

DUTCH WEDDING WAYS DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS

Strange Old Customs That Do Not Lose Interest.
Different Proceedings to Secure a
Wife in Foreign Countries.

In America a girl is only called a bride after the wedding, while in Holland she is a bride no longer when the wedding is over. A girl becomes a bride in Holland two or three weeks before the wedding day, or as soon as she and her intended have signed the register at the town hall, signifying their purpose of getting married on a certain day. Their names are then printed and put up for public inspection outside the town hall. This is an equivalent to reading the banns in England and is done for the same reason—to give any one objecting to the union a chance to say so.

Meanwhile when the young couple have gone off quietly to sign their names the bride's mother and the rest of her relatives decorate the house with green plants and flowers, so that when the "bride and bridegroom," for such they then are, return the whole place shall present a festive appearance. All this generally takes place after dinner, which in Holland is partaken of at 6 p. m., so it is just tea time, or about 8 o'clock when the young people come back.

The tea tray is set out with the very best china in the drawing room and little dishes full of "bridal sugars"—sugared almonds and other special sweets. These "bruid suikers," or "bridal sweets," have to be kept on hand during the whole bridal period and are offered to all visitors. It is considered rude to refuse to partake of them. These sweets are a very ancient institution, but gradually they have become of finer quality, losing some of their original particularity. For instance, the smoothly coated sugar almonds were meant to symbolize the bride, while the roughly coated almonds represented the bridegroom.

Formerly it was the general custom and it still is so in some towns and villages, that on the day of becoming a bride the girl should send lace paper bags tied with green and white ribbon and full of bridal sugars to all her relations and friends. The maid servants of the house take these bags around in baskets decorated with green bows of ribbon, and at every house where they present the gift they receive a small gratuity for themselves. The same kind of "bridal sugars" in silver paper bags or in gold paper bags, tied with silver and gold cord, are presented by silver and golden wedding couples to their friends and relatives.

Every one who receives bridal sugars or an invitation to one of the many parties—either evening or dinner—given during the bridal period by the parents of bride and bridegroom must, according to custom, give a wedding present to the young couple. All these presents are timed to arrive before the grand reception, which is generally held at the bride's parents' house on the Sunday preceding the wedding. The presents, which are always very numerous and often consist of costly silver and crystal articles, are arranged in one of the rooms on long tables and the bouquets and baskets of flowers that are often more numerous than the presents are placed in all the rooms where the reception is held and the presents are displayed.

In the largest room a bower of palms and flowering plants have been formed and there the bride and bridegroom sit side by side on a sofa or stand up to receive their guests. The near relatives of the bride stand in a row by the bridegroom's side and his nearest relatives stand in a row next to the bride, and all guests are formally presented to the parents of the young couple and are then led off by the bridesmaids "to see the presents." The bridesmaids or the little brothers and sisters or cousins of the couple offer "bridal sugars" to the guests and waiters or the man servants of the family bring around trays with the bridal refreshment, "hippocras," or "bride's tears"—a kind of liqueur—although nowadays more generally port and sherry are served.

Such a reception generally lasts from 3 until 5 o'clock p. m. The bride dons her wedding dress, with the wreath of orange blossoms in her hair. The only part of her wedding finery she does not wear is the veil, which she puts on only for the marriage ceremony at the town hall and in the church. The bridegroom and relatives wear evening dress for the reception, and also for the wedding ceremony, which always takes place between 11 a. m., and 2 p. m.

All weddings are not celebrated in church; very often the ceremony at the town hall is considered sufficient. No marriage is legal that has not

taken place before the civil authorities at the town hall, and no clergyman or priest may consecrate a marriage that has not been thus carried out. The religious ceremony is therefore looked upon more as a benediction of the union than an actual joining together in matrimony.

The town hall ceremony is very brief and "cold" and there are many brides who would not consider themselves properly married without the marriage service in church. The Roman Catholic services are, of course, very much the same all over the world, but the Dutch Protestant service differs considerably from the English services. In front of the pulpit a semi-circle of chairs is arranged for the bridal party. Exactly opposite the officiating clergyman two easy chairs are placed for the bride and bridegroom. These, already legally husband and wife, drive to church together, and enter the church together, followed by the bridesmaids. Then come the parents and the other relatives. There is no "best man" at a Dutch wedding; and no waiting by either bride or groom for one another for the bridegroom on the wedding morning goes at once to the bride's house and drives in the same carriage with her to the town hall.

Another peculiarity of a Dutch wedding is that both bride and bridegroom are given a ring, which the clergyman places on their fingers. The clergyman generally presents the young couple with a Bible after the services is over, and to the strains of a wedding march all the party proceed to the vestry to sign their names in the register and to receive the congratulations of all those present in church.

After this is over the party drives home to the bride's house, where the wedding breakfast is served, at which only the closest relatives and the dearest friends of bride and bridegroom are present. Many "toasts" are given and speeches made wishing the newly married couple good luck, and telegrams from absent friends are read aloud. When the breakfast is well on its way the young couple quietly leave the table, followed by the bride's mother, who helps her to exchange her bridal robes for a travelling dress. The bridegroom, too, lays aside his evening dress and puts on a travelling suit. Then their carriage is announced to take them to the train and they drive away quietly, while the wedding guests continue to make merry at the banquet.—Chicago Daily News.

