

Wedding sites not limited to a church sanctuary

By Betsy Miller

Here comes the bride . . . and how! In the world of matrimony, there are few "unusual" wedding ideas that haven't been tried.

Take for example a few types of different weddings in Nebraska.

In 1973, Becky Cook and Robert Hinze of Scottsbluff were married on top of the Scottsbluff National Monument. Because the wedding took place on a football Saturday the couple was smart enough to bring a radio which was tuned in to the game during the ceremony. The newspaper article describing the wedding notes that at one point the minister stopped the services to ask the score.

Nebraska football fever also overcame Ron VanderMeer, a place-kicker for the Huskers in 1976. VanderMeer was married in the end zone of Memorial Stadium in December 1976.

Glenn McComb and Dominique Tolaner were married in March of 1970 in the middle seats of a twin-engine Beech Baron approximately 1,000 feet above Lincoln and traveling at 230 m.p.h. The groom said that he loved flying and had monetary matters in mind when deciding where to tie the knot.

"It's a lot cheaper than renting a church," he said.

Air space

Helicopters have also been the scene of a ceremony. In June of 1978 Spec. 5 Judith M. Dvorak and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Gregory D. Smith of the Nebraska Army National Guard were married in a helicopter hovering over Camp Ripley, Minn., the camp where they first met.

Hot air balloons may be the only type of air transportation which has never hosted a wedding. In 1979, Willard Woldt and Beverly Drake were planning to marry in a balloon flying over Holmes Park, but unfavorable winds prevented the launch. The duo married on the ground instead.

Perhaps some of the more inventive married couples can be found in Fremont, Neb. In the last three years, Fremont has been the scene of a marriage in which the intended were on horses and one where the bride and bridegroom were on skates at Roller Village. Naturally the minister and attendants skated along with the two.

Malibu Blue and Disco Lady were married over channel 3 of a Citizens Band radio in 1976 when Chuck Griggs (Malibu) and Terry Barnhill (Lady) were married. The only objection seemed to come from the couple's parents who thought it might be a bit immature.

Pre-arrest wedding

Washington, D.C. was the scene of an unusual wedding involving an Omahan. Tom Fuller of Omaha and Joan Susienka of Webster, Mass. said their vows while waiting to be arrested after an anti-war demonstration in 1971.

Standing on the steps of the Internal Revenue Service building between police lines, Fuller and Susienka were married. Fuller and his wife made the decision to take the plunge about ten minutes before the ceremony.

Weddings don't always take place with such short notice.

The 1980 Guinness Book of World Records shows that Octavio Guillen and Adriana Martinez were engaged for 67 years before marrying in 1969.

Guinness shows that the longest union in the United States was that of Edd and Margaret Hollen of Kentucky. The couples was married for 83 years.

But of all these categories, there is one which must be considered the most important when determining who really likes the process of getting married the most.

The co-winners are Jack and Edna Moran of Seattle, Wash. who, since being married in 1937, have repeated the service 40 times in various locations.

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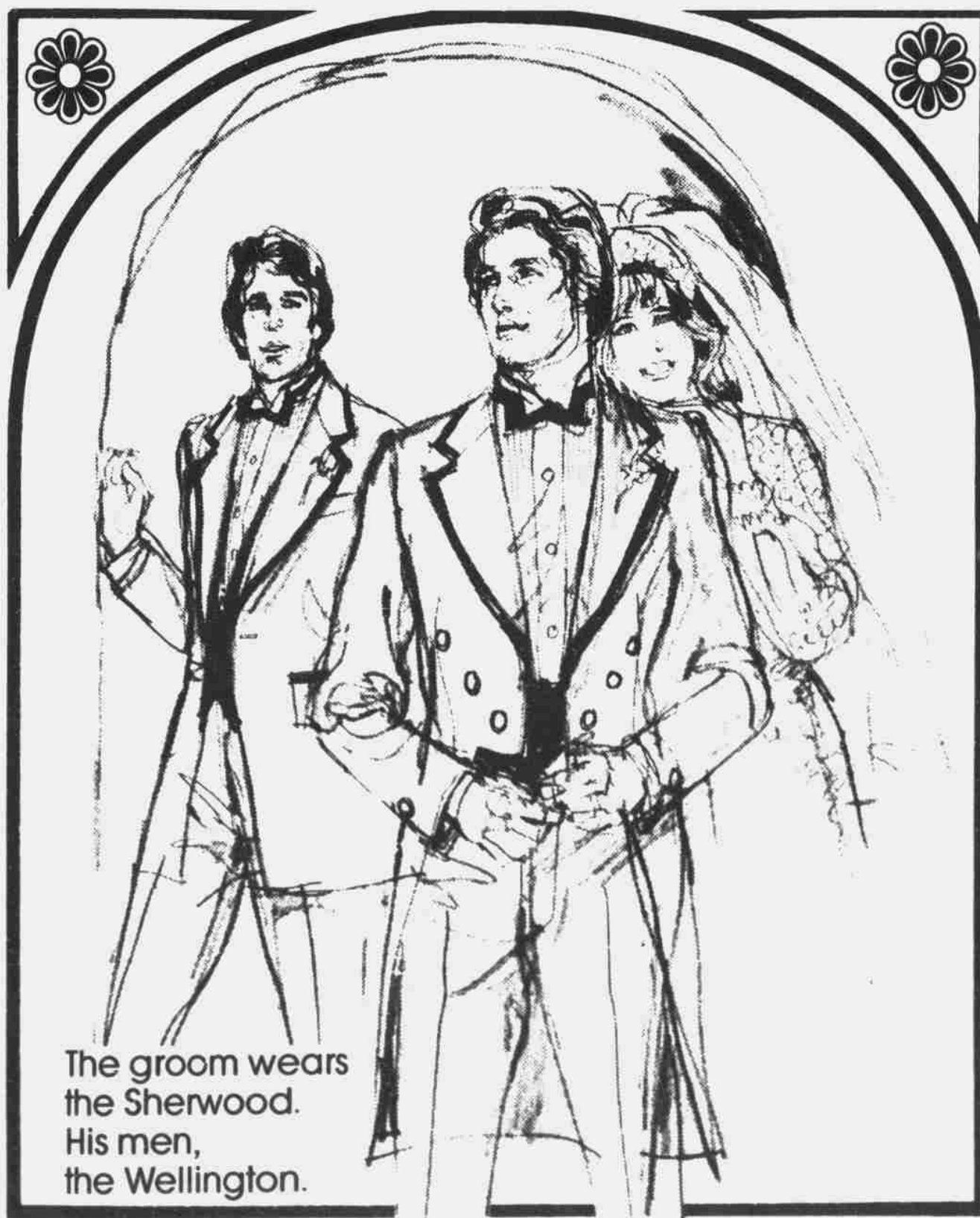


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