

# Catered receptions feature all types of food

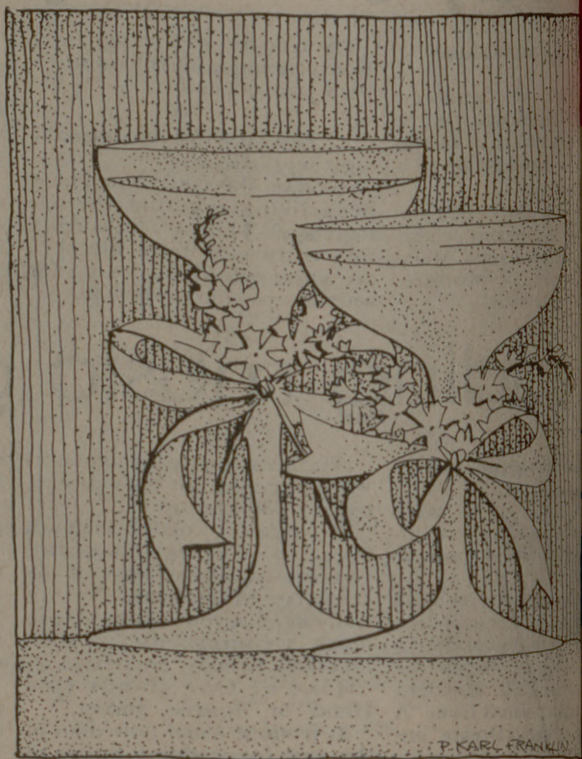
**United Press International**  
 Fresh flowers instead of bride and groom dolls on the wedding cake are the exception, not the rule, at receptions these days, says a Chicago-based caterer.  
 Other exceptions include ethnic foods such as paella (Spanish-style rice casserole), nouvelle cuisine, pasta courses, mesquite grilled fish, game and steaks in Sun Belt states such as Texas and California, and a

sweets table in addition to the wedding cake.  
 "Most wedding receptions are as traditional as they were five or 10 years ago," Mike Roman said in an interview.  
 One change Roman sees and hears about as he travels the country teaching a catering course for the National Restaurant Association, is related to later marriages.  
 Roman said more couples are marrying in their late 20s—and

they tend to be very successful professional people, affluent and secure enough to pay their own way and to plan the wedding reception themselves, with less input from their parents.  
 Traditional dinner receptions tend to feature such entrees as roast beef or chicken in wine sauce or chicken piccata, Roman said.  
 "The whole beef tenderloin is an anchor of the catering business. It's plain but elegant."

Roman, a second generation caterer, said older, more affluent couples tend to plan more exciting menus.  
 One such reception he catered recently was a wedding reception for 200 this past fall in the Chicago suburb of Highland Park.  
 It included curried chicken and walnuts in phyllo, cantaloupe soup, fresh poached salmon with tarragon sauce, ribeye veal and rack of lamb, a cheese course with wafers and grapes and a sweets table—followed an hour and a half later by the wedding cake.

The cake could almost be a centerpiece on the sweets table.  
 A lot of fresh fruit is being layered with wedding cakes, he said.  
 A traditional open bar is still the most popular way of serving drinks, Roman said, but many families now have wine bars at weddings. Many who have a full bar close it during dinner and reopen it afterwards.  
 A wine bar saves money, Roman said, and younger people like it, "although Uncle Charlie may not if he can't get his glass of scotch."



Battalion graphic by KARL FRANKLIN

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Roman calls this kind of food "fashion catering."  
 "Tiered cakes are still in," he said, "but so are flat top cakes without spacers separating the layers."

The traditional wedding cake is designed to serve all the guests, sometimes several hundred of them.  
 But today, he said, "not everybody eats cake. They may eat from the sweets table instead."

Holding a wedding reception at home or any other "off-premises" location that lacks a kitchen is going to be more expensive than a comparable reception in a banquet type room, Roman said.  
 Among the extra costs are tents (if the wedding is to be outdoors), tables, chairs, china, glassware and cooking equipment. But with these items a caterer can recreate a restaurant site wherever the hosts wish.