Swiss Proposal of Marriage.

In remote Alpine hamlets and villages, especially in the Bernese Oberland, there still exist ancient and pretty customs of proposing marriage by the language of flowers.

If a maid accepts a bouquet of edelweiss from a man she at the same time accepts him as her fiancé, the idea being that the man has risked his life to obtain the flowers for the woman he loves.

Another method which exists in the Canton of Giarus is for the young man to place a flower pot containing a single rose and a note on the window sill of the girl's room when she is absent from home and wait, perhaps days for a reply.

If the maid takes the rose the young man boldly enters the house to arrange matters with her parents, but if the rose is allowed to fade away the proposal is rejected without a single word having been exchanged between the couple. Sometimes a fickle girl will keep a young man waiting a day or two for an answer, but whatever it may be it is considered final.—London Standard.

SEVEN DIE IN FLAMES.

Woman and Six Children Die, Husband and Son Escape.

Rutherford, N. J., Aug. 30.—Mrs. Emilio Debaro and six of her children, ranging from five months to 12 years, met death early to-day in a fire which destroyed their home.

Debaro, the husband and father, and the seventh child, a boy of 13, escaped by jumping from a second story window.

Debaro and the boy tried to rescue the woman and children but a wall of fire checked them. With their night clothing blazing they jumped from the window.

Five bodies were found in a heap near the center of the building, the woman with the baby in her arms lay near the window.

Firemen believed a spark from a passing locomotive may have started the fire.

The Herald is only \$1.50 a year.

LIKED THE FAMILY.

Girl Jilted a Youth; He Married her Mother.

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 28.—Clarence C. A. Voss, twenty years old, of No. 5605 North Market street, consoled himself, when his boyhood sweetheart, Miss Myrtle Schultz, nineteen years old, of No. 4365 Evans avenue, jilted him, by marrying her mother, thirty-five years old, a divorcee who goes under her maiden name, Margaret Reeder. Miss Myrtle and the successor to Vose in her affections, Frank A. Bids, stood up with the bridal pair at the ceremony.

The facts of this curious marriage developed Wednesday after the bridegroom's father, A. F. Voss, manager of the Washington Hotel cafe, called at the office of the recorder of deeds in Clayton. On account of the disparity in the ages of his son and daughter-in-law the elder Voss announced he would take steps at once to have the marriage annulled.

When a reporter called at the Evans avenue home Mrs. Voss, Jr., and her daughter, a tall blonde, who looks as old as her stepfather, told the story of the romance.

Mrs. Voss admitted at once that she had understated her age ten years when applying for the marriage license and that her husband also had overstated his. She said she gave her age as twenty-five so the disparity would not be too noticeable.

She said she first got acquainted with Voss more than two and a half years ago. She had a tailor shop at No. 5625 Easton avenue she said, when Voss began coming there to call upon Myrtle. The two appeared to care for each other, but there was a quarrel.

Instead of discontinuing his visits she said, Voss kept coming to the house. But he talked to the mother instead of to the daughter. When he first declared his love Mrs. Voss said she told him she was much older than he and a marriage was not to be thought of.

Recently she went automobile riding with Voss and he again proposed marriage to her. "When I again told him the difference in our ages was too great," she said, "he told me that I would have to promise to marry him or neither of us would leave the auto alive. From this I saw he was honest and sincere in his wish to be married, and consented. I wanted him to wait until November, when he would be of age, but he was too impatient to wait. So we went to Clayton and were married. If his father brings suit to annul it I shall certainly fight the suit."

As the mother talked the daughter helped her out in the recital. She said she was glad Voss had married her mother. As for herself, Miss Myrtle said Voss was "too bossy" to suit her. "Does he try to boss you as step-father?" was asked.

"Sometimes," she replied with a laugh.

After the ceremony reporters met the party in the office of Justice of the Peace Werremeyer and asked them if they would make a statement about their marriage.

Voss made no reply. His bride answered: "I should say not," and the party walked to their automobile and drove away.

The father declared the first he knew of the wedding was when he read the name of his son in the marriage license notices. He never has seen the daughter-in-law, but spent some time making inquiries. He declared the boy was too young to marry.

What He Didn't Like.

A horse dealer was trying to sell a horse afflicted with heaves, and said to the prospective buyer: "Hasn't he a fine coat? Isn't it a dandy?" "His coat's all right, but I don't like his pants."

WOMAN DIES OF WOUNDS.

Shot by Husband, who Also May Become a Suicide.

Columbus, Ga., Aug. 27.—Mrs. Andrew M. Roberts, shot through the lungs by her husband to-day, died late this afternoon. Roberts, who shot himself in the head, after fatally wounding his wife, while she was standing at the 'phone in their home, is in the hospital in a critical condition to-night. He says that he is sorry that he shot his wife, but gives no explanation for the killing.

In addition to the killing of Mrs. Roberts and the attempted suicide of her husband, there has been one other suicide and an attempted suicide here this week. Hiram Predergrass, a policeman, shot himself dead Sunday night. Joseph Kent, a mill worker, took poison with suicidal intent Monday night and is still in a serious condition.

Roberts, the chief figure in to-day's double death attempt, is a prominent salesman here.



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