

Videotape — moving memories

By DULCIE SHOENER

When the wedding is in the past, memories of the event may blur. Photographs preserve images, but they are frozen moments in time.

A videotape of the wedding may fill the gap between blurred memories and the carefully focused portraits.

"It shows the true life of the wedding," said Tim Marshall of T & T Video, 227 N. 14th St.

The true life of a wedding may include funny, touching or just plain happy moments.

John May, also of T & T Video, can watch his bride's father jump over the bridal train again and again. The father had rehearsed giving away the bride when she was wearing jeans, May said, and narrowly avoided stepping on the train as he turned to leave her at the altar.

The cost of having a wedding videotaped ranges from about \$125 to \$400 or more, according to several businesses contacted in Lincoln. At photo studios the lower rate applies for videotaping the ceremony if the same studio does the still photography.

At T & T, \$150 is the basic price for a one-camera wedding, including videos of all the formal pictures (if the still photographer will allow it), the ceremony, the receiving line, reception and part of the dance. The price includes the tape itself and the camera work.

One advantage of a videotape, said Lynn Hagan of T & T, is that when the cameraman leaves, the tape stays. No processing is needed with videotapes, and the tape can be viewed the same day as the wedding if desired.

Another advantage, Marshall said, is the sound. The bride and groom have the option of wearing a small wireless microphone, having a wireless microphone on the minister or having a boom microphone on the camera. Most choose a wireless microphone, Marshall said.

May suggested the wireless microphone could be hidden in flowers. He said the wireless microphones' advantage is that the sound will be recorded from the bride and groom's hearing point.

So far, videotapers in Lincoln have not found many objections from ministers.

"There's no giant sun guns or lights on our cameras," May said. He said that can please ministers who fear videotaping could turn the wedding into a big production.

Dan Roland of Roland Photography, 620 N. 48th St., said his company has worked closely with ministers and has followed the rules the ministers establish. He said he didn't know of any ministers who objected to videotaping.

Rolands Photography began videotaping weddings about one and a half years ago. At that time, Roland said, "people really didn't understand what it was."

"At first they thought it was going to be a big TV production," he said. He said the videotaping portion of his wedding business was slow then, but that it is growing rapidly.

Roland estimated that about 40 percent of the weddings his company photographed in 1983 also were videotaped. Part of this, he said, was because he offered free videotaping along with still photography to try to get people accustomed to the idea.

Rolands offers three basic packages — videotaping in conjunction with still photographs, videotaping only and videotaping with two cameras. Basic prices range from \$150 to \$350 plus editing time, he said.

In a two-camera wedding, technicians will edit together various shots.

T & T Video also can compose a video history of the courtship or even of the bride's and groom's entire lives, using still photographs — either prints or slides. Background music of the couple's choice can be added if desired.

During the actual ceremony, the cameraman usually will stand wherever the couple wants, as long as the minister approves.

Marshall said that during one wedding he taped, he had to shoot over the shoulder of the minister because the couple wanted their faces to show.

Usually, however, the video photographer will stand in the balcony or some other inconspicuous place so that many guests don't know the wedding is being taped.

At the reception or dance, it is hard to disguise the camera. But since the camera has no bright lights, the taping is fairly informal, Marshall said. The microphone can catch what people are saying and the camera can catch the looks on their faces.

The length of the tape varies. The businesses contacted reported ranges from one hour to six hours on a single tape, depending on the tape and the speed of taping.

Copies of the tape can be made for about \$15, May said. That includes a fee for copying and the price of the tape. Video recorders can be rented for about \$10 a day, he said.

Recommendations from videotapers include:

- Reserve the date with the video photographer as far in advance as possible.
- Know what to expect. Watch examples of the video photographer's work.



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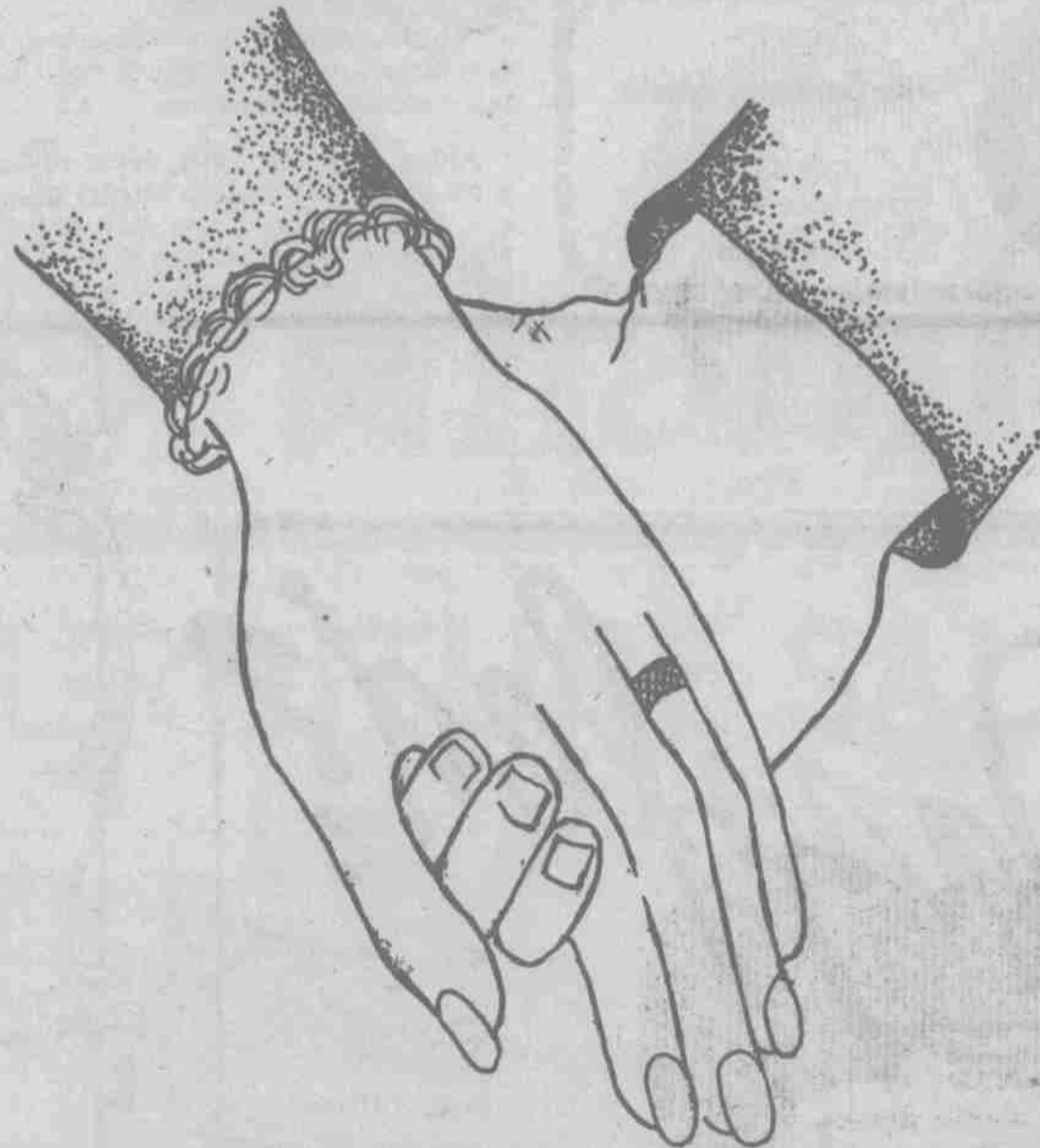
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