## Local divorce rate increasing

By **DAINAH BULLARD**  
 Reporter

The divorce rate in Brazos County is lower than the national rate, but the gap is closing. Divorces in the county increased last year while they decreased nationwide.  
 Divorce rates in the county increased from 36.1 divorces per 100 marriages in 1982, to 41.7 divorces per hundred marriages in 1983. The national rates were 49.5 divorces per hundred marriages in 1982, and 47.3 divorces per hundred marriages in 1983.  
 Numerically, there were 504 divorces in the county in 1982, and 584 in 1983. Nationwide, there were 1,197,000 divorces in 1982, and 1,177,000 divorces in 1983.  
 "The first year of marriage is the most dangerous, in terms of probability of divorce," says James Burk, a visiting assistant professor in the sociology department at Texas A&M University.  
 Burk said divorce is most probable during the first five years of marriage, then each

year of marriage decreases the probability of divorce.  
 "There is a strong negative correlation between the probability of divorce and the length of the marriage," Burk said, "and there is a strong negative relationship between the probability of divorce and the age of the couple."  
 Burk said that teenage marriages are most likely to end in divorce. But, he said, the average age of people marrying is increasing.  
 "Many people are delaying marriage until they finish college," Burk said. "Between the time required for completing an education and the uncertain economy, people are waiting longer to get married."  
 People benefit from delaying marriage until age 27, Burk said, but after age 27, there are no particular advantages.  
 Burk said one hypothesis for the decreasing divorce rate involves the changing population.


"As the baby-boom generation gets older, a very large risk group is decreasing," Burk said. "The baby boom generation is now past the danger zone where divorce is most probable. Although one of every five marriages is expected to end in divorce, Burk said he does not believe divorce will decrease the quality of marriage."  
 "I expect the toll will be on the social structure of the family," he said. Burk said the number of remarriages combined families will be strained relationships.  
 On a more positive note, said recent surveys show fewer married people are unhappy with each other.  
 "If they're unhappy, they won't live together. You wouldn't get divorced. You tell the quality of relationship by looking at the probability of divorce."

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## Wedding flower hints offered by area florists

By **KAYE PAHMEIER**  
 Reporter

Choosing the right flowers for your wedding requires careful planning. Kenneth Senter, manager of the Petal Patch floral shop, says a bride should first make an appointment with the florist and prepare to spend an hour discussing ideas, budgets and types of flowers.  
 Before her appointment, the bride should have decided on the color scheme and the size of her wedding. She also should have decided the kind of flowers she prefers and which arrangements she considers most important, Senter said.

"If you've dreamed of having a long flowing bouquet of white orchids or red roses, you should have it," Senter said, "but remember it will be expensive."  
 Choosing flowers for the wedding is up to the bride, Senter said, though the florist can advise and suggest what flowers are in season, and keep the bride in a reasonable pricing range.  
 Senter said that orders for weddings can be placed one to five months in advanced with a deposit. If the wedding is close to a holiday such as Christmas or Valentine's Day, it's best to place wedding orders earlier because of the seasonal rush, he said. Brides also should realize that flowers are more expensive than usual during the holidays, he said.

Senter suggests that the bride give swatches of her dress and the bridesmaids' dresses to the florist so that the flowers can enhance the gown and wedding scene, Senter said. Complementary colors—tones opposite each other on the color wheel—touches of Queen Anne's lace baby's breath blend add a special touch to match colors, he said.  
 Jim Johnson, director of Benz School of Floral Design at Texas A&M, said most lighting also should be considered. Receding light needs darker floral colors, while bright lights need brilliant, light-colored flowers, he said.  
 Johnson said that brides should also decide upon the formality of the wedding and factors which could make a difference between an elegant floral color scheme or a simple one.  
 Johnson said the bride should have frequent communication with the florist and understand what his policies are in her wedding.

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