

Las Vegas wedding no gamble — saves money

By Sue Sayed

To have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, 'till death us do part.

To say those words, in a decorated church filled with 300 guests, a professional photographer, professional florist, an experienced organist, ten attendants in formal dresses and tuxedos, and to know that there will be at least one piece of wedding cake, and two glasses of punch for every guest, would cost a small fortune, many experts say.

Not only does it require money, but it requires at least 30 hours a day and more patience than the majority of fun-loving Americans can tolerate.

For many, the preparations are the epitome of excitement. But consider a second option.

Fast food weddings

In Las Vegas, an anxious bride and groom can go to the courthouse and get a marriage license (no blood tests or parental permission required unless they are under 18) in five minutes.

They may then be taxied to a small "Little White Chapel" where they will encounter a predecorated church, with velvet-covered seating for 20, entirely lit by candlelight, and complete with the music of their choice.

Also on hand will be a minister with the denomination

of the couples' choice, a professional florist, a professional photographer and attendants if the couple did not bring their own.

Since the "Little White Chapel," is open 24 hours a day, the bride and groom can be married at 3 a.m. if they wish.

After the vows are spoken and the minister (or priest, rabbi, or judge) gives his blessing—a simple 10 to 15 minute ceremony—the couple will be taxied back to the motel of their choice.

The difference? The entire event, from getting the marriage license to checking into the motel can be accomplished for under \$50.

Quickies popular

For obvious reasons, the quickie wedding is popular in Las Vegas. There are more than 20 wedding chapels in the city, with names like the Candlelight Wedding Chapel, the Cupid Wedding Chapel and more.

And they aren't fly-by-night businesses, said one employee of the Little White Chapel. The chapel has been the wedding site for many couples since the early 1900s. Virginia Detless said.

Detless said that holidays are the busiest times of the year and if a couple wants to get married on Valentine's day, Christmas, or New Year's Eve, they should reserve their time at a chapel.

"Most of the time, couples just walk in off the street," Detless said, "but on holidays and some weekends, we see more than 30 weddings a day."

Weddings, she said, are usually booked every half hour on busy days, "but if a couple wants more time, they can have it."

"We try to accommodate everyone on their special day," Detless said. "We will take candid pictures or use our professional photographer—we make flower arrangements of any kind, and we even provide a canopy if the couple is Jewish."

Romantic but cheaper

"All in all, it's just like a regular church wedding," she said. "Very romantic, but much less expensive."

Detless said that although a few couples come in wearing jeans, about one-fourth of the couples wear complete wedding attire, including long, formal gowns and tuxedos.

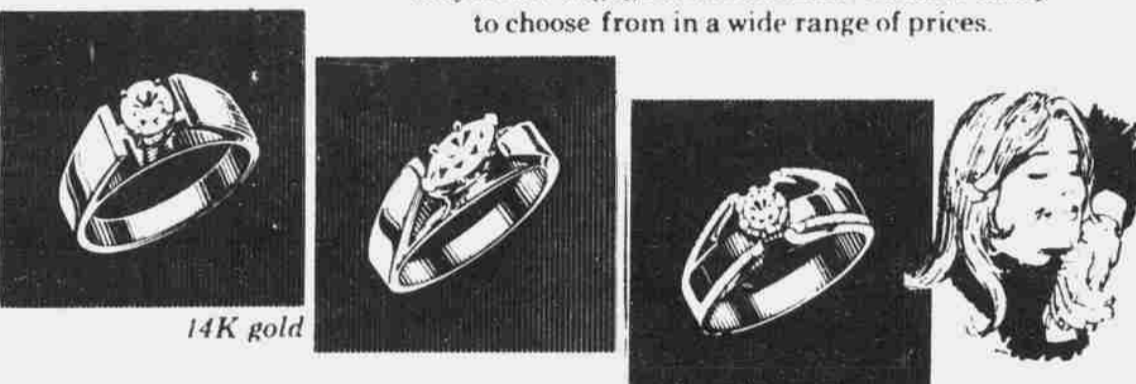
She said Las Vegas weddings are popular because restrictions are fewer than in other states. There is no waiting for the license and no legal papers, blood tests or proof of marital status are required, she said.

For Nebraskans, however, although the wedding would be inexpensive, the travel expenses could make up the difference.

According to Alencia Moore, of Lincoln's United Airlines, the least expensive flight to Las Vegas would cost \$237 one-person round trip, if a supersaver ticket is purchased two weeks to 30 days in advance.


NO OTHER DIAMOND

In the entire world will ever be as beautiful to your lady as her engagement diamond. We have many to choose from in a wide range of prices.



