

Trying to please everyone

Wedding Entertainment

By PATTY PRYOR

Looking for some unique entertainment at your wedding reception? Why not hire a juggler? Jim Lawson of Lawson Entertainment Consultants once booked a juggler for a wedding reception on a double bill with a magician.

"It worked out really well," Lawson said. "The juggler was on for 20 minutes, then the magician came on for a full production — he makes girls disappear in trunks and the whole bit."

Providing entertainment for the variety of

guests, both age and interest-wise, at a wedding reception can be quite a challenge, other local promoters and agents agree.

Trying to please as many people as possible in a diverse crowd, most entertainment agencies provide a middle-of-the-road musical format, with either a live band or taped music.

"One thing we do that helps out a lot is meet with the couple involved about three weeks ahead of time, to get a chance to know them," Allen Steiner, owner of Sound Unlimited, said. From these

meetings, he said, he usually can get an idea about what kind of music will go over at a particular reception.

Steiner's service includes dance-floor lighting in addition to the sound system, all of which takes about one and a half hours setup time. He charges \$175 for a typical local dance, with 20 additional cents per mile for out-of-town jobs within a 100-mile radius.

Among the more atypical entertainment Steiner has seen at weddings was an auction for the bride's garter.

"One of the couple's

friends was an auctioneer," Steiner said. "He was really good at his art."

As the night wore on, he said, the auction theme lingered, as the groom gradually auctioned off more and more of his own clothing.

"Most wedding dances are quite typical, though," Steiner said. "We try to touch base with everything from the big band era to punk music. Contemporary romantic songs are always popular, and we're playing rock songs more. There's not a whole lot of requests for acid rock, though."

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