museum and find out if they sell cards.



OLD-FASHIONED greeting (left) is from Hallmark Historical Collection. At right we have space age fellow who says, "It's Christmas... and I can't give you anything but love!"

More than ever before, it is now possible to find just the right Yule card for just the right person. There has been a constant increase in the "spe-

cial" cards, such as greetings for the milkman, the newsboy, the doctor, etc.

Nor are the teen-agers forgotten. There are many special

cards, such as the one that sends greetings "To a Swell Fellow" wishing him "A Cool Christmas and a Fabulous New Year."



The Ol' Groaner gives out with a Christmas tune.

New Song On Holiday Not Likely

By DICK KLEINER
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

NEW YORK (NEA) — The cruel facts of life in the music business are catching up with Christmas songs. That's why chances are slim that there will be a new Christmas hit this year—or for many years to come.

The last major Christmas hit—using the million-seller criterion—was Jimmy Boyd's "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" in 1952. A few others since then—"Rock Around the Christmas Tree" and "Jingle Bell Rock"—have become teen-age standards, but not major hits.

Not only are hits scarcer, but new Christmas songs are infrequent these days. Fifteen or 20 years ago, record companies would put out up to a dozen new Christmas songs each year; today they will issue three or four at the most. And many of these will be covers or standards in new versions.

The cause of this Christmas music slump is economic. In recent years, radio stations have refused to play Christmas music until after Thanksgiving. Without radio air play a song simply has no chance at all of becoming a hit.

Years ago, stations would begin programming Christmas songs in October. That gave a record sufficient time to catch on. But if the public doesn't hear a song until late November, they just don't have time to fall in love with it and buy it. It takes exposure to make a song a hit. Radio stations are generally too confined to a format—like the top 40—to bother with Christmas records.

Another hard fact—retail selling methods have changed. Virtually gone are the old-fashioned record stores with listening booths. Instead, more and more records are sold in racks in supermarkets and drug stores. Rack jobbers—the men who stock these racks—are unwilling to give up valuable space on a gamble. They want to sell records, and they figure they have more chance stocking records with a long selling season. They are therefore reluctant to take on Christmas records.

All this has had its effect. Decca, for example, will issue four new Christmas singles this year. Three are by established artists singing established songs. Only one is new—and that's by The Surfaris, in an attempt to cash in on the surf music trend. RCA is issuing three, and one of these is on its rock 'n' roll subsidiary, Groove.

Columbia, which calls itself "a Christmas company," is doing more than the others. Robert Goulet will be heard with a new song called "The Christmas I Spend With You." Andy Williams and The New Christy Minstrels also have holiday singles.

And Columbia is keeping its corporate fingers crossed about "Here's Love." This Meredith Willson musical, based on "Miracle on 34th Street," is a Christmas theme and several holiday-flavored tunes. Songs like "That Man Over There," "The Big Fat Caloon" and "Pine Cones and Holly Berries" are Columbia feels, potential Christmas standards. They will all be issued on singles. Mitch Miller has already waxed "Pine Cones and Holly Berries."

Of course, no company would turn down a Christmas song they felt had potential. After all, once it is established, it is a permanent seller. Bing Crosby, for example, has sold 20 million copies of "White Christmas," 10 million "Silent Night," seven million "Jingle Bells" and 10 million LPs of his Christmas album, "Merry Christmas."

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Christmas Dolls Baby Dear is One



The adorable "original" BABY DEAR soft cloth body doll delicately sculptured to resemble a real live newborn infant is now one year old and is BABY "DEAR-ONE". Little mothers will love her dearly, she looks and feels so real. BABY "DEAR-ONE" is irresistible with her downy soft rooted hair, her bright little moving eyes, her captivating smile and her two front teeth. Her chubby little hands and feet molded of soft skin texture vinyl and her carefully constructed body will add warmth to the heart of your little girl as she folds her way into her little mother's arms. BABY DEAR and BABY "DEAR-ONE", "original" creations of Vogue Dolls, are truly quality dolls for a little girl to love.

- 15 inch BABY DEAR dressed in her two-piece pink jersey sleeper \$9.00
Outfit only \$2.00
- 12 inch BABY DEAR dressed in her pink jersey sleeping gown \$5.00
Outfit only \$1.50
- 25 inch BABY "DEAR-ONE" in her blue cord crawler set and jersey \$14.00
Outfit only \$ 4.00

Ginny Baby



CUDDLE TOYS

Huge selection of plush, stuffed toys—puppies, wild animals, kittens and others. Lay 'em away now!

1³⁹ to 7⁹⁸

Miller's Christmas Wonderland of Children's Gifts

nannette

Fun 'n Fancy Nannekin Play Sets!

Fluffy white angel top in no-iron cotton, finely detailed about the yoke and hem. With red or skipper blue quilted pants. Sizes 2, 3, 3x.

4⁹⁸

MILLER'S CHILDREN'S SHOP FEATURES A COMPLETE LINE OF BOYS' WEAR!

You'll find everything for the young man from infant to pre-teen. All famous brands in slacks, sweaters, shirts, jackets, pajamas, robes. Many special items for Christmas gifting!

KATE GREENAWAY

Select her holiday finery from our luxurious collection of famous Kate Greenaway fashions. More are arriving each day!

Parties are more fun when she's wearing her Kate Greenaway sleeveless velveteen shift. It's the new "A" line style, just like Mom's, and it has a rosebud tucked in the bow. Red, green, black.

Sizes 2 to 6x 8⁹⁸ Sizes 7 to 14 11⁹⁸

PAINTING THE TOWN RED ... AND WHITE

... in her peppermint striped Kate Greenaway cotton knit. It's the very newest sportive look. A gleamy patent belt circles her hips and the white skirt has pleats all around.

Sizes 3-6x 7⁹⁸

Party-Timers for Tween Teens

See just how great she looks in these pre-teen fashions. Choose pretty chifons, looped knits, velvets and others. Bonnie Blair, Debbi Ross, Jodeen and other famous brands.

8⁰⁰ 14⁹⁸ 17⁹⁸

Movie Starlet Lingerie

Beautifully styled just like the movie stars! A full line of fine quality nylon lingerie for the little miss. See this collection.

Baby Dolls Pink, blue, red, sizes 6 to 14 2.98

Pajamas Pink, blue, sizes 6 to 14 2.98

Peignoir and gown set, pink, blue, sizes 6-14 4.98

Half Slips With matching lace panties, lace trim, sizes 6-14 1.98

Sleep Coat Cotton-plus fabric, cream, pink, blue, 6-14 2.98

And don't forget the Baby ...

Miller's Children's Department is in its glory when it comes to baby... with the finest line-up of gifts you've ever seen. Check this gift suggestion list and make your selections now...

- * BABY BLANKETS
- * TRUNDLE-BUNDLE
- * CREEPERS
- * SHIRTS
- * DRESSES
- * STUFFED TOYS
- * CRAWLERS
- * BONNETS
- * RATTLES, TOYS
- * SNOW SUITS
- * BOOTIES, SOX

ROBES

A wonderful collection in every color and style. Select her's from quilted cottons, quilted nylons, flannels and others.

4⁹⁸ to 7⁹⁸

CHILDREN'S SHOP - 2ND FLOOR