14K gold

1342 "O" Street
Phone 475-2474



1342 "O" Street
Phone 475-2474

Visa, Master Card,
Easy Lay A Way,
90 Days Same as Cash

FRED WILSON JEWELERS

HOUSE of FLOWERS
(Formerly Hiltner's)

FTD

476-2775

WEDDINGS & ALL OCCASIONS
LAWN AND GARDEN CENTER
Bob & Sandy Semerena

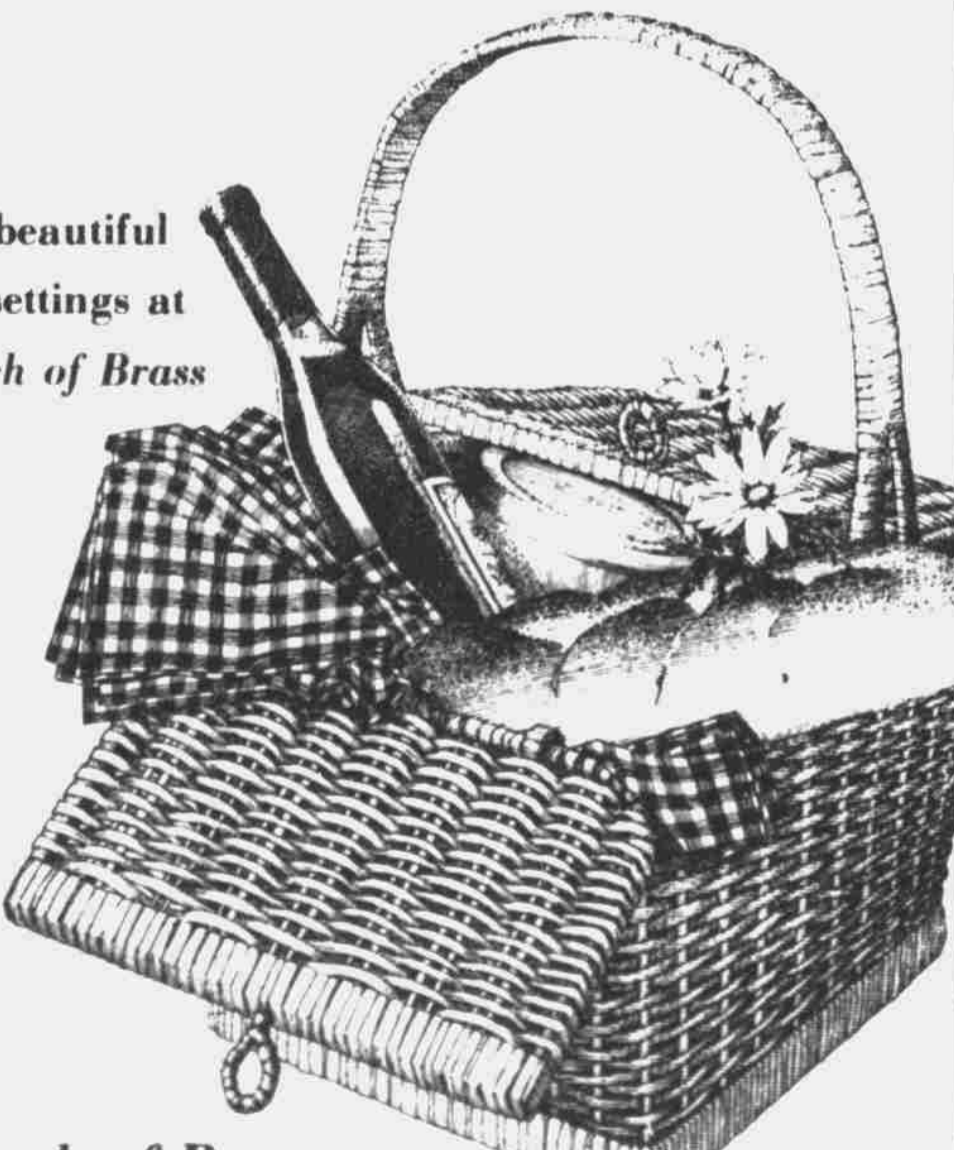
EAST OF BRANDEIS PARKING LOT WE DELIVER
226 So. 11th

**FREE Wedding Consultations
At YOUR Convenience
We'll Work With Your Budget!**



DINERS - CARTE BLANCHE
AMERICAN EXPRESS


Make every meal as memorable as your first picnic.



With beautiful table settings at *A Touch of Brass*


A Touch of Brass
1200 N. St. Atrium

Gateway-Ben Simon's



Complete Your Special Day With Merle Norman Cosmetics

Start your free lessons now



IT'S ALL IN STORE FOR YOU

Merle Norman

Skywalk Level
475-6164