

JUNE BRIDES

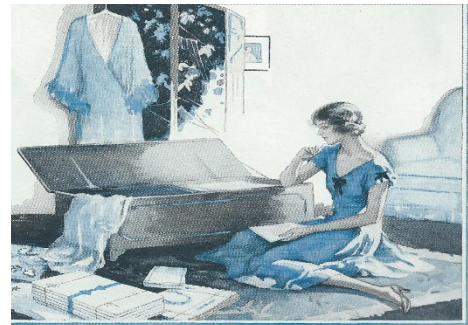
By *Harriet McNeill*



With the June wedding season approaching, here is what a bride needs before the wedding, as suggested in *McCall's*, 1931.

For each bed, four sheets, six pillowcases, one pair blankets, one comforter. Also, one dozen bath towels, eighteen face towels, eight guest towels, one dozen wash cloths, two bath mats, one dozen dish towels, six glass towels, table cloths, tea cloths or place mats, large or medium size napkins, tea napkins, bureau covers, doilies, dusters, etc. The custom was that if the girl could afford it, she was to bring into the marriage enough of the household linens to start the running of a new house or apartment. She could have had embroidered sheets to dozens and dozens of table napkins, but the bride could also start comfortably with items from the above list.

Personally, for clothing, especially underthings, the bride was to have enough to last at least six months to a year. She needed not less than: four sets of underwear, four nightgowns, six pairs of stockings, three good pairs of shoes (two day and one evening), one kimono/negligee and slippers, twelve handkerchiefs, two morning dresses. Also a good suitcase was needed and maybe a trunk for going away AND enough loose cash in her purse so she did not have to ask for money on the very first day of the wedding trip.



Gifts were always sent to the bride, and if they arrived after she left for her honeymoon, they were opened by her mother and recorded in the "bride book" so the gifts could be acknowledged promptly upon her return.

The wedding dress and bridesmaids' dresses were to be simple and youthful unless the wedding was in the evening, then they would be conservative evening dresses. I thought it interesting that if you were married in your going away dress, you would only have a maid of honor who would wear a street dress and hat.

The most practical thing was consideration of expenses. The bride's family and the groom's family were responsible for certain expenses just as they are today. One note---there was no mention of a rehearsal or rehearsal dinner.

The word for the day was:

Don't start your life's greatest venture with nerves and body below par.